



WELLINGTON
SHIRE COUNCIL

The Heart of Gippsland

**COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA
UNSCHEDULED MEETING TO CONSIDER
2022/23 DRAFT BUDGET SUBMISSIONS**

Meeting to be held at

Wellington Centre – Wellington Room

Foster Street, Sale and via MS Teams

Thursday 19 May 2022, commencing at 3:00 PM

**or join Wellington on the Web:
www.wellington.vic.gov.au**

UNSCHEDULED MEETING OF COUNCIL TO CONSIDER
2022/23 DRAFT BUDGET SUBMISSIONS

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COUNCIL MEETING INFORMATION

Members of the Public Gallery should note that the Council records and publishes Council meetings via YouTube to enhance the accessibility of Council meetings to the broader Wellington community. These recordings are also archived and may be published on Council's Website for viewing by the public or used for publicity or information purposes. At the appropriate times during the meeting, members of the gallery may address the Council at which time their image, comments or submissions will be recorded.

Members of the public who are not in attendance at the Council meeting but who wish to communicate with the Council via the online webform should lodge their questions or comments early in the meeting to ensure that their submissions can be dealt with at the end of the meeting.

Please could gallery visitors, Councillors and invited online attendees ensure that mobile phones and other electronic devices are turned off or in silent mode for the duration of the meeting.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

"We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land the Gunaikurnai people, and pay respects to their elders past and present"

PRAYER

"Almighty God, we ask your blessing upon the Wellington Shire Council, its Councillors, officers, staff and their families. We pray for your guidance in our decisions so that the true good of the Wellington Shire Council may result to the benefit of all residents and community groups."

Amen

1. APOLOGIES

2. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT/S OF INTEREST

3. GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES

3.1. RECEIPT AND CONSIDERATION OF SUBMISSIONS RELATING TO THE 2022/23 DRAFT BUDGET

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER CORPORATE FINANCE

PURPOSE

To receive and consider any verbal and written submissions (as attached) relating to the 2022/23 Draft Budget...d.d.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE GALLERY

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and consider submissions relating to the 2022/23 Draft Budget.

BACKGROUND

Council resolved at its meeting held on 19 April 2022 to:

- advertise its proposed 2022/23 Draft Budget and proposed differential rates under section 96 of the *Local Government Act 2020*; and
- hear verbal submissions on the 2022/23 Draft Budget on Thursday 19 May 2022 at 3:00pm.

In accordance with section 96 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council invited interested persons to make written submissions in relation to the 2022/23 Draft Budget by 5:00pm on 10 May 2022 and to also make verbal submissions at the Council meeting on 19 May 2022.

Council received nine written submissions (as attached) in response to the 2022/23 Draft Budget and will consider these submissions in conjunction with any verbal submissions prior to the 7 June 2022 Council Meeting, where it will be recommended that the Budget, including any revisions, be adopted.

ATTACHMENTS

1. 2022-23 Draft Budget Submissions [3.1.1 - 40 pages]

OPTIONS

Council has the following options available:

1. To receive and consider submissions relating to the 2022/23 Draft Budget; or
2. To seek further information and receive and consider submissions relating to the 2022/23 Draft Budget at a later Council meeting.

PROPOSAL

That Council receive and consider any verbal and written submissions (as attached) relating to the 2022/23 Draft Budget.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No staff and/or contractors involved in the compilation of this report have declared a conflict of interest.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Consideration of submissions may result in changes to the proposed 2022/23 Draft Budget.

COMMUNICATION IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

LEGISLATIVE IMPACT

Under s96(1)(b) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, a Council must develop a budget in accordance with its Community Engagement policy.

COUNCIL POLICY IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

COUNCIL PLAN IMPACT

The Council Plan 2021-25 Theme 4 “Services and Infrastructure” states the following strategic outcome:

Strategic Outcome 4.1: *"A financially sustainable, high performing organisation."*

This report supports the above Council Plan strategic outcome.

RESOURCES AND STAFF IMPACT

The consideration of submissions relating to the 2022/23 Draft Budget may have an impact on the level of resources available in the 2022/23 financial year and the staffing levels of Council.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

ENGAGEMENT IMPACT

Section 96(1)(b) of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires that Council develop the budget in line with its Community Engagement policy. To ensure that Council provided ample and varied opportunity for community engagement, Council placed the draft 2022/23 Budget on Council's website and advertised that it had done so. Advertisements were placed in local newspapers, on Facebook and Council's website (including the *Your Wellington Your Say* page) seeking community submissions on the draft 2022/23 Budget and inviting the public to speak to, and in support of, submissions at this special Council meeting.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

DRAFT 2022/23 BUDGET SUBMISSIONS

	CORRESPONDENT	SUBMISSION
1.	Gippsland Agricultural Group	Request for \$30,000 per annum for 3 years to support agricultural research and development to build resilience and environmental adaptation
2.	Lucy Moore	Request to increase advertising of recycling requirements and introduce a Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) bin and collection service
3.	Ian Borthwick	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Query re roadworks on Sale-Toongabbie Road and Three Chain Road 2. Commentary on installation of electric vehicle charging stations
4.	Raina Longson	Commentary on lack of footpaths in Market Street Sale
5.	Jessica Overy	<p>Various issues -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Car Parking at Opal Aged Care Facility 2. Roundabout at Bunnings intersection 3. Coles car park 4. Raymond Street car parking 5. Public toilet cleaning regime 6. Street trees in Patten Street 7. Tip fees for concession holders 8. Future of former Red Rooster building 9. Street lighting 10. Car parking at local schools
6.	Nick Fella	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Request for road maintenance on a five-year cycle for those who live more than 500m from the highway or main road that falls under Council's current maintenance strategy 2. Request that funds be used locally for landowners with Council's section 173 environmental overlays and other conservation overlay equivalents, rather than being used to purchase energy requirements and carbon offsets via the toward Victorian Energy Collaboration (VECO)

	CORRESPONDENT	SUBMISSION
7.	Katrina Jones	Request for new section of footpath at the corner of Stevens Street and Guthridge Parade, Sale
8.	Neil Barraclough	<p>Concerns about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the cost of future fires on the community and the Shire's economy the impact of the decline of the timber industry on the future economy of the Shire the impact of drought and flooding on the community and farmers
9.	Heyfield Wetlands Committee of Management	Request for assistance from Council to complete the Heyfield Wetlands Viewing Platform due to cost overruns

No.	1
Submission	Request for \$30,000 per annum for 3 years to support research and development work into agriculture to build resilience and environmental adaptation
Correspondent	Gippsland Agricultural Group



30.03.2022

Private and Confidential

To Wellington Shire and East Gippsland Shire

Dear Sir/Madam

**Gippsland Agricultural Group Inc
Further funding opportunities**

Firstly, we would like to thank you for your organisations generous support with regards to our seed capital funding.

We have, with the use of this funding, and support from Agriculture Victoria and a variety of project funders, achieved an enormous amount in our first two years of operation. Through the commitment of an energetic volunteer Board, and a handful of part time employed assistants, we have:

1. Turned 100 Hectares of unused and unloved piece of land forming part of the Bairnsdale Aerodrome into a showpiece dryland research farm, fully equipped with yards, laneways, drainage and direct access back to the East Gippsland Field Days site;
2. Carried out dozens of trials both on site and at a number of strategic locations throughout Central and East Gippsland;
3. Achieved membership well over 200 members, all of whom have participated and engaged in the research offering of our group, either via our online presence, farm field days, ute drives, or the Gippsland Red Meat Conference;
4. Successfully facilitated the recent Gippsland Red Meat Conference, which had well over 200 participants, and a dozen keynote speakers;
5. Carried out a series of field days either at the Research Farm or on site demonstrations across Central and East Gippsland;
6. Engaged with a number of stakeholders groups including MLA, Ag Vic, VFF, Food and Fibre Gippsland, East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority,

East Gippsland Shire, Wellington Shire, and a number of private seed and fertiliser suppliers;

7. Successfully applied for funding to build a multi purpose Agricultural Learning Centre at the Bairnsdale Aerodrome which will be a huge contributor to the ongoing growth of our organisation and bring together other industry users including the East Gippsland Field Days, Gippsland Merino Breeders Association, Gippsland Sheep Breeders Association, etc.

The above is not an exhaustive list. As an organisation we have achieved so much in our first two years and there is much more that can be done by our organisation in being a leader and innovator for the agriculture sector in Central and East Gippsland.

The biggest limitation we have to this future work is a lack of recurrent funding. All our funding from here forward is project driven, so it must be acquitted against actual project costs. As an organisation to maintain a core group of staff (Part time agronomist, general manager and farm officer), in order to maintain a minimum number of trials both Summer and Winter, and continue to engage with our membership base, we need a core funding amount of approximately \$100,000 per annum. This is with countless hours continuing to be spent by our volunteer Board.

As an organisation we can provide some of this core funding through farm production and membership sales, but it will leave us well short of where we need to be. We understand that discussions around recurrent funding are often difficult with various stakeholders however project specific funding can often send an organisation down a pathway that takes it away from its core business and its values and we want to remain true to that.

We are working on ways to build commercial income into our enterprise, hence the focus on farm production, the management of the Red Meat Conference, and we are looking at ways to value add the intellectual capital within our organisation. But all that aside we are looking for a small amount of recurrent funding for the next three years to continue to drive the organisation.

In terms of a figure, we are seeking from both local Shires, the sum of \$30,000 exc GST per annum for the next three years. We are happy to have some accountability around this, as we are used to the governance arrangements of delivering value for public resources.

We have done some great work to date, supported by organisations like yours, we want to be able to continue this good work, and look forward to discussing ways in which your organisation can help us in the future.

