

1 / 7 Bartels St  
McCrae 3938  
Friday January 25<sup>th</sup> 2008

Mr Richard Willis ,  
Secretary , Select Committee  
on Public Land Development

Dear Mr Willis ,

**Re Inquiry into Sale and Development of Public Land and Open Space .**

The McCrae Homestead Coastal Group Inc . is actively engaged in the restoration of the foreshore at McCrae , part of the Rosebud foreshore reserve . For a period of seven years this group has worked tirelessly to achieve weed control along this section of foreshore and has planted thousands of indigenous native species in an effort to preserve this valuable banksia woodland .

I am writing to express concern at the current proposal of the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council to develop a related area of the Rosebud foreshore by constructing an aquatic centre on Crown Land .

Although this is publicly owned land , controlled by the Department of Sustainability and Environment , it is managed by the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council as though it is available for whatever purpose it alone decides .

It became clear at a focus group meeting conducted by the Council in November 2007 that community consultation is not welcome and submissions to Council will receive scant attention . This meeting was allegedly called to obtain community input to a plan prepared by consultant for the Council relating to the town centre and the foreshore .

It is important that you be aware of these proposals as you conduct your enquiry and hear the plea of local stake holders , not just those with the loudest voice .

I attach for your information a copy of a letter which I sent to a senior planner with the Council .

We are available to give evidence if required .

Yours sincerely ,



Len Evans { Secretary McCrae Homestead Coastal Group Inc . }

1 / 7 Bartels St  
McCrae , 3938  
Wednesday , January 9<sup>th</sup> 2008

Frank Mangen ,  
Strategic Projects Manager  
Mornington Peninsula Shire Council  
Rosebud 3939 .

**Rosebud Activity Centre Structure Plan  
and Foreshore Coastal Management Plan**

Dear Frank ,

I am writing in response to your invitation to respond to points made by consultant , Hansen Partnership , at the focus group meeting held on November 28<sup>th</sup> , 2007 .

Rather than respond , point by point , to the consultants' remarks in that meeting I wish to comment on the first and second points listed in their Vision and Objective Statement --

*' Rosebud as a major activity centre is distinctive for its special relationship to the coastal environment , its backdrop to Arthur 's Seat and linear activity spine along Point Nepean Rd ' .*

*' Rosebud will be a people focussed and lively place which embraces its town centre and coastline in a co-ordinated manner representing the focal point for the southern peninsula region and providing a great place to meet , live and play . The centre will accommodate more integrated housing within the commercial areas , which will present to the public realm in an attractive manner ' .*

Most Victorian townships were developed in the late 1800's / early 1900's when resident's access to basic community facilities was on foot or by means of horse drawn vehicles . These facilities { shire office , schools , churches , hotels, offices , public meeting place , police station , retail outlets , railway station } were all at the geographical centre of each township .

Other activities such as competitive sporting venues { football and cricket grounds } and passive or recreational areas { parks , gardens , lakes } which required larger tracts of land were further out .

Agricultural activities , animal husbandry , mining and related activities were further out again .

**The natural configuration of the district  
was radial not linear .**

The second point in the consultant's Vision and Objective Statement assumes that Rosebud has a town centre similar to other townships around the state thus ignoring the linear emphasis mentioned in the first point . To state that the centre or heart of Rosebud encompasses the foreshore and the local shopping strip on Point Nepean Rd is not correct ; this is the focus for commercial , retail and tourist activities but is not in any sense a true centre of the community . The village green on the foreshore is the focus for local recreational activities ; it is part of a valuable remnant of native vegetation , it is crown land owned by us all and administered by the State Government ; **it is not owned by Local Government .**

In attempting to identify a centre for Rosebud or to decide on a future centre it may be better in the first instance to identify **precincts** which have significance for the community and then proceed to examine each one to see if a true centre can be identified or developed ; the following precincts come to mind --

- Administrative precinct – shire offices , police station , fire brigade ,
- Commercial/ Retail precinct – Point Nepean Rd and Port Phillip Plaza ,
- Education precincts – primary and secondary schools ,
- Sporting precincts – ovals for football and cricket ,
- Passive / Recreational precinct – foreshore reserve .
- New community precinct – the arts , community centre , aquatic centre .

Of all of these precincts , the first one developed to include the sixth one offer the best opportunity for creating a centre which comes closest to the concept established in most of the townships across country Victoria .

In conclusion , the conduct of the focus group in November left a lot to be desired . The role of the facilitator was unnecessary ; the consultant should have made his own presentation with good time for attendees to make comment , after all at least twelve months has elapsed since the consultant began this work and only at the close of 2007 in November has an opportunity been given to attend a meeting to hear the consultant's report and little time allocated to discussion . This was followed by an invitation to submit written comment by December 19<sup>th</sup> , a few days before Christmas .

You should understand that a large number of local people , including myself , have come wonder if the Council really wants resident input .

Sincerely ,

Len Evans