



24 July 2020

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Dear Sir/Madam

Strategic Extractive Resource Areas Pilot Project

Melton City Council welcomes the opportunity to make a submission on the above project and acknowledges the importance of protecting extractive resources for Melbourne's future development. Notwithstanding this, controls in place need to be transparent and protect any existing and future community from any adverse impacts of extractive industries. We provide the following comments -

Victorian Planning Provision (VPP)

Clause 14.03-1S – Resource exploration and extraction

It is recommended that an additional dot point is included to specify that any buffer requirements for extractive industry are included within the designated SERA area.

Clause 44.07 – State Resource Overlay (SRO)

Council is concerned that there is an ability to exempt an application for use or development of land for extractive industry from notice or review. We do not consider it appropriate to exempt applications from notice or review given the proximity to residential development. Whilst the importance of facilitating extractive resource extraction is acknowledged, this should not be to the detriment of adjacent land uses.

Wyndham Strategic Extractive Resources Area

The Mixed Use Zone (MUZ) associated with Eynesbury Township straddles a large area on both sides of the City of Melton and City of Wyndham municipal boundaries. Residential development on the Melton side is well established with a future town centre, road connections and community facilities planned over the coming years with an expected population of 12,000 people and 4,500 dwellings. The proposed SERO immediately abuts this area.

Council is concerned what the impact of extraction activity would be on current and future Eynesbury residents both within the Melton and Wyndham boundaries.

The SRO does not reference or show buffer areas within the boundary of the proposed SERA. Council Officers are concerned that future proposals may be permitted up to the edge of the SERA. If this is to occur it may fall to the land outside of the boundary to satisfy buffer requirements.

It is recommended that the Strategic Extractive Resources Area adjoining the Melton municipality incorporates a buffer to provide certainty on the location of extractive resource and the associated buffer required.

Implementation

The project does not indicate how these changes will be implemented into planning schemes, whether this be via full notice provisions or a Ministerial Amendment.

It is suggested that full notice of the amendment be undertaken to ensure that affected parties have an opportunity to make a submission – particularly if the proposed provisions remove notice and review rights. Councils should be advised well in advance of this process commencing.

If you require more information about the submission, please contact [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

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[REDACTED]