Yours sincerely



Trevor Caithness
CEO

No.	2
Submission	Request to increase advertising of recycling requirements and introduce FOGO bin and collection service
Correspondent	Lucy Moore

Budget submission

I appreciate off setting carbon emissions by using greener energy sources but this is something the general public are unlikely aware of or has an impact on their day to day thinking. I believe that more "community involved" initiatives to help the environment would be very beneficial and help people do their part towards climate change and always have it in mind when making decisions on consumption. I have 2 ideas which could be easily implemented as I know other councils around Australia that have had these already in place for many years and they work successfully.

1. Improved knowledge of recycling habits: advertising what can be recycled curb side, advertising soft plastic/battery recycling at supermarkets and council funding Terracycle collections for more difficult to recycle products.
2. FOGO bin and collection for each household - fogo bin is kept inside to put compostable materials into - eg: food scraps, paper towel, meat scraps - which is then emptied into green waste bin and collected fortnightly by the council (alternate to regular recycle bin week). This saves so much biodegradable material going into landfill and releasing methane emissions. This system has been successfully running in Tasmanian councils for over 2 years. Hobart council is aware 50% of the average household waste bin is food and a further 10% is garden waste. This can easily be repurposed through this program to be used as compost for community gardens or sold as garden fertiliser for people to purchase.

Thank you for giving us the platform to submit our ideas and I hope you take all ideas into serious consideration.

Kind regards,
Lucy Moore.

No.	3
Submission	1. Query re roadworks on Sale-Toongabbie Road and Three Chain Road 2. Commentary on installation of electric vehicle charging stations
Correspondent	Ian Borthwick

27 April 2022

RE: 2022-2023 Wellington Shire Budget

- A very comprehensive and well thought out budget presentation.
- Traffic in the area around our property has increased enormously in the last three years. Much of the traffic is heavy transport associated with a big increase in production from the area including bigger dairies herds, rapid expansion of chicken production, more cropping and more irrigation. I would like to hear what the proposed timeline is for –
 - widening the Sale-Toongabbie Road between the Rosedale-Heyfield Road and the Toongabbie to Heyfield Road.
 - Tarring the Three Chain Road
- I applaud the idea of installing a couple of fast charging stations for electric vehicles but I think the budget should not be specific about it. The wording should be “decarbonisation”. Battery power still does not get up for power-to-weight against IC engines powered by hydrogen. It might be better to avoid committing ratepayers’ money completely to supplying energy outlets of any sort to the general public. It could turn out to be a monster. Better to leave it to the commercial world. Encourage entrepreneurs to do it and build a hydrogen filling station as well. Both of these services will likely be installed soon by private service stations anyway. In any case, local people with hybrid or fully electric cars will normally not need fast chargers. They are more likely to charge their cars at home overnight instead. Also, the fast-charging option might be quite dangerous, a lot of energy going into a small package very quickly so, as a public service, it might end up being expensive to maintain. The strategy for council to decarbonise needs to be much more carefully thought out. It might, for instance, include things like a community energy policy in certain township areas involving a public/private partnership or a toll system. Putting expensive underground reticulated electric supplies in new suburb developments will have to be reconsidered against putting in stand-alone rooftop solar/off-grid options and reticulated pipelines instead that can be converted from natural gas to hydrogen in due course. Underground district heating systems might happen.

Regards
Ian Borthwick

No.	4
Submission	Commentary on lack of footpaths in Market Street Sale
Correspondent	Raina Longson

[Click here](#) to view the video submission with commentary about the lack of footpaths in Market Street, Sale.

No.	5
Submission	Various issues re car parking, public toilets, street trees, tip fees, street lighting and the old Red Rooster building
Correspondent	Jessica Overy

Budget proposal for Wellington Shire.

1. Car parking out the front of Opal aged care facility. People are destroying the grass outside here because there is no where for staff to park. Cars have made this muddy and look absolutely disgusting it's the large nature strip which I believe belongs to you.
2. URGENTLY needing a round about at Coles/Bunnings entrance (Macarthur Street) near Latrobe Community Health. Lots of backed up traffic and near misses happen here.
3. Coles carpark needs updating. Due to the recent event that a Coles worker who was collecting trolleys was run over in that carpark and sustained horrible injuries.
4. Make car parking in the main street (Raymond street) 15 minute parking as people use these parks for all day purposes and there is never any car parks.
5. Public toilets around Sale, Maffra and Stratford all need a good clean at least once a week! The public toilets at the Stratford Lions club park are disgusting and don't even have a light so your using the toilets in the dark as there is no natural lighting in there at all. Can there be an appointed person from the shire that can maintain these and make sure there cleaned and mopped weekly??
6. More works like you have been doing in Stead Street needs to also happen in Patten Street. All the paper bark trees along the nature strips of Patten Street up near Stead Street end all are so large they touch the power lines and block the view on people reversing from their driveways. I'm actually ready to cut mine down myself as people keep constantly parking along the road side and so now I can't see at all when reversing as that large Paperbark tree that you own blocks the view of oncoming traffic.
7. Make tip fee's at a reduced rate for HCC holders. Disposal of waste is so expensive now that vulnerable people on welfare payments just dump their rubbish where ever as the tip fee's are too high. Oh and you got rid of the SALE TIP.
8. Empty Red Rooster building??? Would you like to do something with that. It's making our town look trashy.
9. Assessment on street lighting? When was that done? Has someone checked all street lights work and are maintained and suit there purpose.

10. Car parking issues at Airly Primary School, Cobain's, Newry Primary School. This has already been addressed many times before and not much happened. Rural schools require proper car parks just like the public schools do??? So why are they getting disadvantaged?? They get made to park in mud and long wet grassed areas to pick their kids up from school.

No.	6
Submission	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Request for road maintenance on a five year cycle at minimum for those who live more than 500m from the highway or main road that falls under Council's current maintenance strategy 2. Request that funds be used locally for landowners with Council's section 173 environmental overlays and other conservation overlay equivalents rather than going toward VECO
Correspondent	Nick Fella

I would like to make a budget submission for the 2022/3 financial year. I have only 2 points to make. One is in relations to roads; the other is on the environment.

"We will also continue works to fix the roads, bridges and culverts that were damaged during last year's flood and storm events".

"1.1.2 Key Planning considerations Service level planning. Councils have a legal obligation to provide some services - such as animal management, local roads, food safety and statutory planning"

My issue is with many rural landowners that reside beyond 500m of a main road/highway, may be a full ratepayer but doesn't fulfil the criteria in your road management plan to have the roads maintained. It is not the responsibility of landowners to maintain roads/roadsides, remove overhanging vegetation, fill potholes etc. We are not trained to do so, nor do we have the equipment. I have put in a request that if my road was not going to be maintained annually under the current rules, I requested it to be once every 5 years as an alternative. If no maintenance is done it becomes a fire issue concern and that access is now limited to one entry from the highway. That one access is now also rapidly getting to the point of being unsafe to navigate. Due to massive potholes, overgrown shrub and low hanging tree branches, the other access through the pine plantation is now not viable by vehicle and barely so when accessed on foot. It is discrimination and neglect that landowners to 500m can have safe, maintained roads, but those beyond, do not. Therefore, my request is that should we not fulfil the criteria for annual maintenance under the councils outdated roads management plan, we should have at least have the option for 5 yearly maintenance if requested. Safety of my family and that of others in the same position should take priority over funding for a library or sports field.

"The environment and climate change is the number one priority for us, and the budget sets out how Council is tackling this issue. Sustainability initiatives funded in the budget include offsetting around 1300 tonnes of carbon annually by purchasing part of our energy needs through the Victorian Energy Collaboration (VECO),"

If council wants to use local money on carbon offsets, it would be better appreciated that these funds be used locally rather than Veco investing it on windfarms on the other side of the state where it doesn't assist our local economy. Your "rates for rebates on land for conservation" is a fabulous incentive and should be increased / expanded to landowners with council's section 173 environmental overlays and any other conservation overlay equivalent. Currently, only the trust for nature covenant is recognised yet councils own are not. This would keep the money local so that landowners can put that money back into their properties to protect the environment. It would also prevent waste of the trust for nature's funds when two of the virtually same overlays are put over same property to access the rate rebate. (Approx \$26,000 to covenant a property). This also helps offset the 40% increase in rates the last 2 years.

Nick Fella

No.	7
Submission	Request for new section of footpath at the corner of Stevens Street and Guthridge Parade, Sale
Correspondent	Katrina Jones

From: Katrina Jones

Sent: Wednesday, 4 May 2022 1:51 PM

To: Enquiries <enquiries@wellington.vic.gov.au>

Subject: PEDESTRIAN SAFETY AT THE CORNER OF GUTHRIDGE PARADE AND STEVENS STREET - SALE

Dear Mr Zac Elliman,

Would you be able to let me know if the safety issue on the corner of Stevens and Guthridge has been allocated in the upcoming budget?

I have to admit I am getting a little frustrated as I note a temporary footpath has been constructed on Maxfields rd (which is nearby and we use frequently) and it is hard to understand why this has been constructed when this safety issue has not yet been addressed. Maxfields rd is a quiet backroad and was reasonably adequate for walker, riders and prams and has none of the safety issues that have been created on the corner on Stevens and Guthridge.

I also wanted to let you know I am looking to raise this issue with Darren Chester as I can't believe how hard it has been to get this safety issue addressed.

Would appreciate your prompt response.

Thanks

Katrina Jones

No.	8
Submission	Concerns about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the cost of future fires on the community and the Shire's economy • The impact of the decline of the timber industry on the future economy of the Shire • The impact of drought and flooding on the community and farmers
Correspondent	Neil Barraclough

PART 1 - CONCERN ABOUT THE IMPACT OF FUTURE FIRES ON THE COMMUNITY AND THE SHIRE'S ECONOMY

Submission part 1.

Environmental policy.

I submitted to the Wellington shire environmental policy in relation to the shires following and spending money on a belief that Carbon dioxide emissions resulting from the Industrial Revolution were causing climate change/global warming and this was catastrophic.

Attached is part of that submission, below is an unanswered email to the councilors.

The Wellington Shire has followed largely/totally unscientific nonsense and a very brief summary of the consequences.

From memory part of the reason for this is that this climate change/global warming will make fires worse in the future.

