

Media Release

Ingrid Stitt MP

Minister for Early Childhood & Pre-Prep
Minister for Environment



Friday, 18 August 2023

ROCK SOLID FUTURE FOR HANGING ROCK

The Andrews Labor Government has purchased Hanging Rock's East Paddock and released a new masterplan to further protect the cultural significance of the cherished destination.

Minister for Environment Ingrid Stitt today announced the \$3 million investment will provide a clear pathway for the future management of the iconic Hanging Rock.

The newly acquired East Paddock will officially be integrated into the Hanging Rock Reserve – ensuring the precinct remains protected for years to come.

Events at the East Paddock will be carefully managed to limit impacts on nature and the surrounding environment.

Traditional Owners groups and the Macedon Ranges Shire Council were consulted extensively to develop the *Hanging Rock Precinct Master Plan* which outlines new actions on how to sustainably promote the regions cultural heritage.

The Plan also outlines future developments to protect the natural environment and improve the visitor experience, including a new revegetated 'Songline' walking trail and a visitor centre that will act as a hub for dining and education purposes.

The Labor Government will continue to work towards a joint management arrangement with Traditional Owners, Macedon Ranges Shire Council will continue to manage the day-to-day operations of Hanging Rock for at least another three years.

The *Hanging Rock Precinct Master Plan* and purchase of East Paddock are among the aims set out in the *50-year Hanging Rock Strategic Plan* approved by the Victorian Government and Macedon Ranges Shire Council in 2018.

To learn more about the Hanging Rock Project and Master Plan visit forestsandreserves.vic.gov.au/initiatives/hanging-rock-project.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Environment Ingrid Stitt

"This Master Plan and the purchase of East Paddock moves us closer to achieving long-term protection for Hanging Rock."

"We are getting on with implementing the 50-year Hanging Rock Strategic Plan to ensure the development and management of Hanging Rock remains sustainable for years to come."

Quote attributable to Member for Macedon Mary-Anne Thomas

"I thank everyone for their hard work creating the Hanging Rock Master Plan, so that this special place continues to be protected."