

9th October 2009

SUBMISSION TO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OUTER SUBURBAN/INTERFACE SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT SELECT COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO THE IMPACT OF STATE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO CHANGE THE URBAN GROWTH BOUNDARY

Terms of reference:

the Committee has been asked to investigate the State Government's decision to change the Urban Growth Boundary, and in particular:

The impact of the State Government's decision to change the urban growth boundary on landholders and the environment and plans announced by the Government to introduce an increased development contribution for land in designated growth areas, including —

- (a) the likely quantum of the collections by Government;
- (b) mechanisms to ensure the contributions are directed only to the intended purposes;
- (c) the likely impact on the housing and development industries;
- (d) any unintended consequences including the impact on all landholders and purchasers to be impacted;
- (e) any displacement or replacement of Government spending likely to result from the increased collections; and
- (f) any alternative options, including any used in other jurisdictions;

SUBMISSION:

The Cardinia Environment Coalition Inc fully supports the Green Wedges Coalition Inc (GWC) written and verbal submissions to this inquiry. As the Green Wedges Coalition delegate for the Westernport Green Wedge, and having a large part of our working area and membership base in the Southern Ranges Green Wedge, we are deeply interested in and concerned with the changes proposed for the urban growth boundary. Even more so, we are concerned with the processes by which this is being proposed and then determined. We have attached the submission we made to the Growth Areas Authority which we believe largely includes our concerns about the process. Our concerns have only been minimally allayed by this inquiry; as with other inquiries and submissions processes we have little faith in fair and due.

Briefly, we want to highlight the GWC important point of the requirement of an independent body to oversee monitoring of urban planning in Melbourne and Victoria. How are important supposedly strategic decisions made and by whom,

how is it governed and made transparent to the community and in the community as a whole's best interests?

Also, we wish to point out the numerous submissions and inquiries we are awaiting outcomes on and which should be used to feed into the decision making on any urban growth boundary and future development. Despite our lack of resources, in recent times we have devoted much time and energy to making many submissions to advocate for the environment and our community members including on the following inquiries or papers:

- Land and Biodiversity at a time of Climate Change Green Paper
- Inquiry into Remnant Vegetation on Public Lands
- Inquiry into Public Land Management in Metropolitan Melbourne
- Melbourne 2030
- Melbourne @ 5 millions Urban Investigation Area
- Strategic Impact Assessment under the EPBC Act for Melbourne @ 5 million
- Inquiry into Sustainable Agribusiness in Outer Metropolitan Melbourne (including appearing at Parliament with the Green Wedges Coalition)
- The Bushfire Royal Commission

We are disappointed that nothing has come of any of these processes, bar the Bushfire Inquiry which is only at an intermediate point and which would be far better informed or taken in context with the outcomes from the rest of the processes.

We want to know why all of these processes are stalled. We want to know why valuable resources have been spent by government and communities to inform these processes to only have them fizzle at a time when they are of the utmost importance, and of relevance to planning for Melbourne.

Furthermore we have been informed that in relation to the Urban Investigation Area and Strategic Impact Assessment submission process, (which we submitted, was a poor example of community consultation), that submissions are not being made public. No information will be given on number or type other than a summary to be composed by the Growth Areas Authority, an authority with a very narrow makeup. We want to know why.

Lastly, we want to know why key gaps in information in relation to assumptions to enable proper planning have not begun to be closed. For example: that of population growth, ultimate population, and sustainable resource management.

Yours Sincerely

Kelly Brooks-MacMillan
Cardinia Environment Coalition Inc.