

Notes for March hearing.

Thank you, Delegates.

Quotations mentioned here are all supported with links to their source here in my notes which I will supply for your records.

GLOBAL

I'm going to first start with global thinking moving down to right here in our local community.

November 2021 COP26 Environmental Conference in Glasgow David Attenborough speaks about soaring global temperatures, via a graph showing stable temperatures have been up to and including the industrial years. But then in last 10 years there's a dramatic increase.

Concluding his speech with this:

"How is it to end? A tale of the smartest species doomed by that all-too-human characteristic of failing to see the bigger picture in the pursuit of short-term goals".

David Attenborough COP26 Conference November 2021

Since this conference **over a year ago**, where stern warnings are issued, Devonport planners have allowed clearing of remnant bushland and are planning to clear more.

This is how the world has become 'sick' because a billion people over decades have had the same united thought process:

"it's a just a small bit of forest, this bit gone won't make any difference to the entire Globe"

This might be true, however multiply that thought by tens of thousands in every town.

December 2022 COP15 Biodiversity Conference

<https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/what-expect-years-un-biodiversity-conference-cop15>

Outcome from COP15

It's been established, there are five key drivers of the nature crisis, clearing forests stands at number one, as pointed out in the environment program.....

1. The biggest driver of biodiversity loss is how people use the land and sea. This includes the conversion of land covers such as forests, wetlands and other natural habitats for agricultural and urban uses.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k0bskMLyMcA> Here in the Secretary General Antonio Guterres's speech, he states:

"We are waging a war on nature....multinational corporations are filling their bank accounts while emptying our world of its natural gifts....no excuses, no delays, promises made must be promises kept....it's time to forge a peace-pact with nature...governments must make bold action plans with infrastructure....to protect the rights of local communities"

The COP15 Biodiversity Conference December 2022 Canada webpage states:

Nature and biodiversity is dying the death of a billion cuts. And humanity is paying the price for betraying its closest friend. In the words of the UN Secretary-General, “we are committing suicide by proxy”.

<https://www.unep.org/un-biodiversity-conference-cop-15>

ANOTHER Environmental Summit....!

Despite further warnings on a global scale, rather than slowing down, reconsidering, and seeking alternative ideas for the bushland, there seems to be an **escalation of land clearing** in my local area by the urgent hurrying through of multiple habitat clearings, and sudden impending housing developments making way for **urban sprawl**, which (as quoted on YouTube channel: Urban Planning Explained)

“...has been correlated with increased pollution, traffic congestion....declining community cohesiveness....and increasing environmental footprints...which leads to the destruction of wildlife habitat and defragmentation of many natural areas”

After these Conferences over the past two years and countless other warnings, why are we **still** considering further clearing the literal ‘green fabric’ of our community and existence....?

Sure nothing’s going to change immediately if Devonfield all cleared right now if it were an isolated incident, but that’s the thinking occurring all over the world. – that it won’t make any difference.

We now have a chance to slow down and really think about the messages we’re hearing from these World conferences. YES it DOES apply to us.... all the way here in Devonport.

It’s more than just the Endangered species now:

The time has now passed when we only concentrate on and monitor only the threatened species within a portion of forest, it’s now about biodiversity, from the dirt to the tree tops. Common species and endangered species. The endangered need the commons, they need all of it to thrive.

We need all of it to thrive.

It’s been said by a person among Devonport’s leadership “you’ve got Kelcey and all of the Tasmanian wilderness” yes true. But we have to get in cars to travel to these far away areas. We need to work towards bring the ‘Aussie bush’ back to our everyday lives within walking distance, for our own health.

Mental Health

Let’s just be selfish for a moment, forget about the animals, and think about us the people.

Now let’s look at the type of housing developments currently occurring in Devonport already (Dana Drive, three areas in Stony Rise, soon 57 Berrigan Road, Marconi Crt) These are an example of urban sprawl with cul-de-sacs (that were once more accurately known as dead-ends).

These type of developments cut people off from ‘Aussie bush’ reserves and do not consider human wellness.

I refer the Advocate article 23 December 2022 “....love and protect the trees we have”

“More trees make our streets cooler and more walkable. And that makes it more likely for us to bump into others, chat, reconnect.”

Let’s look at the bushland at the junction of **Lovett Street** and **Lawrence Drive**, near Hillcrest School.

Although small, these provide an ‘Aussie bush’ experience for locals to explore, with the chance of viewing some wildlife right in suburbia.

Devonfield bushland is already established and being enjoyed by locals.

With the mentioned established and impending developments and encroaching housing in other nearby areas (as mentioned above), should only serve to consolidate this already-recreational wonderland as being an even more essential part of development planning.

Here’s your challenge:

There were approximately 27 Representations submitted objecting to bush clearing of Devonfield.

These ranged from a child’s letter right through to researched documentation from professionals and naturalists.

I estimate that each of those people took at least an hour of their own time to write an objection letter.

27 hours. Some of the more passionate and researched Representations may have taken three hours.

35 hours.

Then if you select out some common messages across all the representations, you will find:

1. People enjoy the trees.

2. People understand biodiversity

3. People are concerned about the environment

4. People are concerned about dramatic changes their local community

I put to you now, with all the evidence before you from world leaders, media, mental health research, right down to the local voice, to please take the same amount of time and careful research to match that taken for the objection letters, for you to come up with four equivalent reasons why placing a high density housing development over the top of a place that brings joy to so many people, is actually a good idea and how yet another housing development benefits the Stony Rise/Miandetta community.

In light of the alarmingly and shockingly rapid destruction already, we’re at least owed that much.

Thank you.

References, further reading, viewing, and listening:

Recently aired February 2023 iView Documentary 51 minutes.

<https://iview.abc.net.au/show/extinction-with-david-attenborough>

The FIVE key drivers destroying our planet:

<https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/5-key-drivers-nature-crisis>

Video: *What is Urban Sprawl?* YouTube channel: Urban Planning Explained:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XO_Qz8Gp7zk

Dramatic rise in temperature: David Attenborough Dramatic rise in global temperatures COP26

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TmlUX4mnNY4>

One-minute David Attenborough video. This short inspirational video was emailed to Delegates for viewing on 27-2-23 prior Hearing: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N1XvG440xjM>

More suggestions for Devonfield Bushland:

Dementia Sensory Walk as featured on Gardening Australia:

<https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/how-to/memory-lane/102049840>

Seed bank for community nursery:

<https://www.genu.org.au/services/business-and-community/business-services/community-nurseries/>