

Melissa Allan (VPA)

From: Peter Jonoski [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 27 October 2023 1:08 PM
To: Officer South Employment PSP
Subject: Object to Officer south precinct

Hi there,

We object to the Officer south employment precinct being approved until Lower Gum Scrub Creek is cleared and increased in size to handle extra water flows from your proposed Officer development.

We have lived and farmed at [REDACTED] for the past 35 years. We are not part of the retarding basin but we are being flooded very often during the past year's after development started in officer\officer south. Our property is on the levee bank side of Gum Scrub Creek but is still being flooded by water flows through, over and around the levee bank.

Access to our farm is along Fowler road and over a bridge on Gum Scrub Creek. Water levels in the creek overflow and are high for periods of up to a week after very little rain fall. This is the outcome of upstream development and not managing extra water flows/capacity to Gum Scrub Creek down stream. In past years before development high water levels would drop within 24hrs after high rainfall events.

We have two floodgates on our property connected with large capacity drains that drain into Gum Scrub Creek. High water levels in the creek for long periods of time don't allow water to leave the property via the floodgates trapping water on my side of the levee bank.

When this happens I'm forced to pump the water over the levee bank and into the creek to prevent vegetable crops and fruit trees from being water logged and dying!!! trying to minimise my losses. I have lost 30 year old fruit trees due to water logging in recent years and multiple vegetable crop plantings.

Water trapped on my property also affects my grass pasture not allowing me to graze stock in the paddock and cut quality hay.

My farm has already been greatly affected by upstream development on Gum Scrub Creek. There is no down stream management of extra water flows to the creek from development by VPA or MELBOURNE WATER at the moment. Access to my property is also affected due to regular flooding along Wenn road and Fowler road after very little rain falls, which forces me to drive along flooded roads to access my farm.

As mentioned above miss managed excessive water flows in Gum Scrub Creek by upstream development are already affecting my farm. Constant flooding is not allowing me to farm my land, earn income to support my family and at times access my property all together.

I strongly object to the Officer south precinct development because it will make flooding worse on my farm and in my area making my land useless!!! not being able to farm it.

Planning for and managing water flows down stream must be a part of upstream development. Increasing creek capacity to handle extra water before development would make sense! not just flooding everything down stream of your developments in Officer.

Thanks,
P. Jonoski. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]