

**Macedon Ranges Localised Planning Statement Submission – [REDACTED]**

[REDACTED] urges the Victorian government not to proceed with legislating the settlement boundaries that will determine the location of future growth of the Kyneton township pending genuine inclusive consultation of residents by the Macedon Ranges Shire Council.

In the past the Council has failed to interact and consult with Kyneton residents on any alternative direction for growth other than south of the Campaspe, despite the clear problems the river and the railway present for integration and connection with the existing township and the potential for isolation of new residents who come to reside there.

The settlement boundaries, the Government’s consultation paper says “are informed by the structure work and community consultation undertaken by the Macedon Ranges Shire Council”.

[REDACTED] believes in the past the Council’s community “consultation” has been token. Input from the Kyneton community has invariably been cast aside.

In May 2017 the Council published its Draft Framework Plan for the Kyneton South Investigation Area and sought submissions from the community which closed at the end of June 2017. It was a draft prepared with no input from Kyneton residents or organisations.

The draft Kyneton South framework failed on many counts but especially on the important criteria of integration with the established township – indeed its meagre transport options concentrated on directing new residents away from the existing township rather than integrating them into it.

Also ignored in the Council’s draft is that when the proposed new areas within the settlement boundary are developed Kyneton’s iconic, defining and by far most visible farmland/urban interface to east of the Campaspe Views Estate will be lost forever.

[REDACTED] is not opposed to welcoming new residents to our township, nor to expansion of the town boundaries, but we cannot countenance a plan for our future, prepared behind closed doors, in which the members of the Kyneton community have had no voice.

Now we face a situation where, despite the Council describing their preferred area for future growth as “investigation areas” the Government’s draft statement, presumably informed by the Council, has included two areas south of the Campaspe inside the settlement boundary – one labelled as “medium term growth area” and the other as “long term growth area”.

The Council itself has said that this area should not be developed unless there is a second bridge across the Campaspe, yet now it is on the point of being legislated as Kyneton’s future development area even though the Council has not publicly released its study of the area – profoundly unsatisfactory for those lodging submissions in this process.

Consequently we are asking the State Government to refrain from proceeding with legislating settlement boundaries for the Kyneton township until proper and inclusive consultation with local residents takes place.

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