



## The Waterways Network

16 January 2021

Submission: Submission to Box Hill Council on the excision of the wetland rehabilitation for the development of the Burwood Brickmakers site by the developer Frasers.

### About The Waterways Network

The Waterways Network is a community practice that considers the way flows, rivulets, creeks, streams, and rivers form a connected network across the landscape that is fundamental to the health of our environment. The ecological integrity of the landscape is indispensable to the health of the world in which we live, and water is the critical ingredient in that integrity.

### Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the work of the Kooyong Koot Alliance in advising on our submission though the content of the submission is the responsibility of the Network.

### Endorsement

We endorse the submissions of the Kooyong Koot Alliance.

### *Submission*

This change is an exceedingly disappointing outcome. The original thinking to include a public asset as the means of providing stormwater management for the site was flawed from the outset. Stormwater needs to be managed onsite, and if this means reducing the area of development for apartments and retail then this is a cost the development must bear as part of the project. Offsets are too often a proven failure. Improvements and stormwater management need to be local to be effective. This change and the switch to an offset disadvantages all downstream users, of which there are many, of Gardiners Creek and in turn the Yarra. I have been unable to access or find online the Biosis Biodiversity report 2014, though it is referred to in Fraser's documents a number of times. We can but assume that much of the increase in biodiversity lauded by Frasers was to come from the rehabilitation of the Ely wetlands. Frasers states as part of their Green Star certification 'the development will create a significant net biodiversity gain representing a 20% improvement over the site's biodiversity values'. The one area mentioned in the *Landscape, Public Realm And Open Space Plan* as 'nature conservation areas (p.33) is a long linear shape that is unlikely to provide effective habitat for any native species as it will suffer from edge effects.



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There is no mention of specific habitat creation in this document. From the information provided it seems likely the increase in biodiversity will solely be in the diversity of trees and shrubs planted, rather than the creation of effective habitat or ecosystems for local native birds, insect, reptile or mammal species. Given this likely reduction in any improvement in the site's biodiversity values, the Green Star rating of the site development must be reviewed.

Yours sincerely,

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The Waterways Network

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