

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Hanginɡ Rock

Mrs MILLAR (Northern Victoria) — It gives me great pleasure to direct this question to the Minister for Planning, the Honourable Matthew Guy. Can the minister inform the house what action the government has taken to bring greater certainty to Victoria's iconic and treasured Hanginɡ Rock precinct?

Hon. M. J. GUY (Minister for Planning) — It gives me great pleasure to answer this question from a great local member. I want to thank Mrs Millar for — —

Mr Jennings interjected.

Hon. M. J. GUY — Can I say to Mr Jennings through you, President, that it probably is about the seventh time that Mrs Millar has raised this issue in Parliament. I hope she has. As a result of her raising this issue over and over again and standing up for the people of the Woodend and Hanginɡ Rock precinct, she has seen a great result for the local community and the Hanginɡ Rock Action Group, because it is my absolute pleasure to inform the chamber — —

Mr Lenders interjected.

Hon. M. J. GUY — Mr Lenders, there is an old Bulgarian saying: for every train there is a passenger. In this instance there are 50 or so passengers from the Australian Labor Party sitting on that train as it rumbles along being driven by the coalition to good policy outcomes, sensible community outcomes and in this case to save Hanginɡ Rock. It has taken a coalition government to step in and recognise the importance of Hanginɡ Rock, the precedent that this announcement brings and the extensive work done by Mrs Millar, Donna Petrovich and the Hanginɡ Rock Action Group, who came on board. I do not know what train Candy Broad or Ms Darveniza were on; obviously it was running on a different line. But as I said, every train has got a passenger. The people driving this train were the Liberals and The Nationals in that area who stood up for the community with the community group.

The Hanginɡ Rock Action Group and those associated with it have done a magnificent job in working with Mrs Petrovich and Mrs Millar to ensure that the Hanginɡ Rock precinct will be saved from any form of inappropriate development and any form of commercial development.

This government, myself and the Minister for Environment and Climate Change, Ryan Smith — —

Mr Lenders — It took a while to bring him in.

Hon. M. J. GUY — It certainly did not, Mr Lenders. I enjoy Mr Lenders's interjections on this; they are quite comical to hear. I am just wondering what the Labor Party's announcement was. There was quite an awkward visit to a car park somewhere in Woodend, I think it was, by the opposition planning spokesman. Mr Tee might have wanted to go to Hanginɡ Rock if he was going to talk about Hanginɡ Rock — it is only 2 kilometres down the road.

Members of the Liberal Party and The National went there, and I climbed the rock with Mrs Millar and members of the local community.

We have come forward with \$1 million over four years to ensure that there is no commercial development at Hanginɡ Rock. It has taken a coalition government to intervene and say to the council, 'We will work constructively with you, but our guidelines are clear: no commercial development at Hanginɡ Rock.' We will preserve Hanginɡ Rock as it is now for future generations, and we will make sure this magnificent precinct remains as it is. If others want to be drawn there on their horse and carriage from Trades Hall — they are about as relevant as such — and get lost in the clouds at the top, that is up to them, but it has taken the coalition to intervene. We have done it with pride, we have done it for the right reasons and we have done it with the community, for the community and as part of the community. I congratulate Mrs Millar, Mrs Petrovich and the Hanginɡ Rock Action Group and say that this is how we are building a better Victoria.