

Response Submission to the Bellarine Peninsula Distinctive Area and Landscape Draft Bellarine Peninsula Statement of Planning Policy

August 2021

The proposed planning policy supports our way of thinking. As a resident of this area, we believe that there is room for improvement within the area to ensure further protection and conservation.

Wallington can be safeguarded whilst retaining the beautiful scenic views and improved by introducing more conditional rural living and conservation zones. This boosts the social, tourism and economic value of the area whilst the land use remains agricultural with the working farm landscape retained. These increased vested interests can benefit the environment, community, and Aboriginal and post-colonial Heritage. The rural style of the area will also remain.

By recognising and allowing controlled regional population growth, this area can become more agriculturally productive, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase biodiversity values and assets whilst allowing communities to thrive. This not only supports the governments investment in renewable energy and water management but prioritises it in this area.

We have listed some of the benefits below;

- ↑ Increases the protection of the natural environment through the use of sustainable Agricultural Business practices.
- ↑ Conditional plantings by landowners will improve soil structure and therefore, water retention. This aids flood proofing to help river channels not erode and damage the infrastructure of the natural environment. There will also be more water caught in gutters and recycled for use.
- ↑ Protects and sustains natural resources and habitats.
- ↑ Large rural land parcels ensure our hinterland remains as working agricultural land with specified green breaks.
- ↑ Increases manageable sized land for better pest and weed monitoring. Not leaving as many areas unmanaged due to time constraints.
- ↑ Maintains sustainable economic growth with community grown produce in local shops.
- ↑ Increases the financial injection into the local economy and council to be used for environmental protection.
- ↑ Retains and increases our reputation as a renowned Agricultural producer and secures environmentally conscious resilient, productive and prosperous industries.
- ↑ New rural living purchases to have conservative conditions placed on them. Off grid power, clean energy, tank water, septic system with irrigation lines.
- ↑ Recycle café coffee grounds by using as snail & slug deterrent.
- ↑ Community connections are strengthened, this builds relationships and connection to local suppliers.
- ↑ Provides a healthier community through fresh produce. Less delivery transport needed and better for the planet.
- ↑ New residents can work with Bellarine Landcare to increase biodiversity connections for significant species and remnant vegetation.