



## Christine Fyffe M.P. Member for Evelyn



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### **Scare Gun Control Local Law Endangering a Farmer's Right to Farm**

The draft of amendments to the Scare Gun Control Local Law 2002 by the Shire of the Yarra Ranges will negatively impact on the ability of farmers to protect their living Liberal Member for Evelyn said today.

“The worry for Yarra Valley farmers is that the proposed amendment to the local law relating to electronic bird deterrents places farmers under increased strain as they struggle to find a completely non-noise, non-visual means to protect their crops,” Mrs Fyffe said.

“The problem is that inventors are yet to come up with such a piece of equipment,” Mrs Fyffe said.

“If council become more restrictive over the operation of bird scaring devices, farmers will be left with no choice but to continuously patrol their properties with loaded guns firing at will,” Mrs Fyffe said.

“The beauty of the Yarra Valley has long been an attraction for tourists and people seeking a calmer lifestyle. However, when people visit or move to the valley, they do so knowing that it is a fully functioning, farming community,” Mrs Fyffe said.

“One of the biggest tourist draw cards to the Valley is that we have viable farms that give our area its wonderfully rural flavour,” Mrs Fyffe said.

“If farms aren't financially viable, farming families are at risk of becoming destitute. Pressure will then mount on farmers to sell their properties,” Mrs Fyffe said.

“In the future this could potentially result in farming land being subdivided. Housing is a once only crop. Once land has been subdivided, local food production capability is lost forever,” Mrs Fyffe said.

“I don't want to see the Yarra Valley become another Cranbourne or Berwick,” Mrs Fyffe said.

“If we cannot grow food close to Melbourne, the costs to the environment and consumers will be huge. The amount of food miles that will have to be done if farmers are pushed further out to less fertile land will increase carbon emissions and cause food prices to skyrocket,” Mrs Fyffe said.

**Media: Ruth Barendse – 9735 3208**