



17 March 2017

The Hon Lisa Neville
Level 17
8 Nicholson Street
East Melbourne
Victoria, 3002

CC Hon Lily D'Ambrosio, Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change

Dear Minister Neville,

RE: Elsternwick Park North: Community request for an immediate requirement for an Environmental Effects Statement for the redevelopment of this area and action on integrated water management for the Elster Creek Catchment

We write to request that a comprehensive Environmental Effects Statement is required in relation to the redevelopment proposals for Elsternwick Park North. This crown land is managed by Bayside City Council which is currently separately considering the following redevelopment proposals for this area (See *appendix for maps*):

- The area designated OVAL 1 is proposed to be redeveloped as a permanent home for the Victorian Amateur Football Association (VAFA). A decision on the lease arrangements for this aspect of the proposal is expected at the 28 March Meeting of Bayside Council.
- The remaining area is currently leased as a Golf Course and includes the Elster Creek open waterway, a wetland, and a small community-based cricket oval. The three proposals currently under consideration by Bayside Council are: an environmental precinct, an enlarged cricket ground; or, retention of the golf course. A decision on this aspect is scheduled at the 26 April Meeting of Bayside Council.

Groups and individuals in the Bayside, Glen Eira and Port Phillip communities are concerned at the lack of openness in the decision-making process for Oval 1; and the lack of an integrated masterplan for the area overall. This lack of planning will potentially result in adverse outcomes for the community and the environment, with buildings, car parks and other facilities compromising open space available for general community use and for flood mitigation and biodiversity.

This area is the only above ground, wildlife-accessible waterway in the Elster Creek Catchment and it is a critical and unique site incomparable to other local open spaces. It currently provides habitat values, ecosystem services and climate adaptation functions including flood management, water recycling and pollution reduction for the water entering Port Phillip Bay.

The full potential environmental benefits provided by the site have been modelled by the Cooperative Research Council for Water Sensitive Cities. The CRC's 'Swamped' exhibition is currently showing at

the City of Port Phillip Town Hall. Also, an environmental outcome had 83% support from a Deliberative Panel selected and convened by Bayside Council over the past six months.


We believe this site has significance at a state level and aligns with State Policy in the following key areas -

- Economic and health risk management - reducing contamination flows before they reach public beaches will reduce public health costs and local income lost due to beach closures.
- This site supports legally protected species – migratory birds recorded in the Elster Creek are protected under Australia's *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.
- Green and blue infrastructure accelerate reaching Victorian targets – Trees, water-filtering wetlands and indigenous habitat support our *Renewable Energy Targets*, *Biodiversity 2036* plan and *Port Phillip Bay Environment Management Plan 2017 (draft)*.
- The **Victorian Climate Adaptation Plan 2017-2020 (VCAP)** and **Integrated Catchment Management in Victoria 2016–19 (ICMV)** reports indicate that climate change necessitates better and immediate urban water management.
- Melbourne Water is taking action to facilitate coordination between the four Councils in the Elster Creek catchment, which will hopefully lead to an Integrated Water Management Plan for this area.

The impending lease arrangements currently under consideration by Bayside Council could severely constrain possible integrated water management options. The Victorian Government's leadership on this site is an opportunity to fulfil strategic goals of both the **VCAP** and **ICMV**. An integrated approach will allow us to manage the risks and leverage opportunities to create resilient coastal communities as well as appropriately located recreational facilities.

I ask that you kindly take the time in your Ministerial role and schedule to meet with us to hear of the benefits and reasons for considering both an Environmental Effects Statement to review plans underway in the short term, and the necessity for speedy action to establish a joint catchment management body to review, set policy advice and identify key actions for the next 5 years.

