

residents

SIR – I am very proud of (Friday's) historic announcement by the Minister for Planning Matthew Guy, in conjunction with the Minister for the Environment Ryan Smith, to protect Hanging Rock and to provide funding for the maintenance of the park's facilities.

Since entering Parliament in August 2013, no issue has loomed larger for me than the proposed development in the council-owned 'east paddock' of Hanging Rock.

I thank the hundreds of locals who have spoken to me about Hanging Rock – entrusting me with both their dreams and fears for this treasured place.

Hundreds of locals and some from far beyond have spoken to me – at listening posts, in my office, in cafes, at the general store, in the supermarket, and the local pub.

I pay tribute today to each and every one of the amazing people I have met on this journey, and to the more than 6000 locals who have signed the now never-to-be-tabled petition. Thank you. This is your day.

I have spoken about Hanging Rock in the Legislative Council on five occasions – and with the exception of Minister Matthew Guy in his adjournment to me – I have been the only Member of Parliament to have spoken about his in the House.

It is a true and great privilege to serve in the Parliament and to be able to echo the voices of this community in a way which has no equal.

I note the role Parliament has played in this outcome today – reflecting upon the relevance and significance of this great democratic institution.

This should not be forgotten – and while petitions, social media, and community meetings are all significant, so too is the institution of Parliament – distinctively raising and

recording our cares, hopes, and vision.

Res ispa loquiter, meaning 'the thing speaks for itself', is a phrase which I have frequently used in speaking about the Rock.

It is used in the context of something which is so self-evident that no further explanation or debate is needed.

It is indeed self-evident that Hanging Rock is something so precious and unique, not only to us locals – but to people right across Victoria and beyond.

I acknowledge, as I have throughout this process, the work of the Macedon Ranges Shire Council and of our local councillors.

This council constantly undertakes and support many outstanding projects and initiatives for our community and for local volunteer groups – many in conjunction with the State Government.

This includes the arts, community safety, and youth initiatives, regional business development and working with our local sporting clubs.

The Macedon Ranges Shire Council's agreement to accept this announcement today is welcomed.

Finally, I wish to thank my Liberal colleagues – an amazing, united, and effective team of which I am so very proud to be a part – including Matthew Guy, Ryan Smith, and my predecessor Donna Petrovich, a true local – for listening and delivering for the community in (Friday's) announcement.

Matthew, Donna and I stand proudly together today in celebrating this announcement – and I know many of our other colleagues – including Ryan Smith – share in this excitement.

Hanging Rock, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.

– Amanda Miller MP,

Member for Northern Victoria