

Your Invitation

To CROWAG individual members and members of affiliated groups.

A seminar on a subject close to your heart

The BIG QUESTIONS: Protecting Democracy and Public Amenity



When – Wednesday 15th February, 7.30 pm – 9.00 pm

Where - Blackburn Lake Visitor Centre. Central Road Blackburn.

Presenters –The Hon. Kelvin Thomson, Convenor **Planning Democracy**, previous Councillor (Coburg 1981-1988), State Member of Parliament (Pascoe Vale, 1988-1996) and Federal Member of Parliament (Wills 1996- 2016)

Background - Changes in state planning regulations are progressively disenfranchising residents and local communities. City of Whitehorse is not immune from these changes and residents see the impacts with large footprint infill development and loss of tree canopy. CROWAG's formation is a reaction to the loss of voice felt in the community.

Kelvin Thomson will help answer some of the big questions. As convenor of Planning Democracy, a network of resident action groups, standing for Heritage Protection, protecting Tree Canopy Cover, protecting Public Open Space, and giving residents a say in planning issues.

1. What is *Citizen Activism* and what is its role in a democracy?
2. How does *Planning Democracy* help advance democracy?
3. What is compromising the recovery of canopy trees in Victoria, and driving the growth and development juggernaut? Why do Councils fall into line with this?
4. What are the limitations on Council on matters such as:
 - Commenting on, or siding with particular points of view, supporting openness, transparency, debate, and the interest of residents,
 - 20 penalty point fine for illegal tree removal – 1 penalty point = \$184.92.
 - The extent of legal '*powers of delegation*' from Councillors to Council Planning officers and Compliance Officers.
 - The requirement that there are at least 12 objections to a development before an application goes to a Council meeting
 - The "report and consent" provisions of the Building Regulations? And how are they leading to tree loss? Cost to CW of the administration, compliance, enforcement and prosecution of the Tree Protection Laws in Whitehorse?

Covid Protocols - Normal COVID protocols will apply, requiring the wearing of masks unless speaking. Seating will be well separated as practicable. Seating is limited to 38.

RSVP – attendance is allocated on a 'first in' basis. Bookings are essential.

Please email crowaginc@gmail.com or call CROWAG Secretary, David Morrison on 0400 085 549 to confirm attendance.