



Save Kangaroos on Mornington Peninsula Inc. (SKOMP)

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Save the Kangaroos on the Mornington Peninsula (SKOMP) is deeply saddened to learn of the decision made by Mornington Shire to allow the “Harry Potter: A Forbidden Forest Experience” to be held in The Briar’s wildlife sanctuary in 2024.

In 2023 the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council (MPSC) had become a leading voice and a beacon of light in its action to stand up for the welfare of eastern grey kangaroos. They gained a lot of praise and good faith. On that basis the decision made in “Private” to grant this event and keep it a secret for four months demonstrates the deceit and disrespect they hold for our communities and the residents of the Mornington Peninsula who hold the environment and wildlife dear to their hearts.

SKOMP believes the MPS councillors have played us for fools. While we have been praising them for positive actions for the protection of kangaroos, they have been withholding Shire decisions that will greatly affect all wildlife. While Councillors stand in front of fencing to prevent kangaroos from being killed on our roads, this event goes ahead. As such SKOMP stands firm in the belief that their actions in approving this event is an attack on our group’s beliefs, principles and purposes and we are confident that there are a lot of other community groups who feel the same way too.

One thing is for sure though from this decision – there is nothing more valuable or precious to the MPS than money. In this instance, a sanctuary for wildlife can be bought for millions of dollars. The exact amount is undisclosed. It is also a clear demonstration that the MPS disregard the Master Plan for The Briars, entrusted to them to implement on behalf of the community, in preference for outsider influences with a big carrot on a stick.

The idea that the MPS thinks an environmental consultant signing off on this event warrants it going ahead, without any community discussion, is just wrong. It won’t be the consultant who is called upon to rescue the displaced and injured wildlife caused by this event. We at SKOMP and many other in the community are dismayed and disgusted.

Feeling betrayed.

The team at SKOMP



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SKOMP acknowledges the Boonwurrung/Bunurong people of the Kulin nation as the custodians of the land on which we meet and pay our respect to their elders past and present and emerging.