The fires of the last two decades have been a combination of land management issues, and government ineptitude in that fires in the wild are largely no longer put out.

1. The failure to address issues relating future fires will impact on the shire in many ways and cost the shire financially. This should be allowed for in spending on other areas rather than putting the shire into unsustainable debt.
2. There may well be several agenda's associated with the pushing of a contention that CO2 emissions from the Industrial revolution. One may be that it allows the transfer of family owned farms to multinationals and others to grow trees in the belief that they will take CO2 out of the system and solve a problem that has little or no scientific basis. I ask the Wellington Shire to demonstrate an understanding of what any changes in the rate status of properties used to grow trees in this situation will be.

Unanswered email below.

From: Neil Barraclough

Sent: Sunday, 11 July 2021 8:20 AM

To: 'marcusm@wellington.vic.gov.au' <marcusm@wellington.vic.gov.au>;

'carolync@wellington.vic.gov.au' <carolync@wellington.vic.gov.au>;
'ianb@wellington.vic.gov.au' <ianb@wellington.vic.gov.au>; Garry Stevens
<garrys@wellington.vic.gov.au>; 'scottr@wellington.vic.gov.au'
<scottr@wellington.vic.gov.au>; 'jillw@wellington.vic.gov.au'
<jillw@wellington.vic.gov.au>; 'johnta@wellington.vic.gov.au'
<johnta@wellington.vic.gov.au>; 'gaylem@wellington.vic.gov.au'
<gaylem@wellington.vic.gov.au>
Cc: 'carmelr@wellington.vic.gov.au' <carmelr@wellington.vic.gov.au>
Subject: Shire environmental policy- Climate Change.

Hello Councillors,

I am severely irritated by the Wellington Shires policy in whatever it was that come up in my Facebook feed, it was some four year plan. The shire is simply following the course of least resistance with no apparent concern for the future, in particular the attribution of the burning of fossil fuels to being a factor in bushfires. There are a number of reasons for this concern, one is that it greatly reduces the tendency to take the necessary steps to prevent such catastrophes continuing. I just wacked a bit together on the linking of the devastation of the fires to human induced climate change, I invite any councillors to challenge anything in a group email that I have said in the attachment.

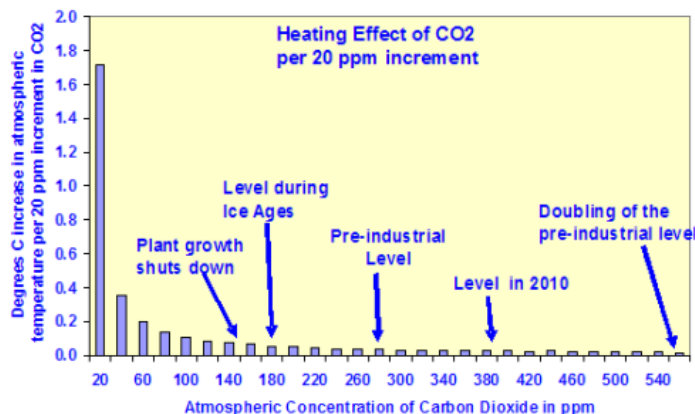
The other issues relating to these fires need to be addressed separately.
Neil

P.S. If I am severely irritated you may see me again.

Last summers fires were the result of a number of factors, a combination of land management issues that created a changed forest structure, cyclic drought and changes in state government responses in relation to containing and extinguishing the fires once started.

Beliefs that the fires were a result of human induced climate change (climate change), in particular the burning of coal have been expressed widely and have had a large degree of acceptance. The attribution of climate change as a factor has been very strong by the government bodies responsible for and failing to suppress the fires as well as all environmental groups that have pushed for policies that have led to less management with low intensity burns, a significant factor of the failed land management.

The basis for believing that humans have changed the climate towards a warmer and dryer climate is an expression of a view that the burning of fossil fuels following the Industrial Revolution has increased the Carbon dioxide (CO₂) levels in the atmosphere and this has had a significant heat trapping effect causing the earth to warm and there is a belief that this has caused a climate emergency. A belief has been expressed that there is a consensus amongst scientists to support this. The first problem with this is the science on the heat trapping effects of CO₂ are well understood, it is in effect logarithmic. https://wattsupwiththat.com/2010/03/08/the-logarithmic-effect-of-carbon-dioxide/?fbclid=IwAR2GoBam-Y-XQFmUpOvvGOBYOFepuk9-thDm8_pNkepOtbWlo6WNE9GrQt0



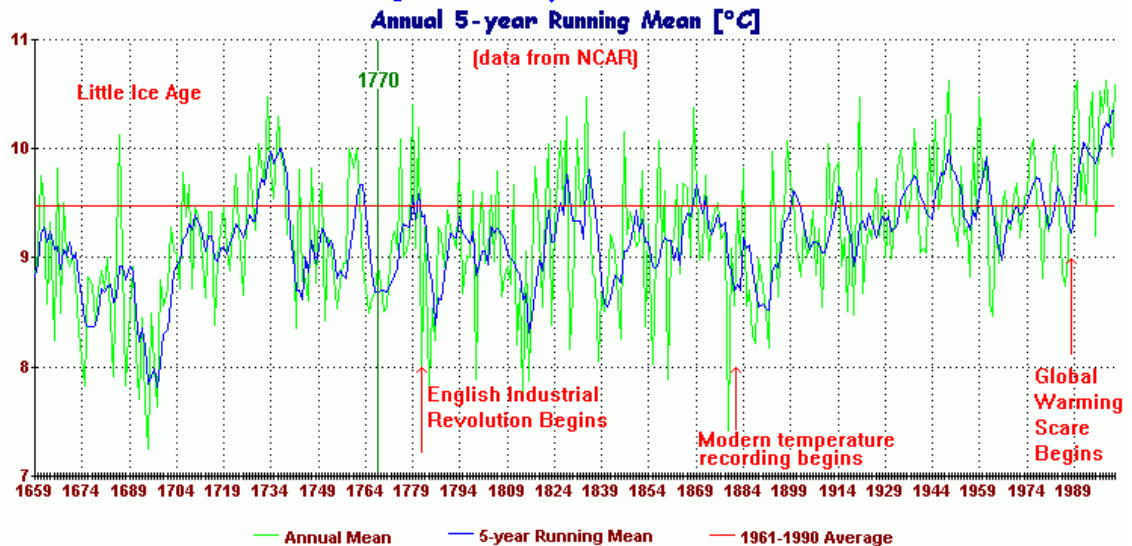
Simply put, the CO₂ is like insulation in your house roof, you put in some good quality insulation and it stops 90% of the heat leaving through the roof, if you double the insulation it won't stop 180% of the heat, it might stop 95% of the heat leaving through the roof and have only a minimal additional warming effect on the house below.

Now look at the history, the history books tell us the Industrial Revolution was caused by cold, famine and Bubonic Plague causing a significant drop in the population of Europe during the Little Ice Age, then towards the end of the Little Ice Age Europe warmed up appreciably and this increased agricultural production increasing affluence and causing a labour shortage. The Little Ice Age was a period of very low solar activity and cooling throughout Europe, when the solar activity increased it caused the warming that triggered the Industrial Revolution. In short the warming caused the Industrial Revolution and not vice versa.

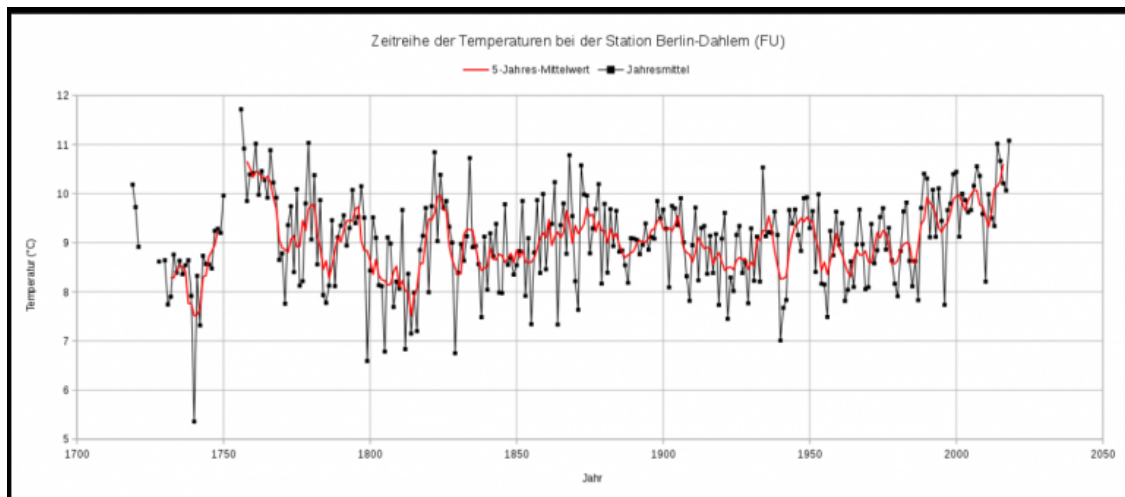
In short the warming caused the Industrial Revoulution and not vice versa.

