

Media Release

We need to talk about planning, say Victorian Community Groups

Community groups across Victoria have joined together to survey election candidates on the conduct and direction of planning in Victoria.

The survey questions candidates on local issues in each electorate and then about key areas of concern, including:

- Whether Victoria has 'an inappropriate culture of undue influence and political opportunism'
- Whether candidates support reform of political donations laws
- Whether we have a failure of independent, long term infrastructure planning
- Whether the increasing deregulation of planning is in Victoria's interest
- The need for VCAT reform and better protection of local amenity
- Failure to secure the Urban Growth Boundary and Green Wedges

"The survey reflects widespread concern about the failure of planning in Victoria" said Ian Wood, President of Save Our Suburbs.

"Community planning and environment groups from across Melbourne are supporting the survey, including Save Our Suburbs, Green Wedges Coalition, Planning Backlash and Protectors of Public Lands."

"Planning decides the future shape of our cities and how we live. Victorians have an expectation that planning policy is based on the long term interest of Victoria, not decided behind closed doors and without transparent process."

"Planning issues played a major role in the downfall of the Kennett and Brumby Governments and history seems to be repeating itself."

"There is considerable disquiet in the community over the handling of the Ventnor Development, the scale and number of permits 'called-in' by the Minister, and now the signing of undisclosed contracts on the eve of an election for the East West link and the Point Nepean National Park."

The survey results will be used to inform voters, particularly in marginal seats. A copy of the survey is attached.

Further inquiries

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Victorian Environment and Planning Community Groups, including:

Save Our Suburbs
Green Wedges Coalition
Protectors of Public Lands
Planning Backlash
Public Transport Users Association
Ratepayers Victoria Inc.
Save Albert Park
Yarra River keepers Association
Docklands Community Association
Residents Against Inappropriate Development in Doncaster
Fitzroy Residents Association
West of Elgar Residents Association
East Enders

As groups sign up to support the survey, they will be added to the Save Our Suburbs website: <http://sos.asn.au>