Dear Mr Wimbush

DRAFT AMENDMENT TO THE GOLDEN PLAINS PLANNING SCHEME – BANNOCKBURN GROWTH PLAN – REFERRAL OF SUBMISSIONS TO THE VPA PROJECTS STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

I refer to the Bannockburn Growth Plan draft amendment to the Golden Plains Planning Scheme, which will assist in guiding the future growth of Bannockburn to the year 2050 by establishing a clear land use framework for the township, designating appropriate growth areas, identifying key infrastructure, and providing direction on the logical sequencing of growth precincts.

The Victorian Planning Authority (VPA) has submitted the draft amendment for my consideration.

The VPA has committed to delivering a fast-track planning program to assist with Victoria’s post-coronavirus (COVID-19) economic recovery over the next financial year.

On 17 July 2020, I established a streamlined planning process, including the establishment of the VPA Projects Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) to independently review unresolved submissions, including discrete issues, received through the VPA streamlined engagement process.

Between 26 October and 23 November 2020, the VPA undertook a targeted public consultation process for the Bannockburn Growth Plan and the associated draft planning scheme amendment. The consultation included landowners and occupiers within and adjoining the Bannockburn township and proposed growth plan area, Australian and Victorian government agencies, Ministers prescribed under section 19(1)(c) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 and Golden Plains Shire Council. The VPA held a virtual drop-in session on 18 November 2020 and responded to phone calls and emails during the consultation period.

I have decided to refer all unresolved submissions to the VPA Projects SAC for advice and recommendations in accordance with the SAC’s terms of reference.

I have enclosed a submissions summary table, prepared by the VPA, which provides an analysis of each submission, including summaries of the issues raised and a significance rating to assist the SAC with its proceedings.

The SAC should consider the submissions in the manner it sees fit in accordance with its terms of reference. I note the terms of reference enable the committee to adopt an approach that is ‘fit for purpose’ and that this could involve consideration of some issues ‘on the papers’.

I am advised that the VPA will continue to seek to resolve matters with submitters and it will advise the SAC if further matters are resolved.

Please find enclosed some of the supporting documents required by clause 13 of the terms of reference for the VPA Projects SAC. The VPA will provide the remaining documents in due course.
I encourage the SAC to undertake its work in the most efficient way and to act promptly in light of the significance of the proposed project and its role in assisting Victoria’s post-coronavirus economic recovery.

If you would like further information, please email Dr Jane Homewood, Executive Director, Statutory Planning Services, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, at jane.homewood@delwp.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Michael Wynne

HON RICHARD WYNNE MP
Minister for Planning

30 / 12 / 2020

Encl.