Dear Minister,

Re: Macedon Ranges Localised Planning Statement

I wish to object to the latest version of the Localised Planning Statement and support the maintenance of the Statement of Planning Policy No. 8 for the following reasons:

The latest version does not provide direction on how the special features of the Macedon Ranges are to be protected in an integrated manner;

There is sufficient land for houses and commercial enterprises within the current boundaries of Woodend;

The proposed extensions to the boundaries include valuable farming land, an historic and beautiful garden and would detract from the beauty of the northern entrance to Woodend along the Avenue of Honour;

There is not sufficient acknowledgement of the importance of advice from local Aboriginal communities.

In the years I have lived in Woodend I have responded to a number of surveys on what local inhabitants want for the future of Woodend and its surrounds – preservation of the beautiful natural features and the rural environment, conservation of the small-town atmosphere of Woodend, an ability to farm being my top preferences. Yet the latest strategy ignores the extensive work done by members of the community in the Macedon Ranges Protection Advisory Committee and the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme Amendment CO98, Woodend Town Structure Plan.

Yours faithfully,