The longest instrumental temperature record in the world is the Central England Temperature Record (CETR) <http://www.seafriends.org.nz/issues/global/cet-1659.gif>

Central England Temperature [1659-2002]



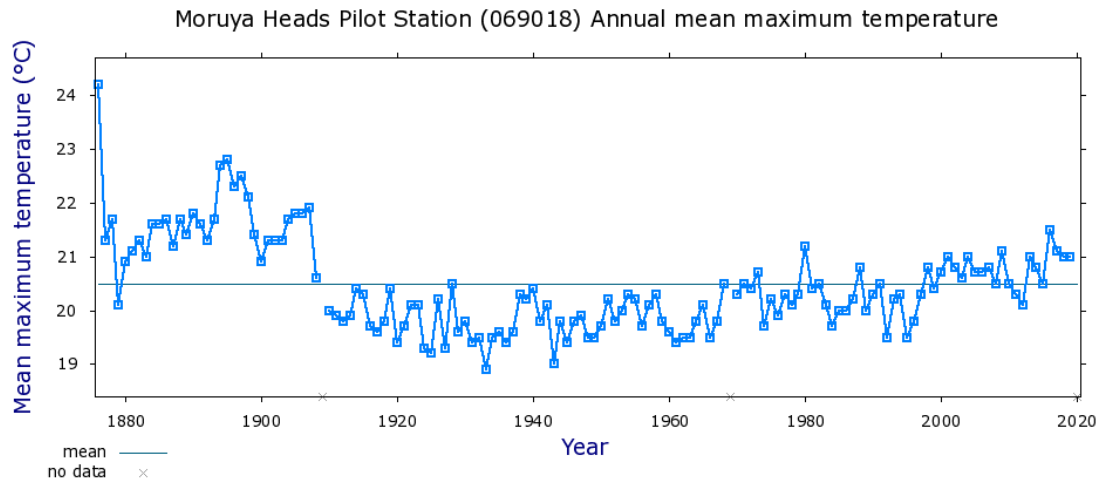
It clearly shows temperatures in the 1730's as warm as the temperature in the 1990's with the period between cooler than the 1730's which was 40+ years before the start of the Industrial Revolution. A German temperature record also supports this-



<https://notrickszone.com/2020/03/01/berlin-300-year-station-shows-temperatures-were-just-as-warm-in-the-mid-1700s-no-co2-fingerprint/>

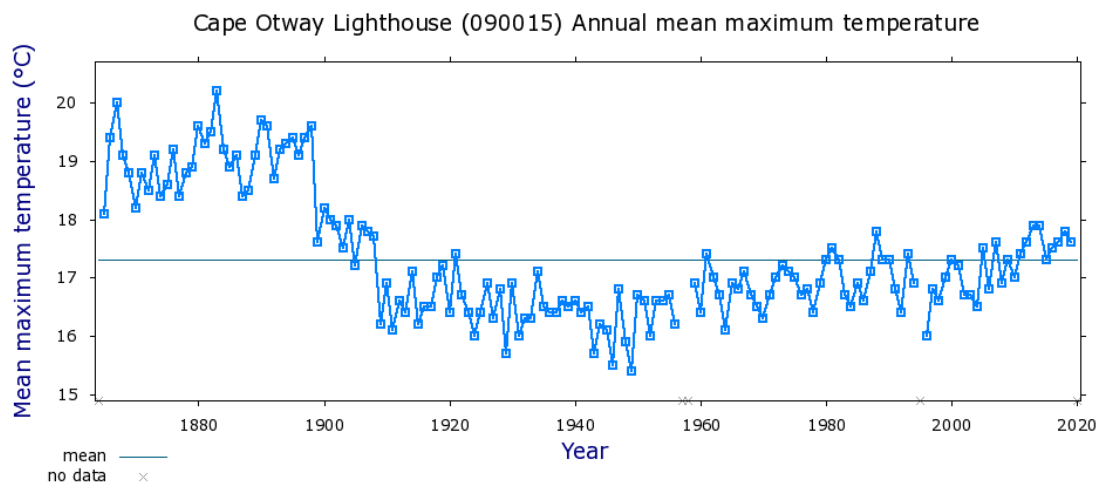
Where we have long term records on S.E. Australia, particularly where records have been taken in isolated areas without the Urban Heat Island Effect it is noticeable that the warmest period is the earliest part of the record, no relationship between CO₂ and temperature in the whole record. The later part of the record shows warming which

can be explained by natural cyclic mechanisms that also explain the warmer period at the start of the record.



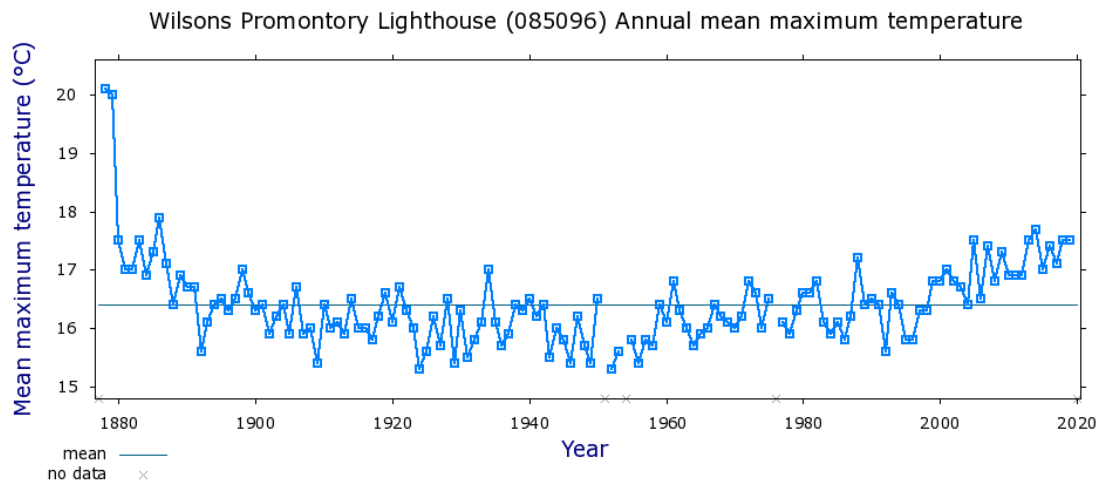
Note: Data may not have completed quality control
Observations made before 1910 may have used non-standard equipment

Climate Data Online, Bureau of Meteorology
Copyright Commonwealth of Australia, 2020



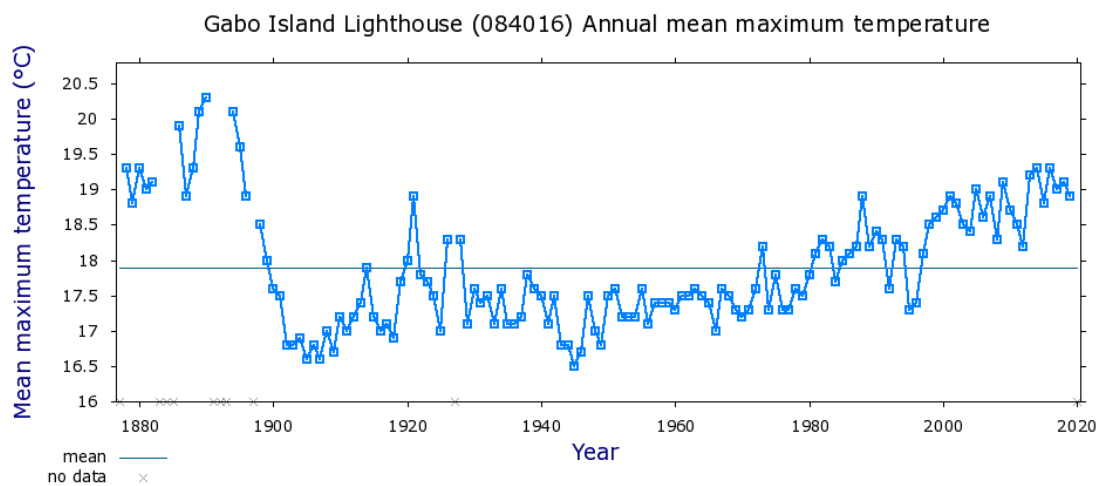
Note: Data may not have completed quality control
Observations made before 1910 may have used non-standard equipment

Climate Data Online, Bureau of Meteorology
Copyright Commonwealth of Australia, 2020



Note: Data may not have completed quality control
Observations made before 1910 may have used non-standard equipment

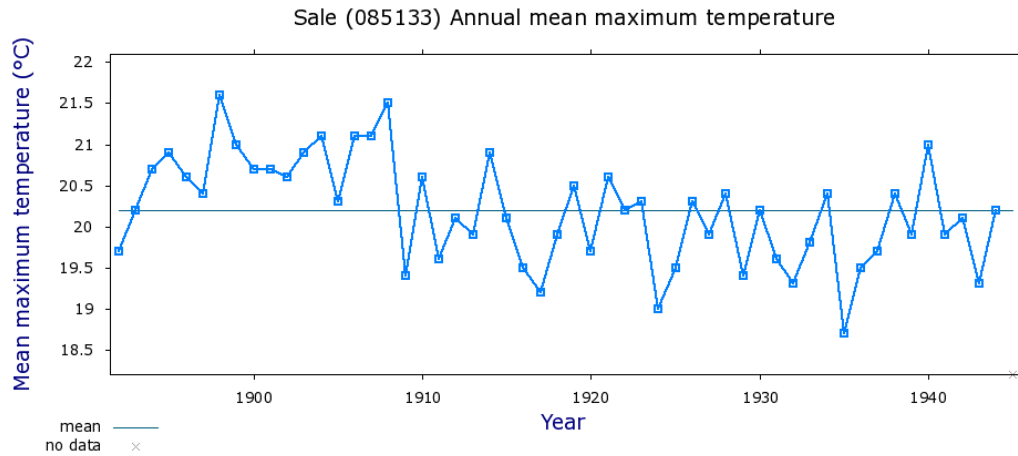
Climate Data Online, Bureau of Meteorology
Copyright Commonwealth of Australia, 2020



Note: Data may not have completed quality control
Observations made before 1910 may have used non-standard equipment

