

NOTE FROM THE PROPONENTS RE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS – 9 July 2010

Dear Sir/Madam

As proposers of the project (**Application MP06_147**) we would like to provide some background on our relationship with the area and what we intend to see happen in the future.

My Grandfather, Leo Hemingway first signed the Wonboyn House Visitors Book in 1927. Since then, five generations of Hemingway's have called Wonboyn Lake their retreat and home. Our fondness for Wonboyn developed when my father had his honeymoon at Wonboyn House in 1946. As a result of this occasion my grandfather, uncle and father decided to build a house in Wonboyn in the late 1940's which unfortunately burnt down in 1952. After the fire, land became available and Bill and Thelma Ross (great friends and frequent visitors to Wonboyn) built a new house next to the Hemingway's, and both houses, as well as a lasting friendship still stand today.

Currently four generations from the Hemingway family and 3 generations of Ross' continue to share these original houses. As the families and I grow older it is becoming more difficult to get access to the original family homes.

My intention is to build a new home on Lot 6 that I can share with my children and continue to enjoy Wonboyn as a peaceful, quiet and safe retreat through my retirement. Don and Max at this point, intend only to hold their land for their children and grandchildren.

We are not developers, as can be seen by the lack of pace of this application; we are just looking out for our future. We may need to sell one block in order to help offset the cost of the sub division however there will be no marketing campaign to sell the remaining blocks. It is our intension to hold the Residual land between the families in perpetuity, so our grandchildren can enjoy a secluded and isolated Wonboyn as we did.

Since taking control of Lots 11 and 14 we have taken action to protect the environmental assets of the Wonboyn River. In past years, locals have used Picnic Point (lot 11) as a day visit area. Unfortunately the beauty of the area has become too well known and even recently has been abused by swarms of up to fifty people camping during the Easter period. The damage and rubbish left behind by these large crowds was horrific. Trees has been ring-barked, presumably for future firewood, as well as disturbances in the acid sulphate soil both next to the river and on the bank displayed utter disregard for the sanctity of the area.

After consulting with the Rate Payers Association and discussions with many local residents it was necessary to fence off the area.

As per Lesryk's first report, nesting boxes and signage are to be placed on the site. We intend to take this further by giving the local community more details on acid sulphate soil and salt marsh. Moreover, we intend to upgrade the track under the existing power lines and Max Ross's drive due to the erosion issues as pointed out in the soil report (this is irrespective of the DA).

Our intentions and reputation for protecting the area are shown by the responses after advertising the development. Only two letters were submitted from the locals, both in favour of our proposal.

We hope that you will appreciate our commitment and respect for this area that we have shared with our families for the past 83 years when considering our proposal.

Yours truly,
Doug Hemingway, Don & Max Ross