

Hanging Rock Review

June 2015

Hanging Rock Reserve

Hanging Rock Reserve is Crown land managed by the Macedon Ranges Shire Council (MRSC). Directly east of the reserve is an area of freehold property owned and managed by the MRSC, known locally as the 'East Paddock'.

Hanging Rock is an important recreational, environmental, heritage, cultural and tourism asset for the local community and Victoria. Features of Hanging Rock Reserve include a racecourse, cricket ground, picnic areas, café, Discovery Centre, tennis courts along with numerous walking paths and trails. The reserve is also home to a variety of flora and fauna such as powerful owls, koalas, and kookaburras.



The adjacent 'East Paddock' is integrated into council's management of the Hanging Rock Reserve and in recent times has been used as a venue for international music concerts.

The community is proud of Hanging Rock Reserve's status as one of Victoria's most iconic tourist destinations.

The protection of the site's important heritage values has already improved with the addition of the Hanging Rock Reserve on the Victorian Heritage Register.

Why is a review of management arrangements being undertaken and what is its purpose?

The Government is committed to introducing new protections for Hanging Rock to ensure the long term protection and sustainable management of the precinct. A review of the management arrangements for the precinct is the beginning of that process.

The review will explore the range of options for the future management, service delivery and financial sustainability of the precinct and will involve extensive community engagement. It is expected to be completed by September 2015 and will be presented to Government for consideration.

Will a review of planning provisions for the precinct be included?

A second stage of the review will look at the planning provisions of the precinct. This will be informed by the initial community consultations regarding the management of the precinct and will start later in the year.

How will the community consultations work?

The community consultations for this first stage of the review will be undertaken by an independent consultant, PPB Advisory, who has been engaged by the Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning.

Extensive engagement with key stakeholders and the local community will be conducted by PPB Advisory over the next three months to understand community values and visions for the precinct.

PPB Advisory will gain feedback from key stakeholders and the community through individual and group face-to-face conversation, interactive workshops and electronic submissions.

What is the scope of the review?

As well as stakeholder and community values, the review will also consider:

- the Mission and Vision of the MRSC as the Committee of Management (CoM)
- current CoM governance structures and processes
- community engagement protocols and approach
- land management
- sustainability of the operating model
- financial management

The review will also present analysis and options regarding:

- the appropriateness of current arrangements to manage the land in accordance with its purpose and community expectations
- governance, administration and effectiveness of community engagement of Council in its role as Committee of Management/owner of the precinct and consequential risks and opportunities for improvement
- operational strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats
- options to improve financial sustainability
- other matters considered relevant to the review

How to get involved and have your say

PPB Advisory will be conducting community consultations, dates to be advised. In the interim, if you would like further information about the consultation process, please contact Catherine at PPB Advisory on 03 9269 4206. You can also share your views on the future management arrangements of the Hanging Rock Reserve by emailing hangingrockreview@delwp.vic.gov.au.

Electronic submissions close at 5.00pm on Friday, 10 July 2015.

