

RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY CHRIS LINDORFF - TRUST FOR NATURE

Thanks Noel,

I have tried my best to offer answers to the questions posed, below:

If landholders are happy to donate land next to Shell Road can trust for nature work with more landowners to put in a path?

Trust for Nature is most interested in securing the remnant vegetation between Shell Road and the coast, whether through entering into a conservation agreement with the landholder or acquiring the land via a purchase. If land was offered to Trust for Nature, purely on the provision of creating a bike/walking track, Trust for Nature would need to assess whether it is receiving land with environmental values that can be protected or whether a more suitable recipient of land exists (i.e. council). If a campaign to raise funds for conservation land purchase is a possible option, Trust for Nature may be able to facilitate this. It is of interest and benefit to much of the community to have a safe pathway between Ocean Grove and Point Lonsdale, and should Trust for Nature acquire any land in this area, it would be amenable to assessing the land for the suitable alignment of a path, taking into consideration the potential environmental impacts, etc. Acquiring one piece of land along this section will only provide a portion of off-road foot/bike access, however, and further work would be needed to assess options to complete a path.

If a coastal link path was to go ahead could the government buy back land from private land owners for link path /place covenant on Buckley Park?

There appears to be a few parts to this question that need clarification or interpretation and Trust for Nature may not be the appropriate organisation to provide an answer. If the government were to buy portions of private land to provide for a path between Point Lonsdale and Ocean Grove, this would be a matter outside of Trust for Nature's decision or involvement. As for placing a covenant on Buckley Park, this is not likely, as the land is currently under reservation and owned by the Crown (managed by the City of Greater Geelong as a committee of management). Trust for Nature does not typically enter into covenant agreements with the state government on their own land, there being alternative legislation (ie. reserves scheduled under the National Parks Act 1975).

What land do you own near here?

Trust for Nature is the title owner of 44 reserves across Victoria. On the Bellarine Peninsula, Trust for Nature is the freehold owner of the Ocean Grove Park (aka Ingamels), acquired by Trust for Nature to save it from development, protect the remnant Bellarine Yellow Gums, and provide open space recreation for the community.

What are the key considerations by Trust for Nature in making a decision to acquire land?

Trust for Nature is interested in protecting land that has significant environmental values, be it intact remnant vegetation, habitat for threatened species, under-represented vegetation communities, significant wetlands. In assessing land for acquisition, be it for retention as a reserve or for on-selling under the Revolving Fund program, Trust for Nature looks at various characteristics in addition to the environmental significance, including existing infrastructure and responsibilities/liabilities associated with maintenance, price, marketability, and environmental threats (ie. a heavy weed burden or ongoing degradation).

Chris Lindorff

Corangamite Manager

Trust for Nature