



Media Release

David Morris MP

Member for Mornington
Parliamentary Secretary for Local Government
Chair – Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

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PLANNING STATEMENT TO PROTECT PENINSULA

The new Mornington Peninsula planning statement, recently introduced by the Napthine Government, will ensure that the Mornington Peninsula will be protected for future generations. The Peninsula will be planned as an area of special character, with a role clearly distinct from and complementary to metropolitan Melbourne.

The Peninsula is one of Melbourne's greatest assets, with areas of national and international conservation significance, and a substantial and diverse local economy. Its protection for current and future generations is not only critical for the local community but for the future liveability, sustainability and prosperity of the wider metropolitan region.

As an area near to a rapidly growing metropolitan area there are increasing pressures and demands being placed on the Mornington Peninsula. The new policy will guide decision-making by every Government Department, public authority, and the Mornington Peninsula Shire, and set in place a clear policy direction with which will:

- recognise, maintain and enhance the special values of the Mornington Peninsula,
- appreciate the existing diversity and delicate balance of land-use which has been carefully planned over a long period,
- provide for a clear separation of the Mornington Peninsula from metropolitan Melbourne, prevent expansion of the metropolitan area onto the Peninsula, and maintain the current settlement patterns,
- express the planning priorities for the Mornington Peninsula which are different from and complementary to those which apply in other areas,
- integrate environmental, social and economic considerations and
- support a strong land-use planning framework, providing certainty for landowners and the community over time.

Mornington MP David Morris said he was delighted that the Mornington Peninsula local policy statement had been approved. "The development of a local planning statement has long been an ambition of mine. The election of a Coalition government in 2010 gave me the opportunity to carry the proposition forward, in conjunction with the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council, and the Peninsula community."

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"This planning statement builds on the work undertaken by the Council as part of their Plan Peninsula process. I was very pleased to have the opportunity to Chair the Committee that prepared the draft statement and which included the then Mayor Cr. Lynne Bowden, Mr Randal McDonald AO, Mr Andrew Lovelock of PG Speedie and Assoc. and Chief Executive Michael Kennedy OAM, together with Shire officers" Mr Morris said.

The statement is a great outcome for the Peninsula community, and demonstrates clearly the benefits that can be delivered when State and local governments work together.

The policy will ensure the Peninsula is recognised as a distinct and separate planning area, complementary to metropolitan Melbourne but not part of it, protecting the special character of the Peninsula for current and future generations.

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