



**MEDIA RELEASE | 16 January 2024**

## **Council saves four acres of remnant bushland**

**The City of Victor Harbor has purchased a significant block of remnant bushland, ensuring it can remain an asset of the community for generations to come.**

The land includes Section 530 Yalla-Doola Road and Section 543 Valley View Road, commonly known as part of the former Toc-H campsite. It is the largest remaining contiguous block of intact remnant vegetation within Victor Harbor's urban landscape.

The site contains at least 120 species of native plant, including two species on the nationally threatened plant list and eight species of regional significance. As a corridor to the Hindmarsh River, it is home to a large number of native birds, reptiles, insects and a few native mammals.

While predominantly comprised of dense bushland, it also contains a short wooden boardwalk with viewing platforms.

If the site were not bought by Council, it's likely that it would have been developed and the bushland may have been partially or wholly destroyed.

City of Victor Harbor Mayor, Dr Moira Jenkins, said Council heard from local environmental groups who were concerned about what the sale could mean for the native flora and fauna, and acted quickly.

"This site was just far too precious to let it be snapped up by a developer. We know how much our community loves open spaces and our stunning natural environment, so we wanted to ensure this land was protected," said Mayor Jenkins.

"This is a landmark decision by Council and a great investment into biodiversity that shows our passion for protecting our special environment."

"Of course, we know that Victor Harbor does need more housing to keep up with demand, which is why approval has been granted for major developments on other land."

"Many thanks to the Friends of Nangawooka, Australian Plants Society SA Fleurieu Branch, and various others, for bringing the sale of this land to our attention."

City of Victor Harbor Chief Executive Officer, Victoria MacKirdy, said there is some work to be done before the community can access the land safely.

"The purchase has only just settled, so our teams firstly need to conduct an infrastructure assessment to ensure it is at an appropriate standard for community access," said Ms MacKirdy.

"Under Council ownership, the land will be professionally maintained and accessible to the community in due course. In future, we may consider strategic realignment of some paths so there is connection between this bushland and the Hindmarsh River Reserve."

"It's a fantastic outcome, and we are very glad to be sharing this news with the community."