



**Leon Bignell MP**

**State Member for MAWSON**

*Working hard for our area*



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Ms Stephanie Johnston  
Chairperson  
Friends of Port Willunga  
Email: [stephaniejohnston@adam.com.au](mailto:stephaniejohnston@adam.com.au)

Dear Ms Johnston

I write to inform you the Marshall Government has once again put gutter to gutter housing on agricultural land between McLaren Vale, Willunga and McLaren Flat back on the agenda.

I have been advised by the State Planning Commission that a review of the Environment and Food Production Areas is being undertaken. The review will also look at eight "anomalies" raised in the 2018 review of the Character Preservation Act legislation.

The government has described as "anomalies" two massive areas of land on the edge of the McLaren Vale township currently protected under the McLaren Vale Character Preservation Act which we fought so hard to make law almost ten years ago.

They are not anomalies. As the Friends of Port Willunga is aware, they are vital holdings of agricultural land owned by property developers that were deliberately included in the Protection Act so urban sprawl could not take away from the character of our area.

The Marshall government says it is being asked by developers to open up more land for housing including these two sites. If houses are built there then it will decrease land values in our local towns, reduce confidence in the protection law and harm our \$850 million a year food, wine and tourism sectors.

The last time this issue was raised in 2018, with the support of your association and more than 500 locals, we were successful in protecting the land.

I have attached the letter from the State Planning Commission's Chair, Helen Dyer. I have also enclosed the Commissions review documents.

I will be holding a community meeting at 6pm Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July at Tatachilla Lutheran College and I hope a representative of the association will be able to attend. It would also be good to see as many association members there as possible.

The Friends of Port Willunga and so many of your members were around the table when we devised this legislation between 2009 and 2012.

We need to make it clear again that our region does not want any changes to the Character Preservation Act which has given so much confidence to tourism operators, grape growers and wineries to invest in upgrades, improve vineyards and build wonderful new developments like the d'Arenberg Cube, Bekkers Tasting Room, Down the Rabbit Hole and so many more.

I hope the Friends of Port Willunga are on board in this community campaign.

Yours sincerely



**Hon Leon Bignell MP**  
**MEMBER FOR MAWSON**

June 25 2021

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