

Submission from [REDACTED] 3099

To Whom it May Concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Review of the Native Vegetation Clearing Regulations. This is a timely review especially for Nillumbik, the Green Wedge Shire in which I live. We desperately need more robust regulations.

In our shire, which was heavily impacted by the 2009 Victorian bushfires, there has been much clearing of native vegetation. Alongside this is an alarming decrease in biodiversity over many years, due to climate change and other factors such as development, introduced weeds and pests. The loss of orchids and many small bush flowers and plants is very visible on our own property and is a situation which I believe is repeated over many bushland areas of rural Nillumbik.

There is an alarming tendency for landowners who are lucky enough to have some bushland, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] must be stopped.

Furthermore, activities which are totally inappropriate to our Green Wedge Shire seem to be emerging all the time, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Clearer guidelines and stronger regulations must be applied and enforced to preserve the existing flora and fauna. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] This is unheard of. There is not a country in the world where this sort of laissez faire applies!

**What is the greatest threat to native vegetation and biodiversity in our area?**

I have to identify this as our newly elected local Council [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] These amendments were aimed at preserving landscape and conservation values and biodiversity in the shire of Nillumbik. These sorts of overlays exist I believe in the vast majority of shires throughout Victoria. These sorts of overlays exist I believe in the vast majority of shires throughout Victoria. They were a requirement of the Green Wedge Management Plan (required by State Government) which was adopted by the Nillumbik Shire Council in 2010 after ten years of careful planning and community involvement.

Thus areas of significant landscape value and areas of environmental significance have not had overlays reviewed for 15 or 16 years and are well overdue. It is notable that urban areas are protected by overlays but not rural, an incredible state of affairs.

A highly charged political situation now exists in Nillumbik. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

I first read the Shire's submission the day before this matter came before Council for a decision. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Assessment:** [REDACTED]

I have lived in rural Nillumbik for 45 years with the threat of bushfire always present and I am accustomed to making careful preparations before every summer. On a Code Red day I will be leaving home. In one sense there are no preparations that will really make your home fireproof on a day like Black Saturday when extraordinary conditions prevailed. My husband's cousin lost his house in the middle of a paddock with no trees and a minimal amount of vegetation, mostly introduced, not native.

The Bushfires Royal Commission's Recommendations reassure us that human life is the first consideration when planning for bushfire safety. The State Planning Scheme deals with the issue of bushfire and human life in **Clause 13.05 – 1. Bushfire Management Overlays (BMOs)** in Nillumbik take precedence over all other overlays. What we need to do now is pay some heed to environmental concerns, to protect Victoria's ecosystems, to try to recover some of the lost biodiversity. When you are assessing land and vegetation values please consider these concerns.

Yours sincerely, [REDACTED].