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I am a member of the general public and my comments are relatively simple, i.e. there needs to be less state interference in local planning issues and more local autonomy.

One issue in particular is disturbing and that is “extended selected powers to the Minister” (pg 59). This means that there will be no consistency in planning rules and applications and that these will be held hostage by the elected powers. In the case of one Government there may be no tolerance for variances while another might approve anything and everything. This is too dependent on who elects whom, so if the money comes from the big side of town and developers then there will be very few restrictions (as we see in many VCAT decisions today).

Planning should be a local issue controlled by the people who live there not by a bunch of bureaucrats subject to the whims of the political party and money.

My comment is that this whole scheme should be directed toward local governance rather than top level Government controls.

Thank you, Joe Lenzo