Submission Cover Sheet
Mordialloc Bypass Project EES IAC

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<tr>
<th>Request to be heard?</th>
<th>yes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full Name</td>
<td>Margaret Ann Hunter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organisation</td>
<td>Friends of Braeside Park</td>
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<td>Affected property</td>
<td>Lower Dandenong Road Braeside</td>
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<td>Attachment 1</td>
<td>IMG_20181213_0</td>
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<td>Attachment 2</td>
<td>Friends_of_braesi</td>
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<td>Attachment 3</td>
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<td>Comments</td>
<td>attached also refer panel to current park notes of braeside park as on parks Victoria website did not copy over as needed available on line</td>
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1. The Friends of Braeside Park (FOBP) were established in April 1989, in the area of the former sewage farm of Braeside. The park was at that time managed by the Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works (MMBW) which was established in 1890. The management of the park transitioned to Parks Victoria in 1996, the current land manager. We have approximately 100 members and an active committee with a formal activity program/website and facebook page.

2. When the Mordialloc Bypass Project was announced by the State Government we approached Vic Roads, now Major Roads Project Victoria (MRPA) for an immediate consultation, as the route of the freeway/bypass alignment passed right over and then through the Braeside Park Office, the former MMBW Pumping Station. The façade is heritage listed only with other nearby sites also heritage listed by the City of Kingston.

3. We passed onto the Project Team information about the important role of Braeside Park in the local environment of the South Eastern Suburbs, and one of the few remaining green wedge areas that has remained. We have also worked with the State Members for Keysborough (Martin Pakula), Mordialloc (Tim Richardson) and the Roads Minister (Luke Donellan) to raise our concerns about this. We pointed out the inherent values of Braeside Park, prized and valued by the whole regional community with over 500,000 visitors annually and used by the wider community for a range of activities. These include Colour Runs, Cross Country events, school events, advertisements, the bush kinder movement, social groups, family recreation and environment observations monitoring surveys and community education. i.e birdlife and waterwatch, and finally the successful Friends activities. This latter activity is outlined in more detail in the next point. The Heritage listed Cypress Drive, from the sewage farm days was also noted as was the wetlands.

4. The Friends produce a bi monthly newsletter recording a number of important monitoring activities in conjunction with other agencies, Parks Victoria, DELWP, BirdLife Australia (Vic) and Melbourne Water (Waterwatch). We have as a park tenant the largest Men’s Shed in Victoria with 190 members, who have refurbished and renovated the former art sheds, the envy of many other Men’s sheds. They provide valued support to the Friends and Parks Victoria in a number of areas.
5. Our initial concerns about the bypass was raising the community awareness of Braeside Park’s diverse environment and features ranging from the Red Gum Picnic area, the Telford Picnic, the Federation Picnic area with a chessboard and hopscotch markings, the Heathland, 40 hectare man made wetland (1984), and our cypress tree carvings of animals and of course Phar Lap and Tommy Woodcock, carved by Rob Bast. The Dingley Waterway, an essential element of the Park environment flows through the park joining the Mordialloc Creek, and is an essential element of the Park environment and in replenishing the wetland with water.

6. The major concern is the impact of the Mordialloc Freeway on the flora and fauna of Braeside Park with two threatened species, the Australasian Bittern and the Curlew Sandpiper have been observed in Braeside Park. Regularly. Both these birds are impacted by the increasing loss of habitat. We also have a large population of possums, echidnas, foxes, eels and turtles that are sighted on our Nocturnal program and reported to DELWP. There is at least five easily identified frogs species and under-researched insect community. We also have reptiles, bird life (235 different species recorded in the park) and a moth and diverse insect population in the wetlands, and other species that rely on the environment of Braeside Park for nesting/breeding and a stopping place.

7. The environment of Braeside Park, and the adjacent Woodlands Wetlands in Braeside (Woodlands) industrial estate and Waterways residential area has provided a valuable natural habitat in an increasing urban sprawl. The loss or fragmentation of such a habitat will be a death knell for the few remaining fauna and flora species left after agriculture, sewerage management and horseracing did their damage. The remaining biodiversity of this area is ALL we have of a once diverse swampland community prior to European arrival. It is important to protect the habitat of these areas, hence the Environment Effects Statement (EES) studies and surveys in Braeside Park and surrounding areas.

8. The Friends of Braeside Park applied to Major Roads Project Authority for membership of the Community Reference Group for the Project, and were successful in getting appointments for President, Judith Sise and Secretary Margaret Hunter. This has given us an insight in many aspects of the project we would not have otherwise had. We have had regular and constructive consultations with the Project Team with the opportunity to ask questions as required, and obtain information as needed. The opening of the Community Hub was a welcome addition to the public consultation and has been successful.

9. A major and ongoing concern is the Heritage listed Park Office, the former Pumping station and surrounding infrastructure. It is a classic red brick building with a temporary amenity building (to be demolished), and is a feature of the sewage farm. The building was originally in the path of the freeway alignment. It is also the work depot for the ranger staff in Braeside, an essential component of the park management for the support of friends activities for both the Friends of Braeside Park, and Karkarook Park; a work depot with all associated uses including administration facilities, the nursery area, and is adjacent to the bird hide.
The loss of the ranger staff to another Parks Victoria work team would have been an enormous loss with safety concerns for park users, maintenance issues, and support for park activities. Equipment would have to come from another Parks Victoria depot for activities. For example a fallen tree across a road was unmovable, and would not be able to be moved, without rangers to assist park users as happened on one occasion and there is concerns about other issues eg inappropriate activities (dogs, drones, natural events, campers).

