

To whom it may concern

I wish to object to the Macedon Ranges LPS.

Firstly, it should be a criminal offence to call this document a 'protection' document. It is not a 'protection' document. It is a 'growth' plan on an unprecedented scale.

The 1975 'protection' document for our region, Statement of Planning Policy No. 8 (SPP8) is an authentic protection document. Your LPS is a hoax.

SPP8 "The Statement is directed primarily to the planning and management necessary for the conservation and utilization of the Policy Area both as a water catchment for urban and local supply and as a location of State, metropolitan and local importance for leisure activities and nature conservation."

The propaganda circulated by our local State MP and government departments is a disgrace. Every time I see the online image of a tree lined street with autumn foliage and a statement saying 'help us protect the Macedon Ranges' I want to vomit. Those tree lined streets were established by European settlers and as I write, state government contractors working on the Lancefield Road upgrade are destroying a 7km 'Avenue of Honour' to fallen soldiers, between Romsey and Lancefield. There was absolutely no disclosure to our community that the east side trees would be destroyed. Who wants a single-sided Avenue of Honour? Please!

This government has more money than sense at the moment and in your haste to undertake works you are actually destroying our environment and amenity whilst grid locking our towns and large sections of Melbourne.

I have read the entire 'LPS' document and can say it has missed the 'vibe' of the Macedon Ranges. The fact that the LPS includes a proposal to introduce 'settlement boundaries' as opposed to existing town boundaries is testament to the deception. To include new settlement boundaries in the absence of strategic investigations is unjustifiable in any context but particularly when dealing with a *Distinctive Area of State Significance* (refer Clause 11.05-2).

Despite the efforts of the mega growth maniacs (I refer to the former CEO of the Macedon Ranges 2008 to 2017), SPP8 is still included in the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme as a reference document and Clause 11.05-2 says that the Macedon Ranges is a '*Distinctive area of State Significance*'.

Much of this pro-development madness emanated from the adoption of the Loddon Mallee South Regional Growth Plan. The LMSRGP was included in our Planning Scheme with little to no local consultation (please refer my LMSRGP submission dated 31 May 2013 attached)



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This exclusive group of ‘corridor’ men (LMSRGP) sat behind closed doors and developed a plan for our Shire that directly contradicted SPP8. Our sole representative was the former CEO. When told by the LMSRGP group that Bendigo had capacity for the majority of growth, our former CEO argued against it. He reportedly begged for our Shire to be included in the growth plan. Alas, Gisborne and Kyneton became designated ‘regional centres’ despite the fact the townships sat within a *‘Distinctive area of State Significance’*.

The LMSRGP is now embedded at Clause 11.14. It sits in isolation to the balance of our planning scheme. Clause 11.14 is a legacy to a pro growth protagonist who managed to incorporate a clause into our scheme that completely contradicted the attributes described at Clause 11.05-2 or in SPP8.

It has been my observation over the past 20 years that there are two schools of thought with regards our region. Those that see it as nothing more than a growth corridor to Bendigo because of the regional train line and the Calder Freeway, and those who appreciate the natural environmental, cultural heritage and recreational values of the area on a local and state level.

I offer the proposed draft Macedon Ranges LPS as an example of the first group being the ‘corridor’ mentality people.

I offer SPP8 as an example of the second group.

And please! Do not suggest that the LPS is derived in any way from SPP8.

The Macedon Ranges LPS has no relationship to SPP8.

SPP8 didn’t include expansion of settlement boundaries to feed the insatiable appetite of the development sector;

SPP8 includes the townships as part of the policy area;

SPP8 The important role of existing settlements in relation to the character, functioning and future of the Policy Area

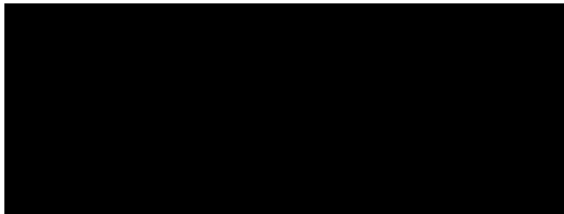
SPP8 Development to be permitted in urban and rural areas shall be planned to achieve harmony with the natural environment and to maintain both the generally rural character and high landscape values of the Policy Area.

SPP8 The high quality of landscapes, both natural and man-made in the Policy Area.

SPP8 acknowledges the development pressures and provides a policy framework for protection

My support of SPP8 cannot be overstated. It is one of the best strategic planning documents I have ever read. It mirrors my life journey and my associations with the Macedon Ranges.

Growing up in the [Redacted] the Macedon Ranges were a favourite destination and it still is. As an adult, I chose to raise my children in the region. I have the best life because I get to enjoy this region every day of my life. 4 of the 5 roads out of my township contain remnant



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roadside vegetation and landscapes that could compete with any region in the world. Our towns are unique and although dominated by exotic species they offer year round changes that are the images of postcards. The vistas, views and entries to every one of our towns is an image to behold. We are magnificent and if the authors of the Macedon Ranges LPS can't say that out loud then we have a problem. A couple of years back we discovered a largely untouched, pristine patch of vegetation of important environmental and aboriginal cultural heritage significance within 400 metres of the Gisborne Post office. It came to the attention to locals when council officers proposed to build a childcare centre on it. The area had been set aside by an early resident who appreciated the environmental value of the area. It is known as UL Daly Reserve and it is now protected under a conservation zone in our planning scheme. And I am certain there are many other undiscovered sites of equal or better value scattered around our shire. We have many sites of aboriginal cultural heritage. Most of our towns are built around rivers and creeks and I say we have a duty to protect these precious environments. As a resident of the Macedon Ranges Shire I see regards myself as a guardian of the land. I only wish the authors of the LPS accepted the save level of responsibility for this land.

Your Macedon Ranges LPS just doesn't encapsulate the uniqueness of our Shire. I reject your LPS. I fully support an update of SPP8 provided it retains the existing policy content and the policy area is expanded to include the township of Kyneton and surrounds which constitute open water catchment areas described in SPP8.

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Resident of the Macedon Ranges Shire
#macedonrangesrocks
#shoveyourlps
#SPP8rocks