

Macedon Ranges Localised Planning Statement Review

<https://engage.vic.gov.au/maceon-ranges-localised-planning-statement>

Dear Sir/Madam

This submission to the draft LPS is made personally.

On balance I support the Draft LPS and I agree with the vision statements.

A vibrant and diverse community will have significant benefits for the shire into the future.

Appropriate well planned and sustainable development that includes public open space, vegetation, water recycling, infrastructure such as transport, schools, hospitals, shops etc and diversity in the built form to satisfy both township character and a diversity of public needs, that is contained within specific boundaries would be a good outcome from this LPS.

I am concerned that environmental sustainability in **ALL** its forms is impossible if there is not the right economic environment to support it.

From my own perspective – I operate an [REDACTED] and an [REDACTED] business; I have a specific interest in the outcomes of Objectives [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] but for these outcomes to be achieved there must be:

Appropriate zoning – there is a significant amount of farming land in the shire that falls under the Rural Conservation Zone, including [REDACTED].

For example it is currently not possible to conduct farm gate sales in the RCZ. Farm gate sales are a significant contributor to visitor economies in other Victorian municipalities. They are also a wonderful opportunity to educate a broader audience about food, where it comes from, our particular environment and how it can be preserved and improved.

The ‘right to farm’ must be preserved particularly in the Rural Conservation Zone and a range of farming activities be they viticulture, horticulture, cropping, grazing tourism, or educative must be supported by appropriate zoning and an informed and supportive Planning regime at a council level and in the context of the very important cultural and environmental values within the Macedon Ranges. These things are not mutually exclusive in fact they are very complimentary.

For innovation and technology to be introduced farms have to be viable.

For conservation management, increased vegetation, protection of soils and water quality farms must be viable.

Agricultural operators must have the ability to be flexible and adaptable and to be able to vary and broaden or narrow the activities within the agricultural enterprise to support the needs of a growing population and to respond to emerging and niche markets and climate change.

Agriculture and Tourism are just as important as all the other content of the LPS and must be recognised as such.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]