

MEDIA RELEASE

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STATE PROTECTION FOR MACEDON RANGES – AT LAST!

For 10 years, Macedon Ranges Residents' Association Inc [MRRA] has campaigned for changes to State planning policy to protect Macedon Ranges as an area of high environmental sensitivity. This included looking for political support for these changes to be made.

The Liberal / National Coalition went to the recent State election with a policy to elevate *Statement of Planning Policy No. 8 – Macedon Ranges and Surrounds* [SPP8] to State planning policy.

And with the change of government in Victoria, a new era has begun in Macedon Ranges – it will now get State level protection.

Since the election, new Planning Minister, Matthew Guy, has reaffirmed in writing to MRRA that the Baillieu government will deliver for Macedon Ranges.

MRRA Secretary, Christine Pruneau, said: *"This is fantastic, and a totally brilliant outcome for Macedon Ranges. This means Statement of Planning Policy No. 8 – which says protecting catchments, landscapes, the natural environment and the rural character of towns comes first in planning decisions – will once again become State planning policy for this area."*

"It was the Hamer government that first gave this place State level protection and now, at last, we are getting it back."

"MRRA sincerely thanks the Liberal / National parties not only for their commitment, but the strength and persistence of it. They have consistently supported protection for Macedon Ranges over all the years we spent fighting for it from the previous State government."

"Now we have something that really will help "Keep Macedon Ranges Rural", because that's what Statement of Planning Policy No. 8 as State policy does – it gives this place a rural, not a suburban, future."

"Our Association and local residents have worked so hard for so long for this, and I just want to say an enormous 'thank you' to people from all over who have helped and supported this campaign. Take a bow - you helped make a difference."

Christine Pruneau
Secretary,