

Media Release

The Hon Daniel Andrews MP
Premier



Friday, 7 October 2022

PROTECTING THE ICONIC BELLARINE PENINSULA

The Andrews Labor Government is delivering on its promise to protect Victoria's beautiful Bellarine Peninsula and its cherished environment from overdevelopment.

Premier Daniel Andrews and Member for Bellarine Lisa Neville today visited Ocean Grove Surf Life Saving Club to deliver the Labor Government's *Statement of Planning Policy* for the Bellarine Peninsula's 'distinctive area and landscape' (DAL) – setting out a 50-year vision for the region to guide development controls and boundaries.

The planning policy will create jobs and a strong local and regional economy, giving the community greater certainty and informing the building sector about future opportunities for housing, tourism and infrastructure investment.

The Bellarine Peninsula is one of Victoria's most prized tourism and recreation destinations with its stunning beaches, rural landscapes and historic towns including Queenscliff and Portarlington.

It also boasts parks, wetlands of biodiversity significance and productive agricultural land.

The draft policy locks in protected settlement boundaries for all townships, to ensure the Bellarine's agricultural areas, landscapes, environmental features, small villages and towns are protected from inappropriate development and direct future growth to strategic locations.

The Peninsula was declared a DAL in 2019, recognising that its beautiful coastal environment, unique green spaces, local producers, and lifestyle, were under pressure from urban overdevelopment.

The 2019 declaration triggered the need for a Statement of Planning Policy for the area, to ensure the landscapes, unique environmental and cultural values of the Bellarine are protected and enhanced for many decades to come.

The final draft policy was developed in collaboration with the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, the Borough of Queenscliff, the City of Greater Geelong following extensive consultation with community and industry. It was also referred to an independent advisory committee in January 2022.

To view the final draft Statement of Planning Policy for Bellarine visit, engage.vic.gov.au/project/distinctive-areas-and-landscapes-program/page/bellarine-peninsula.

Quote attributable to Premier Daniel Andrews

"We promised to protect our iconic Bellarine Peninsula – and that's exactly what we've done, boosting the local economy and making sure locals and tourists can enjoy this beautiful part of Victoria well into the future."

Quote attributable to Member for Bellarine Lisa Neville

"These reforms give confidence to local residents and businesses that what they love about their community, and surrounding environment, is valued and protected for future generations."