

## RESPONSE TO PETITION

**Petition Number:** 600  
**Petition Sponsored by:** Mr David Davis MP  
**Directed to:** Minister for Planning  
**Tabled on:** 29/10/2024

### **Petition Grievance:**

We, the undersigned citizens of Victoria, respectfully urge the Legislative Council to note:

- the Allan Labor government has announced 10 high-rise high-density zones in the municipalities of Bayside, Boroondara, Brighton, Darebin, Frankston, Glen Eira, Hume, Kingston, Monash, Moonee Valley, Stonnington, Whitehorse and Whittlesea where planning rights will be stripped from councils and communities, high rise development will occur as of right and planning control will be exercised undemocratically by the state government;
- that, in addition to a central activity district with as of right 12 storey development, these zones contain enormous "catchment areas" where planning protections will be removed, where 3 and 6 storey development can occur as of right, where municipal heritage overlays and designations will be overridden resulting in the destruction of thousands of irreplaceable heritage properties and where canopy tree protections will be overridden resulting in the loss of neighbourhood amenity and the exacerbation of heat island effects; and
- these plans are not accompanied by proper health or education service plans or plans for additional open space despite proposed massively increased local populations.

**Petition Action:** The petitioners therefore request that the Legislative Council call on the state government to desist and recommence proper discussions and consultation with local communities and councils and heritage peak bodies in all ten affected zones prior to taking any further planning actions to implement the announced high-rise high-density zones.

### **Reply:**

I thank the Member for the Southern Metropolitan Region for sponsoring this petition on behalf of his constituents.

The Allan Labor Government is delivering on a housing agenda that will unlock supply for 360,000 new homes in well-located areas close to services and jobs, along train and tram lines across Melbourne.

DTP and the Victorian Planning Authority have been engaging with local communities with draft plans between April and September this year and has met individually with relevant councils regularly since the program began. With over 10,000 submissions, conversations and survey responses, all that feedback and insights have directly informed the Activity Centre Plans being finalised for the program.

Councils will continue to be the responsible authority within the activity centre areas and the program will enable gentle density around train and tram stations so that more homes can be accommodated in established suburbs where people want to live, close to friends, family and job opportunities.

The 'catchment' is the surrounding residential area generally within 800m or 10 minutes walking distance of the core. No changes to heritage overlays are being considered as part of the program and existing planning controls will continue to apply in those areas. The new planning rules will provide a guide for development to respond to the local conditions of the activity centre, including enhancing the characteristics of the neighbourhood such as local heritage, tree canopy and streetscapes.

As part of the program, a simplified infrastructure funding mechanism will be established, in line with the broader reform work underway, to fund the delivery of essential infrastructure like pedestrian crossings, community centres and local sporting facilities to support these vibrant communities.



**Hon Sonya Kilkenny MP**  
Minister for Planning

25/4/2029