

MEDIA RELEASE

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**Mayor Presents Facts Relating to
Protection of Macedon Ranges**

Macedon Ranges Shire Council's Mayor, Cr Noel Harvey has totally rejected claims by Shadow Planning Minister, Matthew Guy that the removal of Statement of Planning Policy No. 8 would force urbanisation onto the Macedon Ranges Shire.

Describing Mr Guy's claims as absolutely outrageous, Cr Harvey said, "Mr Guy is suggesting we should retain a planning policy that is 30 years old and is no longer strong enough to protect the sensitive environment that the council is committed to protecting."

"The fact is that the important elements of Statement of Planning Policy No. 8 have been enshrined in our planning scheme, particularly through the Local Planning Policy Framework which underpins the local content of our planning scheme," Cr Harvey said.

"Implementation of the new rural zones – including the rural conservation zone and the farming zone, and our strategic planning program over recent years has strengthened the protection of our natural environment. Our strategic planning program has included the development and implementation of environmental significance overlays, vegetation protection overlays, significant landscape overlays, and the wildfire management overlay, and this work is ongoing," Cr Harvey said.

"Mr Guy has not made any attempt to contact the council to discuss his concerns. Macedon Ranges Shire Council is very mindful of what makes this the most livable rural municipality in the nation, and we will be inviting Mr Guy to come and see for himself the considerable strategic work that has been done," Cr Harvey said.

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