

TOONGABBIE TOWNSHIP PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT GROUP

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Introduction: A site meeting was held on Friday September 11th 2009 represented by West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (WGCMA), Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE), Latrobe City Council (LCC), and the Toongabbie community in response to concerns raised by the local community in relation to flooding and fire risks along Toongabbie Creek.

Present at meeting: Tracey Anton (community), Wendy Hayne (LCC), Roger Ries (community), Geoff Taylor (WGCMA), John Crosby (WGCMA), Jo Wolfe (community), Tarnia Leeming (DSE), Tameka ? (DSE)

Issues discussed:

- Management of catchment area to prevent the potential for serious flood damage impacting on township and areas of historical significance.
- Fire control management of area adjacent to Toongabbie Creek Bridge & Wetlands and catchment area, north of Humphreys Rd Bridge.

Site Description: The area comprises the following titles/areas:

- Traralgon Maffra Road Reserve, west of Toongabbie Creek Bridge (Vic Roads & council managed?)
- Lot no. P262070 14B (DSE Private Lease arrangement)
- Lot no. 5A 3A P262071 (DSE managed land)
- Lot no. 5 3A 47665 (Council managed land)

Please see attached map for further clarification.

Outcome of meeting:

All agreed that there were significant issues of concern in the site areas identified above for flood & fire impact on the township of Toongabbie. The combined total distance of the catchment area of concern is approx. 1.5 km- 2km in length.

It was agreed that the community of Toongabbie will provide a submission to DSE to enable them to conference with WGCMA and LCC to coordinate a response and establish an agreed management plan for ongoing fire & flood prevention along Toongabbie Creek. The plan will:

- Clearly identify the land in question to allow for greater ease of determining responsibility;
- List each issue and provide a possible solution;
- Clearly indicate the priority of each issue;
- Provide alternative options on management for the Government Departments to confer on.

	Location	Description of Issue	Solution	Action	Future Needs	Priority
Issue 1	Traralgon/Maffra Rd Reserve, northwest of Toongabbie Creek bridge, 10-30 meters from roadside	Build up of dry material (blackberries & grasses) > FIRE & FLOOD RISK	Burn the dead blackberries and grass to reduce risks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Seek clarification of land management responsibility (LCC/VicRoads) and seek a permit for allowable burn of nominated ➤ Talk to local CFA about permission process to undertake burn and willingness to undertake the burn on behalf of the community. ➤ Talk with Phillip O'Malley, President of the Wetlands Committee, to get them on side with the proposal to burn. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ (LCC/Vic Roads???) to regularly attend fuel reduction maintenance (poisoning or burning) of roadside vegetation to west area of Toongabbie Creek Bridge bordering wetlands. 	MEDIUM
Issue 2	The boundary fence between the Traralgon Maffra Road reserve and adjacent land (Leased Crown land P262070 - Lot 14B)	Choking of creek with old flood debris and illegal fencing across creek > FLOOD RISK	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Remove and burn flood debris. 2. Remove existing mesh fence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Community to remove illegal fencing across creek (No replacement fence needed as we have confirmed with the existing leaseholder that the creek area will be no longer used for stock grazing). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed ➤ Approach CFA to assist with the removal and burning of existing flood debris in conjunction with other burning. 		HIGH
Issue 3	Land privately leased from DSE (P262070 14B), west of wetlands through to Humphreys Rd bridge	Overgrown grasses > FIRE RISK	Commence regular poisoning of grasses along creek.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Grass poisoning would maintain area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ WGCMA to provide regular maintenance of grass by poisoning along Toongabbie Creek within P262070 14B 	LOW
Issue 4	Toongabbie Creek Reserve (5A, 3A, P262071 [DSE] and 53A [LCC])	Humphreys bridge -potential for debris to build-up around concrete supports > FLOOD RISK	Regular removal of debris, shale and silt to provide un-impeded water flow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Agree on which organisation is responsible for this action if and when needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Remove debris, shale and silt, as needed to provide un-impeded water flow 	MEDIUM
Issue 5	Toongabbie Creek Reserve (5A, 3A, P262071 [DSE] and 53A [LCC])	Growth of young saplings in middle of creek bed immediately north of Humphreys bridge > FLOOD RISK	Remove saplings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Local community to identify number of saplings to be removed. Species type to be identified if possible. ➤ DSE/LCC permit to allow community removal of saplings in creek area and trim lower branches of trees bordering water flow area if potential for catching debris ➤ Seek advice from DSE and LCC as to best method for removal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ WGCMA and DSE to carry out regular program (every two years) of spraying of weeds (Blackberries, boxthorn) OR ➤ DSE/WGCMA to provide ongoing grant of \$x to allow Toongabbie Community to engage a contractor to undertake spraying 	HIGH
Issue 6	Toongabbie Creek Reserve (5A, 3A, P262071 [DSE] and 53A [LCC])	Willows & dead logs contributing to a potential flooding risk. > FLOOD RISK	Remove willows, dead logs and obstacles and burn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Seek action from DSE and LCC to pile up dead logs ready for burning. ➤ Seek action from WGCMA to remove willows and burn wood piles. ➤ Seek funding from DSE/LCC/WGCMA (or elsewhere) to enable community to engage a contractor to undertake the work. 		HIGH

<u>Issue 7</u>	Toongabbie Creek Reserve (5A, 3A, P262071 [DSE] and 53A [LCC])	Shale and silt build-up creating undefined creek bed and impeding natural water flow > FLOOD RISK	Reforming of natural water course to improve the flowing ability of the creek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Seek action from DSE, WGCMA & Council to reform creek bed to allow unimpeded flow and reduce diversion of floodwaters into township. 		VERY HIGH
<u>Issue 8</u>	Toongabbie Creek Reserve (5A, 3A, P262071 [DSE] and 53A [LCC])	Overgrowth of grass/vegetation (suitable for stock grazing) > FLOOD & FIRE RISK	Provide restricted agistment rights to control long grasses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Agistment Lease for the two lots to allow for crash grazing by cattle to reduce grass mass on an annual basis. ➤ Local community to assist above landholder to apply to Council and DSE for an Agistment Lease of the two lots to allow for crash grazing by cattle to reduce grass mass on an annual basis. ➤ Note - Land owners of Lot No.1, who border this area, would be interested in restricted agistment access. They are willing to put in a gate and have their own water supply access for stock. A copy of the DSE's land tenure licence conditions have been given to them to read. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ LCC and DSE to assess suitability of a restricted grazing lease annually. 	VERY HIGH