

## **Future of the Rock**

EDITOR - Despite a 12 month campaign, the Macedon Ranges Council has still avoided due process by not allowing the community an opportunity to have a say and contribute to the future of Hanging Rock.

Hanging Rock Action Group was formed to achieve the implementation of a community

consultation process, an objective still not achieved.

Council executive and councillors have often acknowledged a need for consultation and even indicated a willingness to do so, subject always to conditions.

On March 26 this year council passed a resolution to have consultation from July onwards.

But what happened? As soon as the State Govern-

ment promised funding, all bets were off and both councillors and council executives walked away from promises to consult.

This does not reflect a change in dynamics, as one councillor would have it. It is disrespectful, rude, and arrogant on the part of the council to break promises.

Based on the council's management performance over 20 years of responsibility (or irresponsibility) consultation and change would seem to be essential prerequisites to any further funding becoming available.

What has changed? A bag of money has been promised. There is still no publicly available plan for action at Hanging Rock.

The council has still not acted to protect the rock from future development. Council is opposing inclusion of the East Paddock in the heritage listing proposal.

Is there still a hidden agenda to keep development options open? Who knows?

The community wanted consultation about the future of Hanging Rock and deserves the opportunity to have its say within the framework of council's consultation policy.

*Hilary Roberts,  
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