

Council Meeting

28 September 2026

Notice of Motion No. 198

Impacts of Recent State Government Planning Scheme Amendments

I hereby give notice that it is my intention to move the following motion at the Council Meeting on 28 September 2026:

That Council resolve to:

1. Note that since 1 September 2026 the Victorian Government has notified Knox of 10 Victorian Council Planning Scheme amendments without prior consultation with Council or the Knox community, including:
 - VC319 which expands the number of dwellings eligible for the VicSmart assessment pathway from two to a maximum of four dwellings in all residential zones except the Low Density Residential Zone; and
 - VC314 which changes the definition of ‘garden area’ to remove the requirement for garden areas to have a minimum dimension of one metre and allows uncovered driveways and uncovered areas set aside for car parking to be counted as a garden area.
2. Note the Minister for Planning can gazette each of the amendments within 30 days after the notification date, providing little time for Council to review and implement the amendments including changes to systems and processes that may be required.
3. Note the significant implications of the amendments to Council and the Knox community including:
 - The broad scale impact of the changes on local amenity and liveability, with no consultation;
 - The removal of third-party notice and appeal rights in planning applications of up to 4 dwellings on a lot, further eroding the community’s ability to have their say on applications that meet the Townhouse and Low-Rise Code clause 55 criteria;
 - An expedited decision-making process for councils as a result of the proposed expansion of the VicSmart ‘fast-track’ assessment pathway and the consequential significant impact to Council’s administrative and financial resourcing; and
 - A continued loss in Council’s ability to ensure the planning scheme appropriately takes local context into account.
4. Write to the Victorian Premier, Minister for Planning, Shadow Minister for Planning and local State Members:

- Expressing concern with the significant volume of reform that has been notified to Council since 1 September 2026;
- Highlighting the lack of consultation with Council and the community;
- Raising the specific concerns noted in points 2 and 3 above; and
- Seeking a response regarding these matters and the impact on the liveability of Knox residents.

Cr Paige Kennett
Chandler Ward