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To <land.whitepaper@dse.vic.gov.au>
cc
bcc
Subject Buloke Shire council's white paper submission.

Good afternoon Project Director,

Here is the Buloke Shire's submission on the Land and biodiversity white paper.

<<Land and Biodiversity at a time of climate change May 30.doc>>

Regards,

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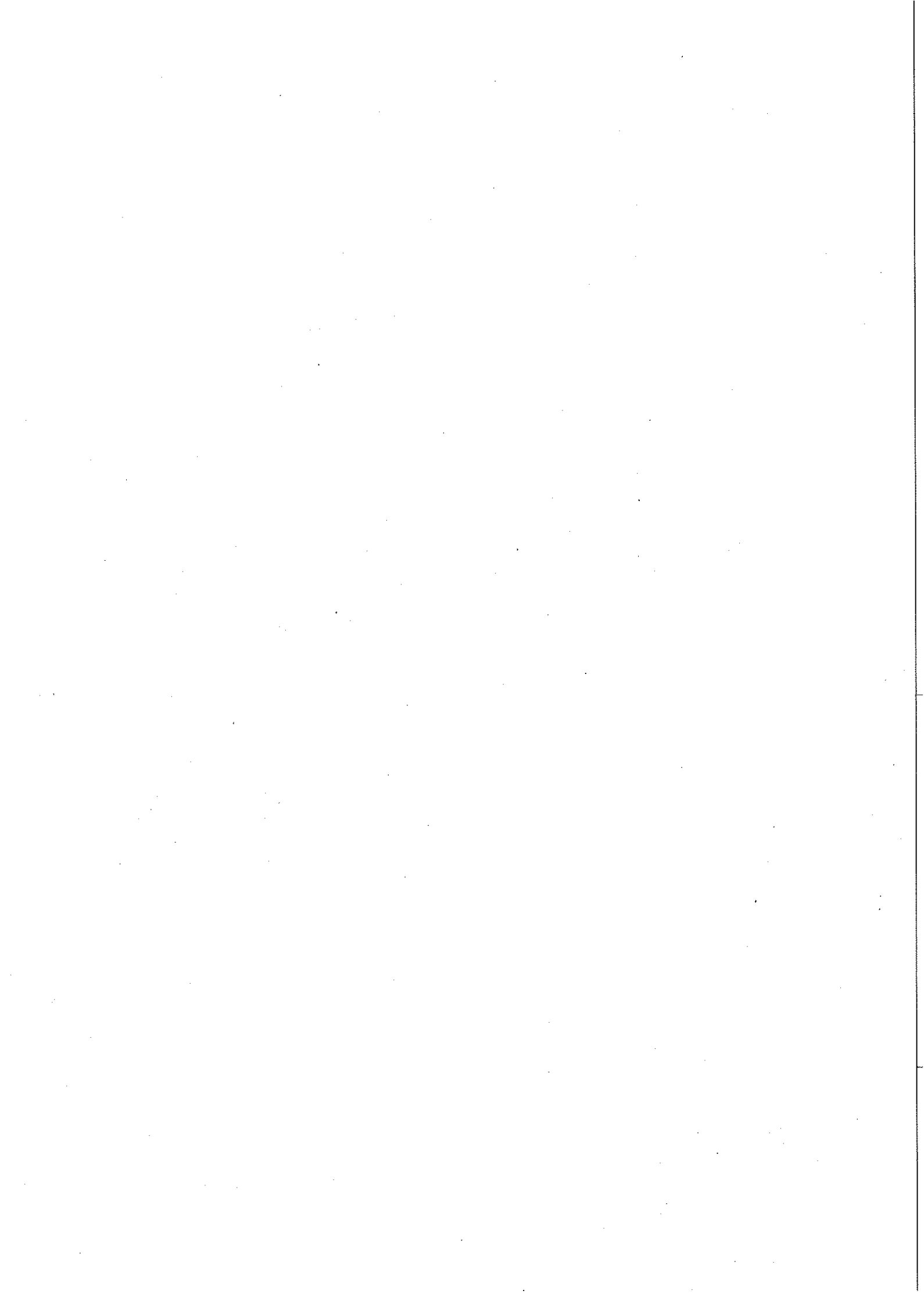
Land and Biodiversity at a time of climate change May 30.doc
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Land and Biodiversity at a time of climate change – White paper submission

The Buloke Shire Council organised a community workshop and these are the outcomes of the two sessions that were held in the last few weeks, by the community.

