

Hon. Richard Wynne  
Minister for Planning  
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

Dear Minister,

### **Woodend Localised Planning Statement**

With regard to the Localised Planning Statement (LPS) for Woodend and the Macedon Range released by your department this past December 2017, I wish to raise with you my objections.

In July 2016, you took the decision to advertise your support of a document containing 12 recommendations by the Macedon Ranges Protection Advisory Committee to guide the protection of the Macedon Ranges shire. These were to be incorporated into the LPS, which was to be the main implementation document under the Planning and Environment Amendment (Distinctive Areas and Landscapes) Bill 2017.

Specific to Woodend, the LPS completely ignores all the careful thinking and community participation over the last ten years regarding Woodend's growth and development into the future. Instead, effectively the LPS expands the town's boundary to include rural agricultural land, including Davies Hill, Flint Hill and along the Woodend's eastern boundary to the Calder freeway.

The community was given to understand that the LPS was to have been developed as a result of and based on the work done by the Macedon Ranges Protection Advisory Committee, as well as the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme Amendment C098: Woodend Town Structure Plan, which in turn was based on an independent study and community consultation, with approval and adoption by a planning authority panel and also gazetted by you in June 2017. Amendment C098 confirmed the current township boundaries for Woodend until at least 2036 and that any expansion would be on an as needs basis in 15 year increments.

However, with complete disregard and possibly even disrespect for the Protection Advisory Committee's report and the C098 Amendment for Woodend, this proposed LPS would double the size of the town by changing the legal township boundaries, without further consultation or input by the residents of Woodend. These new, expanded boundaries include extensive areas of land for urban development to the northwest, northeast and east of Woodend, including the rural land along the Avenue of Honour. This is land to be made available for urban development, with no regard for or controls to ensure the designated and desired low to moderate growth for Woodend as established in the C98 and the related C84 and C110 amendments.

This LPS is completely inconsistent with the intent of the legislation and with the C98 and should be returned to those responsible to revise with a clear understanding of the C98 and related amendments as well as the 12 recommendations integral to the recent legislation and with a clear plan to ensure growth and development of Woodend and its boundaries is underpinned with clear controls for any incorporation of rural land is sufficient on an as needs basis of a 15 year growth expectation. The LPS must maintain the character of the rural town of Woodend.

Respectfully yours,



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