

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
5 March 2018

Re: Submission to Localised Planning Statement

To whom it may concern

I write to offer feedback to the draft Macedon Ranges Localised Planning Statement (draft statement). There are 9 key areas of concern to me.

1. Overall, the draft statement is built on a premise that is inconsistent with the Planning and Environment Amendment (Distinctive Areas and Landscapes) Bill 2017.
2. Outstanding environmental significance is a key premise and priority attribute represented in the Bill, however, the draft document prioritises development before the protection of the natural environment throughout. It is missing in the 'Purpose of the statement'.
3. Melbourne's perceived overcrowding issue is not a topic to be resolved via the protection of the Macedon Ranges, given its role as a provider of natural and agricultural resources to Victorians. I would suggest that this paragraph and all references to balancing growth are irrelevant as they do not adequately deliver on the intent of the Bill.
4. The nine policy domains ideally should reflect the priority of the requirements in Clause 46AP of the Bill i.e. Environmental values come first. Agriculture a close second. Settlement should contain a discussion about role and character – not about growth and development.
5. Protection of the natural environment must be considered before development is considered and therefore should be represented as the highest priority within each individual policy domain. The purpose of the draft document is not to facilitate development, rather to protect areas of outstanding environmental significance. The draft document should play a role in assisting land use planners to consider the needs of the distinctive areas and landscapes first, ensuring enough space is allocated to enable the adequate protection and nourishment of these assets, before facilitating development in the policy area, ensuring the policy area can develop without encroaching on these assets.
6. Protection of waterways is critical. Particularly given the water catchment role of the Macedon Ranges. The vital role of the natural resources in sustaining health and wellbeing of Victorians is missing.
7. Long term certainty with a 50-year vision is the strategy, may be misunderstood as 10-year ongoing review processes are enacted. This needs clarification.
8. Many of the strategies under policy areas are vague and not clearly defined. The user of draft statement should clearly understand the objective and principles to deliver a land use/design response.
9. It is critical that the Traditional Custodians contribute their words, stories and sentiments in the draft statement.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]