



# Media release



**The Hon Matthew Guy MLC**

Minister for Planning

Wednesday 16 March 2011

## **New peri-urban planning unit**

A new unit based within the Department of Planning and Community Development has been established for peri-urban councils, to further strengthen the partnership with the State Government, Planning Minister Matthew Guy said.

“The peri-urban and hinterland areas of Melbourne and regional Victoria are critical to the prosperity of the city and our state as a whole,” Mr Guy said.

“The unit will focus on population management, strategic planning and long-term structure planning of towns and future communities, and its establishment fulfils a key election promise made by the Victorian Coalition.”

Water, food and many other natural resources are derived from peri-urban areas surrounding Melbourne and support some of our most significant conservation and tourism areas, as well as a large range of diverse settlements.

Mr Guy said the Peri-Urban Unit will be the first port of call for councils needing assistance in strategic planning and transport integration and rural, coastal, green wedge and interface issues.

“I recently met with the Peri-Urban Group of Regional Councils who welcomed this initiative as an important step towards improving our approach to population and planning issues, and preparation for fire and flood.

“The quality of urban environments and township character are issues of particular concern to peri-urban councils, and the unit will work with councils to address them,” Mr Guy said.

Developing localised statements of planning policy for areas including the Yarra Valley, the Macedon Ranges, and the Bellarine and Mornington Peninsulas will also be a priority for the Peri-Urban Unit.

**Media: Emily Broadbent 0400 390 008**