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Buffer zone flagged



HOPEFUL: Friends of Glenthorne Lynda Yates, Sydney Kuchel, Martin Schumacher, Mark Hopkins, Bob Kirby and Alan Burns outside Glenthorne Farm. Picture: Roger Wyman

PROTECTION I EMMA ALTSCHWAGER

GLENTHORNE Farm could be protected from development if it is included in a nohousing buffer zone under consideration by the State Government.

The Friends of Glenthorne Farm will make a submission to the Government urging it to include the 208ha of open space at O'Halloran Hill in its proposed buffer zone.

A spokesman for Planning Minister John Rau has confirmed the department will consider Glenthorne Farm as part of the protected zone if that comes up during public consultation. "Very shortly we'll be releasing a discussion paper and map for consultation and that is the opportunity to talk about Glenthorne," the spokesman said.

The Government announced earlier this year it would create a no-housing zone to protect McLaren Vale from urban sprawl.

Friends of Glenthorne Farm secretary Alan Burns said the news of a potential nohousing buffer zone was a relief after uncertainty about Glenthorne's future.

"It's only the start but I think there's so much will-power in the community down there that we'll get a good outcome," he said.

Property owner Adelaide University signed a no-housing deed in 2001, but proposed 950 homes for the site in 2009 to cover the cost of returning Glenthorne to its pre-colonial bush environment to save threatened bird species. The proposal triggered strong community debate and was knocked back by the State Government.

An Adelaide University spokeswoman told the *Guardian Messenger* last week it was no longer considering housing for the land.

Submissions close July 22. See www.sa.gov.au for more.

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