

Heritage hopes

Barry Kennedy

ICONIC RESERVE MAY BE ADDED TO REGISTER

MACEDON Ranges Council will appear at a planning panel meeting later this month as the Victorian Heritage Council considers adding Hanging Rock to the Heritage Register.

While the council supports Hanging Rock Reserve being added to the register, shire representatives are set to maintain the council-owned east paddock should be excluded.

A report at last Wednesday's council meeting in Kyneton stated 11 submissions had been received by the heritage council on including the east paddock on the register.

According to the report, council maintains the paddock has a history of agricultural use, unlike the picnic, racing and tourism history of the reserve.

The paddock has been a point of contention, with the Hanging Rock Action Group forming to oppose plans by the council first floated in 2012 to seek out commercial development at the site.

While \$250,000 in annual funding has since been secured received from the State Government to manage the site, the events potential of the paddock has been underlined by a series

of successful concerts.

The report stated a Cultural Heritage Management Plan has been completed at the site by indigenous groups and all submitters received a copy of this study in error – the document is considered culturally sensitive.

Submitters have since been told by the heritage council to destroy the document and told the content in the CHMP will not form any basis in its deliberations.

The council also approved a new terms of reference for the longstanding Hanging Rock Development Advis-

ory Committee. A council report at last week's meeting recommend an eight-member committee reviewed yearly with three councillors also sitting on the committee.

Sporting tenants, tourism boards, conservation groups, Department of Environment and Primary Industries and the Kyneton and Hanging Rock Racing Club will sit on the committee charged with balancing conservation, tourism, events and community recreation concerns.

The panel hearing is on October 27 and 28.

Macedon Ranges Leader
Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2014