

To whom it may concern,

In general, I can understand and agree with most of the objectives in the Macedon Ranges Localised Planning Statement. It is absolutely a priority to conserve and protect the land, flora, fauna, waterways, and cultural heritage of this amazing corner of the world.

I can, however, see why people may be upset or disconcerted by the LPS. When you move to Woodend, the potential you see isn't new settlements, tourism and infrastructure. It's in the community you hope to become a part of, the beautiful scenery you are surrounded with and the general feeling of wellness and sanctuary you can only get from living in a small village.

In saying that not all growth is bad, though it is inevitable, and the land between the current township boundary and the Calder Freeway makes sense as an area to investigate for potential future settlement opportunities. I don't believe this is the case with the rolling hills and cattle-filled fields along the Avenue of Honour. Whenever we have visitors, they always marvel at the sheer beauty of that land and remark on how lucky the people of Woodend are to have it on their doorsteps. It would be a terrible shame and a great disappointment to see this amazing landscape divided up and sold off to be filled with housing estates, service stations or restaurants. Especially when there are other areas which could be investigated and or developed in its place.

My second concern is for the services and infrastructure of our little village, particularly V/Line services. An influx of new community members means an increase in pressure on already packed peak-hour trains. The residents and commuters of the Macedon Ranges need to be assured that adequate services will be provided to them, when they need them, not months or years after cramming onto trains and having to stand for over an hour after being at work all day.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my concerns.

Kind Regards,

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