

Vision Statement for the Old Pioneer Quarry.

Now that the landfill proposal for the Old Pioneer Quarry has been rejected it is the goal of the PPG to have the quarry and the surrounding bush (Fig.1) incorporated into the surrounding Arthurs Seat State Park.

The former quarry is located at 121 Boundary Rd. Dromana and is surrounded by largely untouched natural bushland (115 Boundary Rd.). Both properties are owned by the R.E. Ross Trust (Fig. 2) with an area of 18 and 65 hectares respectively.

The Arthurs Seat escarpment is the only area of granite outcropping on the peninsula that retains large areas of native vegetation (Fig 1). This results in a soil structure that is unique to granite outcrops. This has led to flora and fauna that is varied from that occurring elsewhere on the peninsula.

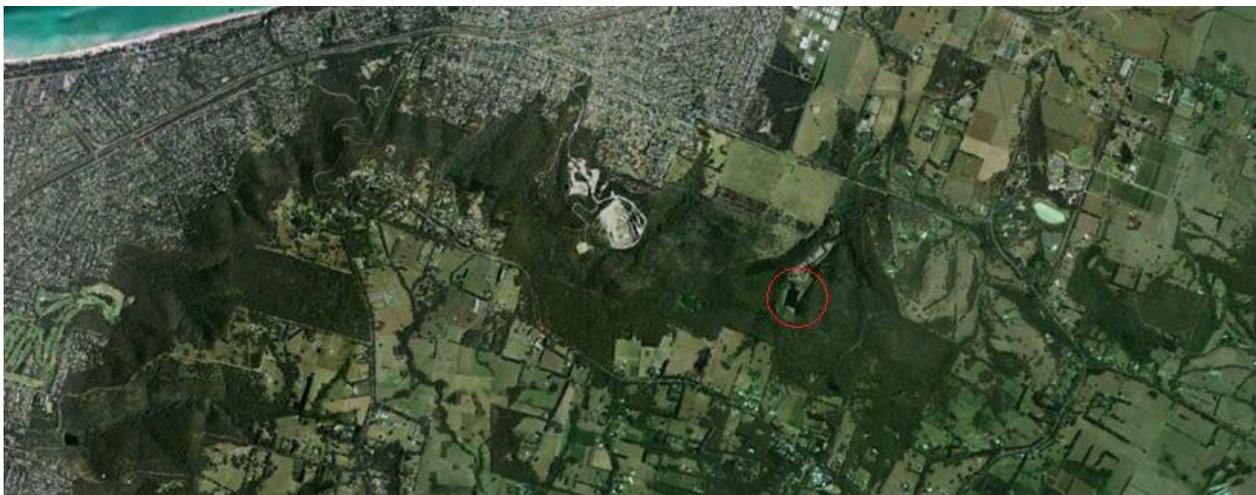


Fig. 1 : Arthurs Seat Escarpment and the Old Pioneer Quarry (circled)

