

Good afternoon, my name is **Elizabeth Latham** and have lived across from Devonfield all my married life, **41 years**, I am not a Greenie, nor have I the technical knowledge of your rules and regulations but what I do have is passion and a deep love for the Tasmanian bush and all that live in it.

It is a great privilege to look out of my windows and view the bushland and watch the wildlife and birds like the noisy Swift Parrot feeding in the tree tops ,the magnificent Wedgetails soaring above the treetops and we were so excited to see a pair actually mating amongst the branches, for over 30 years a Female has brought her young to the area teaching them to fly and hunt in the nearby paddocks, and then there are “my” beloved Grey (White morph) Goshawks, who over the past 6 years a pair has nested in bush within 500metres of Devonfield raising a stunning 12 youngsters, I regularly watch them hunt among the trees for birds and small mammals to feed their youngsters. There are also countless more bird species that live there.

I wonder how many of Devonport’s Planners, Councillors, Developers and Delegates here today, have actually walked among the towering trees, listened to the bird song, heard the whispering of the leaves, taken in the Eucalyptus aromas on a hot day, marvelled at the sun shining through raindrops on leaves and grasses , the frost glittering like diamonds and crunching under foot and the water trickling along with its tiny tadpoles darting about and numerous frogs singing their croaky songs and marvelled at the construction of the mini mud towers by the endangered Northern Burrowing Crayfish.

Devonfield bush also houses a myriad of wildflowers of every colour of the rainbow including native bush tucker plants: Native Raspberries, Dianella, Manferns, Native Currants, Kangaroo Apples and more. It is also a foraging ground for the local Beekeepers including my family who feast on the flowers, bushes, and Eucalyptus trees, and with decline in Bee numbers around the World makes this an important resource for the health of the species but the bushland and humanity.

There are also hundreds of other insects, Butterflies Moths and Reptiles residing in the bushland and grassed areas. Also, this bushland is home to many species of animals including Rufous and Bennetts Wallaby, Brown Bandicoots, Brush and Ringtail Possums, Potaroos to name a few. You will see just a small snapshot of these featured in the supplied picture book I helped compile.

With the destruction of bushland further up Stony Rise, Harris Road, approval for housing in the blocks next door and in the past few weeks clearing and felling of trees in Marconi Court it has made it even more important to save the Bushland and Grassed areas at Devonfield.

Yes, I know there is a shortage of housing in Devonport but how would you like your home bulldozed, I have seen many areas in and around Devonport not yet developed and could be, without destruction of anymore bush.

In a world of severe Climate change, it is essential to hold on to all that is Natural for not only the birds and animals, but for the people of our city, the State, the country, and the world. How wonderful it would be to preserve this area; it could be used for many other activities that would benefit the residents of Devonfield and the general community of Devonfield.

I don’t have a problem with all the rezoning just the areas 4,5,6,7 that contain the creek and bush and grasslands.

Although there are only a few people here today speaking on this subject I can tell you that we speak for many hundreds of people who would be devastated if clearing did occur.

Please consider mine and the other submissions very carefully, and not just seeing the dollar signs, the bushland between the Mersey and Don Rivers is an important part of the ecology of the Devonport and Tasmania and acts as a corridor for wildlife, birds, and insects from the Mersey River to the Greenbelt and beyond. Forgive me if I seem emotional, it is a very important subject to me.

Thankyou. Elizabeth Latham