

5 March 2018

Submission concerning: Macedon Ranges Draft Localised Planning Statement

From: [REDACTED]

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission regarding the Macedon Ranges Draft Localised Planning Statement.

Please read my below letter to the editor of the [REDACTED] which was published on [REDACTED] [REDACTED] as I believe it sums up the current concerns of many of the residents of the Macedon Ranges to the Macedon Ranges Draft Localised Planning Statement.

“ [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]”

The Macedon Ranges Draft Localised Planning Statement as currently stated is a step backwards and is in line with the previous council and its attitude to maximise development at the cost of ignoring its own planning policies. This is understandable as it has been developed only with Council officers and staff of the Department of Planning but the not newly elected Council who have had no input. The action of the Minister in listening to the Macedon Ranges community with the establishment of the Macedon Ranges Protection Advisory Committee was laudable unfortunately the result: the Macedon Ranges Draft Localised Planning Statement is not.

The situation of the Macedon Ranges and its proximity to Melbourne and hence population growth needs to be treated in an wholistic approach not by simply expanding communities on the peri-urban boundary of Melbourne.

The quality of life for all Melbournians needs to be addressed not by urban sprawl but by an integrated approach as recently outlined in a recent book² . One of the editors Robert Adams has stated:

“If I only had one wish, it would be that we don’t subdivide another single piece of farmland on the periphery of the city,” he says.

“The city is getting worse for that. It’s not affordable. Every minister that I’ve worked with over 35 years I think understands that, but every one of them stands up and says ‘this is affordable housing for families on the fringe’.”

“ Travel time and costs alone make new homes on the outskirts less affordable is the long run, and the isolation from the city’s core contributes to social and health problems,” Mr Adams says.³

The Macedon Ranges Draft Localised Planning Statement needs to be totally reworked and needs ownership by the Macedon Ranges Councillors and the community.



2 Urban choreography : central Melbourne, 1985- / Kim Dovey, Rob Adams, Ronald Jones, MUP 2018.

3 https://www.domain.com.au/news/cut-back-on-cars-stem-urban-sprawl-to-improve-melbourne-and-its-suburbs-authors-say-20180227-h0wqap/?utm_campaign=strap-theage&ref=pos1