

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [amendments](#)  
**Date:** Bannockburn growth plan  
Monday, 23 November 2020 2:33:56 PM

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Monday 23 November 2020

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Bannockburn Growth Plan.

I am a recently retired veterinarian who after many years working overseas, mainly in Papua New Guinea (PNG) and South-East Asia, and in Canberra. I moved to Bannockburn a few months ago with my wife, [REDACTED] (who also recently retired from nursing and midwifery). We moved late last year as all four of our children and their partners now live in Melbourne and Geelong. We chose Bannockburn as we liked its small-town atmosphere and the prospect of living on a 1.5 acre block not far out of town.

Having had the privilege of working in many countries over four decades I have seen the effects of environmental damage and climate change on smallholder farmers, foresters and fishers in Africa, Asia and the Pacific islands. I have seen similar effects in Australia and am concerned at the effects of environmental damage and climate change on human and animal health and biodiversity.

I value the community atmosphere of Bannockburn and hope that this can be maintained while the population of the town and the area around it grows during the next few decades. I was pleased to see that this is recognised in the Growth Plan. However, the plan's medium growth scenario anticipates an additional 5,500 dwellings by 2050 (cf 2,500 dwellings currently) and this high number of additional small blocks will undoubtedly detract from the town's rural character and community atmosphere. Although the plan states assumes this growth rate as a 'given', no justification or indication of community support is provided for it rather than, for example, an additional 2,500 dwellings (rather than 5,500) that would be more manageable and better allow retention of the town's rural character and community atmosphere.

I support actions to improve the environment of the region, from improved public transport and planting trees to reducing waste and improving recycling. I was pleased to see a sound emphasis on the natural environment in the Growth Plan, but concerned at the lack of discussion on electric vehicles and the potential negative effect of changed traffic flow on the town.

1. There is an opportunity for provision of recharging points for electric vehicles in Bannockburn (e.g. near the current town centre next to the railway line or opposite the existing service station) and at other satellite towns (Meredith, Lethbridge etc.) in Golden Plains Shire. These charging points could be installed in conjunction with motoring organisations (e.g. RACV) and would provide a network along the Geelong–Colac and Geelong–Ballarat roads. Many towns that have charging stations on other roads (e.g. between Canberra and Melbourne) also find that their small businesses benefit from

motorists stopping to recharge their vehicles and enjoying a break for coffee, a meal or shopping locally.

2. An increasing number of heavy vehicles travelling from western Victoria to the port in Geelong cross from the Geelong–Cressy road (Hamilton Highway: B140) via Bannockburn–Shelford Road to the Geelong–Ballarat road (Midland Highway: A300), through Bannockburn. The Growth Plan proposes a new east–west ‘arterial road’, along the current southern border of the town, linking Bannockburn–Shelford Road (via Hervey Road) and the Midland Highway near Geringhap. This route could lead to a large number of heavy vehicles travelling through this area, with negative amenity effects on the occupants of existing houses north of the proposed road and the proposed houses south of it (in the south-west, south-east ‘growth areas’). Other options of reducing heavy vehicle traffic through the town could have a lesser negative effect on a smaller number of households and these should be considered urgently.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide comment at this stage.

Yours faithfully

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