

MEDIA RELEASE



Member for Northern Victoria Region

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Planning Protection for the Macedon Ranges

The Napthine Government is committed to delivering planning protection to the Macedon Ranges consistent with Statement of Planning Policy No. 8 (SPP8) – Macedon Ranges and Surrounds.

When elected in 2010, the Coalition State Government committed to planning protection for four shires – Mornington Peninsula, the Yarra Valley, the Bellarine Peninsula and Macedon Ranges - with each local government charged with undertaking a consultative process resulting in three Localised Planning Statements (LPS) reflective of the unique character of each region.

The Macedon Ranges Shire Council conducted a process to draft its new LPS which was adopted by Council on 24 September 2014. The adopted LPS has attracted significant opposition from local resident groups and locals in the Macedon Ranges. The primary concern is that the LPS has failed to adequately reflect Statement of Planning Policy No. 8 (SPP8) – Macedon Ranges and Surrounds approved by the Victorian Government in 1975.

The Localised Planning Statement was meant to put SPP8 in to state level protection; but update it so it referred to current planning schemes, not those of the 1970s. The LPS drafted by Macedon Ranges Shire Council has failed to deliver this.

Given the length of time taken by Macedon Ranges Shire Council to conduct this process to date, a re-elected Napthine Government will take over this process and will work with both Macedon Ranges Shire Council and locals to ensure that the Localised Planning Statement for Macedon Ranges puts SPP8 in to state level protection - providing strong planning protection which encompasses the whole of the Macedon Ranges.