

[REDACTED]

22 January 2018

The Hon Richard Wynne, MP  
Minister for Planning  
Level 16  
8 Nicholson Street  
East Melbourne  
Victoria, 3002

Dear Minister

### **PROTECTION OF THE MACEDON RANGES**

I write to you as a frustrated resident of Woodend of some [REDACTED] years. Specifically I am concerned that the long sought restoration of the protective policy covering the Macedon Ranges and Surrounds (formerly Planning Policy No.8) does not appear to offer the protection promised.

Over a number of years residents of the Macedon Ranges have been forced to defend the unique environment against inappropriate development and the growth of urban sprawl. One other most recent of the many attempted incursions into the area was the proposed Villawood development of 300 hectares abutting the Avenue of Honour on the northern side of Woodend. This developer sought over a number of years to develop this land without success and we thought this was now finalised when the town boundary was set (following considerable community consultation with the council) excluding this proposed development from the finalised town boundary. It was concluded there was sufficient land for growth potential already available within the town boundary through to 2036.

My particular concern is the extended Settlement Boundary which includes an additional 500 hectares (including the 300 hectares proposed Villawood development) which would effectively double the existing Woodend township.

It is my view that the proposed Settlement Boundary will under considerable and consistent pressure from developers become the new town boundary. At the very least the proposed Settlement Boundary reduces existing protections and appears to be a Trojan Horse for developers' interests.

This concern is not lessened by the fact that the proposed Settlement Boundary has arisen from a faceless process attributed to Spring Street without community or, as we are advised, Local Government involvement.

My purpose in writing to you is not to seek another community consultation around Woodend and other towns of the Macedon Ranges, but to seek the existing Town Boundary be set as the proposed Settlement Boundary and the proposed 500 hectares of areas of future "Settlement Interest" be removed from consideration at least until the current 2036 development potential is utilised.

I await your response to this request.

Yours faithfully

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