

Media Release

Lake Wooroonook Land Use Ruling

11 April 2018

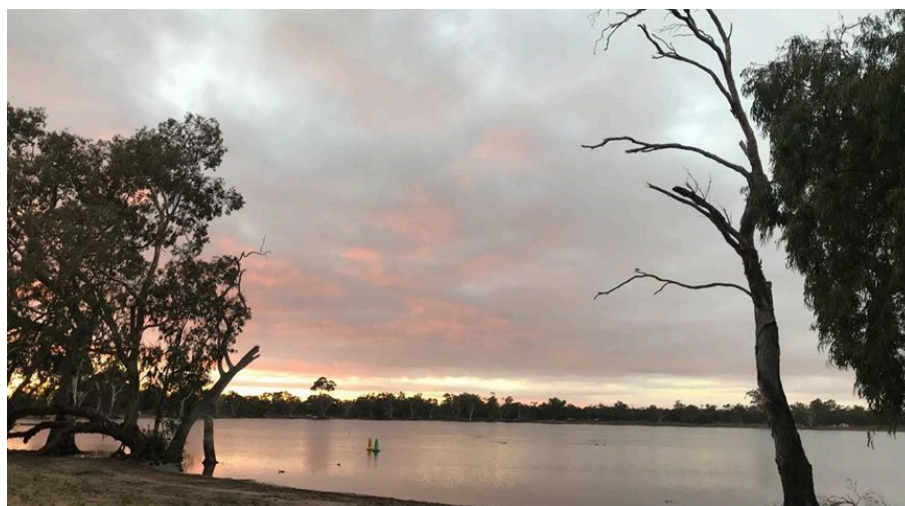
Buloke Shire Council at its April Ordinary Meeting outlined the decision by Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) to refuse consent to use the land at Lake Wooroonook for the purpose of a commercial Place of Assembly.

Council is the Committee of Management for Lake Wooroonook area and on 7 March 2018 received a request to license the land, as well as a planning permit application for the Maitreya Arts & Music Festival. The covering letter of the planning permit application sought approval from Council for two events to be held each year, across a five year period.

Council as Committee of Management may grant a license to enter and use any portion on the land for purposes other than those for which the land is reserved. However DEWLP as owner has provided written refusal of consent for the land to be used for the purpose of a commercial Place of Assembly being a music festival.

Council at its 14 March 2018 meeting noted the ten letters it had received expressing support for the festival to be held at the lake ahead of a report being brought to the April meeting.

The Maitreya Arts & Music Festival was staged at the lake in 2015. The applicant was noncompliant with a range of conditions on their license. The applicant then applied for a license for an event in 2016 but was refused on a number of grounds. Following this refusal the applicant defied court orders to cease use and development of the land causing significant damage to the land and bringing significant cost on Council.



Council will advise the applicant of the refusal to grant consent, which would render the application for a planning permit futile. Council will continue to work with promoters of potential cultural events to have them staged at appropriate venues.

End release

For further information contact Team Leader Communications, Travis Fitzgibbon on 03 5478 0181 or tfitzgibbon@buloke.vic.gov.au