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Saturday March 3rd, 2018

Macedon Ranges Shire Council
Gisborne Office, Victoria

Dear Macedon Ranges Shire Council:

After reading the opening statement of the Macedon Ranges Localised Planning Statement I was overwhelmed to read the first 20 pages of statements / policy domains all related to the environment biodiversity, traditional owners and the traditional beauty of the Macedon Ranges. I would imagine that most people reading this draft would stop somewhere around these first 20 pages and think that everything was okay and this document was all about protecting what they love most about living in the Macedon Ranges. It is underhanded to bury what really is happening in a document designed to deceive the general public.

The Draft Localised Planning Statement references the environments assets as a way to add value to increase business opportunity of those to financially gain from tourism and land development without providing any justification for doing so. For example, on pg 22 "the equine industry has become more important because of its proximity to Melbourne" does not say anything about justifying the value of the industry and what it means to residents. Distance is a simple superficial fact and is very little reason to promote support or fund. This line of Justification goes on and on to demonstrate that the contributors to this document were likely tourism and land developers.

Digital is changing our lives in so many ways. Currently Telecommunication/Access to the internet is challenging. More 4G towers and other intrusive infrastructure is a short-sighted fix and NOT the answer for a failure to provide services during organic population growth. Draft speaks to planning for growth by opening more land for housing, however that short sighted rhetoric towards infrastructure appears to be copy and pasted in yet another document.

In addition, attitudes towards energy is changing, renewable solutions require more than a single sentence inclusion in such a draft. Electric Vehicles will one day become the norm, more people will work from home placing new demands on how we live. None of this has been given any thought. Public transport is limited and we live in one of the only major cities in the world without rail access to the airport. Our freeways are chocked during peak hours. The government both state and local is not ready to discuss planning for future growth without attending to today's issues.

It is likely that the areas most impacted will be the regional centers defined on pg 20 such as Gisborne. This is why I read the document, this is why I spent an hour on my day off to contribute my thoughts only to discover, that Gisborne has not even been included in the maps of the proposed settlement boundaries. Please, this document is not ready to present to the public as a draft. You cannot say that the community has been provided enough information to form an opinion in what is being presented here.

I look forward to reading the Draft for Macedon Ranges Localised Planning Statement when it is ready.

Sincerely,

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