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**Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure**  
**Planning and Development**  
GPO Box 1533  
Adelaide SA 5001



7<sup>th</sup> September 2018

To Whom It May Concern,

**RE: Response to Draft State Planning Policies**

I write to you on behalf of the McLaren Vale Grape Wine & Tourism Association (MVGWTA) – the peak body representing more than 500 businesses – encompassing all grape-growers, winemakers and tourism providers in one of Australia’s most valuable wine tourism regions – McLaren Vale, South Australia.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback regarding the draft State Planning Policies.

The tourism, agriculture and food production industries are all major employers of our region which contribute billions of dollars to our State’s economy. Our State’s regions hold particular significance in these industries and are recognised worldwide as iconic South Australian destinations.

In 2012, the regional distinctiveness and contribution of both the McLaren Vale and Barossa districts to our State was formally recognised and protected through the introduction of the *Character Preservation (McLaren Vale) Act 2012* and *Character Preservation (Barossa) Act 2012*.

The *Character Preservation (McLaren Vale) Act 2012* provides reassurance to our community – both business and residential – that the unique attributes of McLaren Vale are also acknowledged and highly valued by our State, and that the protection of these attributes is paramount to the long-term vision for building our State’s economy and global reputation for premium food and wine from a clean environment.

Reviewing the Summary of the Draft State Planning Policies for South Australia (July 2018), MVGWTA provides the following feedback, and, specifically highlights the following two (2) State Planning Policies of significance to our region’s long-term prosperity:

**State Planning Policy 1: Integrated Planning, and, State Planning Policy 8: Primary Industry**

Populations are increasing and cities worldwide are losing valuable food production lands to housing placing upward pressures on fresh food prices. The existing Land Division Controls of the *McLaren Vale Act* provide comfort to both producers and residents that the viticultural, agricultural and associated industries, as well as the scenic and tourism attributes of our region will continue to be protected for existing and future generations. Statutory protection from inappropriate urban development in the McLaren Vale character preservation district (such as residential development within primary production areas, or, development which is at odds with the desired character of a town) enables improved, long-term decision-making for our region’s tourism, agriculture and food production industries, which in-turn improves industry sustainability and business investment in our State.

Overall, MVGWTA supports the introduction of the State Planning Policies changes – effective and efficient planning processes which are clear, consistent and integrated will support South Australia’s liveability and sustainability. MVGWTA seeks further clarification from the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure regarding draft State Planning Policies 1 and 8 in consideration of the *Character Preservation (McLaren Vale) Act’s*, and specifically – how the Act’s



Wine, Food, Beaches  
Markets, Trails, Art

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current ability to safeguard and protect the existing township boundaries, land use, impact upon farming and inappropriate urban development will be upheld (if not, enhanced) through the proposed State Planning Policies.

McLaren Vale has a unique sense of place which cannot be duplicated anywhere else in the world. The value and protection of place through well-considered and thoughtful Planning Policies – including the perpetuation of our State's Character Preservation Act – is fundamental to the prosperity of future generations and industry in regional communities.

I welcome the opportunity to discuss this further, and thank you for your consideration of MVGWTA's request.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Lynch  
**General Manager, MVGWTA**