We note that the new alignment of the ByPass has been moved 30 metres away from this building with a buffer zone of that distance, confirmed on the current alignment maps from MRPA (November 2018), and it looks like the building will be saved at the moment. As a Friends group, we would support the new alignment which retains the Pumping Station in Braeside Park. It is an appropriate action to leave it in situ.

Our concern is that if the bypass is widened in the future, the future environment of Braeside Park is at risk without negotiation over boundaries and the impact on the park area which is one of precious jewels in Kingston.

10. The proposed new linkage in the Parkway area to the Cypress Drive at Braeside Park retains access from the Woodlands Industrial Estate for the regular users of the route to access Braeside Park which is done on a regular basis. The creation of a fauna access is a good step forward, with the extra parkland and usage of this area for the community. The concern here is noise from the freeway which is mitigated to some extent. This is one of the best areas of Braeside Park, often under-utilised and unknown by park users and will open up this area in a positive manner for all users.

11. Tree plantings/vegetation areas are also proposed around this area, which will hopefully mitigate some of the freeway noises from the park environment. We also note sound barriers on the route of the freeway. We note that MRPA has some design options which can cover the need to protect the flora and fauna in this and other areas of Braeside Park. It is important that these plantings are appropriate to the area, and are managed in conjunction with Parks Victoria as the land manager.

12. The Friends Group have some concerns with the impact of the lighting on the freeway on the wildlife in the area, and how this can be effectively mitigated as much as possible. It is important to note that this is home of many birds including migratory birds that have been sighted and recorded in Braeside Park. We have regular surveys done of Braeside Park sites by members of BirdLife Australia (Vic). Observations are reported in our newsletter and to Parks Victoria. We will continue this monitoring noting the changes due to the impact of the construction work and the freeway itself when completed in 2021. We feel some monitoring may be required of this to note changes to the current conditions and bird life in the Braeside/Woodlands Industrial Estate wetlands, as well as Waterways.

13. The Governor Road end of Braeside Park is a treasured environment with a man made wetland and bird hide, and is frequently visited. It is the home of much bird life which relies on this oasis in a urban area as a nesting and breeding area. It is built on the former shoreline of the Carrum Carrum Swamp once a 4,500 swamp from Dandenong to Frankston. We have some concern about protecting this area and maintaining access to this pristine and unique area. A bird hide
and walking paths have been developed around this area with access from the Red Gum Picnic area off Governor Road, and also a viewing platform.

14. The Friends of Braeside Park celebrate 30 Years since we were established as a Friends Group in 1989 to the year 2019. This is a major achievement and one to be celebrated. We are always looking to grow and develop our friends group and preserve the knowledge of the park in our current members and pass this onto the future. As a volunteer group we are always looking for grant/promotion opportunities to assist us in this strategic aim. We would like to see expanded opportunities to increase visitor numbers further and also promote Braeside Park as a destination (with already 500,000 visitors). This would grow and expand the work of the friends and add to the knowledge of the park in the community. We would like to explore with the Major Roads Project Authority opportunities to do this in a positive manner.

15. Braeside Park has a unique flora and fauna collection as stated, and we would like to see the impact of the Mordialloc freeway minimized as much as possible to enable the bio diversity of Braeside Park, and the environment to be maintained as a welcoming and much visited destination by the Victorian community. It is highly valued and treasured by the surrounding community and is the destination for many visits by a number of groups. Often schools will have an end of year function at the playground, or the kinders will visit each week, or visitors will be recreational and other runners. The Friends members are passionate about Braeside Park with several committee members having been foundation members, and others with over 20 years involvement with a view to continuing in the future. As a friends group we would like to see Braeside Park Friends celebrate another 30 years, or more as a viable group with the range of activities and more into the future.

We would ask that any effects of the Mordialloc Freeway Project be managed with the ecologically sensitive environment at the top of the list so that this passionate interest and involvement in Braeside Park can be continued by the Friends groups, committee, members and members of the South Eastern community. The committee and members of the future committees/local community will thank you for this.

Margaret Hunter
Secretary
Friends of Braeside Park
13 December 2018
Braeside Park and the former racecourse, including the historic Cypress Drive, also showing the Dingey Waterway
Braeside Park

24 Hour Car Park
Community Garden
Telford Picnic Area

Men's Shed
Visitor Centre
Tree Stump Art

Federation Picnic Area
Muralled Art Walls

Community Nursery & Indigenous Garden. Open the third Sunday of the month 10.00am-12.00pm noon "Plants for Sale"

This section of Wetland Circuit only accessible during dry weather

P Braeside Park | Carpark names
1. Swallow
2. Kestrel
3. Goshawk
4. Pelican
5. Ibis
6. Robin
7. Magpie
8. Kookaburra
9. Rosella (Booking site for groups)
10. Cockatoo

Wetlands Conservation Area
Redgum Picnic Area

Parking
Information
Toilet
Disabled toilet
Sheltered area
Picnic area
Hayground
Lookout
Bird watching

Shared track
Main road
Sealed road
Unsealed road
Gate
Directional arrow
Emergency marker

www.parks.vic.gov.au

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