

# Media Release

**The Hon Richard Wynne MP**  
Minister for Planning



Thursday, November 19, 2015

## Planning for Macedon Ranges' long-term protection

Minister for Planning Richard Wynne has announced an expert committee will provide advice on the best way to protect the Macedon Ranges from inappropriate development and preserve the area's heritage and environment.

Mr Wynne told a packed community forum on Wednesday the Andrews Labor Government was delivering a promise to protect the Macedon Ranges against inappropriate development, drawing applause from the 120-strong audience.

Mr Wynne and Member for Macedon Mary-Anne Thomas talked through concerns about development, heritage and environmental protection with residents from across the Macedon Ranges, which was first step in a broad consultation process.

Mr Wynne said Macedon Ranges was a collection of rural and semi-rural townships which were changing as Victoria's population rises, because another 100,000 residents are coming to the state year-on-year.

The area contributes to Victoria's economy through tourism, thanks to wineries, food, shopping, health retreats, bushwalking and the famed Hanging Rock.

Mr Wynne said a balance needed to be struck between growing townships and the need to protect the area's prized character and environmental assets.

An independent committee will provide advice to the minister to guide new planning legislation, giving residents, businesses, councils and community groups opportunities to raise concerns and feedback.

Consultation sessions will be held locally and will aim to capture views from across the community- the local businesses, the many commuters, families and farmers.

Ms Thomas said she was pleased to be getting on with the government's election commitment to protect the region, protecting the towns and landscape through updated planning controls.

### **Quotes attributable to Minister for Planning Richard Wynne**

*"We need to make sure planning controls stay up-to-date with how Victoria is changing, and we also need planning controls to reflect each region's individual needs."*

*"We are delivering our promise to provide protection for the Macedon Ranges through independent expert guidance which will include the community voice"*

### **Quotes attributable to Member for Macedon Mary Anne-Thomas**

*"We are acting now to protect the Macedon Ranges because its attractiveness, accessibility and proximity to metropolitan Melbourne means that it is increasingly coming under pressure from growth and change."*

*"I want to reassure our community we will work with them to protect what we love about the region while supporting growth and jobs."*