

To Whom It May Concern.

Replying to your document “Future Planning around the Bellarine Peninsula.”

My husband and I chose to buy land in Drysdale 50+ years ago to raise our family in a beautiful rural setting. Over the years we have seen the area carved up into countless small housing allotments with tiny, or no back yards!

We currently live on the south east side of Lake Lorne in Drysdale which was always “rural residential.”

Subdivision:

Lake Lorne is a very significant “wetland” area and land adjacent should never be “urbanised” as this would be detrimental to the biodiversity of the area. Property owners in this area live on 3-5 acres between Lake Lorne and The Basin and are happy to continue to do so.

It would be criminal to subdivide the land from Lake Lorne to The Basin Reserve and it is imperative to keep it as a “Green Belt” for our native flora and fauna as they are slowly but surely disappearing!!! Recently we have seen a long-neck turtle at Lake Lorne but finding an echidna now is quite rare!

Protecting wildlife:

During the years we have lived on our property, my husband has built bird boxes for the parrots who have nested and raised their young, boxes for the ring-tail possums, hollow logs for ducks, kookaburras etc.

Over the years we have seen our beautiful bird life increase: we have counted over 40 species of birds who either make our property their home due to the planting of native trees, indigenous shrubs and grasses and providing food, water and a safe haven for them, or they use our place as a “corridor” where they can find food and water and rest before they fly north or south. Others return annually.

Birds include:

* magpies *kookaburras * families of blue wrens *ducks
* spotted pardalote *willy wag tails * honey eaters * Eastern spine bill *
countless families of finches * Tawny frogmouth *Parrots - crimson
rosellas, Eastern rosellas, grass parrots, Rainbow lorikeets, Galahs * red
and yellow-tail black cockatoos etc.

We need to broaden people’s understanding of the birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates and we need to look out for AND protect them to maintain our biodiversity in this area.

Again I re-iterate:

It would be criminal to “carve up” the area from Lake Lorne to The Basin Reserve.

Loss of habitat:

Recently built schools, a sporting complex and the by-pass around Drysdale has negated habitat for our precious wildlife.

You can walk out the back gate of Bellarine Secondary College and you are in the beautiful setting of The Basin - the habitat of frogs, lizards, kookaburras, water birds etc.

** It use to be the habitat for koalas but sadly this is no longer the case!
If we protect the area.....hopefully they will return!

Due to the re-routing of traffic along Gilchrist Street (formerly Gillies Rd.) upwards of 50 cars travel twice each day to drop their children off to attend school via the tunnel under the by-pass road.

Again unfortunately, not good for the native birds and animals.

Property owners in our area planted pine trees years ago and we have seen 50++ yellow-tail and red-tail black cockatoos land in them for food. Also dams in the area are habitat for frogs and birdlife.

We use to go for a “bush walk” around the area - now it’s being replaced by concrete footpaths!!!!

I implore you:

Keep the area from Lake Lorne to The Basin forever a “Green Belt” so our precious native flora, fauna, mammals, fish, reptiles and invertebrates NEVER have a conservation status of:

*** near threatened * vulnerable * endangered**

*** critically endangered**

Or God forbid - extinct to the wild.

We want these precious creatures to survive and breed in their natural habitat.

We want this area to stay as pristine and natural as possible for future generations.

If any subdivision has to happen then it should be minimal: 2 - 2.5 acres and NO CATS!!!

Regards,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature and name of the sender.

