




2 March 2018

Submission to the draft Localised Planning Statement

To Whom it May Concern,

I write in submission to the draft LPS process.  has already made a submission via the online survey, but having witnessed the activity of interest groups in the area, we wish to make the following additional comments in relation to the consultation and submissions process:


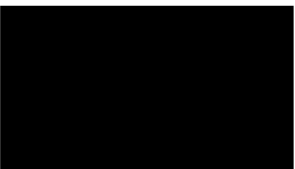
 has operated in the Macedon Ranges area for over  years, dealing with landowners, developers, not-for-profit and government agencies. We have experienced and well considered views on the state of play for growth and development in the area, and we have regular discussions with local landowners and residents, whose views we represent. We submitted to the Macedon Ranges Protection Advisory Committee Panel, and have followed this issue closely.

We have provided the draft LPS website/submission link to any of our clients we think may wish to submit.

I would like to point out that they have invariably come back to us and complained that they don't have the time or expertise to go through the questions that are detailed in the online survey. I think, for future reference, the ability to make a broad comment in support or not should be up front, rather than asking people to make comment on things they may not really know about.

We have also noted, from our own involvement in Macedon Ranges Residents Association information sessions and through talking to clients/landowners over the last month, that a general perception has been created by MRRA (through their website, handouts and through local media outlets) that the LPS is 'an urban growth plan' and they are stating very clearly that the framework plans will lead directly to residential development; 'it's an urban growth plan of epic proportions pushing Sunbury -scale urban development into Macedon Ranges on an unprecedented scale' (see attached handout from the Gisborne MRRA session). This is a deliberate misrepresentation of reality and should be countered by clear advice that no land gets automatically rezoned without going through the rigorous planning scheme amendment process, which is entirely separate from this review of the LPS.

The Macedon Ranges Residents Association views do not reflect the community views we hear living and working in the region. This organisation has a membership of less than 100, whereas the population of the Macedon Ranges is around 48,000. With membership less than .5% of the population, the MRRA cannot be considered to actually represent residents. We provide the following examples of publicly spread misinformation:



Midland Express example: <http://www.elliottmidnews.com.au/story/5237229/population-growth-on-election-agenda/?cs=1479>

Sunbury Leader example: [\[cid:image003.jpg@01D3B15D.077C2E10\]](#)

MRRA's claim that the community has not been consulted is plainly incorrect, and is a deliberate attempt to sow fear and angst locally. MRRA itself was instrumental in having the Minister establish the Macedon Ranges Protection Advisory Committee, and even a cursory review of proceedings thus far demonstrates that the process has consistently included community consultation and opportunity for feedback/comment.

We must express disappointment at the lack of balanced media on this subject. If Council/VPA have provided media release and/or updates, the media has chosen not to use this information, nor to seek comment from tourism industry, home buyers or business, but rather to focus exclusively on the emotive and inaccurate material provided by MRRA. We have reached a point where even the local politicians are accepting the MRRA's views without any critical analysis: Amanda Millar's Facebook page post of 20/2/18 (Liberal for Macedon). In reviewing submissions to the draft LPS, we suggest that any submission made on the grounds of these MRRA claims could reasonably be considered misinformed and therefore invalid, due to submitters belief that the settlement boundaries mean instant rezoning. The most obvious solution to MRRA and its members submissions would be to abandon the concept of settlement boundaries in the LPS completely.

We have supported the intent and the process of revising LPP8, respecting the fact that the resulting document will not necessarily be how we recommend, but will rather take into consideration the points and views of many different perspectives. We find it frustrating and counterproductive to find that the process is being thwarted by a small interest group who seem to be outraged that their own perspective has not been adopted above all others.

The commandeering of process by minority interest groups is of concern across the planning spectrum. We suggest that interest groups and/or group submitters should be asked to provide membership numbers and basic membership demographic details, so that this data may be compared with ABS regional data to ascertain how representative a group is, and to assign some kind of relative weighting to their submissions as a result.

Yours sincerely

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# WHAT YOU CAN DO

## 1) Make a submission on the Localised Planning Statement by February 19<sup>th</sup> 2018

Go to <https://engage.vic.gov.au/macedon-ranges-localised-planning-statement>

Avoid the online survey and

scroll down to the heading "Upload a Submission", where you can attach a file and submit it.

OR

Submit your submission by email:

- email address [planning.implementation@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:planning.implementation@delwp.vic.gov.au)
- Subject Line: "*Submission – Macedon Ranges Localised Planning Statement*"
- Attention: Fiona DePreu

AND

## 2) Send your submission or an email expressing your views to:

Daniel Andrews, Premier [daniel.andrews@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:daniel.andrews@parliament.vic.gov.au)

Minister for Planning [richard.wynne@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:richard.wynne@parliament.vic.gov.au), and

MLA for Macedon, [mary-anne.thomas@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:mary-anne.thomas@parliament.vic.gov.au)

## 3) If you are told the Localised Planning Statement is protecting Macedon Ranges, respond:

"I do not accept that the Localised Planning Statement is protecting Macedon Ranges. The government is not listening to the people of Macedon Ranges."

## 4) You may also wish to send your submission or an email to:

Shadow Minister for Planning [david.davis@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:david.davis@parliament.vic.gov.au)

## Points for submissions

**The government has produced an LPS that promotes all of the things Macedon Ranges needs to be protected from:**

- It's not doing what the legislation being introduced to protect Macedon Ranges says it should do;
- It's not doing what the Macedon Ranges Protection Advisory Committee said it should do;
- It deletes Statement of Planning Policy No. 8 when it's supposed to be based on that policy;
- It provides less protection, not more, for our towns, character, landscapes, heritage, rural land and environment than we have now;
- It's an urban growth plan of epic proportions pushing Sunbury-scale urban development into Macedon Ranges on an unprecedented scale; and
- It's not the protection the State government promised for Macedon Ranges.

**The LPS also:**

- Focuses only on heritage, biodiversity and landscapes of State and National significance, not all significance.
- Provides no protection for our towns.
- Isn't policy, or integrated policy, and isn't a Statement of Planning Policy.
- Doesn't include implementation, doesn't say it is "binding" on public entities.
- Doesn't identify threats, incompletely identifies attributes.
- Its Framework Plan is meaningless, and cannot assist with decision-making.

**The LPS is not reconcilable with the State government's commitment to protection, and not acceptable.**

### More Information

MRRA website [www.mrra.asn.au](http://www.mrra.asn.au)

- MRRA Assessment and advice on the LPS
- A summary of the LPS for Woodend residents from Settle Woodend.