

Friends of Edithvale - Seaford Wetlands Inc

Press Release

xx September 2002

Community applauds good developer

A threat of a residential subdivision next to Seaford Wetlands has been averted. A housing estate was being considered on the 20 ha Downs' Farm property on the north east corner of the Seaford Wetlands. However, the developer, Intrapac Consolidated, has decided to not to proceed with the proposal because of likely adverse impacts on the flora and fauna of the Wetlands.

After considerable investigation and community consultation, Intrapac now believes the best outcome for the site is for Frankston Council to purchase it for inclusion in the Seaford Wetlands Reserve and for it to be properly revegetated to ensure it compliments the Wetlands.

The Friends of Edithvale - Seaford Wetlands have welcomed Intrapac's decision to quit the project and strongly endorsed the company's suggestion that the site be purchased by Frankston Council.

We are fortunate that Intrapac is such a responsible corporate citizen with a strong commitment to the environment and a willingness to listen to the community. When the next developer comes along, we may not be so lucky.

If only more developers followed Intrapac's example we would not have lost large chunks of valuable farming and bushland in the South East Green Wedge over the last few years

The Seaford Wetlands are on the List of Wetlands of International Importance, also known as the Ramsar Convention, because they provide valuable habitat for a wide range of birdlife, including migratory waders that come from as far afield as Siberia. The last thing we need there is a housing estate slap bang up against this precious area. The noise, lighting and activity would be devastating for the wildlife.

A management plan for Seaford Wetlands has been prepared under the Ramsar Convention guidelines and has the Downs' Farm earmarked for acquisition.

The Friends have written to Frankston Council urging that it purchase the site as soon as practicable. They have pointed out that Melbourne Water gave funds to Council to assist with the purchase in 1993 and that it is now high time for action.

We just hope that Frankston Council is able to get moving on purchasing the site. The land in question is zoned Rural so it should not cost too much. If the Council needs a bit more than they were given in 1993, we are sure that, given the high status of the Wetlands, the State or Federal Government could easily be persuaded to help out.

For years we have been asking for Council to purchase the Downs' Farm so it could be revegetated to improve the habitat value of the Wetlands and to protect it from developers. Now that the danger of development is more apparent, we will be stepping up our campaign and won't rest until the site is purchased and included in the Seaford Wetlands Reserve.

Statements from the Friends of Edithvale - Seaford Wetlands Inc may be attributed to Mr Barry Ross, [REDACTED]

A copy of the Friends of Edithvale Wetlands' letter to Frankston City Council dated xx/9/02 is attached - DownsFCCletter9/02.doc

A copy of Intrapac's letter dated 12/9/02 is attached - Intrapacletter.doc. Intrapac's spokesperson is Mr David Payes tel 8530 9090.