RESPONSE TO PETITION

Petition Number: 755 and 773
Petition Sponsored by: Ms Wendy Lovell MP, Member for Northern Victoria Region
Directed to: Minister for Planning
Tabled on: 16 June 2026

Petition Grievance:
The petition of certain citizens of the State of Victoria draws to the attention of the Legislative Council the proposed rezoning of the Wodonga Golf Course for a housing development. The Wodonga Golf Course is a vital part of the community, providing recreational, social, and health benefits to a wide cross-section of the community, including families, juniors, golfers, walkers, and local residents. Reducing the course to fewer than 18 holes would fundamentally compromise its viability, making it less attractive for members, visitors, competitions, and ultimately threatening its long-term future.

Open green space should not be measured solely by development yield or economic return. The course delivers significant environmental, social, and public health value that would be permanently lost if rezoned.

The course is an important part of Wodonga's identity and heritage, with long-standing community connections that cannot be replicated elsewhere. Once this land is rezoned and developed, it cannot be replaced. Future generations will lose access to this space forever. While there are many areas already available for housing development, there are no suitable alternative sites for a golf course of this scale within the region.

Petition Action:
The petitioners therefore request that the Legislative Council to call on the Government to reject any proposal to rezone the Wodonga Golf Course for non-recreational use and ensure the long-term protection of this land under its current zoning for community recreation and environmental benefit.

Reply:
I thank the Member for Northern Victoria Region and her constituents for raising this matter.

The proposal to rezone the Wodonga Golf Course for housing development was submitted through an expression of interest process under the Victorian Government's Unlocking Strategic Sites program. The program aims to identify opportunities for repurposing and redeveloping land to facilitate the delivery of jobs and homes across Victoria.

I acknowledge the concerns raised by the petition and the potential impacts of the proposed rezoning. The site has been deemed eligible for assessment under the Unlocking Strategic Sites Program. Eligibility for this program does not constitute approval.

The Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) is currently in the process of requesting further information to facilitate a comprehensive assessment of the proposal. As part of this assessment process, consultation with key stakeholders including Wodonga Council, government agencies and affected landowners will be undertaken. Any submissions received during the consultation process will be considered as part of the assessment.

Hon Sonya Kilkenny MP
Minister for Planning 17/8/2026