

Recognising our special region

New planning statement

Council has developed a draft planning statement that will recognise the Macedon Ranges as an area of special significance in state-level planning policy.

Localised Planning Statements are new policies for areas close to Melbourne that hold special landscape significance. They will guide future planning decisions to best protect the unique features of these areas.

The draft statement has been informed by recent community consultation including a survey, written submissions and a workshop.

The consultation activities explored how members of the community value and use the recreational and environmental areas of the Macedon Ranges.

To view the draft statement and details on the consultation process, drop into a Council service centre or visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/planning-statement

You can make a submission on the draft for one month from early July via mrsc@mrsc.vic.gov.au or in writing to the Director Planning and Environment, Macedon Ranges Shire Council, PO Box 151, Kyneton VIC 3444.

The draft statement will be considered at the September Council meeting, before being provided to the Victorian Government for inclusion in the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme.



Scan to view the draft statement.

Rural living review

In response to community interest, Council is reviewing the rural living zoned land in the shire.

Rural land makes up approximately 90% of the shire, and almost 10% of this is zoned Rural Living under the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme.

Over the next few months, Council will prepare a background report on land in the Rural Living Zone including data on supply and demand trends, constraints and key issues.

A strategic policy direction for Rural Living zoned land in the shire will be guided by this data. This review will not allow landowners to request that their land be rezoned. We will consult with property owners in rural living areas and the wider community as part of the study later in the year.

For more information, contact the Strategic Planning unit on 5421 9684 or email strategicplanning@mrsc.vic.gov.au



Settlement Strategy Amendment C84 adopted

At the May Council meeting, Council approved Amendment C84, which will now place the region's Settlement Strategy into the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme. This document directs future urban growth and development in the shire to 2036, and provides a vision for how we will manage the populations of our towns into the future.

The Settlement Strategy was subject to a two-stage independent panel hearing process, where the community had the opportunity to provide their views on the document. The panel issued their final report in April this year, which was considered at the May Council meeting.

All of the panel's recommendations and revised wording were adopted by Council. In the panel's report, there were recommendations to include directions in the document around rural land use. Council's Rural Living Strategy will be completed later this year.

The panel also made recommendations around managing settlement and population issues in Woodend, Riddells Creek and Mt Macedon.

This project is the result of considerable work undertaken by Council with significant input from the community. It is a major achievement to have such a strategic document adopted by Council to be included in the Planning Scheme.