

In regard to Clifton Springs :-

The Heart of Clifton Springs is about to be destroyed because the planners at council and state level have not grasped its uniqueness:

Clifton Springs' uniqueness is inland bodies of water, underground water, open land, and its sea operating together.

Our First Nations peoples understood this because they called it "the place of water".

Clifton Springs is not just a pretty name. It's descriptive: (Clifton Springs is a rendition of an English local dialect 't'clif-ton springs' meaning the place where there are 'cliffs on top of springs'.) This then became Clifton Springs.

The inland bodies of water do not sit alone within the environment. They are linked by underground springs to each other and to the sea.

Their health depends on open land which allows catchment and circulation of water within this system.

It links the incredibly important and historic water bodies to the land.

The open land areas breath the wet and dry which makes the environment and the atmospherics what they are.

The unique character of Clifton Springs is wrapped up in the 'space' or open land.

Clifton Springs does not have a township like Drysdale. It has been content to use Drysdale township as its own while keeping its own unique character.

Central Road is the Heart of Clifton Springs.

The 'space' that has always been Central Road lifts and drops like a Celtic rhyme along its course,

With the sea and The Dell at one end and the historic, environmentally significant McLeod's Waterholes at the other.

It is a natural and defining 'high and open space' for us spiritually and physically.

We are glad to share it.

We want to protect it.

We desperately need to protect it, and not just for ourselves.

This 'space' speaks of our Wadawurrung First Nation's people's lives here.

'Community' imprints invisibly into 'country'.

Just because you can't see it doesn't make it imaginary or valueless.

It has an emotionally uplifting effect on us.

Hawks, owls, eagles, and falcons live and hunt here.

It imparts the understanding of 'country' and the positive effect it has on our spirits and minds.

To retain its unique character Clifton Springs must be left as small clusters of dwellings with open land between them. And the larger blocks which cluster around Central Rd, MacLeod's Waterholes and Wyndham Street must be left to hold the Heart of Clifton Springs.

If this area is reduced to conventional subdivision. Clifton Springs will be lost forever. Its Heart concreted over. Its uniqueness gone.

It's birds of prey will be made homeless.

Clifton Springs residents and visitors will no longer be able to hear their cries, look up and revel in their beauty and their power.

Its spirit will die.

The land will shrivel and dry and Clifton Springs will lose its water-land-sea uniqueness, and more broadly, The Bellarine will shrivel, dry and struggle too.

Please don't let this happen.