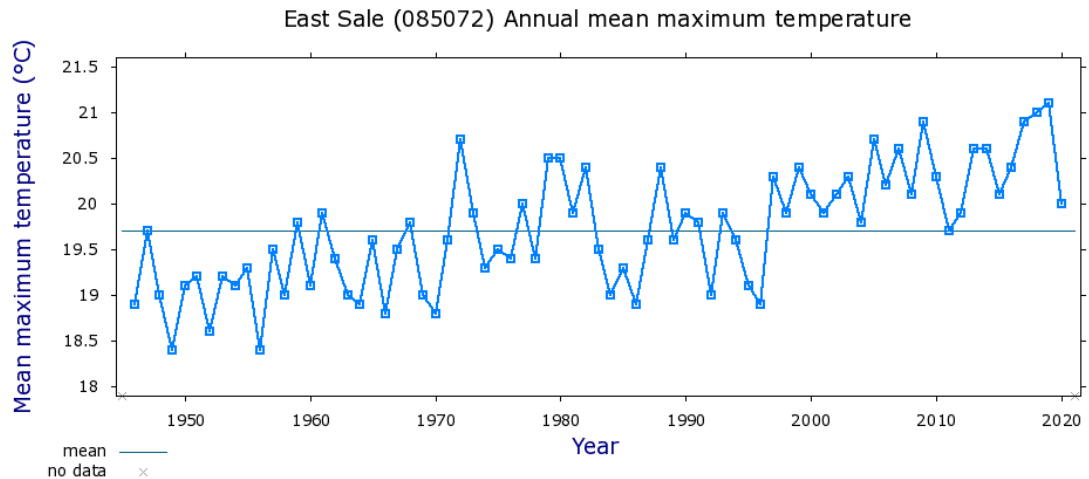
Climate Data Online, Bureau of Meteorology
Copyright Commonwealth of Australia, 2020

The Sale record is in two parts and also shows the same trend-



Note: Data may not have completed quality control
Observations made before 1910 may have used non-standard equipment

Climate Data Online, Bureau of Meteorology
Copyright Commonwealth of Australia, 2020



Note: Data may not have completed quality control
Observations made before 1910 may have used non-standard equipment

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To understand Global Warming Science think of Creation Science where science is either used or corrupted to support a contention that evolution as proposed by Charles Darwin is wrong and God created the world as detailed in Genesis in the Bible. It is not an area that I have studied but it has been expressed to me that genuine science is in conflict with Creation Science so I would suggest there is a clear parallel with Global Warming Science and challenge anyone to dispute the similarities in the two.

There are other similarities, the level of thinking of people that believe something is so because they perceive the Bible says it is so may be the same level of thinking as someone who believes something is so because they perceive science to say it is so.

As I recall it, following the Black Saturday fires of 2009 Bob Brown of the Greens attributed the devastation of the fires to the release of Carbon dioxide from the burning of fossil fuels having increased the levels of atmospheric CO₂. The science shows it

has minimal heating effect and CO2 is a component of many fire extinguishers and it has the ability to put out fires.

As I recall it, Danny Nalaih who had with involvement with a couple of (pseudo?) Christian political parties attributed the devastation of the fires to the legalizing of abortions and may also contributed some homophobic reasons for the fires.

What is the difference between the two? Danny Nalaih's political parties never fought against the management of the forested landscape with the regular low intensity burns needed to prevent megafires, our green friends who attribute the fires to the burning of fossil fuels have largely opposed this management.

There is no basis for saying that the release of CO2 from the burning of coal or other fossil fuels has caused a temperature increase that has been a factor in last summer's fires

IPCC temperature corruption

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=163GEIh74T4>

[American temperature corruption-](#)

https://climatechangedispatch.com/biden-epa-erases-more-inconvenient-climate-data-including-1930s-dust-bowl/?fbclid=IwAR1sjZVMfoJlzB-nPnwV6NLpuLN0J1gDiuzJG39CcwVWySvKH5_UpXHXdaE

The Black Summers fires were a combination of factors, two of the greatest factor were land missmanagement issues that I have contributed to the understanding of for many years previously and been ignored and cyclic drought related factors that I had explained from 2009 up till the start of the fires.

PART 2 - THE IMPACT OF THE DECLINE OF THE TIMBER INDUSTRY ON THE FUTURE ECONOMY OF THE SHIRE

The Timber Industry has been a significant part of the economy of the Wellington Shire in the past, there is little potential for it to have a significant contribution in the future for a number of factors.

Three attachments,

1. an article I had published in Voice of the mountains in 1978, it details how the exclusion of managed fire had caused a large amount of environmental devastation with fires such as 1926, 1932 and in particular 1939. The exclusion of fire was largely a result of timber industry pressure and not only has the environment been trashed as a result but the timber resource has also been trashed.
2. A cut and pasted exchange on Melina Bath's Facebook page prior to her blocking me (I presume because couldn't answer the questions or had problems with realities of situation). The Nationals have put across a contention that the timber industry is sustainable when the only ash resource remaining in the Wellington Shire could be in the Barkley River Catchment, a miniscule part of what once existed. I expect originally harvested starting around mid to late 1050's it won't be available for harvesting on an eighty year rotation till around 2035-2040 and not a large resource.
3. The timber resource will largely be depleted by 2030 when Labour intend stopping all native forest logging, it has largely been depleted to provide a resource for a Japanese owned paper mill at Maryvale with additional logs exported. A token or bit better than amount has been provided to one mill in Heyfield where there once many mills employing many people.
4. As I understand it, the Wellington Shire has supported the Nationals call for the native forest timber harvesting to continue beyond the 2030 when the manner that the industry has operated has seen jobs taken out of the shire along with the resource going to Maryvale.
5. An attachment that is a copy and past from Darren Chester's timeline (he hasn't blocked me yet!, thanks Darren). No idea were to start, the industry isn't sustainable with the present amount of pulp going to Maryvale and the total mismanagement. Clearfelling is incompatible with proper management of the forest with the low intensity burns that are needed for forest health and protection from summer fires.
6. Present management is a disgrace and should be stopped, the Nationals are profiting from the division between city and country with, as I understand it, the support of the Wellington Shire asking the Labour government to allow the present management to go on beyond 2030 when it isn't clear if there is the resource to go to 2030 with present extraction rates.

The Wellington Shire needs to either understand, or find the courage to act on the understanding that the timber industry can't go on as it has in the past and this will impact on the future economy of the Wellington Shire.

The shire needs to reduce its spending and borrowing to allow for this as well as a lot of other factors.

I have added Melina Bath and Darren Chester to this email and invite them to challenge anything I have said.

Neil Barraclough

I have often been asked how, as a conservationist, I can justify my "Mountain Cattlemen care for the High Country" sticker on my car. This question is usually from other conservationists.

Possibly the most obvious benefit of the work of the mountain cattleman visible today is the result of their protective burning prior to the 1939 fires in the areas they leased. the devastating fires of January 1939 were attributed in part to the cattlemen and resulted in the end of the regular, predominately autumnal burning of their leases.

However, opposition to cattlemen burning went back much further than 1939, as shown in these extracts from annual reports from the State Forest Department of Victoria on the subject of fires and grazing.

The act passed by Parliament last session for restriction of illegal grazing in forests has so far been thoroughly effective. Prosecutions were instituted only where stock owners were flagrant offenders in the matter of overstocking, and where it was known that during their occupation destructive fires in the dry season had frequently broken out in the reserves (State Forests Department of Vic., Annual Report 1910-1911)

It may be stated that so long as it is greatly to the advantage of the pockets of people to have forest fires, and so long as they may be lit with little or no chance of detection, so long will incendiary fires occur... The evil is so grave, and the loss of the country so enormous in money and other values, that possibly there should be a public inquest, or magisterial inquiry, into every serious forest fire. In a great number of cases now, the Department is now(t) renewing grazing licenses for large forest areas, but, as it is necessary to have the grass eaten down, and advisable to gain grazing revenue, takes in stock at agistment. (State Forest Department of Vic., Annual Report 1911-1912).

Offenders do not choose a frequented place, or time of day when foresters or patrol men are abroad, to fire a forest, and if two men are together on cattle runs 'in good burning weather' they generally separate before using the match. In East Gippsland and in the North- Eastern Ranges no man trusts his neighbors when he is engaged on such a delicate business as fire raising. Hence prosecutions are few, and convictions fewer.

State Forests Department of Vic., Annual Report 1913-1914).

There are many references blaming graziers for the predominance of fires in the Annual Reports of the State Forests Department until its replacement by the Forests Commission of Victoria in 1919. Similar opinions were then expressed by the Forests Commission. Perhaps the heads of the department whose job it was to prevent fire needed someone to blame when fire could not be prevented. Also, public Land was subject to divided management, part was administrated by the Forests Commission and part by the Crown Lands Department. If the Forest Commission could increase the area at the expense of Crown Lands, that would have meant an expanded department, with greater job security and possibly increased power and salary entitlements for the heads.

Reading Annual Reports from 1910 to 1939 suggests that criticism of the burning by the cattlemen may have made to gain support for the argument for Forests Commission control of Crown Lands.

For nearly all of the twenty years preceding the 1939 fires the Commissioner of Forests was a Mr A V Galbraith. His views on burning by graziers, expressed in "The Gum Tree" 1926 on the subject of the 1926 fires make interesting reading.

The noted fire raiser by selfish design is the grazier, especially the licensee of Crown Lands. In fairness to the great number of graziers who realize their interests and obligations in the preservation of our forests, this term will be confined to those who, either holding authority from the Crown, or illegally grazing on afforested lands without authority, have no conception of such interests and responsibilities.

Such a man is the scourge of the forest. His only concern is the fattening of his bests of profit, and certainly not the economic welfare of his country. Therefore he fires the forest regularly for his own purpose, for grass and muster, destroying whole tracts of country bearing untold wealth of valuable timber trees, in every stage of growth. His methods are many and subtle and although the men are known to the authorities, it is well nigh impossible with present legislation and sparsity of settlement over great areas, to successfully press home a prosecution. Even when the culprit is known, his neighbours will not inform on him, for he is invariably of the type that would at once revenge by the destruction of the informants property any punishment that might ensue through their performance of a public duty.

The Forests Commission forced most of the graziers out of State Forest in the early twenties, when they were not prepared to give an undertaking not to burn their leases and thought the leases worthless unburnt. However there were apparently less restrictions on Crown Land, with many graziers protectively burning their leases up until the fires of 1939. Details of this are found in the minutes of the Royal Commission into the 1939 fires, such as the cross-examination of John Alexander Cameron, who previously had held both Crown Lands and Forests leases around Mansfield.

