

19th February 2018



Macedon Ranges Shire Council
PO Box 151
Kyneton
VIC 3444

To the Macedon Ranges Protection Advisory Committee,

RE: MACEDON RANGES PROTECTION STATEMENT

Thank you for your letter to [REDACTED] offering us the opportunity to comment on your proposed protection statement. [REDACTED] has had an opportunity to review the document and broadly supports the intent and purpose. We have provided comment on some sections below, and look forward to the opportunity of discussing these with you further.

Local landscapes

[REDACTED] supports the protection of state-significant landscapes. With these areas identified, [REDACTED] can plan services that aim to avoid these sensitive areas whilst still providing the necessary services to the community.

Western Water notes that significant information on the biodiversity of the Macedon Ranges is included within the report. To assist in planning of relevant infrastructure, [REDACTED] may request copies of the information to overlay on our proposed plans. This would significantly improve decision making associated with its impact on the local environment and would support the implementation of the policy statement.

Proposed infrastructure works

Where [REDACTED] proposes infrastructure necessary to service the local population, we will consult with the Macedon Ranges on its implementation. This will include any key and significant landmarks or heritage sites to avoid as well as potential vegetation to replant following the works. It is intended that any works are consistent with the policy statement and can enhance the local neighbourhood.

Potable Water catchments and supply

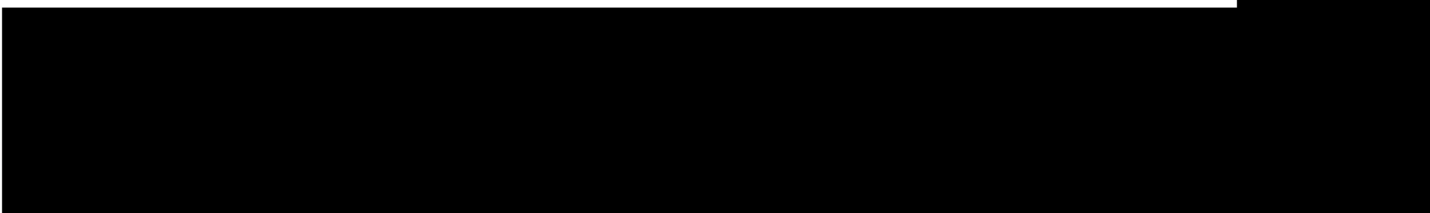
[REDACTED] is very pleased to see a section on potable water catchments and supply in the policy statement. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Any future development works need to consider their impact on these catchments and how it can be minimised.

[REDACTED] notes that the catchment plan provided in the statement does not cover all of the potable water catchments. For example, the Rosslynne Reservoir catchment is not included. We would like to see this plan updated to provide an accurate assessment of the catchments and can provide further information as required.

[REDACTED] will continue to use the guidelines for planning permit applications in open potable water supply catchments. This is a key document for protecting the potable water supply. Where the Macedon Ranges Shire Council is developing Domestic Wastewater Management Plans, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] would be interested to be involved to ensure that it would meet our requirements.

All new developments within [REDACTED] are now required to develop Integrated Water Management Plans to reduce overall demand for potable water. It is anticipated that this will help [REDACTED]



reduce the impact on the water supply catchments as well as lead to the implementation of alternative water supply options. We are confident that [REDACTED] can work with the Macedon Ranges Shire Council to successfully implement this requirement.

Settlement Strategy

[REDACTED] utilises the Settlement Strategy to gain an appreciation for the future growth areas within the Macedon Ranges and plan the necessary services accordingly. Any changes or revisions to the Settlement Strategy will impact on how we service the towns. If changes are proposed, [REDACTED] will be very interested to be involved in this process to gain an understanding of the new growth areas and to provide services sufficient to supply these new communities.

The sooner [REDACTED] can get an understanding of the new growth areas, the faster we can start planning and we can develop effective master plans and servicing solutions that meet the community needs.

[REDACTED] is interested in having input into decisions on township boundaries where they may affect our assets. This would include the local recycled water plants and ensuring that uses in close proximity are not considered sensitive or incompatible with the plants operations.

Where investigation areas are close to [REDACTED] existing recycled water plants, buffer zones will be required to be set up. A buffer zone has already been established for the Riddells Creek Recycled Water Plant and we intend to set them up for the other plants. We trust that any buffer zones can be incorporated within the planning scheme to protect the day to day operation of the plants both now and into the future, to avoid unnecessary costs, borne by the community, for unplanned upgrades or asset relocation.

Future Growth areas

[REDACTED] notes that there will be reviews of the Gisborne and Romsey structure plans. [REDACTED] would be very interested in reviewing? Participating? part of the process of this review. There will be servicing requirements for both water and sewer to any new growth areas and as such we would need to ensure that provision is made for the necessary infrastructure.

[REDACTED] has noted that there has been a small increase in land available for rural residential development. In these areas [REDACTED] does not always provide a potable water supply and generally does not provide a sewer network. Unless delivered as part of a development, reticulated water is unlikely to be supplied to these rural areas and should not be relied upon as a service for these customers.

Agriculture and Rural Land

[REDACTED] is very supportive of agricultural activities within the Macedon Ranges Shire. Agricultural customers are important to [REDACTED] as they may utilise recycled water being produced at 4 recycled water plants within the region. As towns grow and sewer flows increase, so too will the production of recycled water. [REDACTED] will be looking at finding activities that could benefit from the use of increasing volumes of recycled water and will look towards the Macedon Ranges Shire Council to help in identifying potential options.

In summary, [REDACTED] will ensure that we act in accordance with the statement and its recommendations. We look forward to working collaboratively with the Macedon Ranges Shire Council on the implementation of this statement.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]