



28 October 2019

Mr Dan McLoughlan
Capital Projects Officer
Buloke Shire Council

buloke@buloke.vic.gov.au

6 Parliament Place
East Melbourne
VIC 3002

Email: conservation@nattrust.com.au

Web: www.nationaltrust.org.au

T 03 9656 9818

Re: Lake Tyrrell Tourism Infrastructure Development Project

Dear Mr McLoughlan,

We write in regard to the Lake Tyrrell Tourism Infrastructure Development Project, which seeks to address the vast increase in visitation in recent years. The National Trust congratulates Council on undertaking this work, which we hope will provide protection for the fragile salt basin, and boost the area's economy through increased tourism opportunities.

The National Trust of Australia (Victoria) (National Trust) is the state's largest community-based heritage advocacy organisation actively working towards conserving and protecting our heritage for future generations to enjoy, representing approximately 26,000 members across Victoria. As Victoria's premier heritage and conservation organisation, the National Trust has an interest in ensuring that a wide range of natural, cultural, social and Indigenous heritage values are protected and respected, contributing to strong, vibrant and prosperous communities.

The National Trust supports Council's intention to develop tourist infrastructure at Lake Tyrrell, while preserving the cultural and ecological significance of the area. With drought decimating farming and tourism in the Mallee, we understand that catering to the boom in visitation at Lake Tyrrell will provide economic benefits to the area.

We were pleased to see the recent awarding of a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) contract for the project. The National Trust believes a CMP will be essential to guide the ongoing management of the non-Indigenous heritage values of the place, dovetailing with the Cultural Heritage Management Plan which has also been prepared for the site.

The National Trust supports the balancing of heritage conservation outcomes with the need to make culturally significant places more accessible and engaging for visitors. As part of the design process, the upgrades to visitor facilities and experience opportunities should be carefully assessed against identified heritage values and the policies outlined in the CMP.

In conclusion, we support Council's aspirations to provide sustainable, high-standard visitor experiences at Lake Tyrrell. We encourage Council to fast-track the CMP as a matter of urgency, to ensure that the winning tender will balance infrastructure development with the need to protect and enhance the cultural landscape. We also request that Council make the CMP publicly available.

The National Trust would welcome the opportunity to provide feedback on future plans relating to Lake Tyrrell, supported by our Landscape Reference Group, which includes a number of industry experts and leading academics.

The National Trust commends Council for progressing this work, and we look forward to viewing the CMP. Should you have any questions regarding the above, please contact Eloise Dowd, Environmental Heritage Advocate, on 9656 9823, or at eloise.dowd@nattrust.com.au.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F Watson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Felicity Watson
Advocacy Manager
National Trust of Australia (Victoria)