

Policy Position

The Victorian Division of the Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA Victoria) strongly opposes the deliberate use of parliamentary processes and voting to revoke approved amendments to Victoria's Planning Scheme.

The integrity of Victoria's planning system is critical to maintaining the state's solid economic foundations and to driving investment in the housing and infrastructure we need.

Planning Scheme Amendments are voted on by the Legislative Council of the Victorian Parliament after they have successfully proceeded through the planning process, and have subsequently been approved by the Minister for Planning. Parliamentary votes held in late 2017 revoked two separate Planning Scheme Amendments and set a precedent that undermines the stability of Victoria's planning system and broader economy.

This action by the Victorian Parliament ignores the fundamental democratic principles of the planning system, as well as the views of expert panels and advisory groups, and results in increased uncertainty and risk for Victoria's housing and economic future.

Investment and economic growth is fundamentally dependent on a robust and conclusive planning process. Parliamentary revocations of Planning Scheme Amendments will only serve to:

- Increase uncertainty and place upward pressure on house prices, further compromising housing affordability and undermining the achievement of additional housing supply.
- Destabilise investment and delivery of much needed economic and community infrastructure.
- Damage Victoria's reputation as an attractive destination for investment and Melbourne's position as a global city.

The Victorian Parliament should not seek to become a Planning Authority and Section 38 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* should only be invoked by the Victorian Parliament in the most exceptional of circumstances. This could include where there has been, for example, a clear breach of probity, or of natural justice. It should not be invoked for political purpose, or in cases where the merits of a Planning Scheme Amendment have been assessed, reviewed by a panel or advisory committee, and approved by the Minister for Planning.

To maintain a democratic and robust planning system, all stakeholders need to accept the decision of the Minister for Planning where due process has taken place, and a democratic and robust planning system is critical to Victoria's housing and economic future.



February 2018

UDIA Victoria – Policy Position

Revocation of Planning Scheme Amendments by the Victorian Parliament

Contact

Hyatt Nidam
Advocacy and Communications Manager
Urban Development Institute of Australia
(Victoria)

E: hyatt@udiavic.com.au