

Letter to Editor

10 July 2014

In 2010, the State government promised Macedon Ranges more protection with a Localised Planning Statement [LPS], and by retaining Statement of Planning Policy No. 8 [SPP8] (the policy that since 1975 has been the basis for planning to protect our environment and keep Macedon Ranges rural).

All good, but here's the bummer. The State government left it to Macedon Ranges Council to write the Localised Planning Statement, and what a big mistake that was.

Council's LPS is now on exhibition, and guess what? No Statement of Planning Policy No. 8 – protective policy is gone, despite the government's promise and the majority of 1,100 respondents to Council's recent survey wanting our environment protected and Macedon Ranges kept rural.

Proving again that Council ignores its community and can't be trusted, Council's LPS replaces SPP8 policy with Council's development-and-growth-and-tourism/equine-everywhere-is-good policy. You know - the development-at-Hanging-Rock mentality. Council's LPS will leave Macedon Ranges much worse off than we are now, and easier to be picked off by developers. Instead of getting rid of SPP8, we should get rid of our Council.

The Association urges the Macedon Ranges' community to comprehensively reject this latest piece of Council bastardry by making a submission by 8 August (see Council's website) saying 'NO' to Council's LPS, and telling Council to put back Statement of Planning Policy No. 8 (copy to councillors). Then copy your submission to the Minister for Planning, Matthew Guy, and Amanda Millar MLC and ask them, where is the 'more protection' we were promised.

Christine Pruneau,
Secretary,
Macedon Ranges Residents Association Inc.