

## Survey Submission

Our response;

To the Draft Localised Planning Policy.

The draft as produced by DELWP in partnership with the Macedon Ranges Planning Department in no way protects the Macedon Ranges or its surrounds its conservation, water catchment for urban and local supply and or its communities

The government states that it is committed to protecting and enhancing the state significant values in the Macedon Ranges region?

The Macedon Ranges Shire encompasses a pristine environment, not more than 60 kilometres from Melbourne, and we are separated and protected from that continuous urban sprawl that grows ever outwards from Melbourne and produces a never ending trail of traffic chaos, and infrastructure hell.

Melbournians see our Macedon Ranges Shire as an escape from suburbia, an opportunity to see our special landscapes that are not scarred by a vista of never ending homes, a chance for an outing to lunch in one of the many settlement town or hamlets, and to observe our agricultural importance so close to Melbourne

That feel has been maintained by the Town and Country Planning Act 1961 "Statement of Planning Policy No 8 (Macedon Ranges and Surrounds) and that adherence has maintained that sensory value that exist to this day.

The community observed and took on board the words of Victorian Planning Minister, Richard Wynne in February 2017 at the Gisborne Golf, Course Community Forum where he explained how the Macedon Ranges would be protected, and the verbal commitment and support by our own local member for Macedon, Mary-Anne Thomas.

The Planning Minister Richard Wynne at that public meeting embraced and accepted publicly the Macedon Ranges Advisory committee's recommendations on how to protect the Macedon Ranges.

And some Quotes attributed to our government Ministers as follows

August 21, 2015

Planning Minister Richard Wynne has approved changes to the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme which implements the first major review of the Scheme in 15 years and protects the region from inappropriate development (?)

*Our very own Mary-Anne Thomas was elected as the member for Macedon on the promise of keeping the Macedon Ranges "Rural and staying that way"*

*Quote from Mary-Anne Thomas (Midland Express) Nov 24<sup>th</sup> 2014 / On Friday; Labor announced its planning policy, "Keeping it liveable- Labors Plan for your community, which Labor candidate for Macedon, Mary-Anne Thomas, said included a specific commitment to legislate to protect the Macedon Ranges using SPP8 as the basis for legislative protection.*

*“This commitment is in direct response to the concerns expressed by so many in our community including those who have campaigned so hard against the constant threat of inappropriate development,” Ms Thomas said.*

The question most residents are struggling with is how could a government department then produce a draft planning policy that is bereft of planning guidelines that actually protect?

- *Draft Settlement boundaries (Proposes to put in long-term settlement boundaries?)*
- *Existing Settlement boundaries cater for growth to 2036, what we are seeing is the culmination of gifting new land to the developers who have been land banking, the community knows this. ( The region is recognised as BPA )*
  
- *Draft Protecting the Macedon ranges?*
- *We have in place existing town and settlement boundaries out to 2036 that will accommodated new residents, and local jobs and businesses will be created by those new residents*
  
- *Draft LPP; Aboriginal cultural heritage?*
- *Difficult to reconcile that statement with a draft policy that is about expansion and encroachment over their traditional lands.*

The Bushfire Royal Commission findings are ignored. The LPP wants to generate greater growth into this fire prone region.

Macedon Ranges Advisory Committee report ignored, although mentioned in the glossy DELWP brochures as part of the strategic policy for structure planning for townships? Where is this embedded in the LPP?

The shire is a water catchment area; the existing settlement boundaries provides for town / hamlet growth to 2036 and that will define and protect our pristine water sources, and the region’s water usage until then, without agricultural land being sought to land bank for further urbanisation.

Victorian farmers are battling for survival over irrigation supply now from the Murray Darling Basin, how about not risking agricultural land and water resources at all, or is that beyond the concept of urban politicians

The flora and fauna and cultural heritage will be impacted by the draft LLP proposal, as every aspect of that policy statement is to allow for new growth boundaries to accommodate new business / jobs all outside existing 2036 settlement boundaries along with additional tourism development, and that’s a sure way to protect the fauna and flora of this iconic region.

A draft planning policy that implies the need to open large tracts of agricultural land for investigation beyond the existing Settlement Boundaries that have sufficient land set aside now to accommodate growth until 2036 is a furphy, and a denial of this government’s pledge for protection

Victoria contains only 3% of Australia’s arable land and produces 26% of our countries Food and Agricultural needs, and bureaucrats are drafting a planning policy to diminish that land? Go figure.

The view of many is we have been victims of government spin and glossy brochures that actually represent and define who and what we are now; it's the draft localised planning policy that will split asunder our great shire.

Nothing less than the planning protection afforded the shires of the Mornington Peninsula, the Yarra Valley and Bellarine Peninsula will reflect the Planning Ministers commitment to protect.

The present government has an opportunity to be remembered in the same breath as the Hammer Government of 1975 with a Planning Policy that will stand the test of time.

The Macedon Ranges Shire is the now, let no one say the past is dead; the past is all about us, let's hope Victorians will not question a vanished land, and a disconnect with the land in 2036.

Statement f Planning Policy No 8 will Protect the Macedon Ranges and Surrounds

Yours Sincerely

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