

Comments on Draft Bellarine Peninsula Statement of Planning Policy
by [REDACTED], permanent resident, Point Lonsdale

In addition to voicing my strong support for the Draft Plan, I make the following particular comments about the Draft Plan.

1. I commend the inclusion of Objective 1 (to achieve a zero carbon future) and its strategies. I particularly support Strategy 1:10 - maintaining and increasing vegetation tree cover - but am concerned that, in the urban areas at least, this goes against the trend observable in Point Lonsdale, and I suspect other settlements. Alongside this strategy, I would like to see further work to identify practical measures to protect existing vegetation, and particularly large trees, and to add vegetation in both older and newer urban areas on both private and public lands.
2. I strongly support the settlement boundaries shown in the Draft Plan, and particularly those for the two settlements closest to me - Point Lonsdale and Ocean Grove. I would like to see the strongest possible wording in the Final Plan to protect the settlement boundaries, as continued vigilance and protection will be needed in the face of development pressures that so often appear just beyond the boundary.
3. Alongside this, and complementing it, I also strongly support the Draft Plan's protection of the green breaks between the settlements. But again, I would like to see stronger protection of the green breaks, as I'm concerned that we'll be unable to withstand the inevitable chipping away of green breaks by those pushing developments.