

4 March 2018

Submission re Proposed Macedon Ranges Localised Planning Statement

I wish to express my strong opposition to the proposed Macedon Ranges Localised Planning Statement. Whilst the State Government proudly declares that this document is designed to protect the Macedon Ranges, it is crystal clear to anyone who can read and has an iota of common sense, that the proposed document does exactly the opposite and that is intended to do just that. If I were a property developer looking to maximise opportunities and profits, I couldn't have written the document better myself. Opening up huge tracts of land in the Macedon Ranges and changing town boundaries for future development can hardly be called *protecting* the Macedon Ranges. No amount of spin doctoring or "trust us" statements from the State Government will change these obvious facts. Last week, I attended a meeting in Gisborne of several hundred concerned citizens. I think it would be fair to say that the atmosphere at the meeting was a combination of anger and concern and that 99% of the attendees were strongly opposed to the State Government plans. After the meeting I learned that the 1 or 2 dissenters were actually property developers. What a surprise!

I urge the State Government to reconsider this highly flawed and deceptive document and make a genuine and honest effort to protect the Macedon Ranges. A good start would be to engage in some meaningful discussions with local residents. I suggest that nothing is more important to the residents of the Macedon Ranges than this proposed planning statement. Failure by the State Government to act in an honest and transparent way on this *local* issue may not cause the Government to lose the next election, but I suspect there will be a strong backlash against the local member at the ballot box. For all the good things Mary-Anne Thomas may have done, they can all be undone by this one issue.

Please reconsider.


Macedon Ranges Resident & Ratepayer