



## **DAVID MORRIS MP**

**Member for Mornington**

**Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Environment  
Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Local Government**

### **The Time for Planning Reform is Now**

#### **Legislative Assembly 28 July 2010**

**Mr MORRIS** (Mornington) — The government's 2009 statement of intentions championed the need for a review of the Planning and Environment Act. The statement rightly identified that there had been many changes in the past 20 years, including economic, social and environmental factors that have an impact on the way we should plan our towns and cities.

As we have come to expect, there was much talk of cutting red tape, too often a euphemism for greater complexity and lower standards. Eighteen months on the scheme seems to have disappeared without a trace.

The act remains unchanged — the details of the government's proposals still shrouded in mystery. There has been no improvement in certainty for the community. There has been no move towards efficiency or reasonable expectation and there has been no genuine discussion with any of the so-called stakeholders. None of the promised reforms has been discussed, let alone legislated for.

Every day we hear of yet another case where the system has failed, where community expectations are thwarted and Victoria's livability is eroded further. This morning's report of a co-located gambling and child-care facility is just the latest excess.

The urban character of our towns and suburbs is being destroyed through overdevelopment and under-servicing — under-servicing in road construction, under-servicing in public transport, and under-servicing in essential services like health, education and police.

The system has totally failed, but all the while the planning juggernaut, Minister Madden, stumbles from one disaster to the next neither knowing nor caring about the very real and long-term damage that he leaves in his wake.