

Macedon Ranges Protection

New legislation and planning consultation



The Victorian Government is committed to protecting and enhancing the state significant values in the Macedon Ranges region.

This region is of state significance due to its strong cultural heritage values, unique character, and production of some of the best food and wine in Victoria. The region also has strong landscape and environmental features, water supply resources and iconic tourist destinations such as Hanging Rock and the Macedon Ranges.

The Minister for Planning appointed an advisory committee in November 2015 to provide advice on policy and legislative changes to improve protection for the region. In February 2017, the Minister accepted all 12 of the committee's recommendations, which include new legislation and a localised planning statement to outline how the region will be safe guarded for current and future generations.

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning is working in partnership with the Macedon Ranges Shire Council and the Victorian Planning Authority to implement the recommendations. The partnership is working closely with the Traditional Owner groups of the Dja Dja Wurrung, Taungurung and the Wurundjeri peoples to recognise Aboriginal cultural heritage values.

For more information on how we're delivering protection for the Macedon Ranges, visit planning.vic.gov.au/macedon-ranges-protection

planning.vic.gov.au/macedon-ranges-protection



Environment,
Land, Water
and Planning



New legislation

In December 2017, the Victorian Government introduced new legislation into Parliament to ensure the state's most valuable regions are protected.

The Planning and Environment Amendment (Distinctive Areas and Landscapes) Bill 2017 will provide the highest level of planning protection to the Macedon Ranges region and enable the same level of protection to be applied to other state significant distinctive areas and landscapes.

The legislation, together with the localised planning statement that is being developed for the Macedon Ranges, will secure the long-term sustainability of

townships in the region by designating long-term settlement boundaries. These will ensure growth does not encroach into valued natural and rural landscapes. The legislation will require any change to these boundaries to be ratified by Parliament.

The introduction of the bill is a key milestone in the Victorian Government's commitment to deliver protection for the Macedon Ranges, and is also the first step towards implementing the *Plan Melbourne 2017–2050* commitment to strengthen planning protection for our distinctive landscapes and valued non-urban areas.

Localised planning statement

A draft localised planning statement for the Macedon Ranges has been prepared in partnership with the Macedon Ranges Shire Council, Victorian Planning Authority, and the Traditional Owner groups of the Dja Dja Wurrung, Taungurung and the Wurundjeri peoples.

It has been informed by results from the extensive community consultation that has been previously undertaken by Macedon Ranges Shire Council and the advisory committee on strategic policy for the shire and structure planning for townships.

Views from local residents and businesses and the wider Victorian community are being sought before the policy is finalised and incorporated into the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme.

The draft localised planning statement outlines a balanced approach for ensuring that future development does not detract from the state significant values that make the Macedon Ranges special.

It includes three key components that the government is seeking feedback on:

- A long-term vision for the region
- Planning policy for protecting the region's significant features, based around nine themes
- Settlement boundaries to confine urban development in the townships with the most growth expected: Gisborne, Kyneton, Romsey, Woodend, Riddells Creek and Lancefield.

Vision

The draft statement includes a draft long-term vision for the region that will be refined through community consultation.

The Macedon Ranges policy area is one of Victoria's greatest natural and cultural assets, characterised by iconic landscapes and prosperous rural settlements.

At its core, the draft vision is for a region where:

- Native flora and fauna flourish
- Water assets are carefully managed
- Communities are resilient to natural hazards and climate change
- Cultural heritage and Traditional Owners are acknowledged and celebrated
- New developments are sustainable and liveable
- Agriculture and tourism play an important role in the economy
- Communities have access to well-managed parks and a range of recreational activities.

Planning policy and objectives

The draft statement includes strategies outlining what significant features in the region will be protected and enhanced, and how. The strategies are grouped into nine themes.



Landscape and environmental features

Conserve and enhance state significant environmental and landscape features, such as Indigenous vegetation.



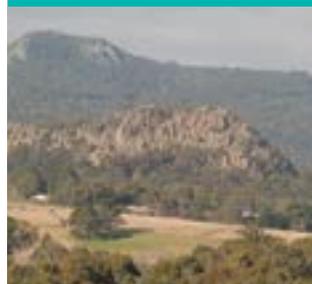
Biodiversity

Conserve and enhance biodiversity and ecological values, including through careful planning and environmental management.



Water catchments and supply

Conserve and use water catchments in a way that ensures healthy local, regional and state water supplies.



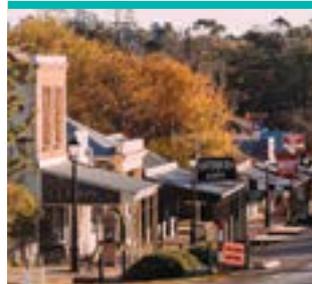
Aboriginal cultural heritage

Recognise, conserve and enhance Aboriginal cultural and spiritual values.



European cultural heritage

Recognise, conserve and enhance European cultural heritage.



Settlements

Plan and manage the sustainable, long-term growth of settlements.



Agricultural and rural land

Support and encourage agricultural land uses that contribute to a strong economy.



Tourism and recreation

Support a strong and resilient visitor economy, and a range of recreational activities.



Transport and infrastructure

Manage infrastructure provision to support the needs of the community and increase resilience to climate change.





Settlement boundaries

The draft localised planning statement proposes to put long-term settlement boundaries in place for the townships of Gisborne, Kyneton, Romsey, Riddells Creek, Lancefield and Woodend. These are informed by the structure planning work and community consultation that has been undertaken by the Macedon Ranges Shire Council.

A settlement boundary is a long-term boundary designed to contain potential future township growth.

These will be subject to the same strong protections in place for Melbourne's permanent Urban Growth Boundary, requiring parliamentary approval to amend them. Implementing these boundaries will safeguard valuable landscapes on the outskirts of the towns, and protect them from overdevelopment and encroachment.

Visit planning.vic.gov.au/macedon-ranges-protection to view the proposed settlement boundary for each township.

Have your say

Community consultation on the draft localised planning statement is open until **19 February, 2018**.

To review the draft statement, find out about community information sessions, and to have your say, visit planning.vic.gov.au/macedon-ranges-protection

© The State of Victoria Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning 2017

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International licence. You are free to re-use the work under that licence, on the condition that you credit the State of Victoria as author. The licence does not apply to any images, photographs or branding, including the Victorian Coat of Arms, the Victorian Government logo and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) logo. To view a copy of this licence, visit creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/

ISBN 978-1-76047-921-3 (pdf/online)

Disclaimer

This publication may be of assistance to you but the State of Victoria and its employees do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.

Accessibility

If you would like to receive this publication in an alternative format, please telephone the DELWP Customer Service Centre on 136 186, or email customer.service@delwp.vic.gov.au, or via the National Relay Service on 133 677, www.relayservice.com.au

planning.vic.gov.au/macedon-ranges-protection