

## NEWS

# Council firm on reserve

**Kylie Kitchen**

The East Paddock at Hanging Rock has again been denied council backing for a heritage listing.

Last week, Macedon Ranges Council reiterated the position it formed in July on Hanging Rock's nomination for the Victorian Heritage Register.

Hanging Rock Action Group nominated the reserve and paddock for heritage listing in February. The group has described council's exclusion of the East Paddock as going against its commitment to protect the Hanging Rock.

This most recent position responds to

the nomination's next step, the submissions hearings.

The Victorian Heritage Council will conduct hearings in October to help determine the merits of Hanging Rock's heritage nomination.

Council's submission to the hearing process endorses the exclusion of the East Paddock in the listing.

It supports the Rock Reserve for listing, but requests some exemptions related to existing built structures that are low-level significance, such as picnic shelters and racing club buildings.

"If portions of the reserve are not state-level significance, they should not

be unnecessarily controlled as though they are of state-level significance," the draft submission states.

Cr Jennifer Anderson asked that council change its position on the exemptions.

"The report from the heritage council allows maintenance, it's quite reasonable," she said.

Cr John Letchford disagreed.

"We speak of exemptions but we don't know what those exemptions are," he said.

Council voted 7-1 in favour of the draft submission, Cr Anderson the only one to oppose.

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