

RESPONSE TO PETITION

Petition Number: 604
Petition Sponsored by: Mr David Davis MP
Directed to: Minister for Planning
Tabled on: 12/11/2024

Petition Grievance:

We, the undersigned citizens of Victoria, respectfully urge the Legislative Council to note:

- the Allan Labor government has announced 10 high-rise high-density zones in the municipalities of Bayside, Boroondara, Brighton, Darebin, Frankston, Glen Eira, Hume, Kingston, Monash, Moonee Valley, Stonnington, Whitehorse and Whittlesea where planning rights will be stripped from councils and communities, high rise development will occur as of right and planning control will be exercised undemocratically by the state government;
- that, in addition to a central activity district with as of right 12 storey development, these zones contain enormous "catchment areas" where planning protections will be removed, where 3 and 6 storey development can occur as of right, where municipal heritage overlays and designations will be overridden resulting in the destruction of thousands of irreplaceable heritage properties and where canopy tree protections will be overridden resulting in the loss of neighbourhood amenity and the exacerbation of heat island effects; and
- these plans are not accompanied by proper health or education service plans or plans for additional open space despite proposed massively increased local populations.

Petition Action:

The petitioners therefore request that the Legislative Council call on the state government to desist and recommence proper discussions and consultation with local communities and councils and heritage peak bodies in all ten affected zones prior to taking any further planning actions to implement the announced high-rise high-density zones.

Reply:

I thank the Member for the Southern Metropolitan Region for sponsoring this petition on behalf of his constituents.

I have met with every council included in the activity centre pilot and I will continue to meet with relevant councils as part of the expanded program. DTP and the Victorian Planning Authority have continually met with relevant councils since the program began, and feedback and the community have directly informed the draft Activity Centre Plans being developed through this program.

There are no 'as-of-right' changes being proposed under the program. Council remain the responsible authority for planning decisions within and around these centres. There are no changes heritage overlays as part of this program. The new planning rules will ensure projects enhance the neighbourhood with good landscaping, tree canopy and improved streetscapes.

The program will introduce a simple developer contribution to ensure that every home in these communities will directly result in more funding for things like roads, paths, and public transport services, new and upgraded schools, upgrades to health and community facilities, plus parks, playgrounds, sport and recreation and open space



Hon Sonya Kilkenny MP
Minister for Planning

18/12/2024