

Letter To The Editor  
19/5/11

## Woodend Betrayed

The revised Macedon Ranges Settlement Strategy will come before Council on 25<sup>th</sup> May, at Kyneton.

This version doubles the population growth for Woodend, and halves the number of lots available to accommodate it; says new rezoning is needed when it wasn't before; and replaces the exhibited LOW growth scenario with a MODERATE growth scenario. Why?

First we hear the Department of Planning and Community Development told Council to put more people and new 'greenfields' rezoning in Woodend, which the Department now denies. Let the people see all of the Department's directions or 'requests' to Council.

Then we hear Council Officers made the changes, in response to submissions. Let the people see all of the submissions.

The revised Settlement Strategy says, at page 69, that "overwhelming" support was received for the exhibited Woodend growth scenario. That was a LOW growth scenario. A letter from Council Officers to submitters now says a LOW-MODERATE scenario was exhibited, and 225 submissions and a petition supported it. That misrepresents what was exhibited, and what the people said they wanted.

Villawood asked for a MODERATE growth scenario to justify the suburban-density rezoning it has already applied for. These changes are giving it to them.

What type of democratic 'process' produces such a result?

With Departmental and Council Officer support for changes that benefit Villawood, the decision councillors make on 25 May will determine whether Woodend has a rural, or a Villawood, future.

If Woodend residents want the low-growth, no-new-rezoning scenario, as was exhibited, speak now. Tell councillors to reject the changes proposed for Woodend in the revised Settlement Strategy.

Christine Pruneau,  
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