- How accurate is the biodiversity data?
 - If data is produced from models, people do not understand the EVC's or Eco systems.
 - EVC Maps for the North West area of Victoria (Wimmera Mallee) are not accurate as they are in other areas.
 - Better ground training is required.
- Information is needed for community so it can make informed valuations of native vegetation.
 - More staff to come out and do evaluations.
 - Especially if they want to participate in market based instruments, such as Bush tender.
- Fairer process for Bush tender.
 - System is too hard to understand / **keep it simple.**
 - We need to work on the poorer vegetation sites that has potential.
 - Better public knowledge.
- Successful tenders do not always lead to protection of the best remnant vegetation.
- Current institutional arrangements are not working, i.e.,
 - Large gap between legislation/policy/strategy and the way they are implemented or translated on the ground. E.g. PPA, Cultural Heritage, NVRC/Biodiversity protection
- Funds are cut.
 - Follow up work cannot be completed.
 - No matching strategies.
- Strategy withdrawal of on ground services as NRM gets valued more highly in legislation – does not add up.
- Model delivery must change with demographics.
- Action statements never get actioned.
 - Fauna and Flora Grantee Act – resources a major issue.
 - How can things get actioned?
- Money (grants) is not followed up to eradicate all pest plants and animals.
- Grants are cut back.
 - Landcare groups get knocked back on their funding
 - Inefficient way of doing things from the government.
- Institutional arrangements are not satisfactory. DSE don't get involved as much.
- Too much work is put into strategies, but they are not resourced.
- More action and money on the ground.
- DSE, CMA's and DPI, their roles should be made clear and transparent.
- No one is accountable.

- CMA's need to be better engaged.
 - To reflect community groups.
 - And to have better dialogue with communities.
- Landcare needs fine tuning-
 - Community based model that fits in with Local Government.
- Local Government to be resourced to work closely with Landcare groups.
 - Landcare groups have overlapping geographical areas.

- Not enough money and people –
 - Full review of natural resource management.
 - Not enough people on the ground.
 - Finding information and where to go is difficult.
- Maintaining a Landcare model.
 - Farms are getting bigger, less people on farms.
 - There is continued reduction of DSE staff. More staff needed.
- Socio Economic structure is changing and model of services needs to change.
- There should be more assistance for plant and animal pest control for farmers and public land managers to manage our natural resources.
- Funding should follow on for follow-up control and eradication.
- Native vegetation is cleared to make way for developments.
 - This should be avoided by restrictions on development in native vegetation areas.
- More education needed about native grasslands, old trees and shelterbelts on farms as an economic advantage in whole-farm management, to encourage farmers.
- More detailed studies on ground to support shelterbelts of native plants and the bird life they support, which helps control insect pests on farms, with or without open water.
- If we are to deal with broader landscape threats such as salinity, pests, weeds and soil acidity in a time of climate change we need to;
 - Employ more DSE, Parks Vic and DPI staff on ground or pay more contractors to do the job.
- If we are to protect biodiversity and ecosystems in the face of increasing urban and peri urban development pressure we need to;
 - Stop developers from buying these areas and clearing and then selling off for housing, industry or roads.
- To ensure that management of Victoria's national parks and reserves maintain their biodiversity and ecological integrity, we need to;
 - Have more ground staff,
 - Allow CFA and local landholders, shire graders to help control fires on public land.
- Shire roadside Management Policies should be enforced. E.g.
 - Stop farmers from ploughing up roadsides.
 - DSE to take more responsibility.
- For CMA's to improve we need to;
 - All areas within a CMA must be treated equally. E.g.
 - Do not ignore the areas that are furthest from the Head Office.

- More assistance and work to be done in rural towns that is further than the regional towns.
- Should be clear expectation on both side to provide assurance to govern and flexibility at local level.
- We need long-term vision and immediate priorities for landscapes.
- Government to fulfil duty of care especially in regards to weeds.
- Long-term goals for landscape need to be negotiated within communities.
- Council planning schemes need to be strengthened to include proper NRM protection.
- Landcare networks to play a significant role in engaging community in thinking about climate change.
 - Need sound information on the impacts of climate change within regions.
- Easy access to information on the impacts of climate change and how it will affect the communities directly.
- Landcare groups work with the government, but more trust is needed.
- Use plans and strategies that are in place and fund them for the long term.
- Current delivery models are too complex.
- Have fewer programs to address the main issues and stick to them.
 - Too many programs delivering the same thing.
- Enforce what is in the ACTS.
- Council Plans for sustainable strategies to be funded by Government on a regional basis.
- More and or new weeds and pests will be emerging due to climate change and more response to eradication is needed.
- Adequate resourcing of Shire's to employ people on the ground to eradicate pest weed and animals.
- More funding needed for local councils to put into practice local policies.
- More funds to be put into place for the future.
- If local government and shires are the best choice to fulfil roles, more money is needed.
- DSE and other government department should take more responsibility, instead of 'dumping' everything on local governments.
 - DSE should do more on groundwork and more will be achieved than printing expensive glossy brochures.
- ENVIROMENT Best Management Practice on Farms to be used more on ground.
- Keep local focus points.
- Give ownership to farmers and the community for projects done.
- Sell a program that works and benefits regions
 - Regional priority works, state priority doesn't.
- There is too much overlap within departments.
 - Too much interference from other departments; e.g. DSE/CMA
 - There should be better working relationships between DSE and CMA on a local level.
 - More local solutions.
- Same issues always come up, but no outcomes are fully achieved.
 - Weeds, Pest animals. Natural resources ect.
 - Too many overlaps

- **Keep it simple.**
- Burning strategies for roadsides to encourage native grass growth.
- Be more efficient in using our resources and looking at the long term.
- Use local councils as portals for energy efficiency.
 - More incentives are needed especially for the smaller shire council in rural areas.
 - Provide more and better incentives for individuals to be more energy efficient.
 - More money to be put into Landcare and local governments to run energy efficient programs.
 - Identify the best renewable options on a local level and apply funds and incentives to move forward.

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