

# Media Release



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## Bass Coast planning controls biased against ag

The Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) says draft documents released by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning in regard to the Distinctive Areas and Landscapes Program on the Bass Coast unfairly prioritise tourism and disadvantage farming communities.

VFF President Emma Germano said the draft Bass Coast Statement of Planning Policy and Landscape Planning Controls does little to protect farmers right to farm on land already zoned specifically for agriculture.

“Farmers are drowning in unnecessary and time-consuming red-tape. The fact that some farmers will potentially have to apply for permits to build fences on land zoned for farming is laughable.”

“It seems that decision makers have prioritised tourism and views of the landscape without any regard for farming and the huge contribution it makes to the local area.”

“We need common-sense planning policy that allows our industry to continue to provide the food and fibre needed to secure our food security and feed people,” Ms Germano said.

Ms Germano added that it is critical that changes are made to the planning system to support the retention and growth of agriculture in Victoria.

“Repeated failures to address or consider these matters, in response to consultation or preparation of documents such as this, reinforces industry belief and farming community experience that there is an urban bias in the planning system.”

The VFF is currently drafting a submission in response to the draft documents and is encouraging impacted farmers to have their say by contacting the VFF on 1300 882 833 or emailing [policyteam@vff.org.au](mailto:policyteam@vff.org.au).

**ENDS**

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