



Friends of Warrandyte State Park
PO Box 220
Warrandyte VIC 3113

April 16, 2015

to Manningham City Council

Mayor Paul McLeish, Councillors Michelle Kleinert, Dot Haynes, Jennifer Yang, Meg Downie, Sophy Galbally, Geoff Gough and Jim Grivokostopoulos
CEO Joe Carbone, Director Planning and Environment Teresa Dominik

RE: 133 Webb Street Warrandyte

Dear Madams/Sirs,

We are writing with regard to 133 Webb Street Warrandyte, which has recently been advertised for sale. This two hectare, undeveloped private property is vital to the integrity of the local environment and has significant value as a site of remnant bushland. We seek your support and assistance to ensure this property is purchased either by the Victorian State Government or Council to protect its biodiversity value for the future.

The land has been in the hands of absentee landowners for over fifty years. Many members of the community have presumed it is part of Warrandyte State Park and indeed it has been managed that way for many years, including Park rangers and Friends group members monitoring and erecting cages around the rare Scented Leek Orchid.

It forms an integral link between the Timber Reserve and Fourth Hill blocks of Warrandyte State Park. The vegetation is of high quality and state significance. It supports habitat suitable for threatened flora and fauna including iconic Warrandyte species such as the Brush-tailed Phascogale and the Wine-lipped Spider Orchid.

The land is part of the Biosite 11: Fourth Hill, in the MCC Biosites Report 2004, which states that it is of national Significance. Manningham Mapping shows that it is covered by an Environmental Significance Overlay to protect the natural values. There is also a Bushfire Management Overlay which we understand would require a very significant amount of clearing if a house were to be built. This would be an unacceptable loss of such high value vegetation.

FOWSP has spent over thirty years supporting our rangers in looking after the magnificent remnant bushland on our patch. We have seen an ongoing loss of native vegetation for development over the years and have the experience and knowledge to understand it can never be replaced by replanting elsewhere. We ask that Council proactively seeks to find a solution to save this invaluable piece of land from development, either by acquiring it or lobbying the state government to do so.

Sincerely,

Artur Muchow

on behalf of FOWSP committee representing 303 active members

CC:Lisa Neville, Minister for Environment and Climate Change
Ryan Smith, Member for Warrandyte
Steven Kent, ALP