

RESPONSE TO PETITION

Petition Number: 704
Petition Sponsored by: Ann-Marie Hermans
Directed to: Hon Sonya Kilkenny MP
Tabled on: 15 October 2025

Petition Grievance:

The petition of certain citizens of the State of Victoria draws attention of the Legislative Council to reject the rezoning of Rossdale Golf Course and preserve it as vital public green space. Rossdale is a thriving, financially viable community asset with over 800 members located beside the Ramsar-listed Edithvale Wetlands. Rezoning would destroy tree canopy, wildlife corridors and climate buffers in a high-density area.

The push to rezone is Rossdale Board and developer-driven, not community-led. The planning minister has been approached directly, bypassing Kingston Council and undermining democratic planning processes.

Traffic congestion, infrastructure strain and lack of genuine consultation compound community concern. Viable alternatives exist to resolve modest club debt without full redevelopment.

Petition Action:

The Petitioners therefore request the Legislative Council oppose any rezoning that bypasses council and community input, protect green space near Ramsar wetlands, support an independent financial review of Rossdale and strengthen planning laws to safeguard urban green space.

Reply:

I thank the Member for the South Eastern Metropolitan Region for lodgement of the petition about the Rossdale Golf Course.

Tract Consultants, on behalf of the privately owned Rossdale Golf Club, requested that I intervene to prepare a planning scheme amendment to rezone the land. I did not agree and considered that the preparation of a planning scheme amendment would be premature. I have instead referred this matter to the Priority Projects Standing Advisory Committee for consideration and advice.

The advisory committee will consider whether the first five steps of the *Planning Guidelines for the Redevelopment of Golf Course Land to Other Purposes* (June 2020) have been satisfactorily undertaken.

The advisory committee has been established to consider the matters required under the guidelines, which include the financial viability of the club and the environmental values and constraints of the site. The committee considered the submissions of key stakeholders, including the Kingston City Council, Melbourne Water and the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action.

Following consideration of the advisory committee's recommendations, I will then consider whether a planning scheme amendment is appropriate, before my final consideration of this matter.


Hon Sonya Kilkenny MP
Minister for Planning

30/11/2025