Question: Do you have Crown Lands as well as forest areas?

Cameron: I have them only in Crown Lands at present. I did have grazing interests in the forest area but let them go on account of the Fire Commission's fire restriction policy.

Question: When did you do that?

Cameron: Some years ago- as soon as it became apparent that the forest was dangerous to put into.(Royal Commission into the 1939 fires minutes Pages 702-703)

For twenty years previous to the 1939 fires the forests along the Great Dividing Range from east of Melbourne through to the New South Border were subject to two different fire regimes. the areas of State Forest had fires excluded as much as possible. The mountainous, isolated areas of Crown Lands to the east of the state were burnt regularly by the mountain cattlemen of the era.

A submission to the Timber Industry Inquiry by the Department of Conservation Forests and Lands, on 4th December 1984 (on page 47) stated that the 1939 forest fire, which devastated a large proportion of mountain ash (*Eucalyptus regnans*) forest type in

Victoria, caused a major disruption of wood flows in the state. the fires set in train an initial concentration of sawmill activity on salvage of fire killed mature resource, followed by a relocation in the post wars years of sawmilling from the central forests to the eastern alpine forest areas of he state.

The 1939 fires caused, to a degree, a relocation of sawmilling from the forests from which the Forests Commission had removed the cattlemen, to areas protectively burnt by the cattlemen before 1939. These are the areas predominantly used for timber harvesting in Gippsland since the Second World War. Their regular burning also greatly reduced the effects of the 1939 fire on the fauna and flora. There are also stories of cattlemen surviving the fire in the mountains by sheltering in an area burnt in the previous year. they told of birds and native animals seeking refuge in those areas, a sanctuary that would not be available to them today in a similar fire.

The minutes of the Royal Commission continue to make interesting reading. John Findlay was another cattleman who gave evidence.

Findlay: When I left up there and took up the Blue Range run which is between the Rubicon and Little River. There is a beautiful forest in the head of it. I called on Mr McKay who was then the Chairman of the Forests Commission and said "if you do not burn that forest, you will loose the lot." He said "We will see to it." Several years went past and the fires came from Narbethong and burned the lot of it.

Question: taking into account the kind of season we have had, assuming that a fire had been started by lightning or some other cause, do you think there would have been anything left of the Rubicon forest even if you had set fire to it the previous year?

Findlay: None of it would have been burnt.

Question: Is that your definite opinion?

Findlay: Yes. When all the stockmen had were in the bush we burnt those forests and none of them were killed. Since the Forestry officers have taken charge we had two bad fires and this one has burned from end of Victoria to the other.

(Royal Commission into 1939 fires, minutes pages 499-500)

The government policy of stopping protective burning had been shown to be disastrously wrong. However this was never admitted, and possibly not even greatly understood, outside of the people in the bush. There is little to suggest that much was ever learnt, and the government has virtually done no controlled burning in the alpine country ever since, except for the regeneration of timber. Areas where stockmen once rode to muster are now so overgrown that it is difficult to walk through them.

In their evidence to the Royal Commission the cattlemen claimed that their burning caused little harm to the saplings of mountain ash, and spoke of forests of mixed age trees. Forests of ash type now tend to be even-aged, resulting from either past fires or clearfelling, and we are told these even aged stands are the natural order.

All trees in a typical area of alpine ash forest are usually the one age. They have their origins as seedlings germinating from the very seeds of the previous crop scattered on the ground after a fire. (Forests of Victoria published by the Forests Commission of Victoria, page 3).

This is despite stumps of from previous stands showing quite clearly that the previous stand was one of mixed age, such as at the Connors Plains, on the Licola to Jamison Road. Single aged stands do occur naturally, but are not natural for many of the areas where clearfelling and wildfire have now produced them.

Despite this, statements continue to be made by the Forests Commission, such as that in the Bairnsdale Advertiser on 30 November 1981, that-"the effects due to logging are similar to those caused by any natural, large scale disturbance of the environment such as forest fire."

The position of the Mountain Cattlemans Association of Victoria Inc. on the subject is interesting. While they advocate regular, controlled burning fire as a necessary and natural way of preventing destruction of the alpine environment, they support the present timber harvesting system of clearfelling. The Forests Commission (now Conservation Forests and Lands) have justified clearfelling with the belief that it represents the destruction of natural fire. The cattlemen appear to have accepted this.

In 1985 there were serious wildfires in the alpine area. Jim Cummins, then the president of the Mountain Cattlemen's Association Inc. was quoted in the Bairnsdale Advertiser on 1 February 1985 as stating "for some years there has been undue conservation influence on the State Government's forest management authorities not to protective burn alpine forest areas and national parks."



Well over fifty years before conservation groups had any real influence, government policy was headed very firmly towards stopping protective burning in timber producing areas. However, if one followed the debate lately it would appear "greenies" were somehow to blame.

While putting forward the argument that the modern conservation movement has had little bearing on the present situation, I must, as a conservationist, admit that the great abundance of literature put forward by the conservation movement is clearly wrong.

Finally, let us all work towards finding common ground. we all love the mountains, their forests and rivers, both conservationist and cattlemen alike.

Melina Bath MP



February 19 at 2:51 PM ·

 Heyfield Timber Festival 

Wow Heyfield -

congratulations

for showcasing Victoria's sustainable native timber industry! Talk about an amazing show of strength for our native timber workers!


After 28 years in recess the Heyfield community today has brought this fabulous event back with a bang  and a chop 

Thousands of Gippslanders, including [The Nationals for Regional Victoria](#) team have been enjoying the sunshine and soaking up today's festivities.

Heyfield's rec reserve is brimming with supporters of our native timber workers who are out in force and proudly showcasing their industry, complete with a carnival atmosphere.

Special thanks to local resident, Felicia Stevenson for her tireless work in supporting our native timber workers, promoting the industry and for driving the return of this fabulous festival.

But wait, there's more!

 Tonight there is a night session with live music, market, bar and food trucks from 5.30pm - 11.30pm

 Sunday morning starting at 10am a street parade of trucks, community groups & schools will wind its way through town to celebrate Heyfield being a timber towns!

Bring the family down to Heyfield and enjoy the festivities!

[#timbertowns](#) [#timberjobs](#) [#lovegippsland](#) [#vicnats](#) [#TimberFestival](#)

[Heyfield Timber Festival 2021 & beyond](#)

[Timber Towns Victoria](#)

[We Support the Timber Industry - Our Sustainable Resource.](#)

[Forest & Wood Communities Australia](#)

[Australian Forest Products Association](#)

[Australian Forests & Timber News](#)

[Heyfield & District Community Support Group](#)

[Heyfield](#)

[NO Greens - Real Conservation, Not Green Lies](#)

[Support the Future of Australian Hardwood Forestry](#)

[Peter Walsh for Murray Plains](#)

[Danny O'Brien MP](#)

[Tim Bull MP](#)

[Darren Chester MP](#)

[Wellington Shire Council](#)

Melina, if the logging is sustainable why was there a need to clearfell some of the last remaining old growth Alpine Ash, Mountain Gum and Broad Leafed Peppermint in the Little Dargo River catchment, I am referring to the Jones Creek coupe and the Royal Mine coupe.

Could you comment on this link from David Lindenmeyer please-

<https://cosmosmagazine.com/earth/sustainability/end-of-native-forest-logging/>

Neil Barraclough

Author

My first question on her Facebook Timeline-

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Neil Barraclough

A bit of history. Logging in the Alpine Ash forests to supply Heyfield's sawmills started around Connors Plains around 1950, my father had an alpine grazing lease in the area for some five years earlier, he went into the area first with brothers Artie and Joe Rumpff who would probably have been in their sixties. Dad said Artie and Joe had been going into the mountains with cattle "since they were knee high to a grasshopper", which would have likely taken them back to around the 1890's. Dad told us how each autumn when mustering the Rumpff brothers would be dropping matches around as they rode around mustering the cattle and as they were bringing them out. He said that the people in Heyfield would look up to the mountains, see the smoke and say "the Rumpff's are mustering their cattle", this is what protected what was an amazing timber resource to start milling in Heyfield and Licola.

After the second world war timber harvesting was concentrated on the Mountain Ash forests of the Central Highlands, the 1939 regrowth is now being harvested again. predominately for woodchips with a lesser proportion going to Heyfield to supply the ASH mill.

The photo is of horsemen, likely early cattlemen in a Mountain Ash forest, I think it is the Neerim South area.



The 1851 fire almost certainly went through these forests under worse conditions than 1939, a faller I spoke to who was involved in the salvage harvesting told me he ring counted the stumps to be a mixed age going back as far as 400 years.

Every indication is that the forests were regularly burnt by the Aboriginies who were dispossessed some 10 or so years prior to the 1851 fires, the forests hadn't scrubbed up enough to have sufficient fuel load to kill the mature trees in the photo. The early cattlemen who took their cattle into the forests developed their own management of low intensity burns and we may never know to what degree it mimicked the Indigenous practices but it saved the forests till the government managers stopped them burning. Taken from an article I had published in Voice of the Mountains in 1988-

For nearly all of the twenty years preceding the 1939 fires the Commissioner of Forests was a Mr A V Galbraith. His views on burning by graziers, expressed in "The Gum Tree" 1926 on the subject of the 1926 fires make interesting reading.

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authority, have no conception of such interests and responsibilities.

Such a man is the scourge of the forest. His only concern is the fattening of his bests of profit, and certainly not the economic welfare of his country. Therefore he fires the forest regularly for his own purpose, for grass and muster, destroying whole tracts of country bearing untold wealth of valuable timber trees, in every stage of growth. His methods are many and subtle and although the men are known to the authorities, it is well nigh impossible with present legislation and sparsity of settlement over great areas, to successfully press home a prosecution. Even when the culprit is known, his neighbours will not inform on him, for he is invariably of the type that would at once revenge by the destruction of the informants property any punishment that might ensue through their performance of a public duty.

