



Friends of the Glenfern Green Wedge Inc.

Reg. No. A0057443E

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Vic 3156**

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STATEMENT OF GROUNDS

VCAT P1527/2023

465 LYSTERFIELD RD, LYSTERFIELD 3156 (YR 2023/98)

The Friends of the Glenfern Green Wedge Inc. objects to the proposal to dump 400,000 cubic metres of landfill on the site of 465 Lysterfield Rd for the following reasons:

1. The proposal is contrary to the Green Wedge Zone (Schedule 6). The aim of the Green Wedge is to protect land in this zone for agriculture, biodiversity, and landscape values. The proposal poses a major threat to all of these values.
2. The proposal is contrary to the Significant Landscape Overlay, Heritage Overlay, and the registration of the site by the National Trust as a 'Significant Landscape'.
3. The proposal is contrary to the Yarra Ranges Green Wedge Management Plan and the Upper Yarra Valley Dandenong Ranges Regional Strategy Plan.
4. This site was the subject of a VCAT case in 2018-2019 where VCAT decided against the applicant and affirmed the landscape, biodiversity, and agricultural values of the site. Members of our friend's group participated in this case. This is only one of numerous cases (since 2010) where Councils (Yarra Ranges and Knox) and VCAT have decided in favour of protecting of biodiversity, landscape, and agriculture in this area. These decisions reflect community aspirations and expectations, which are recognised in the planning scheme at Clause 71.02-3.
5. The large numbers of objectors to this application must be considered under the Planning and Environment Amendment (Recognising Objectors) Act 2015 which requires VCAT to consider the numbers of objectors and whether a proposed use may have a significant social effect. This use will have a significant social effect.
6. The dumped fill will create a major 'eye sore' for locals who live in the area. It will be highly visible from many vantage points including Glenfern Rd and Lysterfield Park.

7. The dumped fill will create a major eye sore for tourists travelling along Glenfern Rd as this is a main 'gateway' to the Dandenong Ranges National Park, to Belgrave, and to other tourist destinations in the Dandenong Ranges.
8. The dumped fill will create a major eye sore for walkers in Lysterfield Park, from which the dump will be highly visible over a large area at very close range.
9. The proposal poses a threat to fauna due to noise, dust, changes in water quality and hydrology, and loss of habitat land food sources. The site is home to many species of rare flora and fauna including birds on Commonwealth migratory agreements with Japan and China JAMBA and CAMBA (under the EPBC Act). Monbulk Creek is home to many rare and threatened species of flora and fauna including the last remaining population of platypus in the Dandenong catchment.
10. Dumping fill directly on the top of rare **remnant** indigenous plants species including grasses and herbs causes permanent destruction. These plants will never be replaced by plantings elsewhere or years later. The loss of remnant plants represents a loss in the gene pool that enables plants to reproduce successfully.
11. The dumped fill could contain weeds posing a threat to local waterways and the environment generally. Weeds are a major threat to the biodiversity and could impact on Monbulk Creek, Lysterfield Park, and the many local reserves (including Glenfern Bushlands, Birdland, and the Ferny Creek Reserve/Gilmour Park). Local friends' groups have worked hard over decades to care for these areas, including intensive weeding regimes. Bringing more weeds into the area is not acceptable.
12. The dumped fill could contain toxic substances posing a threat to local waterways, flora, and fauna.
13. The proposal also involves excavation, which poses a threat to indigenous plants species and will change the contour of the land and alter the landscape appearance from numerous viewpoints. The excavation will also affect hydrology.
14. The site is subject to a Land Subject to Inundation Overlay. Changes in the hydrology of the site present increased flood risk.
15. The heavy machinery that is outlined in the application poses threats to indigenous plants species through compaction and changes to soil hydrology and contamination. There are at least 31 trees of moderate to high retention value (identified in the applicant's reports) that will be impacted.
16. The proposal poses a threat to Monbulk Creek through run-off. The creek has been the subject of significant works by Melbourne Water and the public has continually lobbied for increased protection of the creek for many years (including successfully through VCAT). Toxic run-off, increased volumes of run-off, and changes to acidity levels in the water are all potential risks.
17. The above-mentioned adverse impacts on air quality, groundwater, flora and fauna, surface water, noise, contamination, chemical spills (and also litter) are all acknowledged in the applicant's report. The Environmental Management Plan submitted with the application is an inadequate response to these risks.

18. Traffic management is also of concern including large transport trucks negotiating the narrow winding road. Residents who drive regularly along this road know from first-hand experience how dangerous this road is.

19. The site is an Area of Cultural Heritage Sensitivity and includes an 'aboriginal cultural heritage place', which is mentioned in the report, but details have not been given. Local indigenous people should have been consulted and a Cultural Heritage Management Plan prepared.



Submitted by Johanna Selleck (President, Friends of the Glenfern Green Wedge. Inc)