

Media Release

The Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP

Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
Minister for Suburban Development



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PROTECTING THE FUTURE OF HANGING ROCK

Hanging Rock and the East Paddock will be protected for local communities and the next generation of Victorians, under a re-elected Andrews Labor Government.

Under Labor, \$3 million will kickstart the implementation of the *Hanging Rock Strategic Plan*, a document developed in cooperation with the Macedon Ranges Shire Council and designed to protect this world-renowned landmark.

As part of the funding, the East Paddock site will be purchased and preserved by the Victorian Government, making sure the area and its superb views of Hanging Rock are protected into the future.

High priority actions outlined in the Strategic Plan will also be fast-tracked, including new environmental protections, greater recognition of the Rock's Aboriginal cultural significance and enhancing recreation opportunities for local families and visitors.

As part of this work, a re-elected Labor Government will also fund upgrades at the site, while supporting maintenance of existing facilities, including picnic areas and bathrooms.

Importantly, the improvement works will be undertaken in partnership with the Shire Council, Traditional Owners, local organisations and local communities.

Dating back more than six million years, Hanging Rock is considered a sacred place for local Aboriginal people, and has reached worldwide fame with Joan Lindsay's *Picnic at Hanging Rock*, and Peter Weir's film of the same name.

The Rock is also a central part of the Macedon Ranges' story, playing host to the biggest names in music, as well as the famous Hanging Rock picnic races which have been running since 1886.

While the Liberals want to force massive new growth onto our regional communities – including the Macedon Ranges – Labor will always understand the importance of protecting regional Victoria's precious open spaces.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change Lily D'Ambrosio

"Life is busy, and for many people Hanging Rock provides a place to connect with nature, unwind and slow down."

"With this investment from a re-elected Labor Government, we'll make sure we protect this precious place, now and for future generations."

Quotes attributable to Minister for Planning Richard Wynne

"Alongside the Macedon Ranges, which we have now declared a Distinctive Area with legislative protection, Hanging Rock is a sacred part of our state, and it deserves to be protected, preserved and cared for."

"The Liberals want to cram massive populations into our regional communities, but Labor will always understand why open spaces are so special to local families."

Quote attributable to Member for Macedon Mary-Anne Thomas

"Locals love Hanging Rock, and Labor does too. This funding will make sure this precious place gets the care and attention it deserves, and continues to be enjoyed by local families as it has for generations."

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