

Macedon Ranges Rural Living Strategy *for* Macedon Ranges Shire, June 2009

The Macedon Ranges Shire in developing its Rural Living Strategy noted that agriculture is commonly at the interface of such developments and there is often competitive interaction between the two forms of land use.

Phillips Agribusiness was commissioned to assess agriculture within the shire and how rural living development impacts on its performance. The issues that were addressed included:

- A brief description of the farming environment in the shire, the farming enterprises practised and their relative size and value;
- The quality of the agricultural resource base and its measurement through land capability analysis;
- The issues arising out of the consultation program undertaken;
- Policies to address the interaction between Rural Living and Agriculture.

An Addendum to the report was a land capability analysis for the whole shire. Land capability is a measure of the natural features that contribute to agricultural productivity and environmental sustainability. Primary Industries Research Victoria (PIRVic) provided land system data in digital format which was then analysed according to agricultural land quality criteria. An agricultural land quality map was produced to be used for strategic planning purposes.