

The Ferrero & Citation Reserves Master Plan: important information you need to know right now...

Dear Residents

Mornington Peninsula Shire has commissioned a Master Plan to guide future management and development of the sporting areas of Citation and Ferrero Reserves, Mount Martha. This plan will significantly impact the Reserves.

As a local environmental group, we at BERG Mt Martha have outlined our concerns about the Plan so that you have a more complete picture of what is happening. We then encourage you to express your views directly to the Shire as soon as possible.

What is proposed for Ferrero Reserve?

The Ferrero Reserve Users Group has put forward a proposal that includes more lights, intensive parking, the development of a third small oval, improvements to existing change rooms and the development of a large pavilion.

Why is this of concern to BERG Mt Martha?

Ferrero Reserve is located in a wildlife corridor connecting the areas of the Balcombe Estuary Reserves and the Hopetoun Creek Reserve. Any further development would destroy this biolink completely.

Why are the Balcombe Estuary Reserves important?

The Balcombe Estuary Reserves, declared in 1987, which cover 44 hectares between Nepean Hwy and the coastline Balcombe Creek, is the most extensive waterway on Mornington Peninsula. The Reserves protect the largest intact and unspoilt estuary on the eastern side of Port Philip Bay. They are also an integral link in a larger habitat corridor for indigenous flora and fauna.

What are the views of BERG Mt Martha regarding proposals for the expansion of Ferrero Reserve?

- **We support** upgrading Seppelt Avenue to a (sealed) dual carriageway. This will be safer for traffic, improve erosion control and reduce silting of the Creek and Estuary.
- **We support** upgrading drainage throughout the reserves. This would greatly improve the silting problem in the Creek and Estuary as well as improving the maintenance of the Ferrero ovals.
- **We support** an approach to increase car parking by formalizing the space around the two ovals (see map over leaf)
- **We support** better utilization and the upgrading of the Citation Reserve facilities (but only into the present open space). The proximity of the two reserves should allow for not only the sharing of facilities, but the reduced need for further expansion of the Ferrero complex.

HOWEVER

- **We are concerned** that the proposed expansion at Ferrero Reserve will interfere irrevocably with the wildlife corridor connecting the vegetation of Balcombe Creek to Hopetoun Creek.
- **We strongly oppose** the use of fire tracks in and around the reserve for through traffic as it would disturb and destroy the wildlife corridor.
- **We are strongly opposed** to encroachment (for parking, other sporting facilities etc) into the Reserve to the east or west of the two ovals, because of the special nature of the Balcombe Reserves compared with the ability to place sporting facilities in other locations.
- **We were very concerned** by the work recently undertaken by stealth to create an overflow car park area for the football grand final series.



- **We have strong reservations** about the construction of a third oval for the following reasons:
 - the effective prescribed width of a habitat corridor is 100m and this would not allow sufficient room for the proposed development
 - it would involve major works very close to the creek in a low-lying area which is very boggy in winter
 - the proposed development predisposes the area for future expansion, despite assurances this would not happen
 - We emphasize that this proposal could only be contemplated if, on the advice of the Conservation Officers of the Natural Systems Team of the Mornington Peninsula Shire, it would **not** be detrimental to the ecology of the area.
 - the presence of a drainage pit in this area suggests that it is part of an existing drainage system

Who is BERG Mt Martha?

BERG Mt Martha is a friends group, formed in 1997, that aims to preserve and restore the precious ecology of the Balcombe Estuary and Reserves through its technical expertise, passionate volunteerism and community involvement. We work closely with the Shire and Melbourne Water to achieve these aims.

What can I do?

Express your views to the Shire as soon as possible, using the feedback form.

As a local resident you should have received a feedback form.

If you have not received a form you can download one from the Shire website

http://www.mornpen.vic.gov.au/Whats_On/Your_Say/Citation_and_Ferrero_Reserves

If you would like further information about these issues, the full submission of BERG Mt Martha is available on our website www.berg.org.au - resources – our publications

This is an important issue for the future of the Balcombe Estuary Reserves and we encourage you to have your say about the Master Plan.

Ferrero Reserve



— Suggested areas for parking

↔ Wildlife (biolink) corridor for the essential movement of wildlife between Hopetoun and Balcombe Creeks. 100metre width required

This area is low lying and boggy in winter.
Possible drainage easement.