Media Release

The Hon Gayle Tierney MP Minister for Skills and TAFE Minister for Water Acting Minister for Environment Acting Minister for Agriculture



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KEEPING MINERAL SPRINGS FLOWING IN VICTORIA

The Allan Labor Government is putting Victoria's naturally occurring mineral springs on the map with a new plan to attract more visitors to enjoy the benefits the mineral springs offer and support local communities with tourism.

Acting Minister for Environment Gayle Tierney today announced the Mineral Springs Master Plan (2025–2032) for long term planning and management of Victoria's mineral springs.

A mineral spring is a naturally occurring spring where the water contains a high concentration of dissolved minerals. Most of Australia's mineral springs are in Victoria, predominantly in the Central Highlands.

The plan has four objectives, to attract more visitors, improve accessibility and experience, maintain water quality and ensure Traditional Owners can determine their involvement in management of the springs.

Victoria is home to most of Australia's mineral springs, with 39 publicly accessible springs across 19 different sites. Most of Victoria's mineral springs are concentrated in Hepburn Shire Council where the tourism industry employs around 4,500 people.

Mineral springs are already a budding tourism attraction, with visitors attracted to their history and wellbeing benefits. The Master Plan will help land managers identify ways they can promote their mineral springs, make them more accessible and keep them healthy.

Local communities and Traditional owner groups were involved in the development and gave feedback to ensure it meets the needs of the community.

The new Mineral Springs of Victoria website has been launched as a central resource to find information about minerals springs, their unique offerings and current status <u>mineralspringsvictoria.com.au</u>.

The Master Plan is available at, engage.vic.gov.au/mineral-springs-masterplan.

Quotes attributable to Acting Minister for Environment Gayle Tierney

"Naturally occurring mineral springs are a unique resource and we are making sure they and protected for all Victorians to enjoy."

"The Mineral Springs Master Plan will ensure that mineral springs in Victoria continue to support local communities, attract new visitors and involve Traditional Owners in their management."

Quote attributable to Member for Macedon Mary-Anne Thomas

"It's a great time to visit the Daylesford and Hepburn Springs area to get out and enjoy the benefits of the springs and see the best regional Victoria has to offer."