

# Hanging Rock Strategic Plan Update

## May 2020



**Welcome to the May 2020 edition of the Hanging Rock Strategic Plan (HRSP) Project Update. We have continued to progress the implementation of the plan with our key partner, Macedon Ranges Shire Council. The Shire runs the day to day operations at Hanging Rock while DELWP is coordinating the implementation of the HRSP including developing a master plan for the site.**

### East Paddock acquisition

The Victorian Government seeks to purchase the East Paddock, currently owned by Macedon Ranges Shire Council. By purchasing the East Paddock, it enables management and protection of the site as one whole precinct.

A report was tabled at a Special Macedon Ranges Shire Council meeting on Friday 1 May to update Councillors on the negotiations between the State Government and Council for the sale of the East Paddock.

### Ministerial Advisory Group

As part of endorsing the HRSP, the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change committed to appointing a Ministerial Advisory Group (MAG). The Group will be appointed until 30 June 2022 to coincide with the end of the implementing

The MAG will ensure the aspirations of the Wurundjeri, Taungurung, Dja Dja Wurrung and other community interests are considered in the decision making for the strategic management of Hanging Rock. It will also advise the Minister on key areas of implementation of the Hanging Rock Strategic Plan, including:

- governance and management arrangements for the precinct;
- development of new facilities at Hanging Rock Precinct including a visitor centre for education and interpretation, car parking and café.

An Independent Chair will be in place for 12 months to oversee the establishment of governance and management arrangements and guide the Group in providing recommendations to the Minister

The nine-member MAG will consist of the Chair, three Traditional Owner representatives and three community members plus the DELWP Loddon Mallee Regional Director, and the Macedon Shire Ranges Council CEO.

The Chair will be appointed by the Minister and each of the Traditional Owner Groups will be invited to nominate a representative. The remaining three community positions will be selected then appointed via an Expression of Interest process.

DELWP expects to be inviting expressions of interest for the MAG positions in the next few weeks.

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### Planning scheme amendment

A Planning Scheme Amendment will strengthen the significance of the Hanging Rock precinct by introducing new and expanding existing Significant Landscape Overlays (SLO) for the precinct and give greater recognition of the precinct in Planning Scheme.

This in turn will help protect the precinct and its landscape values into the future.

The amendment was proposed to be finalised for approval in May and gazetted by the end of June. However, due to current circumstances, the dates may need to be delayed. New timelines will be announced in the next update, if required.

### Environmental and Conservation Management plans

The existing Environmental Management Plan (EMP) is being reviewed and updated to add more information regarding environmental values and revise management zones across the precinct.

The updated EMP will inform the master plan by determining where environmental values need to be protected and guide how Hanging Rock is managed and developed over time.

Hanging Rock is located near the traditional boundary between three Aboriginal groups – the Wurundjeri, the Dja Dja Wurrung and the Taungurung. The site has important ongoing connections and cultural values to all three groups and there are important shared values and attachments to Country.

A Conservation Management Plan (CMP) is being developed to identify the natural and Aboriginal heritage values of the Hanging Rock precinct.

The CMP is needed to help determine a strategy of how best to protect and manage the cultural values at this significant site' and guide our conservation and management actions in the future.

Over the next 12 months, engagement and consultation with the Traditional Owners and community will be undertaken. The local knowledge gained from these activities is crucial to informing the plans.

Both draft plans will be available for public comment.

### Hanging Rock daily operations

While the Hanging Rock Strategic Plan Implementation project is happening, Macedon Ranges Shire Council will continue to manage the day-to-day maintenance and operations at Hanging Rock.

### Contact Us

**For questions about the project or want to sign up to receive this update, contact:**

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