



Media release

The Hon Matthew Guy MLC
Minister for Planning

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Enhancing Victoria's places of regional significance

The Victorian Coalition Government is delivering on a commitment to establish *Localised Planning Statements* for key areas, ensuring their valued attributes remain significant for decades to come.

Planning Minister Matthew Guy said the key areas of the Mornington Peninsula, the Yarra Valley, Macedon Ranges and the Bellarine Peninsula are distinctive in their own right.

"These areas have significant geographic and physical features which contribute to the quality of life for all Melburnians and Victorians," Mr Guy said.

"The Yarra Valley alone plays a key role as a tourist destination, leading wine region and enjoys a reputation as a provider of sustainable and high-quality produce.

"On Melbourne's doorstep, the Mornington and Bellarine Peninsulas boast strong economies based on their coastal resort towns, tourist development and rural lifestyle.

"Further inland the Macedon Ranges Shire is characterised by its unique landscapes which attract thousands of visitors each year as well as world class agribusiness exporting a range of local produce from bees to beef and grapes to grains.

"We have to acknowledge their distinctiveness and treat them differently when it comes to their proximity to, and relationship with, metropolitan Melbourne and neighbouring regions.

"The new planning statements will feature strategies to ensure that these locations are preserved and enhanced for use by present and future generations as unique local areas," Mr Guy said.

Each council will receive funding of \$25,000 to assist in the formal community engagement and consultation process so that all voices are heard and local priorities are identified.

The *Metropolitan Planning Strategy* and *Regional Growth Plans*, currently being developed, will help determine the final *Localised Planning Statements* to ensure there is continuity and consistency in Victoria's approach to strategic planning.

The *Localised Planning Statements* are expected to be finalised by December 2013.

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