

17 December 2021
Jocelyn Lewes
Strategy and Policy Planner
Selwyn District Council

Dear Jocelyn

Plan Change 82 –response to s92

The water race runs through several Plan Changes (from North to South, PC 73 Holmes, P C 82 Brookside , PC 73 Skellerup and PC 81 Skellerup south where it terminates.

In respect to the waterway passing through PC 82, comments I made in respect to PC 73 Holmes Block are applicable to this reach, and in respect to this particular reach, the channel is in good order, probably due to the fencing and the presence of a buffer strip adjacent to the channel.

Based on a moderate amount of ecological work in the part of the raceway network, the fish fauna is likely to contain native upland and common bullies, and the shortfin eel, and longfin eel. Given the steady flow and good bank structure, it is likely that koura are also present, and the occasional brown trout. In short, the reach is likely to have at least moderate ecological value.

I have been assured by the applicant that the water race is to be retained and enhanced in the upper reach where it crosses through PC 73 (Holmes Block). Here, a minimum 10 m setback either side of the water race is proposed and a vegetated buffer for most of this setback is included .

There is clear Google™ Street View imagery of the raceway at the upstream boundary of PC 82, looking downstream along the channel (App. I, Fig. i). From an ecological perspective, the water race in PC 82 has similar characteristic to that of the Holmes block and a similar treatment could be considered in both development blocks.

A more detailed ecological assessment would be useful to ascertain the ecological values of this part of the water race and assist in the decision-making process regarding the suitability of integrating the water race into an urban environment. Moreover, more ecological detail is required to ensure waterway design provides ecological outcomes.

Yours sincerely,



Mark Taylor



App. I. Figure i. Looking east at the weedy raceway channel traversing PC 82 vicinity of 152 Edwards Road (September 2019). While the broom and/or gorse appears sprayed, introduced emergent macrophytes provide a significant amount of instream cover for koura and fish, especially shortfin eels and trout.