



## # 10 the reason for purchase of the East Paddock

In examining the proposal for development at Hanging Rock a number of facts were incorrectly stated. We have tried to point these out to you so that Council can make decisions made on the basis of correct information. Stated Council policy is that if an error occurs in documents produced by Council, the error will be corrected at the earliest opportunity.

In the Hanging Rock Investment proposal presented to Council on 28/8/2013 it was stated that,

***“the East Paddock was originally purchased with a long term vision of minimising vehicle and pedestrian traffic on the more sensitive areas of the Reserve, to enhancing (sic) Hanging Rock, to assist in providing for a sustainable facility in the longer term for all users and inhabitants and for possible generation of additional income to support ongoing maintenance, upgrades and improvements.”***

In Information Bulletin #2, it was repeated that the purchase was undertaken ***“to remove pressure from the environmentally significant areas within the Reserve and to allow for additional income sources such as events, picnicking and accommodation.”***

This statement is both false and misleading!

**FALSE** because the generation of income was **NOT** a consideration in the purchase of this land.

**MISLEADING** because it fails to state that the primary reason for purchase was the protection of peace and beauty of the natural features of the reserve by preventing inappropriate development . The purchase was clearly undertaken to protect the Rock from the impact of inappropriate development within the views of and from the Rock, enhance conservation values and take pressure off the area at the base of the Rock.

Documents obtained from the Council through a Freedom of Information request (listed below) repeatedly state the desire to protect the natural features of the reserve and prevent inappropriate development that would spoil the vista to the east.

e.g. ***“to preserve and protect the natural surrounds of Hanging Rock”, “to prevent inappropriate development”, “to maintain the natural integrity”, “to preserve the Eastern vista”, “to ensure that development similar to that on the western boundary will not occur.”***

There is no mention of needing or desiring to generate additional income for the Hanging Rock Reserve.

Submission by Shire to the Premier, RJ Hamer 1978: ***“for the Preservation and Protection of Hanging Rock Recreation Reserve”*** which recommended the purchase of all lots to the east and west in order to offer more permanent protection to the natural features of the reserve.

***“It is essential that any management initiatives that aim at alleviating these difficulties (with respect to car parking, conditions of rock access, visitor facilities) must be carried out within the context of the essentially natural beauty of the location. The reserve should not become regimented and commercialised: the primary management objective is to ensure that people can enjoy the peace and beauty of the natural features of the reserve”***

Letter: Shire to owners / residents on adjacent land 1978 ***“ the Committee of management believes that for long term protection to be afforded to the Reserve, it is necessary to stop development pressures on the Reserve boundaries.”***

Other reference materials consistently supporting the above statements include:

Committee of Management meeting minutes June 1978

Letter: funding applications from the Shire to the National Estate Program in the 1980's

Letter: MRSC to previous owners of the East Paddock refusing a Planning Permit 1987

Letters: Shire to Sir Rod Carnegie and Hon. J. Cain requesting them to act as patrons of a public appeal.

1989: Notice of preparation of a supplementary loan for purchase of the land October 1989

The aims of the Hanging Rock Action Group have been consistent.

1. Have Council undertake Community Consultation
2. Distil the real issues and facts of the proposed development
3. Raise community awareness of the issues

The misleading statements put into the public domain have to date not been acknowledged. Nor are we aware that any correction has been provided to Councillors or the community. Surely Councillors and the Community are entitled to be told directly that misleading information was present in the Hanging Rock Investment Proposal put to Council on 28 August 2013 and repeated in Hanging Rock Information Bulletin #2.

Why doesn't Council publish a correction as per their stated policy?

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