

# Ranges Committee for Open Government (RCOG)

## Charter (*Extract*)

The Macedon Ranges needs a council that embraces high standards of governance and which reflects the needs and values of the community. The council must understand that it is a body that derives its legitimacy from the community and is accountable to that community.

We are a group of concerned community members who consider the current Macedon Ranges Shire Council falls short of these ideals. We have therefore formed a committee to promote and support reform.

### **Principles**

We support principles of good democratic governance as well as policy principles that we believe reflect our community's values.

Good governance principles must guide the way the council operates, including:

- The council is open and transparent about its decision making processes and about the reasons for its decisions
- The council is actively engaged with the community in setting directions and making decisions
- The councillors work collaboratively, truly respecting each other's positions as community representatives.

Policy principles, that must guide the council's decisions in matters of planning, infrastructure and services, include:

- Maintaining and enhancing the unique character and liveability of the Macedon Ranges, both environmentally and aesthetically
- Caring for the needs of people in the community, particularly those least able to support themselves and those most vulnerable to harm
- Supporting biodiversity, environmental health, and sustainability, by protecting the flora and fauna of the Shire and their habitats
- Acting as a responsible global citizen in addressing climate change by promoting and supporting sustainable energy generation and usage.

### **Action**

In seeking reform, the committee aims to advocate for change and will encourage people to participate in the October 2016 council elections.

Members of the committee are not seeking office for themselves and do not plan to endorse specific candidates in the election. However, the committee will support candidates who genuinely endorse the above principles.