

## Meeting with Independent Planning Commission re Narrawallee Subdivision Mod 3

### NPA Milton Speaking Notes, 2 April 2018

The National Parks Association is a not for profit organisation with the aim of protecting the natural environment and ecosystems. The Milton Branch has over 200 members and for many decades has walked in the bush in Narrawallee.

We are pleased that the developer has responded to the public submissions and now retains the Central and Northern bushland reserves.

We support the NSW Planning and Environment's recommendation to retain these.

We are happy that the mature trees will stay there and the understorey continues to provide shelter and food for birds and animals. We often see the white bellied sea eagles perching and calling in the trees. The reserves also give the current and new residents of the subdivision some welcome visual relieve from shiny roofs and we are happy that that part of the ridgeline remains treed.

NPA Milton is still appalled and concerned that so much land has been totally cleared and with that the hollow bearing trees have gone. It is much starker than we had ever been able to envisage when we put in a submission about the Modification 3 in 2017.

The Northern reserve is an 'island' ([Photo1](#)), all blocks are totally cleared around it. The Central reserve still has a band of bush connecting it to the Garrard Reserve ([Photo2](#)). The Southern Reserve has little undergrowth but has trees on it. ([Photo3](#))

NPA Milton would like to see any remaining mature and hollow bearing trees and the surrounding vegetation protected in perpetuity on the land that has not been cleared yet. ([Photo4](#), [explain](#)). The proposed 'superblock' has 2 habitat trees on it and there are some on other blocks as well. Protection of mature trees would provide a link from the Central Reserve to the Garrard Reserve.

NPA Milton is also concerned that all vegetation and trees have been removed from the buffer zone between the new roads and Garrard Reserve. When the steep land behind Blake Place was completely denuded ([Photo5](#)), we speculated that the developer surely would have to revegetate the buffer with endemic species. Little did we suspect that it would look like this ([Photo6](#)). This makes us fearful what will happen on the southwestern side, that has not been cleared yet and is also steeply sloping to a creek.

We advocate to keep the mature trees and shrubs in the buffer zone that is not cleared yet, especially on the southwestern edge of the subdivision. An asset protection zone to reduce fire risk does not require all vegetation or all trees to be cleared. We realise that due to fire risks the vegetation may have to be thinned, but this should be done with care and with the aim to preserve as much of the vegetation as possible.

NPA Milton remains in principal opposed to increasing the number of lots in a subdivision that has been approved and is in the process of being released. For this subdivision, there is no population pressure for the additional blocks. More than half of the subdivision is yet to

be released and there are other major new subdivisions close by. The new residents are mainly young families and open informal space such as the Southern Reserve provide much needed ~~informal~~ play space for children.

In summary, NPA Milton wants no additional blocks, wants habitat trees, mature trees and hollow bearing trees protected, wants a vegetated link from the Central Reserve to the Garrard Reserve and mature trees and bushes retained in the buffer zone between the road and Garrard Reserve. Here are two photos that show that a soft transition can be achieved – the first one (*Photo7*) is on the path that leads into Garrard reserve at the end of Leo Drive, and the second one shows as bush link with a road, it is on Leo Drive where Garrard Reserve and the bushland on the ocean side of Leo Drive meet (*Photo8*).































