

Response to the draft Localized Planning Statement (LPS)

1. The recommendations of the Macedon Ranges Protection Advisory Committee should be implemented as written.

the whole concept of having settlement boundaries extending beyond agreed town boundaries is ludicrous. The community has spent years getting Council to agree on township boundaries, only for them to be superceded ad hoc.

The community signed off on township boundaries, not settlement boundaries and or areas for future development.

2. Hanging Rock should be seen as a special case for protection.

It is the most significant tourist attraction in the Macedon Ranges.

Hanging Rock "East Paddock" should be rezoned to match the remainder of the reserve.

The only objection will come from MRSC executives and developers who wish to add built structures to the East Paddock.

3. Consultation should mean listening to the local community and reacting to any sensible and practical suggestions. It seems the current MRSC practice is to use community input as a Door stop and just go ahead and implement a pro-development agenda that seems embedded in the MRSC management.

4. Macedon Ranges growth

Landscape and environmental values will inevitably be lost if towns are ever-expanding and rezoning keeps occurring?

Much to the distress of many residents, the major towns of the MR have been forced to accept government policy of increasing the population of the MR. Why? Who is pushing this agenda?

In order to retain the special character of the Macedon Ranges we need to severely limit the growth of township boundaries and crass new sub-divisions.

SPP8 should be retained as the framework for protecting the MR and surrounds as promised by Richard Wynne.

The LPS should be re-written by an independent body, not by a council employee or consultant who may be over-influenced by the pro-development executive of MRSC.

Settlement boundaries should match currently agreed town ship boundaries!

Town boundaries were meant to accommodate potential growth out to 2036 without requiring any additional land.

The new Settlement Boundaries provide a long-term pathway for developers to compromise township character and impinge on currently zoned farmland / conservation areas.

5. Priority protection.

The brief initiated by the LPS for the Macedon Ranges aimed to provide protection for Macedon Ranges town character, landscapes, rural land, heritage and environmental values.

Instead, protection of these values seems to take second place to providing new options for the significant boundaries to the detriment of the unique character and environment of the Macedon Ranges.