

Submission to Yarra Ranges Council

Project: **Belbrook Road, Carween Avenue, The Highway, Weldon Grove & Mast Gully Road (service road), Upwey Roads for the Community Initiative Team**

Submission request: **reduction of Development Unit from 1.0 to .05**

Details of request

In 2019 we received notice from the Roads for Community team in regard to the sealing of the project as listed above. Within this correspondence we were asked to complete a questionnaire as to our desire for the project. We responded that we did not support this project.

On 24 August 2022 we received notice that during the 23 August 2022 Council meeting the charges to landowners was approved, and appropriate information was disseminated to the landowners.

I am writing to request that our Development Unit be reduced from 1.0 to 0.5 as there is an existing apron that seals the road to our entry point (detailed in Map A). Our driveway commences at the cessation of the apron and we do not access our property from any other point.

We believe that it is also very important for Council to acknowledge that we were also in receipt of our Valuation and Rate Notice 22-23 the day after receiving notification that the Special Charge Scheme was to go ahead. For perspective, we received a notice that we will be required to pay \$7000 upfront or, with the addition of finance charges, approximately \$839 per annum for ten years. The addition of this Special Charge to our already quite expensive annual rates will create financial stress, and whilst I understand that we are able to discuss with Council any financial hardships, we also might not qualify for this. Our personal rates will be over \$3500, which in addition to the increasing costs of living, is very stressful.

In summary, we request that our **Development Unit point be reduced from 1.0 to 0.5** due to an existing apron to our entry point. The benefit to this reduction in Development Unit point will assist in reducing additional financial stresses.