Thirty things wrong with the MSA, in no particular order

1. Poor survey, reliant on modelling and roadside assessments (looking over fence), and hampered by lack of access
2. Future owners of Conservation Areas not known
3. No oversight of private management of Conservation Areas
4. Insufficient funding through levy
5. Lack of upfront purchases of land for conservation
6. Lack of interim management strategy for private land
7. No oversight of Melbourne Strategic Assessment team
8. No transparency about decision-making
9. Initial land purchases have been “hardship” purchases of poor quality grassland, not good quality blocks
10. No cultural heritage survey means no disturbance to soil allowed means fewer management options
11. No all appropriate species monitored
12. No monitoring of ecosystem health indicators
13. Targets set are underwhelming
14. No targets for restoration
15. Funding model based on ten-year offsetting process, inappropriate for grasslands that need management in perpetuity
16. Levy funds narrow set of management activities, excludes engagement
17. Poor interface considerations, e.g. major roads, effects of lighting, industrial pollution
18. Poor consideration of state and local species
19. Big is better myth causes loss of small, biodiverse patches
20. Land management agreements with private owners kicked down road to PSP process, meaning huge delays in ensuring protection of conservation values
21. Perception at highest levels that “grasslands are solved” somehow
22. No branding, engagement, visitor experience yet planned
23. Lack of planning controls (e.g. ESOs)
24. PSP process not meeting conservation needs
25. Poor reporting
26. Environment wears risk, developers get certainty
27. No fire management strategy
28. No research component
29. No incorporating NGOs, Universities etc into management
30. No Indigenous cultural training for staff / contractors