From: L Wasserfall
Sent: 13 Aug 2020 12:35:35 +1000
To: Planning @ Meander Valley Council
Cc: robynmiller51@gmail.com
Subject: Miller Representation - 260 Wadleys Road
Attachments: Miller Letter Signed.pdf

Enclosed please find our representation in response to your letter dated 12 June 2020.

Sincerely

Kerry Miller
260 Wadleys Road
REEDY MARSH TAS 7304
robynmiller51@gmail.com

Kerry Miller
260 Wadleys Road
REEDY MARSH TAS 7304

General Manager
Meander Valley Council
26 Lyall Street
WESTBURY TAS 7303

13 August 2020

Dear Sir/Madam

Representation on proposed changes that affect my land
Tasmanian Planning Scheme – Reedy Marsh – Priority Vegetation Overlay modifications

I acknowledge your letter dated 12 June 2020 and thank you for the opportunity to make representation as follows.

Background

As background, my family and I have lived on this land for generations. I have worked in the bush all my life, as did my father and grandfather. I have come to know and recognise the types of trees and plants that grow here. My neighbours, the Wasserfalls at 210 Wadleys Rd have had experience in doing research and writing reports. They will make a separate representation with regard to their own property and have assisted me in making this representation.

To support our family over the last 100 years different parts of this property (which was part of a much larger property that has since been subdivided) have been worked and cleared. This may indicate why the TASVEG 3 overlay classifies us as Agricultural Land (FAG). The current regrowth is about 60 years old. My wife and I love the forest which is why we have not worked it intensely and have always allowed it to regrow. This is in contrast to the surrounding FAG classified land also in the Reedy Marsh Rural Living Zone.

Objection to application of TEA and Philip Cullen Report

I will now focus on the TEA submission that triggered this proposed modification that affects my land.

The proposed modifications are based on a report "The results of a brief reconnaissance to assess the accuracy of TASVEG 3 vegetation mapping in the Reedy Marsh region of north central Tasmania" (The Report) prepared by Philip Cullen dated 4 July 2019. His report is qualified as being a ***brief reconnaissance***. This was due to "***time constraints*** ... and the fact that the forest in question was located on ***private land***".

The report says that Mr Cullen's mapping was done by "***viewing with binoculars, inspecting google earth imagery and ... data available on the List".***

Although I respect Mr Cullen's qualifications and the intentions of the report, I object as follows:

- The intention and thrust of the report is to provide support for claiming that TASVEG 3 is incomplete and inaccurate as a mapping tool / data source for land use and conservation

planning in general. This may prove to be true, but I cannot accept that my property should be singled out on a study that was general to the Reedy Marsh Rural Living Zone and Tasmanian conservation planning as a whole.

- Only a very small area of my land is visible from the road. More than half the area Mr Cullen mapped is not even visible from the road, even with binoculars.
- An on-the-ground survey is the only way to classify the area. Using Google and List imagery and thereby assuming that ovata is present either side of our creek and areas visible from the road would be incomplete and inaccurate.

Our on the ground assessment

I have used as a basis the documents by Department of the Environment and Energy titled:

"Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) DRAFT Conservation Advice (incorporating listing advice) for the Tasmanian Forests and Woodlands dominated by black gum or Brookers gum (Eucalyptus ovata / E. brookeriana)"

http://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/pages/6cc03081-4237-49c9-9cc6-e051ec11cca3/files/consultation-document-tasmanian-ovata-brookeriana-forests.pdf

And as a summary

"Tasmanian Forests and Woodlands dominated by Eucalyptus ovata (black gum) or E. brookeriana (Brookers gum): Proposal to list as a nationally protected ecological community" (https://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/pages/6cc03081-4237-49c9-9cc6-e051ec11cca3/files/information-guide-tasmanian-ovata-brookeriana-forests.pdf)

A seasonal creek runs through the property and is quite swampy in parts of the western corner of the block. We have thoroughly walked around the property to try and identify which trees dominate in which area. My findings are there is no tree which clearly dominates any area. We can say for certain that two species dominate overall, being the black peppermint (Eucalyptus amygdalina) and white gum (Eucalyptus viminalis). The area of about 1.3 hectares in the western corner (as marked on the attached map) has more ovata than the rest but still cannot be described as the dominant tree (approx 20%-30%) (this area is visible from Wadleys Road. This particular corner falls on 2 titles. The edge closest to the main road has been severely degraded due to installation of Hydro poles about 3 years ago. Where the creek exits my block on the eastern corner there are again a few more ovata, but again they don't in any way dominate.

Consequently, the ovata on the property does not meet the "key diagnostic characteristic" of being dominant, which is to be met before patches of ovata are to be referred under the Act. Refer Section 1.3.1 of the above document titled "Guidance for determining when the ecological community protected under the EPBC Act is present"

The key diagnostic characteristic 1.3.2 point 3 is that "The tree canopy is dominated to co-dominated by Eucalyptus ovata (black gum) ..... or hybrids of E. Ovata.... Other tree species may be present in the canopy but are never dominant in their own right. Note: This means ..... tree species mentioned have a greater cover than any other species in the tree canopy"

Part 1.2 pages 15 and 16 make this point (refer my emphasis in bold):

*Other associated TASVEG units are characteristically dominated by different eucalypt species and, **if E. ovata is present, it typically occurs as a minor canopy component**. However, these TASVEG units allow for small, local variations where E. ovata may become locally dominant. There are two "associated local variant" TASVEG units*

*In the case of DAZ and DSC, patches equivalent to the Black gum – Brookers gum forest/ woodland ecological community refer only to very localised areas where E. ovata may be dominant. However, given the nature of **variability within these TASVEG units, it is likely that most of these patches may be too small to meet the minimum patch size criteria prescribed in the condition thresholds**, below. The description for DAZ acknowledges that:*

*"As drainage becomes progressively more impeded, forest and woodland dominated by E. amygdalina, E. viminalis or E. pauciflora, usually with cooccurring E. ovata grade into E. ovata forest and woodland (DOV) or sedgeland and wetland communities in swamps and lagoons. **Localised patches of E. ovata forest and woodland in this mosaic can be allocated to DAZ,** but larger areas should be identified as DOV." Kitchener and Harris (2013; p 18)*

*In summary, **whole patches of DAZ and DSC are likely to fall outside the definition of the ecological community**. Only those local variations, not otherwise classified as DOV, that meet both the key diagnostic characteristics and condition thresholds for the ecological community would be included.*

Conclusion

I acknowledge the presence of ovata on my property. It is not the dominant tree and is therefore not referrable under the EPBC Act.

