

Suggested Points for a Letter to Council

Email to:

councillors@mitchellshire.vic.gov.au *and*

Justin.Harding@mitchellshire.vic.gov.au

(this will reach all councillors as well as Council's Senior Strategic Planner)

Dear Mitchell Council,

Vote No to Adopting and Implementing the Landscape Assessment Study

I am writing to express my deep concern about the proposed Significant Landscape Overlays (SLOs) that will severely impact my farming operations and the viability of my land. As a landholder in the [Your Area], I strongly urge you to vote against these changes for the following reasons:

Some suggested points are included below to help you. Write your concerns in your own words to maximise the impact.

1. Impact on Agricultural Viability:

[Write about the requirement for permits to remove any native vegetation impeding your ability to maintain pastures and carry out necessary land management practices]

2. Unworkable Permit Process:

[Explain that process for obtaining permits is overly complex, time-consuming, and costly. This is an example of bureaucratic overreach that will burden farmers with unnecessary administrative work.]

3. Practical Realities of Farming:

[Provide examples of immediate action that can be required to address issues such as fallen trees after storms, which the proposed permit system does not accommodate. Delays in obtaining permits could jeopardize the safety and functionality of farm operations.]

4. Environmental Stewardship:

[Farmers like myself actively manage our land. The proposed changes do not acknowledge or support our ongoing efforts to enhance and preserve the environment.]

5. Incompatibility with Farming Zone:

[The proposed SLO changes go against the principle that farming should be the dominant land use in the Farming Zone. These changes will impose unnecessary restrictions on essential farming activities.]

I urge you to vote No to any motion to adopt and implement the Landscape Assessment Study.

If the Study is approved, I urge you to do so, contingent on deletion of the SLO permit requirement that *“a permit is required to remove, destroy or lop any native vegetation”* in order to protect the rights of Mitchell farmers to manage the vegetation on their property as they have done for more than a century, without unnecessary bureaucracy. It is essential to protect our agricultural land and ensure that farming operations can continue without undue restrictions.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Address]