INQUIRY INTO COMMUNITY CONSULTATION PRACTICES

Name: Mrs Paula Hall

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Submission Text: Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to have input into the planning process.

I unfortunately feel that the whole planning process is as much to deceive as it is to be supportive of community.

So I'll start at the beginning. Long before a plan is submitted, there are laws that are in place that really inhibit community input that is actually heard and taken on board. In my experience, the accreditation process requires community input, which then is organised with several " information sessions/forums", which the input is then dismissed and the planning goes ahead having fulfilled and ticked the box that you have undertaken community consultation. It makes it a farce.

I've seen this particularly when it came to for example, the planning for the Porepunkah upgrade. What we had in the road for the main shop along with parking fit the needs and requirements for our small community. There were three very largely and vocally strong meetings where unequivocally the community wanted to keep the main road separate from the service road due to parking availability. The V-line bus service, winter time bus for skiers on the way to Hotham or Fall Creek, tradies with their utes and work trailers had plenty of length room to park to dash in and pick up a quick coffee and breakkie, as well as lunch time quick food, without disturbing the glow of traffic. What we got as a consequence of poor planning

and design is one small poorly fit space for a ute/trailer,(and that we had to fight after the build was completed; parking that requires any vehicle to upon leaving to take up both incoming and outgoing lanes; not large enough spaces to keep from damaging either side vehicles; an entirely impractically called disability space, even though they have supposedly tried to alter; the very tall roofed space that is supposed to be cover for the community BBQ, is not under cover so that if you are trying to grill your food and it starts to rain, it's bad luck for you.; The height of the roof is so tall, that it provides very little shade when it's function is to do just that; The trees that were planted for the "landscape" will be much too large for the space when they get to their full growth potential and inhibit site thereby creating more possible accidents; Due to the narrowness of the road, the busses cannot pull completely over, along with the parallel parking spots, without being in the

traffic lane thereby creating traffic to have to use the opposite lane inhibiting free flow of traffic on both sides.

All of these concerns were discussed at the community meetings at the various steps of planning.

However, each and every aspect was dismissed and for all that money, which is taxpayer money, was used so effectively wasted. We are stuck with it and the planners that screwed it up, still made their salaries, got promotions and can have in their CV this project which looks nice in a picture but didn't provide what the community wanted.

My proposal is tthat no project be allowed to go through unless as a compromise, at least 90% of the communities input is taken onboard in the final end project.

If the community resoundingly doesn't want a project, then planning must not be allowed.

I moved from the packed and difficult to live through inadequate facilities and parking from the city to a very small town. As the State planning dictates us here in the country, we are forced to endure mass housing developments with no change or upgrade to infrastructure and what upgrade is on the plans, we as locals must pay for that. We didn't ask for it, and to satisfy State/city centric rules, we get all of the negative and lose our identity as a small town.

There has to be a way that community consultation is taken on board and applied, not just given the tick that the consultation has taken place.

Thank you for listening and hopefully, my humble advice is taken on board and causes a positive change.