



CITY OF MONASH

*From the Office of the Mayor*

TP401

8 May 2014

Hon Matthew Guy  
Minister for Planning  
Level 20, 1 Spring Street  
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

*via email ([matthew.guy@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:matthew.guy@parliament.vic.gov.au))*

Dear Minister

**AMENDMENT GC05 – MONASH PLANNING SCHEME  
REZONING OF FORMER SCHOOL SITES IN MONASH**

I refer to my letter dated 5 March requesting that you urgently reconsider your decision to introduce a Development Overlay Plan (DPO) over five vacant former school sites in Monash. It is disappointing that we have not yet received a response from you.

Monash Council and our community remain very concerned that the use of the DPO control means our residents will not have formal objection rights or the right to appeal to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) against development on these sites.

Council recently wrote to all residents located within a one kilometre radius of each of the five school sites advising of your decision and expressing Council's disappointment that third party appeal rights have been removed. To provide residents with an opportunity to express their views, Council also invited residents to fill in an online survey through Council's website.

About 170 people have completed an online survey and we have received approximately 20 letters. The following is a summary of the feedback:

- 96% of respondents answered "no" to the question "Do you support the State Government's decision to impose a Development Plan Overlay on the school sites?"; and
- 94% of respondents answered "yes" to the question "Are you worried that your rights to object to planning applications on the sites and to appeal to VCAT have been removed?".

When giving reasons for their opposition to the Development Plan Overlay, respondents generally said it was undemocratic and local residents should have both the right and opportunity to be involved in all aspects of the decision-making process concerning the future of these significant local sites. Many respondents expressed concern that the sites would be overdeveloped, and that they would have no legal recourse to challenge overdevelopment.



Respondents were also asked “What kind of development do you think would be acceptable on these sites?” and were asked to tell Council any other thoughts they had on this matter. There were common themes in the residents’ responses including a desire for public open space, concern about the type of development that would occur on the sites and concerns regarding traffic congestion.

As previously indicated, Council and the Monash community strongly believe that it is inappropriate to use a DPO for these sites and I urge you to reconsider your position on this matter as soon as possible.

Given your lack of engagement with Council and the Monash community on this issue, Council has resolved to write to all candidates contesting the upcoming State election in the three electorates which cover the five sites – Clarinda, Oakleigh and Mulgrave – and seek their individual commitments that they do not support your approach.

If you would like to discuss this matter further, please contact me on 0411 645 281 or via email at [geoff.lake@monash.vic.gov.au](mailto:geoff.lake@monash.vic.gov.au). Council, along with the Monash community, continues to look forward to your response to our letter of 5 March.

Yours sincerely

GEOFF LAKE  
Mayor