11 September 2019

Mr Nick Wimbush
Chair
North East Link EES Inquiry and Advisory Committee
Planning Panels Victoria
1 Spring Street
Melbourne VIC 3001

Dear Mr Wimbush

Parks Victoria write to the Committee with regards to the active sport relocation site options identified on Technical Note 37 and raised by multiple submitters and expert witnesses throughout the public hearings to date.

Specifically, I refer to 177 Templestowe Road, Lower Templestowe (the subject site) in which Parks Victoria is the land owner and public land manager on behalf of the Crown. This site has been identified as a possible active sporting relocation option.

Technical Note 56, dated 10 September 2019 with the subject ‘Yarra Junior Football League panel presentation’ includes a response detailing the circumstances with the subject site labelled ‘Hendersons Seeds Farm’. The Technical Note is highly consistent with Parks Victoria’s submissions to this EES, and to the Yarra River – Bullen Precinct Land Use Framework Advisory Committee, in that:

- the subject site is crown land and subject to a lease agreement
- the strategic direction for the Yarra Valley Parklands in this section is for continuous passive open space, applicable to the current land either side of, and in the future including, the subject site.
- there is no consideration by Parks Victoria of a change of land use to active open space at the subject site
- Parks Victoria has engaged in the process of the Yarra River – Bullen Precinct Land Use Framework Advisory Committee as the forum to specifically review land use in this reach. This land use framework process is appropriate to consider the balance, distribution or changes of the land use in this precinct. The draft Land Use Framework has the subject site as proposed ‘open space/recreation/conservation’ which accords with the strategic planning for the Yarra Valley Parklands.

Technical Note 56 further responds that the functional requirements of Yarra Junior Football League can be satisfied through the upgrade to Ford Park or the reinstatement of Bulleen Park.

Until the Yarra River – Bulleen precinct Land Use Framework process is resolved, the long term vision for the subject site remains to serve to protect riparian and environmental values, cultural heritage, flood plain capacity and to facilitate passive recreation experiences along the river.

As such, Parks Victoria does not support consideration of a change of land use of the subject site to active open space as identified by the Yarra Junior Football League, or other parties such as local government.
Should the committee wish to ask Parks Victoria specific questions pertaining to the subject site, please do not hesitate to contact me on 03 8427 3383 or via stuart.hughes@parks.vic.gov.au

Yours sincerely

Stuart Hughes

Director Park Planning and Policy
Parks Victoria