# RESIDENTS • COICE

# President's Address

Welcome to the first edition of Residents Voice for 2002.

First and foremost I want to acknowledge our thanks and appreciation to Jack Hammond and his outgoing committee. They worked tirelessly to see the end of the Good Design Guide and just as importantly, to establish Save our Suburbs as

a voice for all citizens concerned with the amenity of our suburbs and towns.

Your new committee is now focussing on future directions. Some of the policy frameworks we intend to develop include:

- Reform of VCAT, initially to remove the right to submit amended plans. Get it right first time! No more ambit applications!
- Extending Rescode to address the interface between residential and commercial precincts.
- Giving teeth to enforcement of permits and a crackdown on illegal development.
- Establishing a code of conduct for Councils to make the planning process fair for residents.

As you can see there is much still to do and in this issue we are asking for your feedback. What is important to you? Which issues should receive higher priority?

We are also working on a submission in relation to the Government's Metropolitan Strategy, giving particular regard to whether higher density housing should be encouraged in some areas and if so where.

### Member Feedback

Members, your opinion is valued. Please number the boxes opposite to show the issues you consider to be of highest to lower priority. Note: 1 = your highest priority, 2 = your second highest priority etc. We have nominated six issues which are continually raised. 'Other' spaces have been included for you to nominate any alternative issues you consider particularly important.

Any further comments or detail can be added in the space provided on the reverse side of this form. Please return this form as soon as possible to the SOS address opposite, or fax or email (see Member feedback on our website) if more convenient. By the way, if you have an email address (or need to update your contact details) please let us know via whichever means is easiest.

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email

Finally, over coming months we want to develop (with your input), and promote strategies to support environmentally responsible development. These would include wastewater recycling, roof water collection systems and solar panels feeding collected electricity into the grid. The committee believes that new urban developments should

improve and not diminish our environment.



#### Priority Issues for SOS (please number)

Reform of VCAT
Implementation of ResCode
Enforcement of Planning Permits
Council planning procedures
the government's 'Metropolitain Strategy'
Environmentally responsible development
other (if other please specify)
other

please complete on next page

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# **Recent Events**

21 March, 2002

Meeting of municipal representatives and member group representatives held at 7.30pm on 21 March, 2002 at Hawthorn Town Hall. A guest speaker from DOI discused the state government's 'Metropolitan Strategy'.

#### 23 April, 2002

Meeting with new Planning Minister, Mary Delahunty and committee representatives at Parliament House.

## Call for Municipal Reps

If you would like to become a municipal representative for your area, or want to know more about what's involved, please contact: Derek Wilson on 9583 2839.

NOTE: Rep. urgently needed for Frankston.

## Your Membership

Keeps them honest

SOS was formed in response to development outcomes brought about by The Good Design Guide. Diligence by SOS ensured the Government listened and produced ResCode which is yet to live up to expectations. Your membership is vital for SOS to help protect your neighbourhood. Encourage your neighbours to join. Pass this newsletter on.

### **Contact SOS**

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Noel Withers	9435 4513				
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Cheryl Forge	9509 0099				
Hobsons Bay David Moore	9397 5773				
Patsy Toop	9397 7666				
Roy Amstrong Kingston	9398 1594				
Janelle House	9772 4862				
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Manningham					
Rosa Miot Ray Smith	9842 1292 9848 1534				
Maribyrnong	00.0.00.				
Alan Ross	9318 5833				
Jack Harrison	9317 7843				
Moonee Valley Rick Clements	9337 5647				
Diane Adey	9379 4513				
Michael Gill	9379 9686				
Moreland Ronnie Whitemore	9380 1481				
Mornington Peninsula					
Arthur Moore	5975 6148				
Ralph Percy	5974 1222				
Port Phillip lan Macroe	9690 7604				
Rohan Hamilton	9225 8755				
Stonnington					
Tom Moloney Dianne Duck	9510 3540 9576 1492				
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Yarra					
Ruth Clemens SOS Liason Officers	9428 0282				
Derek Wilson	9583 2839				



# New Planning Minister in a good light

#### from Mary Delahunty, Planning Minister

Planning is a dynamic portfolio that impacts on where we all live and work, how our streets, suburbs and towns are developed, and how we position Victoria for success in the global economy.

Upon coming into office, this Government's aims for planning were clear - to achieve a sensible balance between economic growth, social cohesion and environmental sustainability.

Our approach to these goals is three-pronged: to empower the community and local government, to place an emphasis on neighbourhood character and residential amenity, and to ensure there is a sustainable future for the whole State.

Over the past two years we have worked to promote good development and a healthy construction industry. Important improvements have been made to the planning system to assist in achieving strong development outcomes.

ResCode's introduction has made how we plan our neighbourhoods more certain and more locally responsive. I will be working hard to promote ResCode's new environmental standards - reducing run-off into waterways, protecting solar access and promoting energy efficiency – as well as ensuring development is sustainable, and that social, economic and environmental factors are considered in all planning decisions.

I look forward to continuing a positive, open relationship with all Victorians involved in how we design, plan and build high standard, sustainable development in the central city, the suburbs and country Victoria.

While so much has been achieved over the past two years - including significant advancement on the draft Metropolitan Strategy – a 30 year action plan to manage Melbourne's urban growth and its relationship with regional Victoria, the development and implementation of ResCode, and resolving the planning uncertainty of several high profile sites - there is still much work to be done.

Continued monitoring of ResCode's implementation will be a key priority for 2002 - and I'm sure SOS will take a keen interest in this.

Victoria's planning future presents us with many challenges and opportunities. I look forward to working in partnership with community and residents groups, planning professionals, local government, and industry.

As I settle into this exciting new role, I look forward to meeting and forging a strong rapport with all stakeholders as we work together to ensure Victoria remains one of the world's most liveable

#### **New SOS Committee**

President - Nigel Kirby - manufacturer living and working in Hawthorn, former mayor of Hawthorn and former councillor for Boroondara.

Treasurer - Geoff Ronald - general manager in industrial distribution and resident of Stonnington.

Secretary - Stephen Whitmore - manufacturer in Dandenong and resident of Moreland.

#### **General Committee**

- Peter Matthews managing director in the exhibition industry and resident of Stonnington.
- · Cheryl May statistician, and resident and municipal representative of Bayside.

- · Chris Sotiropoulos biochemist and lawyer, and resident of Boroondara.
- · Ronnie Whitmore hairdresser, and resident and municipal representative of Moreland.
- Derek Wilson civil engineer, SOS municipal liaison officer, and resident and municipal representative of Bayside.

#### **Other Contributors**

- SOS Phoneline David Wilms
- SOS Publicity Consultant Dianne Duck

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Please comment on priority issues below

Change of Addres	ss Details
	S via fax, email or mail address
street	
suburb	pcode
phone	