

ESTATE AFFAIRS REACH A LANDMARK WATERSHED

HEST 84

Heritage Estate Newsletter

August 9 2018



The seemingly eternal efforts to resolve the Heritage Estate conservation challenge have reached one of the most significant points since the declaration by Federal Minister Peter Garrett. The key points are:

- * A **Supreme Court action** by a Landowner to further Appeal the circumstances of multiple failed actions has been rejected by the Court of Appeal—Supreme Court on August 6 2018. Typically, the Court found that prior judgements of the Courts were valid and correct and the Appeal was dismissed. This has been the fate of every single action by the Landowners group or individual acting in their interest.
- * Lawyers will now proceed to recover these various and significant cost orders made against the Landowners in the many unsuccessful court cases. HEST understands from prior advice that these costs would be quite substantial and may be in the vicinity of \$1.5-\$1.7 million.
- * **The Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife, who have been administering the \$5 million Federal grant of October 2012 [HEST #17] covering purchase of Estate Lots in the voluntary sale HELP project, are now at the end of their involvement as at 30.6.2018 and will settle the few remaining purchases that exists. The purpose of the purchase has always been to include any such lands in the Jervis Bay National Park.**
- * Any **further offers to sell Lots by owners will directly involve the Office of Environment and Heritage [OEH] and the NPWS Reserve Establishment Fund.** There are a number of Lots unsold but the majority are in the hands of the OEH.
- * The NPWS have been involved for quite some time in the Estate in various actions such as entrance blocking and the soil conservation project on council owned roads.

EROSION REMEDIATION PROJECT

The prior news of June on this project was that: *Two of the plan areas, A & B, are virtually finished though Area C is to be completed. The logs and root balls stockpile of NPWS has been moved into the Estate and more is being sourced. There has been some funding supplements to assist completion.*

The project does remain unfinished at this time though there has been site liaison between council and the Soil Conservation Service. The SCC-NPWS-HEST Steering Committee recently met on site to inspect and consider an update. There has been a significant amount of work but work remains to complete the project. The on-site committee meeting was advised of a shortfall in funding required for completion and inspected the successful initial results of the gabion walls. Council staff have also been involved in planting of regeneration areas with students from Vincentia High though rain is needed!



Steering Committee Inspection

