

Submitter Number 25

1 Your draft document states "From 2024 onwards there is no net loss of indigenous flora and fauna, habitats, and ecosystems within Selwyn.  
Effective monitoring programs are in place to ascertain no net loss."

This is inadequate: "no net loss" is a given and the target must be far higher than "no net loss" but continuous measureable gains..

2 Your draft document states simply "Water race closures"

There are no subsequent comments with regard to these closures. Your biodiversity strategy must specifically address this issue.

Biodiversity must be preserved and enhanced wherever possible. Much of the environment in Selwyn has been modified and a biodiversity strategy cannot focus on the only remaining unmodified areas or aim to focus on "restoring what has been lost" but aim to make biodiversity gains anywhere and everywhere: roadsides, rail corridors, parks, farms, all waterways, abandoned quarries, industrial zones etc, etc. The water race network contributes to insect, fish and plant diversity across much of Selwyn District like no other existing feature. The closure of water races must cease immediately and further proposed closures be abandoned. While some of the water races are manmade many are in fact realigned natural water courses and should not have been considered for illegal closure.

Dr Robert Wynn-Williams