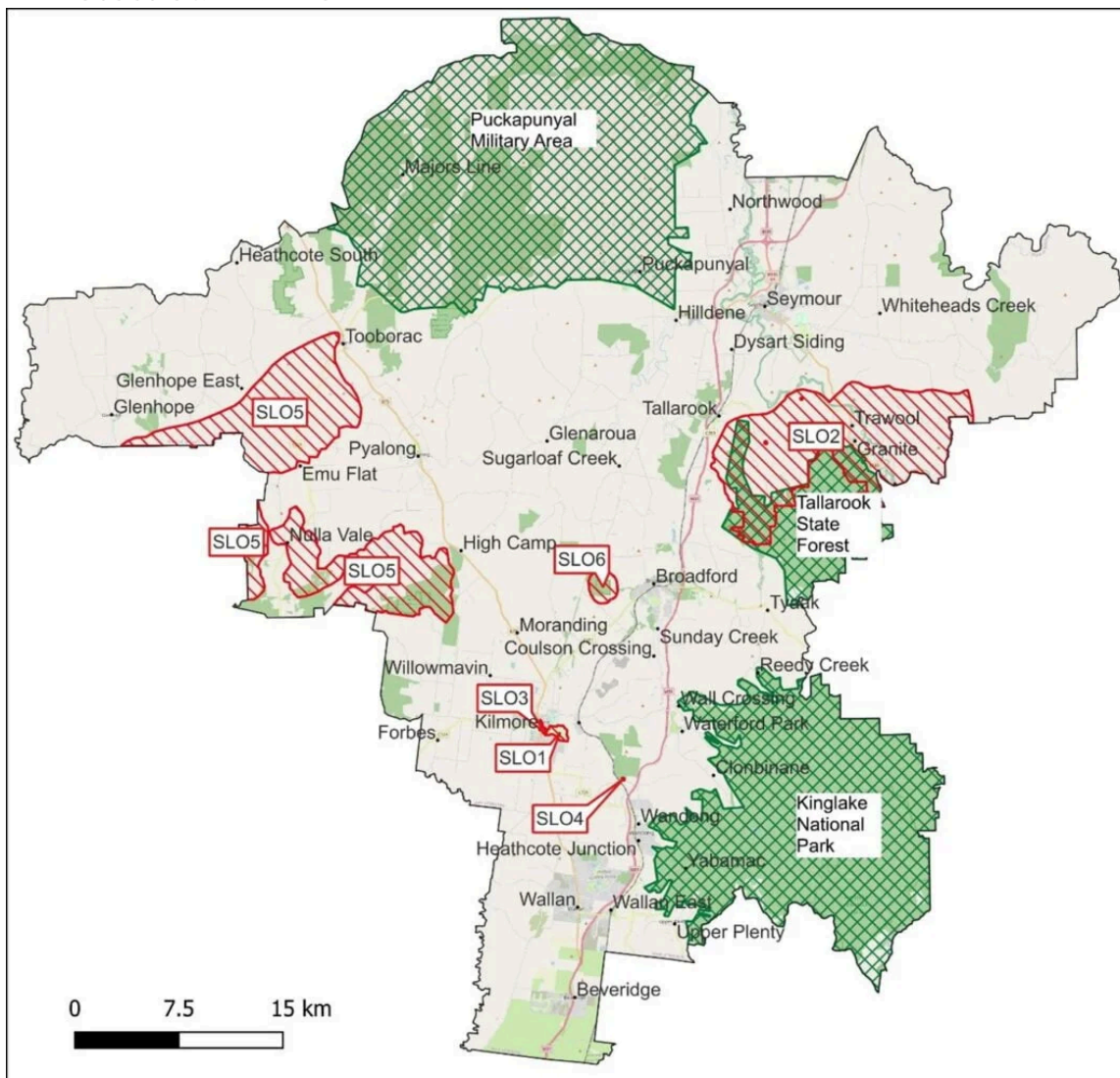


NEWS BUSINESS COUNCIL GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

Protect our farms



The proposed SLOs (in red) will increase the current coverage in the Mitchell Shire from 1.98 per cent to 8.76 per cent.



By **Emily Waite** August 6, 2024 0 161

Farmers and residents on farming land are being urged to join the newly launched Protect Our Farms Inc, a non-profit entity that aims to protect farmers’ lands, rights, and livelihoods in the Shire.

Formed following discussions proposing Significant Landscape Overlays (SLOs) on farming land by Mitchell Shire Council, the group will seek to serve as a central hub for information and resources to help concerned residents collectively push back against the proposal.

The SLO is set to affect farming classified land on the granitic uplands in Pyalong and Tooborac, and Mount Piper at Broadford. The proposal also includes plans to enlarge the existing SLO in the Tallarook and Trawool valley, and update the SLO in the Kilmore Outdoor Historic Recreation Precinct.

Founder Geoff Albers stated the proposal would be costly to farmers and their livelihoods.

“Mitchell Shire Council has proposed SLOs that will drastically impact farming operations. These changes will impose severe restrictions, turning productive pastures into wastelands,” he said.

Despite the
website late last month.

“I am excited to announce the launch of our website,” he said.

“Our website will continuously be updated with new resources and information to assist farmers in expressing their concerns and taking action against the proposed SLOs.

“The entity will conduct a concerted effort against Mitchell Shire’s proposals, which are totally contrary to the Shire’s long held farming objectives and the antithesis of good farming practice. We intend to object to the extension of the current SLO proposals at every opportunity available to us, including by taking formal, legal action.”

Mr Albers extended an invitation for all farmers to join the cause.

“Your support and involvement are crucial in this fight to protect our farms, our values, and our future. Together, we can make a difference,” he said.

To join, visit www.farmprotect.org.