

In this issue:

EVENTS

Re-engineering Local Government - Ratepayers Vic. Seminar on the LG Act Review

Last Climate Tango in Paris - Public Forum

SOS AGM – guest speaker Dr Greg Moore

PLANNING UPDATES:

"Plan Melbourne Refresh" begins

Review of implementation & content of New Residential Zones begins

Update - Planning Act Amendment Bill to recognise the number of objectors

COMING EVENTS:

*** Re-engineering Local Government - Ratepayers Vic. Public Seminar**

<http://www.ratepayersvictoria.com.au/?p=1583>

Saturday, 14 Nov 2015

9:30 am registration, seminar from 10 am to 4 pm Free

Mulgrave Country Club, Corner of Wellington & Jells Rd, Mulgrave

For catering purposes, early booking is required by 1 Nov 2015 – contact either:

Jack Davis – jack_d@iinet.net.au; 0412 238 974, or

Frank Sullivan – frank.sullivan6@bigpond.com; 0438 555 805

*** Under the proposed Rate Cap, will State and Federal Govts provide enough support for councils to be able to fund infrastructure and services?**

*** Should councils in turn be required to consult more genuinely and fully with their communities, and be more accountable and transparent in their operations?**

*** Come along and discuss strategies for the Review of the Local Govt.Act!**

Seminar Objectives:

Identify the key deficiencies in LG system

Fixing today's broken system via LG Act reforms

Recognising a peak body for ratepayers in Victoria

Contribute info for RVI submission to the LG Act Review program

Keynote Speakers:

Minister for Local Government, Hon Natalie Hutchins

Assoc Prof of International Business, Sharif As-Saber

plus 5 other presenters:

Joe Lenzo, Ratepayer advocate leader from Mornington Peninsula Shire

Carl Cowie, CEO of Mornington Peninsula Shire

Rafal Kaplon, Councilor of Casey

Matthew Gordon, Board Director of Oursay, a digital community engagement platform

Frank Deutsch, Councilor of Ararat

Submit questions for Q&A to either Jack Davies or Frank Sullivan by 12 Nov 2015

* **The Last Climate Tango in Paris - Public Forum**

Organized by Lighter Footprints

7pm for 7.30 to 9.30pm, Tuesday 27 October,

Hawthorn Arts Centre Town Hall 360 Burwood Rd, Hawthorn

<http://www.lighterfootprints.org/>

Speakers include:

- **The Hon Josh Frydenberg MP** (via video link)

Minister for Resources, Energy and Northern Australia; Federal Member for Kooyong:

Australian commitments for Paris

- **Professor Ross Garnaut**

Professorial Research Fellow in Economics, Melb.University:

Where are we heading in Paris - do Australia's commitments fit with those of other countries

- **Dr David Karoly**

Professor of Atmospheric Science, School of Earth Sciences, Melbourne University:

The scientific perspective: what needs to happen in Paris

* **SOS AGM – guest speaker Dr Greg Moore:**

“Suburban Trees and Urban Sustainability”

Sunday November 15th (AGM 2.30-3pm; Dr Moore 3-4pm)

Activities Room, Library at the Dock (Gr.Flr),

107 Victoria Harbour Promenade, Docklands (cnr Collins & Bourke Sts)

Dr Moore was Principal of Burnley College at Melbourne University from 1988 to 2007. He is on the Boards of Greening Australia (Vic) and Sustainable Gardening Australia. Since 2004 he has chaired TreeNet, an independent organisation seeking to improve the urban forest.

His papers & articles include:

“Tree Management for Carbon, Energy and Drought Efficiency”;

"Climate Change, Healthy Gardens and Healthy People”;

“Urban Trees – Worth More Than They Cost”.

PLANNING UPDATES:

(1) "Plan Melbourne Refresh" begins

The Andrews Government has launched refreshing Plan Melbourne, the plan for Melbourne to 2050, "to ensure it accurately reflects community and expert priorities and advice". There is a Discussion Paper & Summary, and comments and submissions can be made until 18th Dec.2015.

The report of the Ministerial Advisory Committee on refreshing Plan Melbourne has also been released:

<http://www.planmelbourne.vic.gov.au/Plan-Melbourne/news/Ministerial-Advisory-Committee-recommendations>

For a quick read, here is a summary by Tract planning consultants of the Plan.Melb.Refresh:

<http://us6.campaign-archive1.com/?u=bea8d97bf5c49cde24738b632&id=82197101c1&>

Some key points to note:

- reducing greenhouse gas emissions and coping with predicted weather extremes, especially through widespread tree planting
- housing affordability - more affordable and diverse homes
- a 70/30 target for housing supply - 70% from established areas, 30% from "greenfield" sites
- application of the "low growth" Neighbourhood Residential Zone to at least 50% of land to be re-considered "to ensure housing diversity while respecting neighbourhood character"

(2) Review of implementation & content of New Residential Zones begins:

With little publicity, the Planning Minister has initiated the review of the new residential zones by writing to councils asking for their feedback on the implementation and operation of the zones in their municipalities:

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/leader/inner-south/carnegie-is-being-destroyed-as-developers-buy-old-homes-say-homeowners/story-fngnvl9-1227547367961?sv=b726cb371ad4656babf78d0c32102a57>

Councils were asked to reply by 30th October.

We strongly suggest you request your council to place their responses on their websites if they haven't already. If your council's response fails to address the real issues created in your area by the new zones, this should be brought to the attention of both the Minister, your councillors and the media. SOS would also appreciate being informed to help our lobbying efforts.

(3) Update - Planning Act Amendment Bill to recognise the number of objectors:

The Amendment came into effect on 12 October 2015. While the Andrews Govt has honoured it's pre-election promise to recognise the number of objectors regarding "significant social effects" of planning permits, the Bill will be largely ineffective because of its loose wording. The new rules will only apply "where appropriate" (ie, at council or VCAT discretion); they won't apply to all types of permit applications; and "significant social effects" still remain undefined. So yet more scope for argument and expert witnesses at VCAT!

While the Bill could've been tightened up, Liberal and Labor voted together to pass it without proposing further changes – confirming that this bipartisan legislation will indeed make little difference in practice for council assessments and VCAT hearings. The Labor-Liberal vote also meant that Upper House Greens and cross bench MPs could not influence the outcome.

For our analysis of the Bill, see our website: <http://sos.asn.au/planning-act-amendment-recognising-objectors-bill-2015/>

(4) Need a speaker for your next meeting?

SOS president Ian Wood can talk to your group about all aspects of planning and VCAT, subject to availability. Email your request to info@sos.asn.au

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