The Forests Commission forced most of the graziers out of State Forest in the early twenties, when they were not prepared to give an undertaking not to burn their leases and thought the leases worthless unburnt.

The 1939 fires caused, to a degree, a relocation of sawmilling from the forests from which the Forests Commission had removed the cattlemen, to areas protectively burnt by the cattlemen before 1939. These are the areas predominantly used for timber harvesting in Gippsland since the Second World War.

So, they harvested the fire killed ash in the Central Highlands and timber harvesting moved east to the previously isolated areas the cattlemen had protected. What did the government do? Stopped these cattlemen from carrying on their traditional burning practices and what was an amazing timber resource has now been decimated by regular wildfires over the last two and a half decades.

The Alpine Ash timber resource in the Macalister headwaters that fed the Heyfield mills has been absolutely trashed by wildfire, there is no resource for the sustainable timber resource Melina Bath and her Nationals colleagues prattle on about.

The cattlemens burning was stopped by timber industry pressure, if clearfelling alpine ash doesn't produce a regeneration failure it produces very thick regrowth that is largely incompatible with management with low intensity prescribed burns.

So Melina, where is the ash timber regeneration from logging that started around 1950 set to become available to support a sustainable timber industry in Heyfield?

Neil Barraclough

Sharing a bit more history with Melina, the opening of the Tamboritha Rd in 1963, I was there on the day with the kids from the Licola school-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pEYobepgINy>

Note the second truck is carting pulp to Maryvale, it was called billets and taken from what was left over after the sawlog had been taken, it was good forest management leaving the forest floor much cleaner. Now fast forward 20 years and a log in the Breakfast Creek pulp dump, a mass of logs that could have been sawlogs were sent for pulp, this is a large part in Heyfields timber supply being unsustainable.



Neil Barraclough

Let's take Melina back to the present, the 1939 regrowth Mountain Ash from the Central Highlands is being clearfelled largely for woodchips largely for a Japanese owned paper mill. Eighty year old Mountain Ash produce very few low grade logs. As I understand it, Vicforests is running at a loss subsidised by the taxpayer, in a large part I presume, because royalties for pulp are less than sawlogs. We are exporting jobs, importing timber for house building at great expense to the home builder, what David Lindenmeyer has said regards the present timber industry hasn't been challenged-
https://cosmosmagazine.com/earth/sustainability/end-of-native-forest-logging/?fbclid=IwAR2Lkz24mafhCAgB2iS4KuXNU8Ybdr5k0EMx8s_gG52mhX5V7lhkFZNF4II

The people from Heyfield are supporting the Nationals and think our Green friends from the city are silly!!!!

Neil Barraclough

Heyfield started with an incredible timber resource in the headwaters of the Macalister, it was trashed with indifferent management and it was trashed in part for woodchips for a Japanese owned pulpmill, it was trashed in front of the eyes off those dependant on it for the future of Heyfields saw mills. As it was being trashed depleted timber harvesting changed in the lower country from sustainable selective logging to supply timber for the small family owned mills to provide more pulp to Maryvale. Small sawmills closed down throughout the lower country as the harvesting changed from selective to clearfelling and this has in many instances been devastating for the areas harvested. It's not sustainable and if Nationals Tim Bull, Melina Bath,. Danny Obrien and Darren Chester are questioned don't hold your breath waiting for answers which aren't appearing here either.

Darren Chester MP

April 21 at 9:02 AM ·

Please feel free to share my views on the importance of our sustainable timber industry... People and wildlife die in poorly managed forests.

And Premier Dan Andrews plan to shutdown the Victorian native timber industry by 2030 is a plan to kill country towns, kill wildlife, and kill Australian jobs.

That was my blunt message to the Timber Towns Victoria discussion in Heyfield attended by representatives from local councils, the timber industry and Coalition Members of Parliament.

The native hardwood timber industry has changed dramatically over the past 30 years. It's now a sophisticated, world-class and environmentally-sustainable industry that supports Australian jobs, protects our communities and wildlife from bushfires, and reduces our carbon footprint.

The alternative to harvesting local timber on a long-term rotational basis is to import more timber from countries with poorer environmental protocols.

A sustainable Victorian hardwood timber industry is part of the answer to reducing Australia's carbon emissions as timber products sequester carbon in our floorboards, furniture and other timber products. Re-growing trees can increase and maintain the role of forests as carbon sinks and is the ultimate renewable resource.

In Victoria, our most environmentally important forest areas are already protected with 3.367 million hectares of conservation areas that can never be harvested. We can all be proud of the fact that all Victorian old growth forest area is protected, enhancing biodiversity.

Every tree that is harvested by the timber industry is regrown, by law, and VicForests harvests and regenerates approximately 3000 hectares each year from multiple-use public forests.

Apart from the 21,000 jobs, which are essential for country towns across Victoria and the furniture industry in Melbourne, the skills and equipment of Gippsland timber industry workers help to keep us safe during bushfires and if the industry is shutdown, they will be lost forever.

But back to where I started. People and wildlife die in poorly managed forests. All of the Black Summer bushfires started on public land that had incredibly high fuel loads after decades of mismanagement due to a chronic lack of staff, resources, and commitment to protecting our communities.

We need active forest management in Victoria which allows for multiple uses such as camping, hiking, prospecting, bee-keeping, fishing and a sustainable timber industry. The skills of the timber industry workers should be utilised further to maintain forest access roads and strategic fire breaks around critical assets, like water catchments, towns and highways, with the timber harvested for the benefit of everyone.

We need more boots and less suits. That's more boots on the ground doing fuel reduction and other practical environmental work, and less suits in Melbourne making excuses... and stupid politically-motivated decisions which endanger the lives of locals and visitors. As the Federal Member for Gippsland, I will continue to advocate for a sustainable Victorian native hardwood timber industry and work with my State colleagues to overturn the Labor Party's plan to transition workers and their families into poverty by 2030. The COVID pandemic and Ukraine crisis has exposed international supply chain fragilities which demand Australia becomes more self-sufficient and that must include a long-term commitment to a sustainable Victorian hardwood native timber industry. It's time for Premier Andrews to understand the world has changed since he made his decision in 2019 to ban the timber industry, and work with our communities to protect jobs and deliver positive environmental outcomes.

[#lovegippsland](#)

PART 3 - THE IMPACT OF DROUGHT AND FLOODING ON THE COMMUNITY AND FARMERS

I'm not sure who it was that said "it is hard to predict things, particularly the future".

Anyway I am amending my previous position on rainfall decline in that my early emails up till perhaps 2012 I made a number of references to past periods of multidecadal low solar activities had been preceded at times by extreme flooding prior to multidecadal droughts. There is a reasonable chance that this period of extreme flooding along the coast of northern NSW and Qld is part of such a long term cycle. The period of greatest flooding in recorded history was from 1891 to 1893 and the flooding was associated with heavier rain events than the present flooding they have suffered. There is extensive building on the fold plains causing the water flow to be impeded and increasing the flood height with the recent floods.

In 1891 they were entering a period of low solar activity that gave us drought for much of the period 1895 to 1915, we could be in a similar period in the predicted period of several decades of very low solar activity now.

$1891 + (7 \times 18.6 \text{ year lunar cycles} = 130.2 \text{ years}) = 2021$ the start of the extreme flooding. Eastern Australia could have two or three years of extreme flooding, it may well be above random probabilities but hard to predict. The greatest flood in the Macalister catchment was in 1893 and a similar flood today would be catastrophic with the infrastructure built on low lying areas.

The next period of high probability drought to affect the Wellington Shire is the period 2027-2029 and it could be associated with higher than average temperatures. It has the potential to impact on the farming sectors ability to pay rates and this should be considered with spending in the budget.

It is also a period of a high probability of extreme fires impacting the Wellington Shire as well as eliminating the last of the timber resource.

The predictions on this drought need more work, the drought from 2017-2020 occurred 9 out of the last 11 times on an 18.6 year cycle with the other two times being insignificant. It is a weather predictors delight. The next period of high probability drought (2027-2029) only occurs 6 out of the last 10 times on an 18.6 year cycle and two of the periods it misses are two of the wettest periods in the long term record, it is a weather predictors nightmare. I haven't had time to analyse it fully but are expecting to be able to explain why the probabilities are greater than 6 in 10 of a severe drought.

This period is 18.6 years on from the drought that gave us the Black Saturday fires of 2009 and I have a record from 2005 explaining the mechanisms of this drought and predicting it correctly in 2005. I likely gave a copy of the document I am referring to the Wellington Shire around 2006-7 but not certain of this.

