

RESPONSE - Bellarine Peninsula 50 Year Draft Plan.

FROM: [REDACTED]:

There are two Elephants in the Room.

1. Urgency of Climate Change coming to The Bellarine.
2. We're in the midst of a PANDEMIC.

Climate Change

The impacts of water level rises is well documented - not just with International Institutions but reports on Port Phillip Bay water level rises by our own Government not to mention the latest IPCC Report this month which makes for scary reading.

On a more localised front, The Point in Point Lonsdale was excluded from the current map of future water inundation. As the report said, 'The Point was excluded and would require a separate study' and we all know what that means!

It's been a great 'Sold Out' down at The Point with many, many, rightfully taking up residence in such an appealing area.

We currently see an increase in water levels in the areas in front of our property after rains – due to extensive excavations for the relocation of soils to reclaim land for the waterfront properties. Not to mention the enormous extra flows going 'somewhere' down this valley from the Kingston Development 'upstream'.

MAP 14 – Proposed Pt Lonsdale boundary

The big unanswered question is; What is going to happen, to those residents living down there at The Point, if you are going to place any weight on all those reports on Climate Change impacts in The Bellarine?

Would current and future residents have to abide by the fifty years law regarding town boundaries and adapt to a Venice style of living?

The idea of Farming Zones and Green Zones in popular areas is a Romantic Myth.

Farming Zones were drawn up for the Wimmera - not for peak tourism and settlement hot spots - though people who wield a stick, tend to be intoxicated with the cool aid that prompts, 'Computer says Nooo'.

'Oh look, five non-profitable, methane, greenhouse producing, soil compacting cows... how aesthetically pleasing'.

As far as Green Zones go, a leisurely drive in The Bellarine would reveal - from a distance, even weeds are soooo green!

Proposal Draft should include re 1 above - Climate Change:

By restricting development beyond current town boundaries for fifty years, you would only create rich ghettos for residents to pass on to their descendants, if they are spared drowning outside their front doors. Nobody should have the right to put such locally centric romantic aspirations on generations not born yet and who do not live in the area.

Development should be allowed on higher ground particularly along The Bellarine Hwy where there are mostly small holdings and businesses. But there should be a caveat.

No Postage Stamp blocks! People should enjoy the wide open spaces and have a decent front and decent backyard. In the planning, Native and Indigenous plants to the area should be the only plants allowed - and not those native to Australia from Sydney to Perth and Hobart to Darwin but Native to the local area. There has to be an undertaking in restoring the land to some semblance of 'how we found it'.

Consultation should take place with Aboriginal elders and other experts to determine the future look from the past and be part of this draft to respect the future going forward.

Proposal Draft should include re 2 above – The Pandemic:

The Pandemic.

The Pandemic has turned everything on its head and a plan for fifty years seemed such a good idea at the time.

People are leaving the cities for regional and lifestyle. You cannot block this for a select few well heeled locals seeking a 'Village Feel'. There are plenty of areas in this country to live out those 'Village Feel' aspirations of 2018 but not in areas which would create enormous amounts of desperately needed jobs in tourism, developments, infrastructure, lifestyle economies and many more revenue producing industries to manage our population sustainably into the future, along with funding community involvement projects for an enjoyable life for all who chose to visit or live in the Bellarine.

We have to respect the past, address the present (Aug 2021) for not some but all, to enjoy the future.

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