

LCC SW, District 1 – comment on proposed recommendations 1973

HAMILTON FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB

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D.M. MCKENZIE, SECRETARY
45 FRENCH STREET
HAMILTON, VICTORIA

February 12, 1973

THE CHAIRMAN,
LAND CONSERVATION COUNCIL, VICTORIA
464 ST. KILDA ROAD
MELBOURNE

Dear Sir,

After Studying our copy of the "Proposed Recommendations-South Western Study Area", the Hamilton Field Naturalist's Club wishes to put forward the following comments and submissions.

Generally speaking, we wish to commend your council for what we think are most enlightened recommendations.

However we wish to support the submission of the Western Victorian Conservation Committee regarding the clearing of natural bushland for the planting of pines, as in our opinion, though we realize the demand for softwoods, more effort should be made to procure already cleared land for this purpose.

We suspect that further submissions will be made regarding the need for more land to be made available for agriculture and we wish to advise you that we fully support your present recommendations and would object strongly to more land being made available for this purpose.

We hold the view that production from present farm land could be greatly increased, should the need arise.

It appears that one reason various shires throughout Victoria want bushland alienated is to gain more revenue from rates. In our opinion, if shires do indeed suffer financially because of the amount of bushland within their boundaries, then we, the people of Victoria, through our Government, should subsidize these shires.

While understanding that there is not the same urgency to commit land in the north of the study area as in the south, where a much greater conflict of interests occurs, we feel that at least one of the Northern blocks should be permanently reserved as soon as possible, if, as is likely, further study warrants this.

Perhaps the Bogalara block, because of it's varied types of "Gum Woodland" would be the more satisfactory, though as you suggest, more work needs to be carried out in this and adjacent areas. Our club feels that a large reserve in this area would adequately fill the gap between the new "Wilken" park and the "Little Desert".

We thank you for the opportunity to forward these submissions and look forward with interest to your final recommendations.

Yours faithfully,

M. Gunn
for the Hamilton Field Naturalist's Club