

RESIDENTS Voice

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.

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.



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.

name _____

email _____

Priority Issues for SOS (please number)

- ☐ Reform of VCAT
- ☐ Implementation of ResCode
- ☐ Enforcement of Planning Permits
- ☐ Council planning procedures
- ☐ the government's 'Metropolitan 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 discussed 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.

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