



Christine Fyffe M.P. Member for Evelyn



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A lack of planning at the heart of the issue

Matthew Guy, Shadow Minister for Planning, and fellow Liberal MP Christine Fyffe attended a meeting of the Coldstream Community Action Group on Tuesday the 15th of December to discuss the next step for the 596 residents who remain opposed to the applications for five dual occupancy developments in their neighbourhood.

“The beauty of Coldstream is that it has retained its rurality with lots of open space. When you look toward the horizon you see tree canopies, not the second storey of someone else’s house,” Mrs Fyffe said.

“Clearly the residents live in Coldstream because they like living a certain way and they want to preserve that way of life for future generations of their families. It is an area rich with family links,” Mr Guy said.

Mr Guy went on to express concern about overdevelopment caused by unplanned population growth.

“The heart of the issue is that there has been a lack of planning on the part of the State Government. They have failed plan for the sizable increase in Victoria’s population which has added to pressure to overdevelop areas,” Mr Guy said.

Mrs Fyffe agreed, “The potential problem with the approval of these five dual occupancy dwellings is that it opens the door for other developers to subdivide more blocks. It is amazing how quickly an area can transform.”

Mr Guy continued, “While it is not unheard of to have objections to dual occupancy planning applications, the degree of objection shown by the majority of the population of Coldstream (60 per cent) should have signalled to council that in this case, the residents are particularly passionate about retaining the integrity of the area. Council’s decision doesn’t accurately reflect the level of community concern.”

Looking at alternative solutions, Mrs Fyffe suggested a review of the existing Coldstream township boundaries.

“We need to be looking at extending the boundaries of the Coldstream township so that it can comfortably accommodate more residents,” Mrs Fyffe said.

“However, we must remain mindful that it is vitally important that we save valuable and productive rural land. We certainly do not want to see the kind of development that has occurred on farming land in Berwick and Pakenham,” Mrs Fyffe said.

“There is an opportunity to reach a compromise, but it can’t occur if the resident’s views are steamrolled,” Mrs Fyffe said.

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