



MEDIA RELEASE

Maitreya Update

22 February 2016

Buloke Shire Council and the promoter of the Maitreya Festival attended a Directions Hearing at VCAT last Friday, 19 February. It was a decision of the Tribunal that a Preliminary Hearing be held this week on Friday, 26 February. The Preliminary Hearing will determine whether or not a number of key matters are capable of resolution, especially those that resulted in Council having no choice but to issue a Notice to Refuse the planning permit. These matters include the Cultural Heritage Management Plan and Land Owner consent from Parks Victoria. Also to be considered are other legal barriers to the Festival proceeding along with consideration of public safety issues that could be caused by the late granting of a permit.

If these matters cannot be resolved then VCAT will hear no more on the matter and the Maitreya Festival will not be staged at Wooroonook Lakes this year. If these issues can be resolved the merits of granting a permit or refusing a permit would be considered at a Merit Hearing scheduled for Friday 4 March.

Council will continue to keep you updated whenever it can as the VCAT proceedings unfold.

End release

For further information contact Travis Fitzgibbon on 1300 520 520