



*Campaspe Valley  
Landcare Group Inc.*

PO Box 21  
Redesdale Vict. 3444

5<sup>th</sup> March 2022  
PO Box 21

Dear Secretary, Committee and Members of Redesdale and District Association Inc

As you would be aware Philip Don has for a long while carried out mowing along the Kyneton – Heathcote Road at his expense and that also to a much lesser degree of CVLG, and after all the cost of breakages encountered he still wants to carry on this task.

I know that many have appreciated this work, as it diminishes the fire threat from roads lined with tall dry phalaris an exotic invasive pasture grass of high flammability. I believe this work has been worthwhile, and it gives the entrance into Redesdale an open safe managed appearance, (a sense of community pride at work.)

In January of 2020 we experienced a grassfire that emanated from the long grass beside the Lyell rd near Newnhams Lane caused by sparks from the exposed rim of a blown trailer tyre wheel. This fire threatened homes and livestock within 2KM of Redesdale, and it took many appliances and people to bring it under control including a helicopter. This event happened in mid afternoon and people be they fire fighters or local residents came out to do battle with that fire.

The Heathcote-Kyneton Rd to Redesdale and Lyell Rd are now designated Over Dimension Transport routes, and large vehicles are on the road almost constantly thus increasing the probability of mishap, and mishaps can happen at a time when we are least prepared. One way of diminishing the potential of mishap that we can control is reducing the fuel load along the verges of the main roads.

I would like to propose a combined working group committee of RaDA, Redesdale RFB and CVLG Inc to investigate what we can do, and how we can achieve it as a combined community activity, and perhaps ask Barfold Quarries to assist in removing rocks that have prevented and hindered roadside maintenance.

Country Roads which manage the previously mentioned roads is only obliged to cut 1.8 m from the road edge providing there are no obstacles and usually only once in any year. The same can be said for Council managed roads, with the exception of areas near the recreation reserve as it is a Neighbourhood Safer Place which requires extra attention.


I'm sure you would agree that the mowing of grass alone will not stop a fire from occurring, but it will diminish the fuel load availability therefore heat intensity. There is a degree of urgency to any actions, the fire declared periods do tend to be extended and any works we undertake would ideally need to be completed before a period is declared.

A number of our members are prepared participate in cutting these road verges almost to the fence line as needs be, but it is the rock and road detritus that often causes grief by damaging their equipment, hence the reason for this letter.

A project of this kind will not only be for fire safety, it will be for the appearance and pride in our community, being a combined entity group has more political influence than that of a single group alone. CVLG Inc members look forward to your reply.

Yours Sincerely

Rob Chapman



President

Campaspe Valley Landcare Group Inc 5/3/2022