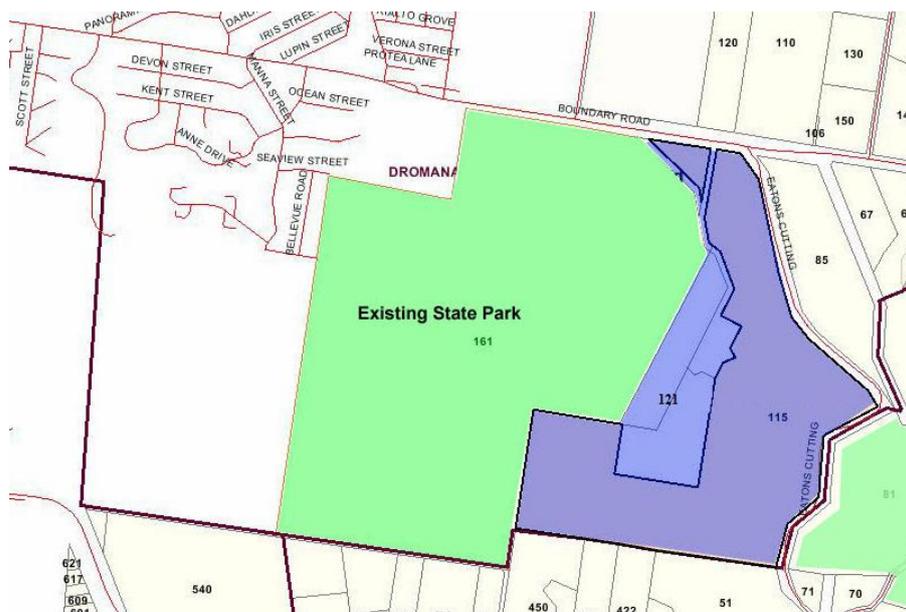


Fig. 2: Arthurs Seat State Park (Green) and Ross Trust land (Blue)

The vegetation on the Arthurs Seat escarpment comprises one of only 2 large remaining areas of natural vegetation on the peninsula (the other being Greens Bush). Much of this vegetation is protected within the various parcels of land that constitute the Arthurs Seat State Park (Fig 3). The Mornington Peninsula has one of the highest levels of biodiversity in the state and as such the remaining tracts of natural bushland need to be preserved.

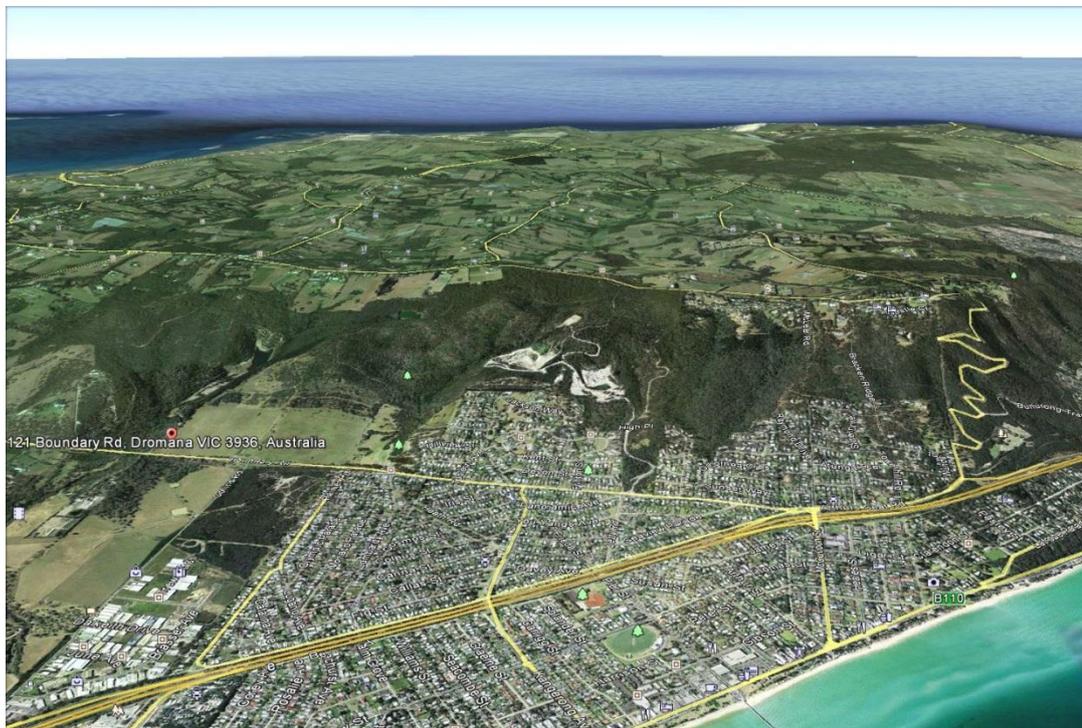


Fig. 3: Arthurs Seat Escarpment in the foreground and Green’s Bush in the background.

