

IMPORTANT COMMUNITY UPDATE

FROM YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCILLOR,
PRUE CUTTS



Dear Resident / s,

Monday 16 September 2024

'RINGWOOD ACTIVITY CENTRE' DRAFT PLANS – THE 'CATCHMENT' AREA INCLUDES YOUR HOME

There are draft plans out NOW for consultation from the State Government which will affect your home and your local neighbourhood. The RINGWOOD ACTIVITY CENTRE (AC) plans extend out into the Whitehorse area and affect 924 homes in Mitcham including about 2,000 residents.

You are receiving this notification as you live in the CATCHMENT ZONE OF THE RINGWOOD ACTIVITY CENTRE. Should these State Government plans be supported, which may be as early as December this year, you may find, over time, **up to 6 storey buildings** built next to your house or opposite your house with few if any objector appeal rights.

The Minister of Planning has asked the Victorian Planning Authority (VPA) and the Dept. of Transport and Planning (DTP) to compress the consultation of all the 10 proposed Activity Centres (AC's) across Melbourne so that planning controls (to allow uplift in building heights etc) will be in place by December 2024.

We are all aware of the housing crisis and it's important to have accommodation near to major well-serviced centres such as Ringwood. Maroondah Council, however, has indicated that their plans for the Ringwood AC, developed over many years and in conjunction with the State Government, already will accommodate enough dwelling density so that requirements for 'Catchment' areas are unnecessary.

Maroondah Council has been working with the State Government to develop the central Ringwood activity centre around Eastland. The Mayor of Maroondah Council "... doesn't support the new proposal to allow six-storey buildings across the large catchment area". She said, "The number of new homes the government wants to build in Ringwood ... [between 8,200-12,200] ... could fit into the central activity area, so it was unnecessary to allow six-storey apartments in areas that largely consist of mostly single- and double-storey freestanding homes". Quoted from 'The Age', p25, Saturday 14 September 2024.

In addition, there has been no strategic work done to determine whether the 'Catchment' areas in Whitehorse have the carrying capacity for 6 storey dwellings. Nor have our community been consulted, until now.

I encourage you to become familiar with the Draft Ringwood Activity Centre plans (16 pages) which are available at: <https://engage.vic.gov.au/project/activitycentres/page/ringwood>.

Should you wish to make a submission, the closing date is Sunday 29th September 2024.

You can also email ringwood@vpa.vic.gov.au your further thoughts or call 03 9651 9600. For interpretive services, please call 03 8351 3453.

There is an online (Zoom) Information Session open to all, about the Ringwood AC at 6-7pm on Wednesday 25th September 2024. Details are listed at <https://engage.vic.gov.au/project/activitycentres/page/ringwood>.

Please reach out to me on 0425 701 796 or email pruecutts@gmail.com if you wish to discuss any matter.

Fully paid for and Authorised by Prue Cutts, PO Box 2195, RANGEVIEW. VIC. 3132