To protect these isolated trees the forested areas on the block should be classified as follows in TASVEG 3:

"DSC - Eucalyptus amygdalina – Eucalyptus obliqua damp sclerophyll forest. This unit represents a fine-scale mosaic where no clear dominant species is evident and the main tree species change over short distances. The trees that typically dominate are E. amygdalina (black peppermint) and E. obliqua (stringybark) but E. viminalis (white gum) and E. ovata (black gum) may also be present and can be locally dominant in small pockets. This unit occurs on generally fertile sites in northern and north-eastern Tasmania. The understorey is shrubby with a variable species mix depending on differences in microclimate and soils."

Attached please find document showing area with most ovata (about 20%-30%) (A KML file is available if required) as well as photos of that area (more are available on request).

I request acknowledgement of this representation. Please advise if you require additional information.

Yours Sincerely

K. Miller

Kerry Miller

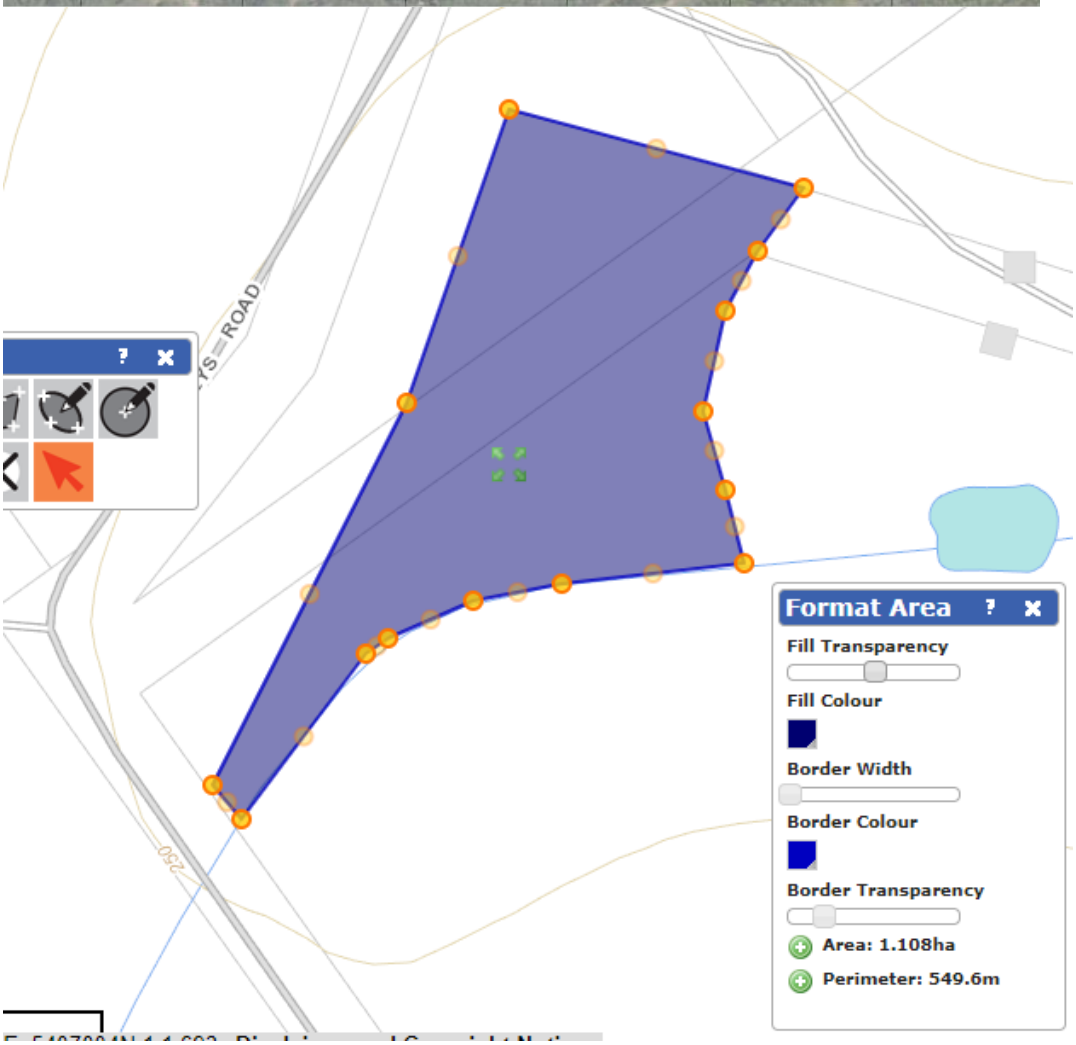
Format Area
Fill Transparency
Fill Colour
Border Width
Border Colour
Border Transparency
Area: 1.108ha
Perimeter: 549.6m

Photo of section that has some ovate but not dominant

Photo of section that has some ovate but not dominant

Photo of other typical forest on Eastern side showing domination by White Gum and Peppermint