



# FRIENDS OF HODDLES CREEK Inc.

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TO:- Manager Park Planning, Haining Farm Submissions, Parks Victoria  
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## **Submission to Parks Victoria regarding Draft Concepts for Haining Farm.**

1. The Final Report of the VEAC Yellingbo Investigation 2013 makes the following Recommendation [E1 (b) page 48] regarding Haining Farm:-  
That: *the current use of the area be changed to provide for other forms of land management and educational opportunities with a greater emphasis on sustainability, including improved protection of riparian areas and restoration of habitat for the honeyeater and lowland Leadbeater's possum,..*

The Friends of Hoddles Creek (along with VEAC) consider that Haining Farm presents a prime opportunity for revegetation with the floodplain forest habitat that supports helmeted honeyeater and Leadbeater's possum. This land is of strategic importance located at the junction of the Don and Yarra rivers. Areas of comparable potential are costly to acquire and there are limited opportunities for such acquisitions.

### **The Friends of Hoddles Creek (FOHC) support the recommendations of the VEAC Yellingbo Investigation in relation to the future use of Haining Farm.**

2. The Government - in Response to the Final Report of the VEAC Yellingbo Investigations Recommendation [E1 (b)] - supported the Recommendation, and noted on Page 14 of their Response that the Government "*welcomes VEAC's identification of future opportunities for the use of Haining Park, consistent with the intention of environmental education and conservation for which it was gifted to the Victorian Conservation Trust in 1974. Parks Victoria, with advice from the Yellingbo Conservation Area Coordinating Committee, will investigate future opportunities for the site such as the restoration of floodplain habitat for the helmeted honeyeater and the lowland Leadbeater's possum as well as opportunities for improved environmental education. In summary, the site has the potential to cater for landscape restoration and a wider range of community education opportunities. These purposes align with the role of the State Emblems Conservation Area Coordinating Committee of increasing the profile of the biodiversity and ecological values of the area (recommendation R6). For these reasons, Haining has been retained as a part of the recommended State Emblems Conservation Area and VEAC is recommending the area that the area be moved from Schedule Three to the recommended new Schedule Four A of the National Parks Act 1975.*"

### **The Friends of Hoddles Creek Inc. support the Governments 2014 Response to the Final Report of the VEAC Yellingbo Investigation in relation to the future use of Haining Farm.**

3. The FOHC are concerned that a Working Group advertised by Parks Victoria as a "*community led process to assess and manage bushfire risk in the area*" (PV Website, 2016) has turned into a Redevelopment Working Group investigating opportunities for the future of Haining Farm, culminating in the presentation of three "draft concepts" for the Farm - two of which are not consistent with the VEAC Recommendations or the Government's Response.

4. Furthermore the FOHC are deeply concerned that the Haining Farm Redevelopment Working Group (driven by DELWP rather than the land manager Parks Victoria) has investigated future opportunities for the farm without taking advice from the YCACC as recommended by the Government's Response. (see Point 2 above)

5. The FOHC support **in Principle** the Haining Farm Redevelopment Working Group's Draft Concept 3 (Habitat Restoration for Threatened Species with Community Access), as this is the **only** Concept offered by the Working Group that is consistent with the VEAC Recommendations and the Government's Response. Our support assumes that educational opportunities would be given high priority in any planning for Haining Farm's future. These could include the study and appreciation of threatened species and their habitat, restoration of that habitat and catchment management.

6. The FOHC look forward to further engagement with Parks Victoria and YCACC about the future management of Haining Farm in line with the VEAC Recommendations, including further development/refinement of the Draft Concept 3.

Laurence Gaffney  
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