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27th May 2008

Ms Janine McNeilly-Rowe
Park Planning & Project Management
Email: Janine@bedrocklandscaping.com.au

Dear Janine.

WARRANTYTE- KINGLAKE NATURE CONSERVATION RESERVE (WKNCR) MANAGEMENT

Thank you for your letter of 28 April 2008 inviting Bushwalking Victoria (BWV) to provide input into the planning process preparatory to the development of a Draft Management Statement for the WKNCR.

BWV represents the common interests of over 80 Victorian bushwalking clubs, with in excess of 10,000 members. It also proactively represents the interests of all other recreational walkers in Victoria as well as visiting walkers from interstate and overseas. One of the common interests of BWV clubs and their members is the conservation of the ecosystems and natural (particularly pristine) landscapes through which they walk, so that they can enjoy the maximum variety of native flora and fauna and unspoilt scenery the walking areas have to offer and ensure their preservation for future generations. Founded in 1934, BWV has a long history of active interest in conservation, including being one of a group of like-minded organizations pressing for legislation to create a comprehensive system of national parks in Victoria as early as the 1940s.

At the outset, let it be said that BWV very much welcomes the creation of the WKNCR because of the cultural and biological values it will better protect, and the important habitat link it will provide between Warrandyte State Park and Kinglake National Park. Further, we find that the Management Statement Development Process you have charted is comprehensive, consultative, inclusive, transparent and accountable, so that we have no quibble with it. We note that the Draft Management Statement will be released for broad community comment around June 2008, and we wish to be given the opportunity to input again at that stage of the planning process.

During the present planning phase you will have the benefit of guidelines in the form of the Parks Victoria Conservation *Reserves Management Strategy* of January 2003, and Nature Conservation Reserve precedents like the Parks Victoria *Long Forest Nature Conservation Reserve Management Plan* of November 2003 and the Parks Victoria *Yellingbo Nature Conservation Reserve Management Plan* of January 2004, all of which should be helpful to you in the drafting of the WKNCR Management Statement. It is clear from your letter that you already have an appreciation of the natural, cultural, floral and faunal values which the new reserve encompasses and which you will be seeking to preserve. Given these starting points we are confident that your ensuing Draft Management Statement will be well-informed and aptly structured. The preservation of the values mentioned above is vital per se, but also enhances our walking experience, so that we very much support your endeavours in this regard.

Bushwalking Victoria: Promotes bushwalking, engages in activities that add value to the community and proactively represents the interests of all recreational bushwalkers

Bushwalking Victoria Inc. A0002548Y ABN 88 344 633 037
Formerly Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs (VicWalk) Inc.

Also from a bushwalking perspective, we would welcome the creation of walking tracks providing connectivity with the Warrandyte State Park and Kinglake National Park, both of which are replete with track networks with which WKNCR tracks might in some way be made to connect. This would facilitate longer walks for the more serious bushwalker as distinct from shorter 'picnic' walks. We would hope for dedicated walking trails rather than shared paths because of safety and enjoyment factors, although we realize that it may be easier from your point of view to press existing vehicular tracks into service for this purpose in those areas where such a possibility exists. Unless shared paths are properly designed and managed, sharing may detract from the enjoyment of each of the different kinds of user.

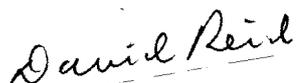
Bushwalking Victoria has been developing guidelines for design of shared trails and criteria for the assessment of the safety and amenity of such trails. We would be happy to consult with you on this subject. As you are no doubt aware, it is better to have formal tracks developed than to have a series of unofficial tracks evolve that are far more environmentally compromising.

The undulating open and wooded land in the proposed reserve provides ample opportunities for excellent views, and we would hope that the siting of any new tracks would take advantage of these panoramic possibilities, consistent with the overriding objective of conserving native flora and fauna in the Reserve as well as the cultural values it contains.

We expect that dog-walking and trail-bike-riding, which we consider completely antithetical to the concept of conservation, will be totally prohibited in the new reserve, and that their prohibition will be thoroughly policed and strongly enforced. Likewise we hope that the Draft Management Statement will commit the land manager to removing pest animals and plants from the Reserve, combating soil-borne pathogens, and developing and implementing an appropriate fire management regime. We trust that there will be a fair proportion of good 2WD roads in the Reserve, not a flagrant preponderance of 4WD roads. We are grateful that these kinds of reserve proscribe grazing, hunting and logging, so that we do not have to make any special entreaties in this connection.

We hope that the above comments will help inform the Draft Management Statement, and look forward to receiving a copy upon which to comment in due course.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Reid". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

David Reid
President