



10 February 2010

#### Proposed Ballarat Resort Project

**Commerce Ballarat** welcomes development that by its very nature is beneficial to the Ballarat community. 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. 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.
2. More detail is required on the nature and extent of commercial use at the proposed development.
3. Will the development contribute positively to the current future plans for our city e.g. Ballarat West Development Plan?
4. 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?
5. If the Priority Development Panel recommends that Minister Justin Madden approve, what control will Ballarat City Council have moving into the actual implementation phase?

Commerce Ballarat has only recently become aware of this project and met with the developers this morning. This has the potential to be an exciting project for the Ballarat community but a project that we believe must be carefully and strategically planned to ensure we deliver a “win win” scenario. A win for the Ballarat Community and a win for the Developer.

A representative from our Board will speak on behalf of our members at a Council meeting tonight.

Once again we would like to reiterate our support for progress once a full understanding of the proposal is known.

Commerce Ballarat

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