



Department of Sustainability and Environment

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29 September 2010

Our Ref: 15P262071

Tracey Anton
Toongabbie Township Planning & Development Group
162 Hendersons Road
TOONGABBIE VIC 3856

Dear Tracey

Re: Toongabbie Community Concerns, Crown Allotment 5A Section 3A in the Township of Toongabbie

I refer to an onsite meeting you had with the department, Latrobe City Council, West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (WGCMA) and other concerned community members in September 2009. The department is the responsible body for Crown Allotment 5A Section 3A in the Township of Toongabbie (shown coloured pink on the attached map).

The purpose of this letter is to inform the Toongabbie Township Planning & Development Group of the progress DSE has had since the meeting and to update you on planned works:

- DSE has arranged for ongoing weed control of the above mentioned site through the Good Neighbour program. This involves spraying of blackberry and boxthorn once a year for the next three years, when the situation will be reviewed. The site was also sprayed for weeds once a year in the last previous two years.
- The WGCMA has informed that they have not scheduled works for this financial year for willow removal or the removal of the debris to improve the waterway
- The department does not approve of the removal of any further native vegetation, fallen logs or branches from the site and does not approve of the reforming the watercourse, as this is likely to lead to additional issues associated with erosion and water quality.
- Grazing of the site is not an option due to the lack of fencing and impacts it would have on native vegetation and water quality
- The department will slash the boundary of the crown land during summer to reduce the build up of long grass and therefore reduce the fire hazard.
- The site will added to the department's fire operation plan for the 2011-12 program and if the willows have not been removed, DSE will organise for the debris to be burnt/removed

Should you have any questions or concerns in regards to this matter please do not hesitate to contact me on 5172 2526.

Yours sincerely

Nicole Collins
Property Officer

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