

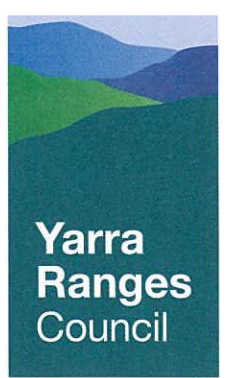
Document No: 2373713  
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10 May 2012

Ms Sarah Rees

sarah@myenvironment.org.au

Dear Ms Rees

I refer to your email of 8 May 2012 with your question to Council regarding the Shire's earlier motion to protect Toolangi's forests from logging.....

Your question was put to Council's Meeting of 8 May 2012 with the following answer provided:

*Correspondence was forwarded to VicForests in April 2012 making submission to the VicForests Timber Release Plan 2011 – 2016.*

*In this submission it was advised that:*

*Council does not support the siting of logging coupes in any of the following areas:*

- *Adjacent to or clearly visible from key / sensitive tourism sites.*
- *On ridgelines or where they dominate the skyline.*
- *In locations that are clearly visible from townships or major transport corridors.*
- *Fully abutting roadways, without a substantial, protected buffer to provide visual protection from the site of the logged coupe.*

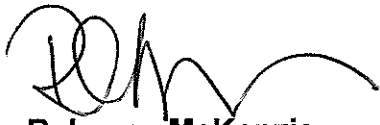
*It was also advised that:*

*Council does not support a range of specific coupes being harvested for timber on the basis that Council understands that they are located in prominent tourist areas and areas of significant landscape value, including along the Bicentennial National Trail, Monda Road, and near Mt St Leonard.*

*A copy of this correspondence was forwarded to Minister Tony Burke. A copy of the submission will be forwarded to the Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development, Simon Crean as suggested.*

I have enclosed pages 4 & 5 of the Minutes from the Council Meeting for your information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'RM', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Rebecca McKenzie**  
Director Corporate Services

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*reported instances of dumped rubbish are investigated in the endeavour to pursue those responsible.*

The following question has been received from **Valma Owen**:

For many years now I, along with many other residents have been reporting infrastructure matters in need of attention, to Council. Most of these matters are highly visible from the roads and often have been in need of attention for quite a long time. When I have asked the Council staff why they have not been attended to before my report, I have been told, if residents do not report them how is the Council supposed to know. With our Council staff driving around the Council area on a daily basis, I cannot believe that they do not see where something is in need of attention.

My question is, why is it not mandatory that Council staff report these matters, even when it is not within their own field of responsibility and stop using ratepayers to do what should be expected of our staff, or should I be payed a spotters fee for working the Council?

**Rebecca McKenzie**, Director Corporate Services responded:

*We encourage everyone, both community members and staff, to report issues relating to infrastructure, maintenance and general amenity. Over 70% of Council's staff also live within the municipality and they are equally committed to ensuring that issues that arise are resolved and that a high level of liveability is maintained. Staff already regularly report issues that require attention.*

*New technology such as the 'Snap Send Solve' smartphone application and social media tools such as twitter make it easy for staff and residents to alert us to issues that require attention without having to call or visit one of our community links.*

The following question has been received from **Ms Sarah Rees**:

Will the Shire of Yarra Ranges renew its earlier motion to protect Toolangi's forests from logging of sites of tourism significance and reissue the letter agreed to on 8<sup>th</sup> of June 2010 calling for an immediate halt to current logging and any future logging proposed on the Bicentennial Trail and Mt St Leonard due to the significant adverse impacts on the local economy, tourism features and the environment?

**Mark Varmalis**, Director Environment & Engineering responded:

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### **Submissions**

There were no submissions.