

# Not by 'referendum'

Commitment to a consultation plan has come seven months after Macedon Ranges Council endorsed the Hanging Rock development proposal.

Council agreed on how it will implement a consultation and information strategy on the Rock precinct at its last meeting.

The motion responds to a council agreement made in February, to seek public submissions on the Hanging Rock Development and Investment Plan.

The consultation strategy will include information on: the development plan, income generation options for the Rock, and a land-use precinct plan.

Council will provide a two-month feedback period from July to September, and a public hearing in October.

Findings will be reported back to council at its December or February meeting.

Cr Jennifer Anderson proposed

that council's agreement to seek a private investor for the plan (August 2013) be suspended until consultation is complete.

"I think it's very important that we're not doing those processes at the same time," Cr Anderson said.

Cr Sally Piper agreed.

"We don't know if there's a private investor around the corner," she said.

Cr John Letchford opposed the need to clarify the motion.

"We are going to listen. It doesn't need any further additions," he said.

Cr Anderson's motion amendment was lost, 3 - 5.

The original motion in favour of the consultation process was passed unanimously.

Mayor, Cr Roger Jukes, stated the purpose of consultation.

"Consultation is the process by which council gathers information to make a decision," he said.

"It's not joint decision making or decision by referendum."

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