

East Clifton Hill Residents Inc (No A0114110I)
% David Levin (Secretary)
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The Hon Sonya Kilkenny MP
Minister for Planning
Minister for the Suburbs
Email: sonya.kilkenny@parliament.vic.gov.au

Member for Carrum
622 Nepean Highway
Carrum 3197
Ph: 9773-2727

Dear Minister,

East Clifton Hill Residents Inc (No A0114110I) (ECHRI) is a not-for-profit association of East Clifton Hill residents and friends to provide a forum for local residents as members to express their opinions of proposals for developments in the local area. ECHRI's prime focus is to encourage development in the East Clifton Hill precinct which respects the existing heritage and community values of the area.

I write on behalf of our members to express concern about your proposed planning changes. We support your efforts to build more housing, but we believe that new housing development must preserve the heritage of the subject areas in order to be attractive. We note that the proposals for more Activity Centres and for their extension via the new Walkable Catchment Zone do not include heritage conservation as one of the aims.

Some of our best heritage precincts are around railway stations and Activity Centres. These are precincts that contribute in a significant way to what makes Melbourne and Victoria's regional towns and cities distinctive and liveable, giving them unique character and appeal.

At present the conservation of most of these precincts is supported by the Neighbourhood Residential Zone, which has strict height controls, in line with the conservation objectives of the Heritage Overlay. You are proposing fifty new Activity Centres. Around the new and existing Activity Centres, you propose to replace the Neighbourhood Residential Zone with the new Walkable Catchment Zone, which will be primarily designed to prioritise and facilitate development, with no provisions requiring the successful integration of heritage assets.

This would allow the objectives of the Heritage Overlay to be challenged in these areas in favour of any project that provides more housing.

We support more housing in places where people want to live. But places will become far less sought after if we forget what makes them desirable in the first place.

We ask you to ensure that

- 1) heritage conservation is included as one of the purposes of the Walkable Catchment Zone;
- 2) the Walkable Catchment Zone includes mechanisms to conciliate development with heritage covered under the Heritage Overlay;
- 3) the new zones incorporate heritage protection into shaping the new developments so that each area's unique character is maintained and enhanced.
- 4) that the role of local councils in making planning decisions be supported by your Government to ensure local knowledge is brought to bear in planning decisions

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ray Tonkin', with a long, wavy horizontal line extending to the right.

Ray Tonkin
President