

To: submissions@mccraeinquiry.vic.gov.au

Date: 21 May 2025

From: John Bolch

On behalf of: McCrae Evacuees Response Group (MERG)

Email: Irrelevant and Sensitive

Subject: Submission – MERG Response to the SMEC Report on the McCrae Landslip

To the Board of Inquiry,

On behalf of the McCrae Evacuees Response Group (MERG), I am submitting our formal response to the SMEC report provided to our group and to the Board earlier this month by South East Water (SEW).

Our submission, titled “*MERG Response to the SMEC Report Provided to the BOI and MERG by South East Water,*” outlines a number of critical concerns regarding the findings, assumptions, and omissions contained within the SMEC report. In particular, we highlight areas where we believe the conclusions drawn are not adequately supported, and where significant hydrological and geotechnical considerations have either been overlooked or insufficiently addressed.

We respectfully submit this document for the Board’s consideration as part of its ongoing investigation into the McCrae landslip. It is our view that the current SMEC report does not provide a robust or comprehensive basis from which to assess the role of SEW infrastructure in the events leading up to the landslip of January 2025.

Should you require any further information or clarification regarding this submission, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at Irrelevant & Sensitive

Sincerely,
John Bolch

Irrelevant & Sensitive

On behalf of the McCrae Evacuees Response Group (MERG)