



23 February 2010

The Honourable Justin Madden MP  
Minister for Planning  
Level 17/8 Nicholson Street,  
East Melbourne VIC 3002

**The Honourable Justin Madden MP**

Re: Proposed Ballarat Resort Project

**Commerce Ballarat** is the leading independent business group in the City of Ballarat with over three hundred and fifty members ranging across every industry sector. Our weekly newsletter is emailed to over 900 local business people each Friday.

**Commerce Ballarat** welcomes development that by its very nature is beneficial to the Ballarat community but feels that the Ballarat City Council should be in control of development within its own municipality. The proposed Ballarat Resort Project (formerly known as the Lake Federation Development) may well be a positive step forward financially and aesthetically for our city but at this stage a number of questions are yet to be answered.

1. How does the proposed development fit with plans currently being developed by the City of Ballarat and other key stakeholders e.g. CBD Strategy and Economic Development Strategy?
2. Will the development contribute positively to the current future plans for our city e.g. Ballarat West Development Plan?
3. Commerce Ballarat is anxious that any commercial development, including retail, hospitality and other commercial development be complementary to and support the existing development in Ballarat, in particular the Central Business Area, and not threaten the sustainability of current local businesses.
4. More detail is required on the nature and extent of commercial use at the proposed development.

Commerce Ballarat has only recently become aware of the re-emergence of this project, this has the potential to be exciting for the Ballarat community but a project that we believe must be carefully and strategically planned to ensure we deliver a "win win" scenario for the Ballarat Community and the Developer.

To discuss further please feel free to contact our Executive Officer Jodie Gillett on 5333 3233 at any time.

Yours sincerely

Simon Coghlan  
Chair  
Commerce Ballarat

c.c. Jaala Pulford MP  
c.c. Geoff Howard MLA  
c.c. Karen Overington MLA  
c.c. Councillor Judy Verlin, Ballarat City Council  
c.c. Paul McCuskey  
c.c. Adrian Doyle, Leader Property Development