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22/07/2020

**Re - SERA Pilot Project**

To the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning; and the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions,

Thank you for taking the time to consider this submission for the SERA Pilot Project. This submission specifically focuses on the environmental impacts of the proposed overlay in the South Gippsland region. However, many of the concerns raised are applicable to both regions and the decision-making process for selecting SERA regions in general -- this is especially true of Issue 5, the lack of environmental impact assessment.

**These concerns are not mine alone.** Over 550 people support me in these concerns and I have listed their names at the bottom of this letter. These include many locals, several conservation experts and international supporters - all supporting the overarching contention of this letter.

Thank you again for the opportunity to place a submission and I look forward to hearing the results of the consultation process; and seeing how these concerns are addressed.

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# SERA Pilot Project - South Gippsland

## Impact of SERA Pilot Project in South Gippsland on the environmental values in the local region

Stewart Bisset

The SERA Pilot project aims to protect and secure sand in South Gippsland for future quarrying. The proposed new zone (SUZ8) covers areas that have already been approved for quarrying. The proposed overlay (SRO1) covers a larger area that includes much of the remnant habitat in the region. Since the work authorities have already been approved, this submission will focus mainly on the future environmental impacts of the proposed SERA area, which is designated by the extent of the SRO1 overlay.

### Background

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The proposed SRO1 overlay is situated in the north-western corner of South Gippsland Shire Council, at the confluence of two other local government areas: Cardinia and Bass Coast. While the local laws and local environmental strategies in each local government area (LGA) end at their designated spatial boundary, it should be noted that habitats and ecosystems do not adhere to the same boundaries and instead exist freely across the local region. This can be shown in the map below, which will be considered the “local region” for the purposes of this submission. The habitat patch which the SRO1 overlay sits on will be referred to as the ‘Adams Creek Habitat Patch’ (shown in green), noting that it extends beyond the Adams Creek Nature Conservation Reserve boundaries. It should also be noted that a significant portion of this patch is covered by the SRO1 overlay.

















NatureKit 2020, *NatureKit Victoria*,  
<http://maps.biodiversity.vic.gov.au/viewer/?viewer=NatureKit>, accessed 21/6/2020.

VBB 2020, *Visualising Victoria's Biodiversity*, [http://www.vvb.org.au/vvb\\_map.php](http://www.vvb.org.au/vvb_map.php), accessed 22/6/2020.

Jackson ND & Fahrig L 2014, "Landscape context affects genetic diversity at a much larger spatial extent than population abundance",  
<https://esajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1890/13-0388.1>, accessed 22/6/2020.

























































