



Media release

The Hon Matthew Guy MLC

Minister for Planning

Minister for Multicultural Affairs & Citizenship

Friday 16 May 2014

Hanging Rock saved from development

- **\$1 million from Victorian Coalition Government will fund ongoing maintenance at Hanging Rock**
- **Hanging Rock saved from commercial development**
- **Ongoing planning protection secured**

Hanging Rock will be saved from development, thanks to decisive action by the Victorian Coalition Government.

Funding of \$1 million will secure ongoing maintenance of the public facilities at the Rock over the next four years and protect the Eastern Paddock from commercial development.

Planning Minister Matthew Guy said the funding would be used to maintain recreational facilities and manage the costs of the site.

“This funding over the next four years will ensure the future of this vital community asset.

“More people will be able to enjoy the natural beauty of Hanging Rock with proper funding now guaranteed,” Mr Guy said.

In acknowledging the rescue package, Macedon Ranges Shire Council has agreed to work with the Victorian Government to develop alternatives to commercial development as a means of managing Hanging Rock.

“We received strong representations from local representatives, including Donna Petrovich and Amanda Millar,” Mr Guy said.

“Climbing Hanging Rock recently with Donna Petrovich, Amanda Millar MP, and the Hanging Rock Action Group enabled a clearer understanding of the issues around the proposed commercial development.”

Member for Northern Victoria Region Amanda Millar is thrilled with the announcement.

“This is the answer sought by locals and our community and will ensure the future of the Rock. I want to thank my colleagues including Minister Guy and Minister Smith for listening and for delivering today’s outcome,” Ms Millar said.

Liberal candidate for Macedon Donna Petrovich is equally happy.

“As the former Councillor for the Hanging Rock Ward with a long history of working for Hanging Rock, I’m thrilled by today’s announcement. It will protect the Rock and provide for the maintenance of the park’s existing facilities,” Ms Petrovich said.

The Coalition Government will also work with the council to strengthen planning protections for the Hanging Rock precinct, to ensure it is protected from inappropriate development in the long term. Planning changes will not affect current uses on the site, such as horse racing or concerts.

“Labor would remove planning protections from Hanging Rock, leaving Hanging Rock at the mercy of VCAT appeals,” Minister Guy said.

“Labor has already committed to allowing commercial wind farm developments up to 160 metres tall throughout the Macedon Ranges. Standard size wind towers would be taller than Hanging Rock itself, which is 105 metres above ground.”

The Hanging Rock Action Group has opposed commercial development plans for a hotel and conference centre, but has not opposed upgraded facilities for ongoing responsibly planned concerts at the site.

The funds of \$250,000 per year for the next four years will be administered by the Department of Environment and Primary Industries.

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