
From: june hilder <jehilder@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, 23 July 2022 2:06 PM
To: Devonport City Council
Subject: To General Manager, representation PA2022.0024 and AM2022.01
Attachments: Image_20220723_0002.jpg; Image_20220723_0001.jpg

General Manager
Devonport City Council

Dear General Manager

Please find attached our representation regarding PA2022.0024 and AM2022.01

Regards

June and Greg Hilder
23 July 2022

June and Greg Hilder
PO Box 3026
Devonport Tas 7310

19 July 2022

The General Manager
Devonport City Council
PO Box 604
Devonport Tas 7310

28 JUL 2022

**Representation from June and Greg Hilder
Application Number PA2022.0024 Objection
Amendment - AM2022.01**

As residents of Devonport, we are placing before Council our formal objection to the application PA2022.0024 and AM2022.01 which will involve the removal of bushland for the development of a 7 lot subdivision.

We consider the above proposal to remove bushland to be incompatible with the following environmental considerations shown on the Devonport Council's website.

Goal number 1 of Devonport's Strategic Plan 2009-2030 Living Lightly on our Environment states that the Council will 'preserve our natural geography and landscapes for future generations' in order to ensure Devonport's environmental viability.

In addition, some two years ago in recognition of our climate crisis, Devonport Council voted to join the Cities Power Partnership, Australia's largest network of Councils providing mutual support and encouragement to assist with the mitigation and adaptation of the impacts of a changing climate. When announcing that Devonport had gained membership of this group, Mayor Annette Rockliff explained that action on climate change 'is the responsibility of all levels of government and the community to work together', that Devonport's emissions increased between 2016 and 2019 and therefore action must be taken to prevent 'ecosystem collapse'.

Devonport's bushland areas both publicly and privately owned are integral to the successful implementation of these above endeavours. They protect a variety of ecosystems and also act as a carbon sink to assist with the mitigation of climate change.

Unfortunately, despite Council's apparent recognition of the value of Devonport's natural resources, during the last year or so there have been several instances where native vegetation has been destroyed. These include, the felling of important habitat trees on Don College land without the approval of Council, the careless removal of *Melaleuca ericifolia* and under storey plants by Council workers and contractors not trained in bushcare in the Don Reserve and the destruction of many hectares of Eucalyptus and Melaleuca forest on the land in Stony Rise Road adjacent to the Home Maker Centre. It is vital that this kind of activity ceases and remaining bushland is preserved and cared for.

Sadly, the recently released 'State of the Environment Report 2021' indicates that Australia is doing 'very badly'. In Australia overall between 2000 and 2017 an area the size of Scotland has been cleared of native vegetation. We must all do our bit to ensure Devonport's environmental viability.

While Devonport is fortunate to have publicly owned reserves, the largest being the Don Reserve and the Kelcey Tier Green Belt, these cannot remain viable and healthy if isolated by housing and other developments. Bushland areas must be connected by wildlife corridors and flyways.

The bushland at 133 Middle Road, Miandetta does currently provide a wildlife corridor between the bush along the Mersey River and the bush on the opposite side of Stony Rise road (the remaining bushland at 57 Stony Rise road), leading up to the Kelcey Tier Green Belt. It also acts as a refuge for a variety of native flora and fauna which would have no where else to go if the bush is felled. On page 68 of the Application it is claimed that the retention of bush on Lot 7, the proposed Open Space Zone on the southern side of the property could offset the removal of native vegetation from Lot 4, the proposed General Residential Zone. However, 'offsets' do not work in this way, they must ensure there is no net loss of vegetation, ie another area (for instance a similar area that was earmarked for logging and is now protected) should be set aside as an offset. As both Lots 4 and 7 currently carry some native bushland, there would be a net loss if Lot 4 is cleared. In addition, Lot 7 is crossed by an electricity transmission line which reduces the opportunity to replace the trees lost from Lot 4 on Lot 7.

The Natural Values Report for the application also identifies a small stand of *Eucalyptus Ovata* on Lot 4. These Eucalypts provide potential fodder trees and nesting sites for the critically endangered Swift Parrots. Swift Parrots are known to feed and nest in the nearby Kelcey Tier Green Belt. Chimneys of the endangered Central North Burrowing Crayfish which lives only in the greater Devonport area were also located on Lot 4. While it has been stated that the development of Lot 4 should protect the Swift Parrot fodder trees and the Burrowing Crayfish, these are both part of an ecosystem and cannot be protected while the surrounding bush is destroyed for building purposes.

Devonport acts as a gateway for visitors to Tasmania via the 'Spirit' ships and the airport. Many visitors are attracted to our State because they wish to experience our natural areas. If Devonport's bushland is maintained and cared for and promoted as an easy access taste of Tasmania's wild areas, many visitors may be encouraged to stay in the city for a few days before heading off to explore. Indeed, both the Don Reserve and Kelcey Tier Green Belt are already popular for 'bird tourism' and it is not uncommon to see people in these reserves with large cameras looking for birds.

Therefore, an economic possibility would be for Council to purchase remaining bush lands including that at 133 Middle Road, and the bush across from it at 57 Stony Rise Road which leads up to the Green Belt and promote our City as an excellent ecotourism destination.

These reserves would also provide an excellent educational resource for local schools and colleges to teach young people the importance of caring for our natural environment and provide amenity for the residents of Devonport, beautiful natural areas for people to view and enjoy.

We therefore reiterate our objection to the removal of bush in Application 2022.0024 and through Amendment AM2022.01.



June and Greg Hilder