

## **SUBMISSION ON THE MACEDON RANGES LOCALISED PLANNING STATEMENT.**

Having studied this document and the STATEMENT OF PLANNING POLICY No. 8, I find that there is an alarming disparity between the two.

For example, the last statement in Policy No. 8 implementation (Para 4.14) recommends that those responsible for implementing its findings should institute:

*“...adequate programs to foster public participation in the planning of the area and to enable assessment of the needs and views of the local community and to assist in reconciling State and local interests.”*

It is a clear fact that the LLS has completely disregarded this policy statement. Woodend, for example, went through a thorough process which resulted in Planning Scheme Amendment C98, approved by the Minister in 2016. This amendment indicates that Woodend is a special town which requires protection from developers. Reading the LLS gives one the clear impression that the township is to double its present population and then double it again by doubling its township area!

There was absolutely no public consultation process about this incredible recommendation in the LLS.

To extend the town's boundaries ignores the most recent strategic study, and invites speculative development, pressure for premature rezoning and a loss of proper and orderly planning, in direct conflict with the desire to protect the unique features and special characteristics of the area and manage growth pressures.

The government needs to protect the Macedon Ranges area as it is now, before it is destroyed, with anyone standing on the top of Hanging Rock looking out on a terracotta desert.