

Mr Justin Harding  
Senior Strategic Planner  
Mitchell Shire Council  
113 High Street  
Broadford Vic 3658  
By email: [REDACTED]

10 May 2024

Dear Justin

**Re: Landscape Assessment Study**

In reference to the proposed Significant Landscape Overlay Tallarook Ranges, Cherry Tree Ranges and Trawool Valley (SLO), we provide the following submission:

In the context of our farming operation at [REDACTED] Road Tallarook the proposed permit requirement that 'a permit is required to remove, destroy, or lop **any** native vegetation' is completely unreasonable and unrealistic.

As a tertiary qualified forestry graduate, [REDACTED] has a keen understanding of the need to sensitively and actively manage native vegetation and this sometimes requires removal of trees, branches etc. In order to enhance the environment, we have planted thousands of native plants on our property, including trees that koalas inhabit.

Whilst we recognise the need to preserve **significant** native vegetation, there are numerous occasions when we need to remove native vegetation so that we can operate our farm. This especially applies to regrowth eucalypts that seed in our pastures every year. It also applies to mature trees that may be unsafe following natural decay, storm or flood damage.

Native vegetation near farm infrastructure also needs to be regularly removed to reduce the risk of bushfire and other Health and Safety concerns.

Our property contains numerous historic buildings and other remains, some of which were built during the Second World War. We wish to preserve this heritage for future generations and in order to do this, we need to regularly remove native trees that are near these buildings and remains.

In many cases such as after a storm, floods, landslides etc there is not sufficient time to seek and be granted a permit to clean up fallen trees across roads, tracks, farm

buildings and infrastructure. The practical reality of operating a farming enterprise frequently requires immediate action, such as tree removal, in order to continue to operate the farm.

Nearby properties such as [REDACTED] contribute significantly to the amenity of our area. They all have gardens with exotic species and have contributed significantly to responsible farming practices whilst sensitively managing native vegetation.

We hope you will amend the permit requirements in the SLO, so that land owners can be given the right manage their property without unnecessary bureaucracy.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Tallarook Vic 3659