



4 Location of the proposed development

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 so that decisions can be made on the basis of correct information.

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

It was stated in September 2013 MRSC Hanging Rock Information Bulletin #2 that the proposed private development only affects the East Paddock of the Hanging rock precinct.

“Will the development be located in the Hanging Rock Crown Reserve?”

No, the private investment identified in the Master Plan is all in the Council owned East Paddock over 800m away”

The answer gives incorrect information and is disingenuous as it does not address the general question of development that was posed.

The Master Plan [page 64 Council Meeting 28 August 2013] clearly shows development on the Crown land portion of the reserve and at least part of this would be undertaken by private interests.

Development items shown are a ‘Nature Adventure facility’, new buggy/shared trails, viewing/yoga/meditation areas on the Rock itself, ‘improved viewing areas’ in the native Grasslands central to the racecourse and two proposed multi-use buildings (supporting racing activities) on the Western side of the racecourse.

On 18th October, 2013 two Council Officers and the CEO of the Macedon Ranges Shire received an Email asking *“Who then is planning to implement the ‘Nature Adventure Facility’, buggy/shared trails and proposed areas for yoga and meditation classes that are clearly shown as being in the Crown Reserve”* (if this is not private development). No response has been given to date.

Whilst the Shire itself might be planning to implement a number of the items shown on the Crown land portion of the reserve, such as the additional trails and platforms, others would involve private investment.

Council documents obtained under the Freedom of Information Act indicate that three private companies [including ‘Go Ape’ and ‘Trees Adventure’] have expressed interest in establishing a ‘nature adventure facility’ at Hanging rock Reserve (shown in the Master Plan in South-west corner of the Reserve) and in October 2011 a group from the Shire visited a ‘Trees Adventure’ site in Belgrave. This area is part of the ‘sensitive conservation areas’ at Hanging Rock Reserve and is home to a group of Greater Gliders – a species listed on the DEPI Advisory List for Threatened Vertebrate Fauna 2013 [Victoria].

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

This misleading statement has been pointed out to Council but to date no acknowledgement has been made and no correction has been provided to Councillors or the community.

Surely Councillors and the Community are entitled to be told directly that a the statement in the Hanging Rock Information Bulletin No.2 in September 2013 was grossly misleading

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