



## HANSARD - EXTRACT FROM PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES



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| Title    | <b>Planning zone reform</b> |
| House    | <b>ASSEMBLY</b>             |
| Activity | <b>Adjournment</b>          |
| Members  | <b>NEWTON-BROWN</b>         |
| Date     | <b>12 June 2014</b>         |
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### **Mr NEWTON-BROWN (Pahran)**

My adjournment matter is directed to the Minister for Planning. The action I seek is that he ensures that the views of residents in South Yarra are properly considered prior to new planning zones being implemented. I start by commending the Minister for Planning.

The proposed new zones are the biggest change in planning history and are aimed at protecting our heritage neighbourhoods in particular. All too often councils blame the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) or the government for inappropriate development. VCAT applies the local planning policies, and with these new zones the minister is giving councils the tools to say, 'Enough is enough'. He is giving them the tools to, in effect, preclude appropriate areas from intense development. Most Councils have jumped at this opportunity.

Inexplicably, however, the first cut of the Melbourne City Council zones draft had not one precinct -- not one street, not one house -- as proposed to be in the neighbourhood residential zone, which is the toughest zone and limits development to no more than two storeys. As a result of an uprising from residents, particularly in my patch in South Yarra, the Melbourne City Council officers turned their minds to what areas may be appropriate for protection by the neighbourhood residential zone. In the inner ring of suburbs that are included in the city of Melbourne there are the historic areas of North Melbourne, Carlton, East Melbourne and South Yarra and plenty of precincts where there are those fine-grain patterns of worker's cottages and terrace houses.

It was only on the second cut that the Melbourne City Council officers set out a new set of zones that included the neighbourhood residential zone. To their credit, the second cut has included areas for protection in the neighbourhood residential zone, and this information was provided to residents late in May. This second cut, however, was rubber-stamped by council early in June without any consideration being given to comments from the community. There were glaring omissions and errors in the second cut. There was no opportunity for officers to consider the views of residents, because only eight days after that second cut was released the final version was rubber-stamped by council.

I attended the meeting, and prior to the meeting I walked every street in my patch in South Yarra and I certainly noticed some omissions in terms of Leopold Street and Mason Street. Many other locals also had concerns about other areas within South Yarra, so it was an outrageous snub to people in this community -- my community -- that their views were not considered.

I call on the minister to find some mechanism whereby the views of my community can be properly considered prior to any final decision being made as to the new zones within South Yarra.