

Media Release

Steve Dimopoulos MP

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events
Minister for Creative Industries



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MORE VISITORS TO SOAK AND STAY AT MORNINGTON PENINSULA

The Andrews Labor Government is creating more reasons to discover the Mornington Peninsula, with upgrades to the iconic hot springs and improved access to wildlife parks.

Through a \$4.8 million investment from the Labor Government, improved accommodation experiences with upgrades to local wildlife parks will provide better access to the state's natural environment, drawing more visitors and creating more jobs.

Supported through the *Regional Tourism Investment Fund*, a \$3.3 million investment will deliver the first stage of the *Peninsula Hot Springs Masterplan* which includes three luxurious eco-lodges accommodating up to 20 people, three massage spa pods and a Spa Dream Relaxation Centre.

The investment also paves the way for future developments, with infrastructure to support the additional stages for the iconic tourism spot.

Stage one is expected to be complete in 2023 with visitation to the Springs expected to increase to 70,000 visitors each year.

The project is expected to create a total of 242 full-time construction jobs and 31 ongoing full-time positions.

The Labor Government is also investing \$1.5 million in Mount Martha wildlife sanctuary The Briars, which will deliver an additional 40 hectares of sanctuary with 2.5 kilometers of connecting pathways and boardwalks for visitors to explore.

The project is estimated to generate \$32.4 million to the local economy, with construction expected to be finished by 2023.

In 2019, the Mornington Peninsula proved to be a favorite Victorian holiday destination, welcoming 8.5 million visitors who spent \$1.4 billion and employed over 9,000 people.

The *Regional Tourism Investment Fund* is a Labor Government initiative that's helping entice more visitors to Victoria's regions, drive private investment and support the tourism sector.

Quotes attributable to Tourism, Sport and Major Events Steve Dimopoulos

"The Mornington Peninsula is already one of the most-loved areas for Victoria, with these upgrades and additions set to draw even more visitors to the region – supporting local jobs and businesses for years to come."

"Only the Labor Government is delivering for Victoria's tourism industry. We're backing the state's tourism providers to ensure they can keep doing what they do best, providing unique experiences and drawing thousands of visitors to the state."

Quotes attributable to Mornington Peninsula Shire Chief Executive Officer John Barker

"We would like to thank the government for their support in further helping our sanctuary reach greater heights. This investment will provide visitors such an incredible way to be up close and personal with our beautiful animals."

Media contact: Corey Croft 0468 897 764 | corey.croft@minstaff.vic.gov.au

Quotes attributable to Peninsula Hot Springs Chief Executive Officer Craig Mitchell

“We are grateful for the Victorian Government’s investment to further enhance our visitor experience. I can’t wait to show our guests the new upgrade in 2024.”