



New submission for investigation "Statewide Assessment of Public Land"

veac

to:

veac

22/06/2015 03:32 PM

Hide Details

From: veac@veac.vic.gov.au

To: veac@dse.vic.gov.au,

## **Submission for the investigation "Statewide Assessment of Public Land"**

Submitted on **22-06-2015**

Information provided by the author:

Title: **Ms**

First Name: **Judith**

Last Name: **Crocker**

Organisation: **Mid-Loddon Sub-Catchment Management Group**

Description:

The 839 ha Shelbourne Box Ironbark forest Nature Conservation Reserve is an integral part of the Mid Loddon Landcare Network's landscape restoration plan and has been a great example of wasted opportunities for using public land situated between an expanding city and an important agricultural food production area, as a refuge for remnants of threatened and endangered wildlife, where they can continued to be observed, appreciated, supported and monitored by the local and wider community. The Reserve was transferred from State Forest to a Parks Vic managed NCR following the 2001 Box Ironbark Forests & Woodlands ECC Report, but no management actions were ever implemented to restore the forest and it continued to deteriorate as useful wildlife habitat and also continued to cause extensive and costly damage to productive agricultural land via erosion in storm water run-off events. The Reserve comprises of thick stands of young, multi-stemmed uniform size exerting great competition for available light, water and nutrients, containing sparse understory at the edges and a few large old hollow bearing trees providing a more regular and heavy nectar production. Until the establishment of a community restoration program there were very few ground cover plants providing habitat for wildlife, or controlling storm water run-off from causing erosion gullies in the reserve and off site on agricultural production land. The goals for a Shelbourne NCR 107ha community restoration project in 2014 to reverse the previous lack of management, are listed below. The landscape does not lose excessive amounts of water in rainstorm events Soil, forest litter and logs are retained on site placed on contour controlling previous impact on agricultural production land via flooding, erosion, salinity, and continued fence and road damage. Ground cover plants and microorganism activity are re-established An increase in forest eucalypts flowering Ecosystems are stable and trending towards EVC benchmarks The diameter of a small number of larger trees increases

substantially More forest-dependent fauna, and particularly threatened species, establish viable populations in the NCR and eventually move out to adjoining protected remnants and corridor connections Community monitoring soil and vegetation program implemented Results noted in March 2015, eight months following the completion of the first stage of restoration thinning. No storm water flowed from the site during a recent rainstorm event. Visible proof - no flooding of road and no water flowed into farmer's dam on adjoining property. Soil and forest litter have visibly been retained on site Understorey, ground cover plants and microorganism activity are already regenerating Sugar gliders and Phascogales have moved into and begun breeding in nest boxes A flock of Swift parrots were monitored feeding on Yellow gum blossom nectar Results of recent rainstorm damage on un-thinned eastern side of Reserve. All litter was swept from the forest and new erosion gullies were commenced The farm boundary fence was once again flattened by soil and litter being washed onto the adjoining farm. The continuation of the previous well planned and successful Stage One of the Shelbourne NCR Soil and Vegetation Restoration project will extend the restored area and continue to increase ecological benefits, particularly for Curlews and Swift parrots, 'declining woodland birds', Tuans and other small mammals through improvements in vegetation and structural diversity, increased eucalyptus growth and nectar production with an increase in the logs and woody debris on the forest floor. But currently all attempts in raising interest or additional funds from the State government or Parks Vic have failed

Click [here](#) to review and validate the submission