

**ORDERS IN COUNCIL****Planning and Environment Act 1987****DECLARATION OF MACEDON RANGES AS A DISTINCTIVE AREA AND LANDSCAPE**

## Order in Council

The Governor in Council, under section 46AO(1) of the **Planning and Environment Act 1987**, on the recommendation of the Minister, makes the following Order:

**1. Preamble**

In accordance with section 46AO(2)(d), the following statement sets out the significance of the area to the people of Victoria:

- (a) The Macedon Ranges has landscapes of outstanding natural beauty and environmental, economic and cultural heritage values of state and national significance.
- (b) Its diverse natural environment and impressive landforms, combined with visible layers of settlement history, underscore its special significance to the people of Victoria and its important role in our social, cultural and economic development.
- (c) Hanging Rock, Mt Macedon, Camels Hump, the Jim Jim and Brock Monument are rocky outcrops of special scientific and educational value, all of which help us understand Victoria's geological history.
- (d) The conservation areas of the declared area, including the Macedon Regional Park, Wombat State Forest, Lerderderg State Park and Cobaw State Forest, contain rare concentrations of biodiversity including endangered plant and animal species.
- (e) Strategic water resources flow from the many mountainous and forested areas of the declared area. These form impressive riparian landscapes and biodiversity corridors, and they also provide drinking water for regional and metropolitan use.
- (f) Across the landscape, a wealth of archaeological findings combine with intangible expressions of culture to indicate the importance of the area across generations of Aboriginal use and occupation. Hanging Rock and other landscape features are sacred and important to Traditional Owner communities. Mt William (Willam-i-murring) is one of the most significant Aboriginal quarrying sites in Australia, and it evidences a history of trade and interaction between peoples.
- (g) The Macedon Range's 19th century built heritage includes public buildings, private homes and businesses and formal gardens. The public infrastructure legacy includes the major transport corridor to Victoria's goldfields and the railway linking Melbourne to Bendigo, which continues inland to the Murray River. The area has some of the earliest pastoral settlements and farm complexes in Victoria, and its townships reflect the importance of transport, agriculture and forestry to Victoria's early social and economic development.

**2. Declaration**

In accordance with section 46AO, the Macedon Ranges is declared as a distinctive area and landscape.

**3. Description of area**

In accordance with section 46AO(2)(a), the Macedon Ranges area declared as a distinctive area and landscape is described in the plan numbered **LEGL./18-311** lodged in the Central Plan Office.

**4. Attributes and distinctive features of the declared area**

In accordance with section 46AO(2)(b), Table 1 provides the attributes described in section 46AP(1) that qualify the Macedon Ranges as an area to be declared as a distinctive area and landscape.

**Table 1. Attributes qualifying declared area as a distinctive area and landscape**

Item	Attribute	Distinctive Features
1.	<b>Environmental significance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Diversity and marked changes of vegetation with dry forests and woodlands merging into damp forests.</li> <li>(b) Areas of biodiversity significance including Macedon Regional Park, Wombat State Forest, Cobaw State Forest, Lerderberg State Park, Black Hill Reserve Conglomerate Gully Flora Reserve, Mt Charlie Flora Reserve, T Hill Reserve, Mt Teneriffe Reserve.</li> </ul>
2.	<b>Geographical features and landform</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Western Volcanic Plain landscape scattered with evidence of lava flows, volcanic cones.</li> <li>(b) Granitic intrusions forming steeply sloping peaks and ridges.</li> <li>(c) Mt Macedon, Hanging Rock and Camels Hump are prominent and distinctive focal and visual elements.</li> <li>(d) Brock Monument and Jim Jim are rare and dramatic examples of a volcanic maelon.</li> </ul>
3.	<b>Heritage and Cultural</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Significant window to the history of European settlement in Victoria.</li> <li>(b) High number of listings on the Victorian Heritage Register.</li> <li>(c) Kyneton and Malmsbury contain outstanding examples of Victorian era architecture.</li> <li>(a) Rich in Aboriginal spiritual and cultural heritage with local communities having lived for at least 26,000 years.</li> <li>(b) Indications of indigenous occupation (scattered trees, rock scatters, shell middens).</li> <li>(c) Hanging Rock an important inter-tribal ceremonial meeting place.</li> <li>(d) Mount William Stone Hatchet Quarry with unassailable cultural and spiritual connection to ancestors (National Heritage List).</li> </ul>
4.	<b>Natural Resources or Productive Land</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) High quality soils between Lancefield, Heskett and Romsey.</li> <li>(b) An early source of agriculture and timber products for Melbourne; some plantation forestry remains.</li> <li>(c) Identified Extractive Industry Interest Areas (EIIAs).</li> </ul>
5.	<b>Strategic Infrastructure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Major water catchment storages (Upper Coliban, Lauriston Reservoir, Malmsbury Reservoir) contributing to regional and metropolitan supply.</li> <li>(b) Calder Freeway and the Melbourne–Bendigo rail line form part of a state significant transport corridor.</li> <li>(c) Hanging Rock Reserve and Macedon Regional Park are state significant tourism asset.</li> </ul>

**5. Threats of significant land use change of the declared area**

In accordance with section 46AO(2)(c), the list below identifies the threats of significant or irreversible land use change, as described in section 46AP(2), that would affect the environmental, social or economic values of the declared area.

- (a) Threats to areas of significant biodiversity from weeds and pests, climate change, natural hazards such as bushfire, and urban development.
- (b) Threats to natural landscapes and landforms from intensity of land use and urban development.
- (c) Threats to preservation of heritage and cultural attributes from the cumulative impact of development and land use practice and increased tourism activity and recreation.
- (d) Threats to natural resources, water catchments and productive land from land use conflicts (including intensity of uses) between conservation, catchment management, agricultural use, residential use and recreation activities; cumulative impacts of development; and natural hazards, including bushfire and flooding.
- (e) Threats to future effectiveness of strategic infrastructure from climate change impacts and expanded tourism activity.

Dated 14 August 2018

Responsible Minister:

THE HON RICHARD WYNNE MP

Minister for Planning

ANDREW ROBINSON  
Clerk of the Executive Council

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