Habitat loss and fragmentation are major threats to biodiversity conservation. One way of mitigating the negative effects of fragmentation is to improve habitat connectivity. Habitat corridors have been shown to be valuable for the conservation of various groups of wildlife. The site provides a habitat corridor between the two state parks (Fig. 4)



Fig.4: Arthurs Seat State Park and the land owned by the Ross Trust (PWM)

In 1975 the State government purchased 500 hectares from the Green family with the intention of creating a park. Funds were limited, and in 1986 a public appeal was launched by the Victorian Conservation Trust to buy the remaining area. Over \$1.3 million was raised and Greens Bush is now part of Mornington Peninsula National Park. This is a model of what is possible for this site.

In the Planning Permit issued by the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council and the Licence issued by the Department of Environment and Primary Industry in 1998, the Ross Trust agreed to rehabilitate the site at the end of the licence period (March 2014). We call on the Council and DEPI to enforce the conditions of this clause. (Fig. 5).

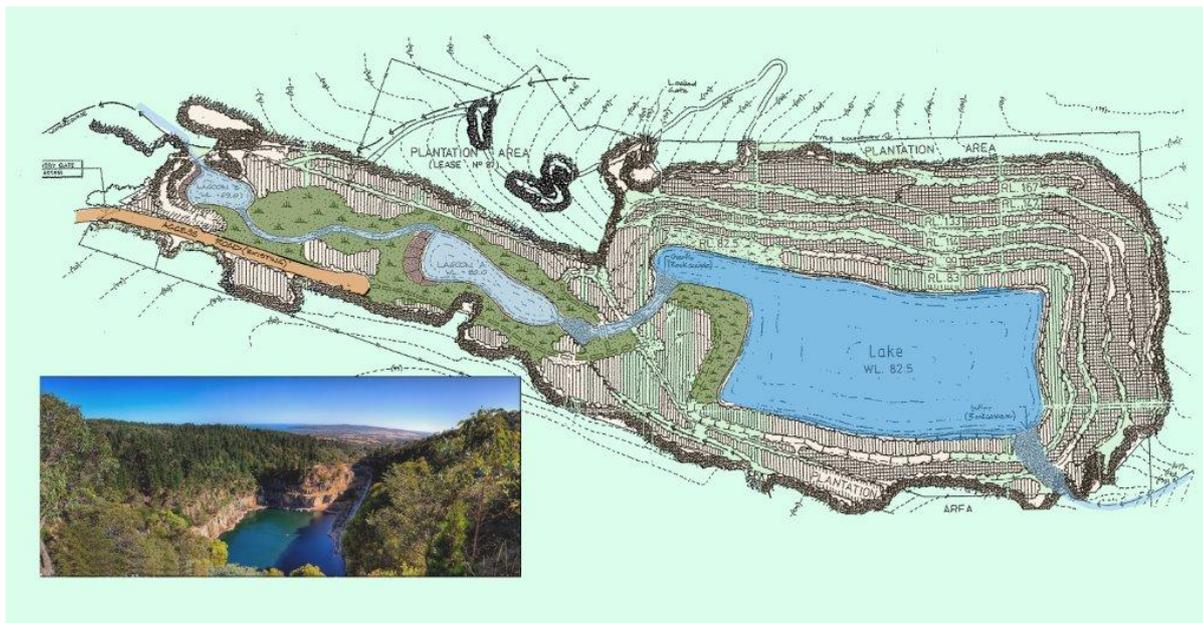


Fig. 5: Rehabilitation Plan as included in the 1998 Planning Permit

We call on the MPSC and the State and Federal Governments to work together to acquire the site and incorporate it into the surrounding state park. This will protect the site from future inappropriate development and enhance the Arthurs Seat State Park. The local community has shown a willingness to act to protect this site and would assist in an improved model of both fire and conservation management on the site. The acquisition and rehabilitation of the quarry has the potential to form a spectacular centrepiece to the Arthurs Seat State Park and a tourist attraction for the whole peninsula.

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