

24 July 2023

Frankston's 2023 Citizen of the Year Warwick Exton continues to advocate from his sick bed for better building height controls for Frankston City.

The veteran conservationist and pioneer of Sweetwater Creek's rehabilitation fronted the Channel 9 TV cameras in April this year to argue against proposed 14- and 16-storey developments on Nepean Highway.

Following months of protests by Frankston residents and inaction by Frankston City Council, which supports multi-storey development on the beachside of Nepean Highway, the Minister for Planning Sonya Kilkeny in early July intervened in the conflict on the side of residents when she placed a maximum height of three storeys in the zone between Beach and Wells streets. Her interim order will remain in place until 27 October 2023.

Now in palliative care and close to death, Warwick Exton, who turned 100 earlier this year, today issued a short statement from his sick bed about what must come next: "I ask the Victorian Minister for Planning Sonya Kilkeny to make permanent her interim order. I would also ask that a building height restriction of three storeys apply to all new building on the beachside of Nepean Highway. If Frankston is to gain its rightful place as the capital of the Mornington Peninsula, we must stop a 'Great Wall' of buildings separating our city from its greatest asset — the beach."

Chairman of Frankston's Kananook Creek Association, Robert Thurley, said that politicians ignore Warwick Exton at their peril. "Creating Frankston to be the lifestyle capital of Victoria is not happening by itself — it was led by pioneers like Warwick and the

network of volunteers helping to maintain Frankston's 32 natural reserves. Thousands of Frankston people now understand that this lasting legacy needs to be fiercely protected.

“Warwick has fought for the preservation of Frankston's natural environment for more than 30 years and has gained a reservoir of planning experience during that time. He has seen Frankston grow from a fishing village to the city you see today. He is speaking out in desperation, because he is truly worried about the future of Frankston if Frankston City Council's proposed height levels are approved by the Victorian planning minister.

“Fortunately, state planning controls are designed for the people of Victoria to protect valuable waterways and coastlines from the built environment. Our association praises planning minister Kilkenny for her courage and principles so far in standing up for these laws for the people of Victoria. May her resolve continue.”

For further information please contact Christine Richards mob: 0412 120 400 or Robert Thurley mob: 0414 446 749