Neil Barraclough

Let's look at the next period in the 18.6 year lunar cycle where there is far more than random probability of a severe drought. In April 2025 the plane of the orbit of the moon will exert the greatest gravitational forces on the Antarctic Ice Shelf, let's have a look at what happened when this happened in 2006 and previously on or around this cycle-

In 2006 the plane of the orbit of the moon appeared to increase the gravitational effect on the poles and this was likely the cause of the large break down in the ice caps that got our Global Warming Friends so excited. It also likely brought up cold water from the deep in a process called "vertical mixing". Some two years later the cold water may have moved sufficiently north to give us very dry years in 2008 and 2009. **The Black Saturday fires occurred during this cycle and I had attributed it to the mechanisms described above, now not sure of the mechanisms.**

Rainfall for East Sale

http://www.bom.gov.au/jsp/ncc/cdio/weatherData/av?p_nccObsCode=139&p_display_type=dataFile&p_stn_num=085072

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	
2008	58.0	58.4	7.6	15.2	43.8	9.8	33.2	42.2	11.6	7.0	116.6	49.2	452.6
2009	3.2	26.8	19.0	39.0	23.8	15.8	25.6	40.2	63.8	43.8	39.4	37.0	377.4
2010	32.2	70.0	47.2	24.8	42.0	32.2	10.4	40.0	15.6	60.4	64.0	83.0	521.8

Let's now look at temperature for East Sale, those highlighted with red are in the 90% decile or the hottest 10% 2009 was also the first year in the record starting 1946 to be in the 95% decile, it was a warmer than average period.

http://www.bom.gov.au/jsp/ncc/cdio/weatherData/av?p_nccObsCode=36&p_display_type=dataFile&p_stn_num=085072

2007	27.6	28.4	23.7	21.0	19.2	13.2	13.7	16.0	17.6	20.7	22.3	24.0	20.6
2008	26.9	23.3	25.7	20.2	17.4	15.9	13.5	14.1	19.0	21.6	21.9	22.3	20.1
2009	27.9	25.0	24.7	20.4	17.2	15.1	15.0	16.9	18.8	18.7	25.9	24.9	20.9
2010	27.4	26.0	25.2	21.9	17.5	14.1	14.2	14.3	15.9	20.1	23.0	23.5	20.3

The drought started March 2008 and went to September 2010, let's go back 18.6 years, No drought, bit above average rainfall, average to slightly below average temperature

1989	15.2	16.8	101.8	56.4	50.4	68.2	80.2	35.6	47.0	90.0	34.0	24.8	620.4
1990	1.4	46.4	76.8	120.8	37.6	12.2	28.2	61.6	79.4	86.0	42.4	25.8	618.6
1991	120.4	7.8	61.4	34.0	16.6	93.6	89.8	55.4	76.6	30.6	18.6	66.6	671.4
1992	42.0	45.8	44.8	40.8	40.2	74.6	14.8	35.2	97.4	35.4	103.0	147.2	721.2

Let's go back a bit further-

Two times 18.6 years earlier in 1972 we got our driest year on record in the Sale and Bairnsdale records. After a very large rain on January 1st 1971 the rest of the year was quite dry as well.

1971 91.1 36.4 63.1 25.2 35.0 28.0 7.9 12.9 56.0 59.0 65.9 52.7 533.2

1972 34.5 28.0 12.5 22.7 24.8 4.1 14.4 63.0 40.6 46.8 34.9 1.8 328.

A severe drought from February 1971 to December 1972

1972 had four months in the 90% temperature and was the only year between the start of the record in 1946 and 2005 to be in the top 10% temperature decile.

1971	24.0	25.6	23.9	21.7	16.6	14.3	14.3	15.5	17.4	18.7	19.7	23.7	19.6
1972	24.0	27.0	23.3	21.4	18.0	15.6	14.7	16.3	20.0	20.1	21.6	26.7	20.7

Back another 18.6 years and it takes you to the period around 1952, the wettest on record for many areas,

http://www.bom.gov.au/jsp/ncc/cdio/weatherData/av?p_nccObsCode=36&p_display_type=dataFile&p_stn_num=085133

back another 18.6 years to 1933-34, another very wet period.

Go back another 18.6 years to 1915 and the Murray River stopped running on one of last centuries worst droughts

Go back another 18.6 and you have the drought leading up to the Red Tuesday fire of 1898.

Two of Victoria's six worst fires occurred in this lunar cycle. Go back another 18.6 years (ref 1- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drought_in_Australia)

Back 18.6 years to 1877.

1877 All states affected by severe drought, with disastrous losses in Queensland. In Western Australia many native trees died, [swamps](#) dried up and crops failed.

Passed on to me anecdotally from a long time Cann River Resident-

When I first came to Cann River in 1963 I was lucky enough to meet and talk to several old stockmen who were born there. They told of open forests with easy access to distant settlements just by horse back in just a day or two. No made tracks! They also spoke of drought just before 1880 told to them by older stockmen who said that around the few big waterholes that had lasted after the Cann River dried up there were the carcasses of native animals only.

The driest year on record for the Gabo Island Lighthouse with an annual average of 936mm is 1878 with 508.4mm, it was preceded by two years of below average rainfall.

Back another 2x18.6 years- (ref 1) 1838–39 Droughts in South Australia and [Western Australia](#)

Also the discovery/exploration of Gippsland by Angus McMillan was driven by drought in 1839.

Back 2x 18.6 (ref 1) 1803 Drought in New South Wales (NSW) that produced several crop failures.

Back to the future, we need to watch the Antarctic Ice Sheet and Antarctic sea surface temperatures leading up to April 2025 and if a significant amount of the ice shelves break up or if sea surface temperatures drop we can expect a significant drought to follow a few years later. This will likely be in a cooling world with the ice mass in Antarctica increasing.

The summers of 2027-28 and 2028-29 have a higher than random probability of being severe fire seasons.

No.	9
Submission	Request for assistance from Council to complete the Heyfield Wetlands Viewing Platform due to cost overruns
Correspondent	Heyfield Wetlands Committee of Management



informationcentre@heyfieldwetlands.org.au

05.05.2022

Wellington Shire Council 2022 budget funding application: To assist the Heyfield Wetlands Committee of Management in completing the viewing platform currently under construction.

Community Role

The Heyfield Wetlands (70 ac) is a significant community asset that encompasses diverse environmental qualities, including a collection of aquatic and terrestrial plants and an increasing number of birds and bird species. With boardwalks, pathways, spaces for the community, and all abilities exercise equipment; the wetlands are a relaxed and enjoyable space. WSC councillors and staff visited Heyfield Wetlands on 12/04/2022. They were taken on a bus tour of the wetlands during this visit to see our important community asset.

WSC also produced a tourism video of the Heyfield Wetlands in July 2021, and now Heyfield Wetlands has become part of being in "The Middle of Everywhere". The viewing platform, now under construction, will become a destination within the Heyfield Wetlands, enhancing the visitor experience with its incredible design to facilitate all abilities access.

Two other environmental initiatives of Heyfield Wetlands are growing endangered indigenous plants and facilitating Maffra Landcare Group in their quest to establish a seed bank of native grasses.

Where possible, local and district schools have carried out planting, maintenance, and landscaping. Except for aquatic plants, Heyfield Wetlands has largely been revegetated by students.

Funding

The Heyfield Wetlands Committee of Management received two grants to build a viewing platform within the wetlands; stage one was funded by the Federal Government's Stronger Communities Programme for \$20,000 excl GST.

The second grant was from the Heyfield Lions Club for \$15,000, which the Australian Lions Foundation matched, a total of \$30,000 to complete stage two. As can be seen from the accompanying photographs, stage one is complete, and stage two is a steel structure with timber decking, rails and posts. All the footings for stage two are poured, having been inspected by EGBP, the first of the steelwork has been galvanized, and qualified volunteer riggers will commence erection next week.

HWCōM has encountered cost issues and delays in the process of getting the Building Permit. From the commencement of getting the plans drawn to issuing the Building Permit took ten months and cost \$6,736.40, which was largely unbudgeted.

Our difficulties with funding have been compounded by COVID-19 and its impact on planners, engineers and volunteer working bees. These delays have resulted in higher steel and timber prices for the project.

The HWCōM has also incurred increased costs with the amended plans drawn by the engineers; we fully support the changes and the resultant improvements.

The unfavourable variation in costs:

Unbudgeted cost of plans and engineers	\$5565.00
Unbudgeted cost of steel and galvanizing	\$5760.00
Unbudgeted cost of timber decking, rails and posts	<u>\$5420.00</u>
Total sum requested from WSC to complete the viewing platform	<u>\$16745.00</u>

We appreciated the visit from Wellington Shire in April and trust Heyfield Wetlands will be welcomed as part of being in "The Middle of Everywhere".

Thanking Wellington Shire Council in anticipation.

Barry Donahoe Member: Heyfield Wetlands Committee Management

0407 499 995



A birds eye view of the Heyfield Wetlands



Before revegetation. Note dead tree on the right hand side



Same Location after revegetation May 2022.

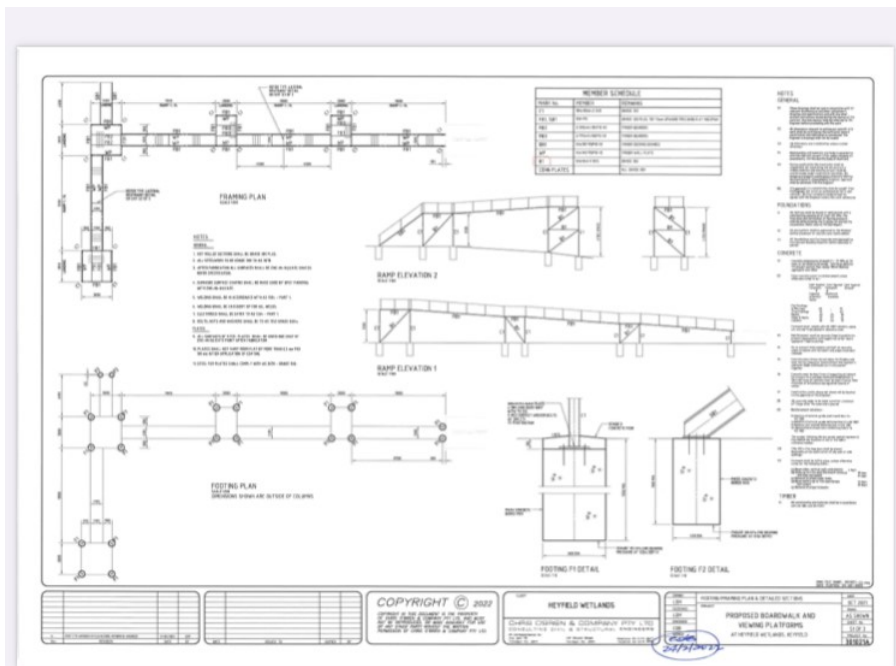
Dead tree can still be seen on the right hand side.



Stage one completed



Location of Stage Two



Viewing Platform Plans

<https://www.facebook.com/wellingtonshirecouncil/videos/868531610604085/>

Wellington Shire Council Tourism Promotion of Heyfield Wetlands

Meeting declared closed at:

The live streaming of this Council meeting will now come to a close.