Yours sincerely,


April Seymore
Executive Officer, Port Phillip EcoCentre


Jack Halliday
Convenor, Port Phillip Alliance for Sustainability


Geoffrey Love
Secretary, Elwood Floods Action Group (EFLAG)

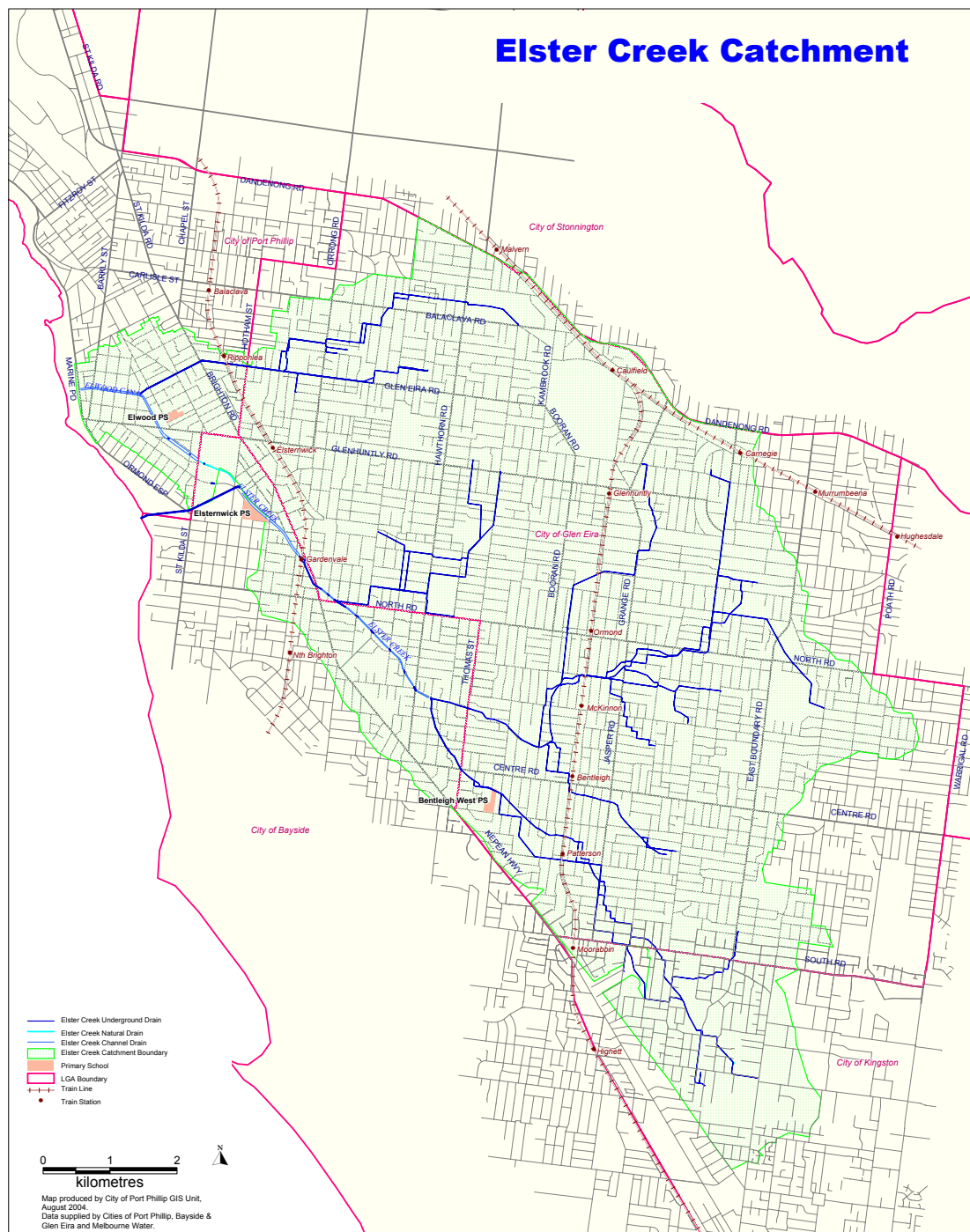

Gio Fitzpatrick
Convenor, Friends of Elster Creek


Paul Caine
Glen Eira Environment Group

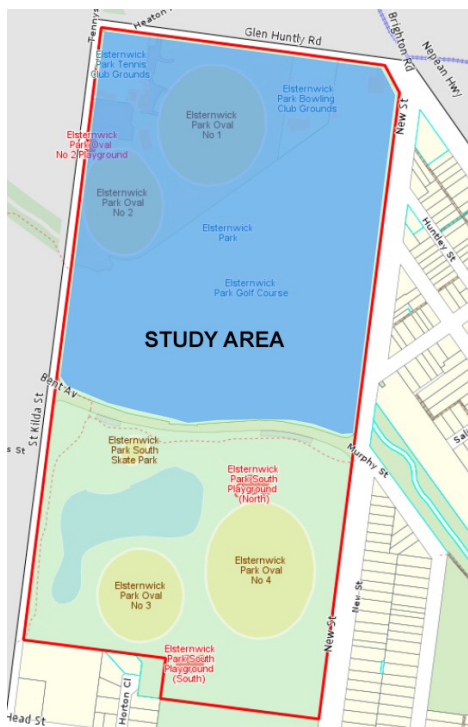

Rhonda Small
Convenor, Community Alliance Port Phillip

APPENDIX 1: Maps of Catchment, Park, and Proposal 2a

Map 1 Elster Creek Catchment



Map 2 Elsternwick Park North Masterplan Area

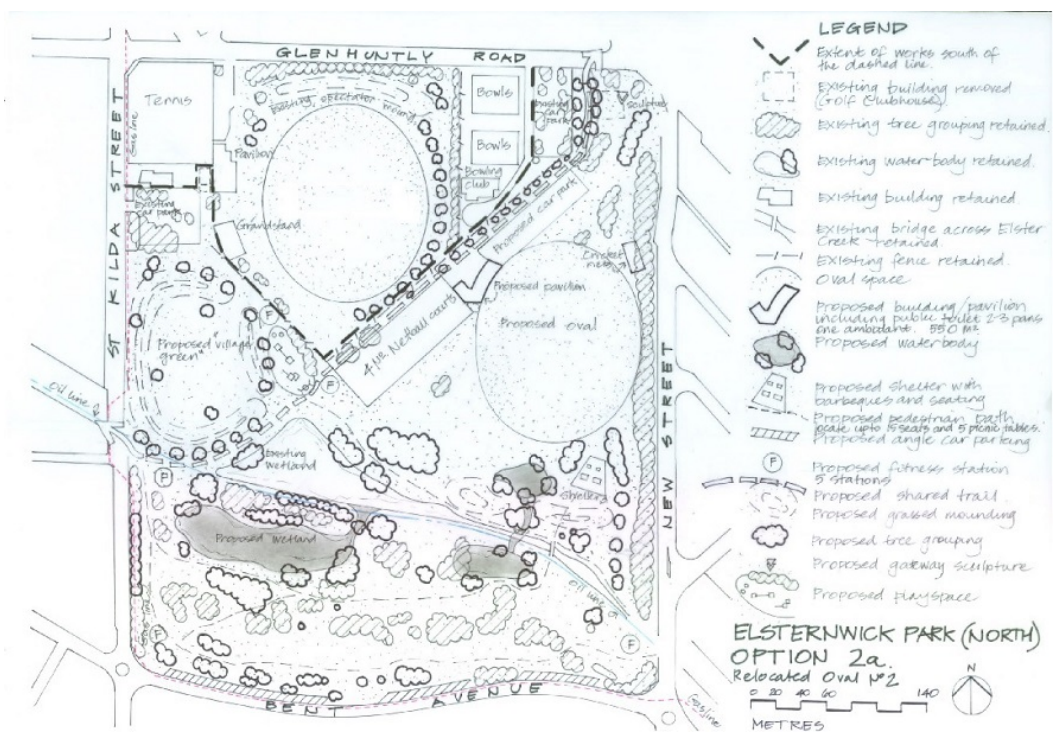


<http://yoursaybayside.com.au/elsternwick-park-masterplan/photos/19707>

Map 3 Elsternwick Park Proposal 2a under consideration

Revised area for Bayside Masterplan with cricket group proposal and area excised for the VAFA.

- VAFA area - dotted lines is indicative only of area to be excised for the VAFA. The actual area is to be determined at the March 28 Meeting.
- VAFA area - No buildings, pavilions toilets and other facilities including carparking have been indicated yet for the excised area.
- Cricket oval - is indicated on the map as proposed oval, 4 netball courts a proposed construction and area marked for carparking about 450 linear metre is costed.



http://yoursaybayside.com.au/elsternwick-park-masterplan/forum_topics/deliberative-panel-recommendations-2a