



## The Hon Sonya Kilkenny MP

Minister for Planning  
Minister for the Suburbs

Ref: BMIN-1-23-2727

Cr Jennifer Anderson  
Deputy Mayor  
Macedon Ranges Shire Council  
PO Box 151  
KYNETON VIC 3444  
Att: mwilliams@mrsc.vic.gov.au

Dear Deputy Mayor

Thank you for your letter of 5 April 2023 requesting that I remove the Development Plan Overlay Schedule 24 (DPO24 – Lancefield Development Areas) from the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme.

I have carefully considered this matter and have decided to decline your request to prepare, adopt and approve an amendment to delete DPO24.

I am not convinced that the request satisfies the tests for my intervention under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, or results in a good planning outcome.

I acknowledge that DPO24 was introduced to provide certainty and guidance for landowners, and coordination and conformity of residential development in the three development areas of Lancefield.

The introduction of DPO24 occurred via Amendment C117macr and a statutory process that included public exhibition, which provided an opportunity for interested parties to make submissions and to have their views considered by an independent planning panel.

The complete removal of DPO24 may give rise to potential risks associated with land being developed in an uncoordinated manner and create further difficulties for residential development to take place. I am particularly concerned that a decision to remove DPO24 runs contrary to orderly strategic planning processes and the proper administration of the planning system and is inconsistent with the specified duties and powers of planning authorities under the Act.

If the council remains of the view that retaining DPO24 in its current form is not feasible, I am open to considering a planning scheme amendment to address these concerns. This could involve simplification of the overlay schedule to address concerns related to cost and complexity, provided the overlay's objectives are not compromised. The amendment should be progressed in consultation with the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP), service agencies and affected landowners. Support to prepare the amendment documentation may be available through DTP's Regional Planning Hub program.

Alternatively, the council could give renewed consideration to the preparation of its own development plan to assist willing landowners who are experiencing difficulties with preparing it themselves.

If you have any questions about this matter, please contact Stuart Menzies, Director, State Planning Services, DTP, on email [stuart.menzies@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:stuart.menzies@delwp.vic.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



**The Hon Sonya Kilkenny MP**  
Minister for Planning

Date: / / 25/11/23