

# Swan Valley Progress Association Inc.

A Community United

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Wetlands Buffer Proposals – Serious Concern for Residents**

The desirability to protect high value wetlands in our State can only be a worthy cause, but it must be done in a fair and just manner. New proposed government laws to enforce wetland buffers seem to have some appeal until the detail is revealed.

At a Swan Valley Progress Association Information meeting last night, representatives from land and farming groups, industry, community groups and residents' were shocked to hear the constraints impacting their land. Example is that their land could be forcibly fenced, without any access to feed starving stock and threatens substantial fines for non compliance. When the wording of the policy and its associated buffering is fully considered, it has the potential to cripple farming and horticulture in vast areas of our State.

The definition of a wetland is extremely broad and can encompass significant tracts of the Swan Valley. Activities such as viticulture could be excluded from operation. Any activity including tourism, equestrian, horticulture, agriculture, farming, and more, including the use and management of public open space, are at risk from these proposed guidelines.

A presentation by Gingin Community Representatives for Private Property Rights attended the meeting to advise of their experiences and to alert residents to the impending Swan Coastal Plain Wetlands Policy and attendant Buffer Guidelines introduction.

SVPA chairman Rod Henderson said that the meeting was a wake-up call for residents who should be very concerned about a soak, creek or any damp land that has been pulled into the government net. Hundreds of metres of buffer around a government determined area can be taken without compensation. Most residents will not be aware that their land is within the Management Buffer Category "C, R or M" and that their land has a colour spot on a map held by departments.

Another public meeting is planned for the near future, contact the SVPA on [svpa@iinet.net.au](mailto:svpa@iinet.net.au)

The Secretary