

Submission to Bannockburn South East Planning Authority

My family has owned a farm on Burnside Road since 1997, therefore 28 years. We have seen Bannockburn and the local area expand at a very rapid rate.

Water Scarcity

We experienced a ten-year low rainfall period soon after arriving in the area and very severe water restrictions. Bruces Creek was regularly exhausted of water each summer and stretched into the winter months, placing a lot of pressure on the local environment. My main concern is how the water authorities will provide water to another 4500 homes in times of acute water shortages.

Climate Change

We have witnessed the average annual rainfall diminish over the last 30 years. This year and last year are great examples of below-average rainfall, with Bruces Creek now dry and drought conditions very prevalent in the district. The impact of a large urban development will exacerbate the effects of climate change, consuming water and taking out very productive farming land (over 600 hectares).

Traffic Congestion

Burnside Road (central highway for the project) is already a very busy road with cars and trucks speeding along the 8-kilometre straight road. There is a blatant abuse of the imposed speed limits on the road. 4500 new homes will rapidly increase the density of traffic and heighten the risk of accidents and injury to children and adults who ride bicycles around the local area, covering large distances well beyond the local community.

Police Resources

There is severe pressure on the police force in Victoria. Despite a massive increase in population in Bannockburn, police resources are now part-time. Crime rates in Bannockburn have increased, and community safety is jeopardised. An additional 4500 homes will require a large uplift in police resources.

Productive Farming Land

Australia has scarce farming land, given it is such a dry continent, with most farming land on the outer edge of Australia. This project uses productive land which is vital for our agricultural needs and food security.

In summary, the proposed development poses significant challenges regarding water scarcity, climate change impacts, traffic congestion, police resources, and the use of productive farming

land. These concerns need to be addressed comprehensively to ensure sustainable growth and the well-being of the Bannockburn community.