

PLANNING DEMOCRACY

A PRE-ELECTION QUESTIONNAIRE FOR PARTIES AND CANDIDATES

Dear State Election Candidate or Planning Spokesperson,

Victoria's Planning Framework aims to, "provide for the fair, orderly, economic and sustainable use and development of land".

Planning Democracy has designed this questionnaire to help its network of concerned community groups understand where you and/or your party stand on using the Planning Framework to give communities a genuine say in protecting Victoria's environment, heritage and natural resources.

1. Please respond to these community group and citizen perceptions:

PERCEPTIONS		Agree	Disagree	I need more info
1	Developers now have too much say in decision-making. Residents and communities have not enough.			
2	Certainty and consistency need to be achieved through mandatory planning provisions and prohibitions, not Ministerial amendments that remove the need for permits and community consultations.			
3	Enforcement policy (e.g. for illegal vegetation removal) is weak, supports a cumbersome and costly process and imposes inadequate penalties that reward bad behaviour.			
4	The right of Councils and communities to be heard in decision-making have been eroded by successive State Government amendments to the planning framework ¹ .			
5	Developers and their associates need to be banned from making political donations.			
6	The Parliamentary Inquiry into Planning and Heritage protection must be re-started by the new State Government ² .			
7	Melbourne's Green Wedges and Agricultural Land Action Plan must be immediately released and implemented ³ .			

- 1 Since 2014, thirty-eight amendments to the Planning Framework have removed permit requirements and/or removed requirements to meet planning scheme provisions. These amendments have eroded the rights of communities set by the Planning and Environment Act to participate in planning decisions.
- 2 The Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into Protections within the Victorian Planning Scheme was suspended by State Government through purported lack of time. The ['Inquiry into the protections within the Victorian Planning Framework'](#) was published as an interim report on 2nd August 2022.
- 3 This Plan was produced in response to a 2018 election pledge to better protect Melbourne's Green Wedges and Agricultural Land. It is complete but confined to the Planning Minister's 'desk' for the past 12 months.

2. Do you think the use of the planning framework is achieving its objectives?

OBJECTIVES and ISSUES <i>(Numbers refer to a relevant objective of the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The Acts objectives are attached.</i>		YES	NO	OTHER Or I need more information
8	Protecting built heritage. [S4:1d]			
9	Protecting natural heritage and ecological processes. [S4:1b]			
10	Protecting agricultural land. [S4:1b]			
11	Achieving Ecologically Sustainable Development. [S4:1g]			
12	Prohibiting and/or discouraging urban land-uses in Melbourne's Green Wedges. [S4:1c]			
13	Conserving and expanding urban tree cover. [S4:1c]			
14	Promoting sustainable and affordable housing. [S4:1f(a)]			
15	Sustaining the influence of resident and community voices in decision-making. [S4:2d,h&i]			
16	Making development and infrastructure adhere to planning scheme aims and controls [S4:2b&e]			
17	Imposing effective penalties and enforcement for breaches of permit conditions [S4:2k]			
18	Supporting reviews of State and local planning provisions in the light of the Covid19 pandemic and climate change response. [S4:2a]			

Please add further comments here:

Your name please:

Party & Position:

Please return this questionnaire to: imorgans999@gmail.com.au

ATTACHMENT

The PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT ACT 1987

Section 4: OBJECTIVES

- (1) The objectives of planning in Victoria are—
- (a) to provide for the fair, orderly, economic and sustainable use, and development of land;
 - (b) to provide for the protection of natural and man-made resources and the maintenance of ecological processes and genetic diversity;
 - (c) to secure a pleasant, efficient and safe working, living and recreational environment for all Victorians and visitors to Victoria;
 - (d) to conserve and enhance those buildings, areas or other places which are of scientific, aesthetic, architectural or historical interest, or otherwise of special cultural value;
 - (e) to protect public utilities and other assets and enable the orderly provision and co ordination of public utilities and other facilities for the benefit of the community;
 - (f) to facilitate development in accordance with the objectives set out in paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e);
- S. 4(1)(fa) inserted by No. 47/2017 s. 5.
- (fa) to facilitate the provision of affordable housing in Victoria;
 - (g) to balance the present and future interests of all Victorians.

ABOUT PLANNING DEMOCRACY

Planning Democracy (PD) is an informal network of 80 community groups across the Greater Melbourne region committed to protecting our heritage, open space, tree canopy cover and to giving residents a genuine say in planning issues.

PD aims to support these communities with shared information, news, tactics and encouragement. To do this, PD publishes a monthly newsletter and hosts occasional live forums.

Contact *Planning Democracy* about this questionnaire by calling Ian Morgans on 0400 872 193

Or by email: imorgans999@gmail.com