



#2 Hanging Rock visitations have declined over 20 years – FALSE

In examining the proposal for development at Hanging Rock it became obvious that a number of facts were incorrectly stated. We have tried to point these out to Council in meetings and correspondence so that decisions can be made based on correct information.

Council policy is that if an error occurs in documents produced by Council that error would be corrected at the earliest opportunity.

The statement that “visitation to Hanging Rock has decreased over 20 years “appeared twice in the proposal presented to Council on 28 August, 2013 and was repeated in the first Hanging Rock Information Bulletin issued by the Shire in September 2013.

This is wrong.

Casual visitation has increased over 20 years.

Full attendance figures for Hanging Rock Reserve were obtained from the Council under the Freedom of Information Act.

The Council data shows that over the 20 year period 1993/94 – 2012/13 visitations have an increase of 0.7% average per ann., not a decline of 1.2% as stated in the Hanging Rock Development and Investment Proposal presented to Council on 28 August 2013.

Over the last 10 years casual visitation has increased by 22%.

Casual visitors dropped abruptly in 2000/01, fluctuated over the next 3 years but numbers have been steadily rising since then.

In 2012-2013 over 71,000 visited Hanging Rock Reserve to enjoy the natural environment – the mysterious rock formations, native vegetation and animals and the broad rural vistas.

This error regarding visitation trends remains uncorrected.

But this is not the full picture.

Events visitors have been excluded from the visitation statistics in the Council documents presented to Councillors and the public.

These visitations have increased by 192% over the last 10 years, with the rate of increasing sharply over the last 3 years due to the outdoor concerts.

	1993/94	2002/03	2012/13
Casual visitors	62878	58185	71074
Events visitors	10047	25694	75068

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

Surely Councillors and the Community are entitled to be told directly that a gross error regarding visitation trends was present in the document presented to Councillors for decision making on 28th August 2013 and the Information Bulletin issued in September 3013.

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