

# ***SOS Planning Update – 6 November 2014***

***To Community Groups***

## ***Planning News & Events***

### **(1) SOS Candidates' Survey for Election 2014:**

SOS has sent out a Candidates' Survey on planning issues to each party and independent candidate (where known). The comprehensive survey is being conducted online via SurveyMonkey, which will do most of the analysis of the responses.

The results will be publicised a few weeks before the election. Community groups that are publicly supporting the survey will share the detailed results. The more groups that support the survey, the more likely candidates and the media are to respond.

For more information, go to: <http://sos.asn.au/2014/10/06/we-need-to-talk-about-planning-survey-of-election-candidates/>

or contact Vice-President Ann Birrell 0419 550 538

### **(2) SOS 2014 AGM – Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> Nov. 3.30pm**

Ground floor meeting room, Ross House 247-251 Flinders Lane

**Guest speaker Professor Brendan Gleeson, *Professor of Urban Policy Studies and***

***Director of the Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute at Melbourne University***

**(AGM: 2.30 – 3.30; Prof. Gleeson: 3.30 – 4.30)**

Modern capitalist society has provided our present high standard of living but now also brings challenges and threats, especially climate change, resource depletion, social division and economic insecurity.

So how can we plan for a more resilient city designed to meet these challenges and maintain our residential amenity within sustainable limits? Economic and population growth cannot continue indefinitely – what sort of political, social and economic system might we need to move towards?

In Victoria, the State Government has introduced a raft of new planning policies, including new zones, a new central Metropolitan Planning Authority, and the new "Plan Melbourne" planning blueprint. But is our planning system on the right track? If not, how do we change direction to help make our outer suburbs more sustainable? Should we cater for more self-sufficiency in energy, water and food? And how could the community play more of a role in these issues?

Professor Gleeson has researched and written extensively on the wellbeing of our cities and suburbs and the political, social, economic and environmental trends shaping Australia. Come and hear him discuss these issues and answer your questions.

### **(3) Glen Eira Residents Association 2014 AGM, 7pm Wed. Nov. 19 - New Residential Zones**

**The Bentleigh Club, Yawla St, Bentleigh.**

SOS president Ian Wood will be guest speaker at 7.30pm, talking about the impacts and implications of the new residential zones and other recent planning changes.

### **(4) Election Debate – state seat of Prahran: Thursday Nov. 20, 2014. 6:45PM (7:00 Start)**

**Ross Hall, Melbourne Girls Grammar, 86 Anderson St South Yarra**

Chaired by James Campbell, State Political Editor for the Herald Sun

With [Clem Newton-Brown \(Liberal\)](#), [Neil Pharaoh \(Labor Party\)](#) and [Sam Hibbins \(The Greens\)](#)

For further information, contact the **South Yarra Community**

**Network:** [www.sthyarra.net.au/](http://www.sthyarra.net.au/)

### **(5) Royal Commission into political donations?**

Former NSW MP Rob Oakeshott has launched a petition for a Royal Commission into political donations. Australian political parties spent \$100 million at the last federal election. Donors expect favorable policies in exchange. We can tell who financed some parties just by looking at the laws they're promoting.

This is not right, and the longer it goes on, the more tainted our Government and political institutions will become. A Royal Commission would expose such corruption and recommend ways of fixing it durably.

Please sign Rob Oakeshott's petition to the Governor-General of Australia to approve a Royal Commission into Australian political donation reform, and encourage others to do the same. Here's the link:

[http://www.avaaz.org/en/petition/The\\_GovernorGeneral\\_of\\_Australia\\_approve\\_a\\_Royal\\_Commission\\_into\\_Australian\\_political\\_donation\\_reform/?krEOxib](http://www.avaaz.org/en/petition/The_GovernorGeneral_of_Australia_approve_a_Royal_Commission_into_Australian_political_donation_reform/?krEOxib)

### **(6) Important [Change.org](#) petition – ask the FIRB to tighten Foreign Investment rules**

AUSTRALIA's Foreign investment Review Board is investigating less than 1% of the more than 5000 foreign purchases of established homes over the past 9 months, despite widespread concern that current regulations are either inadequately enforced or widely flouted.

<https://www.change.org/p/the-executive-members-toughen-the-regulations-for-foreign-investment-in-australia>

## **(7) Planning Alerts – details of local planning applications**

Find out for free what's being built and knocked down in your area and receive email alerts when something new is planned:

<http://www.planningalerts.org.au/>

## **(8) Be vigilant! Unscrupulous developers are failing to erect advertising signs**

Residents in some suburbs have noticed an increasing trend of development applicants failing to erect yellow planning signs (or putting them up for just a day or so), relying on the fact that council officers don't do site checks. This obviously reduces objections so lobby your council to conduct random site checks for (say) 1 in 10 applications, coupled with prosecution for false declarations.

In the interim, use **Planning Alerts** <http://www.planningalerts.org.au/> to find recent nearby applications and to check whether signs have been erected (and correctly placed within 1.5m of the property boundary).

## **(9) Reminder – stay informed with the new revamped SOS Wordpress website:**

***Including SOS Newsletter #31:***

<http://sos.asn.au/2014/10/05/sos-newsletter-31-residents-voice-30th-september-2014/>

***With key stories to assist objectors:***

***Help for Residents arguing on Rescode at VCAT***

***Beware s89 appeals!***

***Avoid Dual Occupancy by Stealth – and more.....***

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Ian Wood

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