

**MEDIA STATEMENT BY RICHARD BISINELLA, DEVELOPMENT
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**MINISTER'S DECISION TO ABANDON PLANNING SCHEME
AMENDMENT C73 – CADDYS ROAD, LARA**

1 December 2011

We are shocked and outraged at this decision.

It's a blatant corruption of the planning system.

The integrity of the planning system has been sacrificed on the altar of short term politics.

Let's get one thing straight: the Minister's decision is not about protecting Serendip Sanctuary. There is not, and never has been, credible evidence of any threat to Serendip Sanctuary from this development proposal. And the proposal clearly ticks every box in planning policy terms.

This is a purely political decision designed to counter recent media commentary that the Minister has been making too many decisions in favour of developers with the right political connections at the expense of community groups.

The Minister has flown in the face of the outcomes of a nine year planning process just so that he can say he has made a decision in favour of a community protest group.

The Minister has even contradicted himself: just a few months ago he approved a linked planning scheme amendment, the Lara Structure Plan, and now he has made a decision that is inconsistent with that plan.

The incompetence and cynicism apparent in this decision is an absolute disgrace.

We will be taking every legal avenue available to us to fight the Minister's decision and expose his sham planning process.

The whole development industry should be very nervous about what's been done to L.Bisinella Developments.

You can spend nine years and millions of dollars stuck in the planning process; your proposal can be strongly supported by all the experts and two separate independent planning panels; you can successfully make your case to the local planning authority; but you're still at risk of being gazumped at the whim of a politically motivated Minister.



Media release

The Hon Matthew Guy MLC

Minister for Planning

Friday 2 December 2011

Certainty for Lara residents and Serendip Sanctuary

Minister for Planning Matthew Guy yesterday announced he had declined to rezone land along Caddys Road, Lara, from Rural Living Zone to Residential 1 Zone.

“The proposed Residential 1 Zone directly to the south of the Serendip Sanctuary is inconsistent with the overwhelming community interest,” Mr Guy said.

“The Caddys Road area is valued by the community as a lower density rural-residential buffer between the urban area of the town and the Serendip Sanctuary.”

The Minister informed the Mayor of the City of Greater Geelong yesterday morning and has formally written to advise Council.

Under the Lara Structure Plan a number of alternate areas remain available to achieve increased land supply.

The Coalition Government is committed to working with the City of Greater Geelong to expedite the precinct structure planning for the Armstrong Creek Urban Growth Area.

“I believe this decision is in the interests of the whole community and is consistent with the community's desire to further strengthen the environmental integrity of the Sanctuary while also providing certainty for regional tourism operators and jobs,” Mr Guy said.

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