



The Goulburn Valley Environment Group Inc.

Po Box 2073 Shepparton Vic 3632 Ph/Fax 03 58 317794

e-mail gveg@shepparton.net.au

Peter Harriott
CEO
City of Greater Shepparton
Welsford Street
Shepparton 3630

17 August 2016

Re: lease arrangements for Victoria Park Lake Caravan Park

Dear Peter

With-in hours of the deadline for public comment on the Draft Victoria Dark Lake Master Plan, Council has voted to pursue long term lease arrangements for the Victoria Park Caravan Park with the private sector.

This decision appears to have been made in isolation of the SAM proposal, with no consideration of requested community inputs into the Master Plan and little if any community opportunity to influence the terms and conditions of the lease arrangements or tender process.

We are concerned a fully fenced, gated, "Holiday Park" style development would adversely impact on the aesthetic values of this open public parkland to the south of Victoria Park Lake and surrounding Tom Collins Drive, values clearly identified in the Draft Masterplan Plan.

The Victoria Park Lake precinct enjoys strong community support and patronage following many years of planning and development and should not be diminished or risked by the hasty privatisation of public open space.

We are currently seeing backpackers, a vital employment resource of our agricultural industries, "priced" out of the Park and camping in streets and bushland along the Goulburn River and believe any future plans for the Caravan Park should consider the affordability to a wide range of visitors.

Is it possible for GVEG and the general community to have input into this process?

Yours sincerely

John Pettigrew

GVEG President

Protecting the environment for generations to come