



4 February 2018
Hon. Richard Wynne
Minister for Planning
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

Dear Minister,

Macedon Ranges Localised Planning Statement

I am writing to draw your attention to the Localised Planning Statement (LPS) released by your Department in December 2017.

The document does not support your decision to accept the 12 recommendations of the July 2016 Report of the Macedon Ranges Protection Advisory Committee.

The LPS completely ignores all the careful, recent thinking and community participation in regard to Woodend's future growth and effectively expands the town's boundary to include, for future development, Davies Hill, Flint Hill and Woodend's eastern flanks, up to the freeway.

The LPS is, I understand, to be the main implementation document under the Planning and Environment Amendment (Distinctive Areas and Landscapes) Bill 2017. It was to have been developed as a result of and based on the work done by the Macedon Ranges Protection Advisory Committee and the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme Amendment C098: Woodend Town Structure Plan, which was based on an independent study and community consultation, with approval and adoption by a planning authority panel and gazetted by you in June 2017. Amendment C098 confirmed the current township boundaries for Woodend until at least 2036.

However, with complete disregard 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. The new boundaries would include - with no further decision or consultation required - extensive areas of land on the northwest, northeast and east of Woodend for urban development, including the rural land along the Avenue of Honour.

It is inconsistent with the intent of the legislation and should be amended to conform to Amendment C098 to maintain the character of the rural town of Woodend.

Yours Faithfully