

**Submission from Cardinia Ratepayers & Residents Association Inc. to the community groups meeting with Minister for Planning on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2007.**

Melbourne 2030 policy, introduced in 2002 and predicated as it is on the basis of adding a million more people to the population of Victoria over the next 15 to 20 years, is causing more problems than it has solved. While the original concept may have had some merit, it has been exploited by land speculators and developers and has become the basis of employment of labour and a cash cow for the building industry, as it generates a continuing supply of customers.

**The impact of this policy in the growth corridor area of Cardinia Shire has been multiple.**

**Environmental** – As to the rapid pace of development that has led to inappropriate planning approvals such as subdivision on flood plain areas, conversion of natural creek systems into stormwater drains, and small, cramped 300 sq.m. house blocks are common

**Social** – As to the increasing requests to various welfare agencies including the 4C's voluntary food bank for assistance to individuals and families unable to support themselves due to rising mortgage debt, unemployment, homelessness and drug problems. Vandalism, graffiti and major crime has greatly increased in Pakenham area. Schools are inadequate for the needs of the current and future community.

**Financial** – As to the local council accumulating massive debt and being unable to meet the costs of infrastructure and services for the expected population explosion. Ratepayers cannot continue to carry the burden of increased rates and many rural roads are being neglected in favour of new works for recent arrivals.

There is great concern that the current growth is not sustainable, with water supply being a most serious issue for everyone, followed by traffic congestion and environmental pollution. The possibility of extreme weather events i.e. fire or major flooding, is a matter of concern especially for the local State Emergency Service volunteers who are expected to cope with such events which may be beyond their capacity.

The current public statements about land release being inadequate are inaccurate. In Cardinia Shire, green paddocks within the urban growth boundary are being rezoned for residential development on a massive scale. At the same time metropolitan and inner Melbourne suburbs are being overloaded with highrise and unit development. and green open space is being lost.

The character and identity of Pakenham district is disappearing as is happening in other municipalities also, and the very 'liveability' quality being frequently quoted as part of Melbourne 2030 is no longer a reality.

Presented by Gloria O'Connor and David Drinkwater on behalf of Cardinia Ratepayers & Residents Association.