

Petition to Golden Plains Shire Council

Stop Golden Plains Shire Council Rezoning & Selling Public Recreation Land in Bannockburn

Link to Online Petition: <https://chng.it/BnJSpHmL5>

At its meeting back in March 2021, during the middle of COVID-19 restrictions, Golden Plains Shire Council declared (without consulting with the community) that 3.5 hectares of land in the Bannockburn Recreation Precinct was surplus to Council's needs, and should be rezoned for residential purposes.

This land is vital for community recreation needs in the future, and could accommodate a swimming pool, athletics tracks, and other sporting facilities to support the local schools and members of the community that need to travel into Geelong for these facilities. Over the next 20 years, the population of Golden Plains Shire Council is expected to almost double to 42,000 people, and additional facilities that can be co-located in this precinct will be required.

We ask that Councillors take accountability for the previous decision to prepare the current planning scheme amendment, and not defer accountability and the need to consult with the local community, to the Planning Minister. This is Council's planning scheme amendment and Council can decide to put the process on hold and consult properly with the local community about views for the future use for this land.

In summary, we hereby petition that Council:

1. Direct the CEO to place the current planning scheme amendment which seeks to rezone this land to residential on hold, pending further resolution by the Council.
2. Undertake further consultation with the community and key stakeholders, including local schools and sporting clubs, to understand community views on the retention of this land for public park and recreation purposes.
3. Direct the CEO to prepare an engagement findings report to be presented to Council (at a Council Meeting) and a recommendation on whether Council should proceed with, or abandon the current planning scheme amendment, and all associated land sale and subdivision decisions.