



27 January 2022

The Secretary  
Legislative Council Environment and Planning Committee  
Parliament House, Spring Street  
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Dear Secretary

**Re: Inquiry into the protections within the Victorian Planning Framework**

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Legislative Council's inquiry into protections within the Victorian Planning Framework.

Boroondara welcomes this investigation into the protections within the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (the Act). Our recently adopted [Climate Action Plan](#) highlights that there is a need for Environmentally Sustainable Development to be given increased consideration by the planning system.

As a Responsible Authority and Planning Authority, Boroondara has a great deal of experience with the operation and maintenance of the Act. Council has made many submissions to the Victorian Government over the years advocating for various changes to the Act to provide better planning outcomes for Victorians. It is critical to ensure the planning system supports greater Environmentally Sustainable Development, is designed to protect our valued neighbourhoods and vegetation, and also ensures local communities can participate in local planning decisions.

Council is concerned that the Victorian Government has already made a number of changes in the last 18 months which have reduced the community's third-party public notice and appeal rights, and Council's role as responsible planning authority. This includes amendments to facilitate level crossing removals, major road and rail projects and public housing developments.

Local government is well placed to manage all planning matters, particularly in metropolitan municipalities such as Boroondara. Council has the appropriate resources, knowledge and systems to understand and respond to the community needs and to achieve the most appropriate outcomes.

To assist with your enquiries and deliberations, I attach these following recent submissions made by Council to various State Government strategies and reform initiatives:

- Letter to the Minister for Planning regarding Victorian Planning Reform (2021).
- Submission to *Improving the Operation of ResCode* (2021).
- Submission to the *Draft Inner South-East Metro Land Use Framework Plan* (2021).



- Letter advocating for the protection of standalone 'contributory' heritage properties (2021).
- Submission to *Better Apartments in Neighbourhoods Discussion Paper* (2019).
- Submission to *Reforming the Victorian Planning Provisions* (2017).
- Submission to the *Advisory Committee Review of the Planning System in Victoria* (2011).

Boroondara would be pleased to provide any further information as required and take part in any formal processes as needed.

Should you have any further queries in relation to this matter, please contact Nick Brennan, Senior Strategic Planner [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely



Scott Walker  
**Director Urban Living**

Enc:

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