

16 May 2008

Planning Department
Mornington Peninsula Shire Council
Besgrove Street
ROSEBUD VIC 3939

Planning Application P07/1592.220 – Browns Road, Boneo

Bird Observation & Conservation Australia (BOCA) is a national non-government organisation with more than 3,000 members throughout Australia. BOCA's objectives may be summarised as appreciation, education and conservation relating to Australia's birds and their habitat.

There is a very active Branch of BOCA on the Mornington Peninsula (PENBOC); the very popular guide *Where to Find Birds around Frankston and the Mornington Peninsula* is a recent publication of that Branch.

Tootgarook wetlands and the surrounding area are well-known for having high biodiversity values. There is an extensive bird list for the site which includes a number of species on the Department of Sustainability and Environment Advisory List of Threatened Vertebrate Fauna in Victoria 2007, some that are listed under Victoria's Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act and some under the Commonwealth EPBC Act. Most of the listed bird species are wetland dependent.

BOCA objects to the development proposed in the above planning application. We submit that the location, scale and type of development poses a threat to Chinamans Creek and Tootgarook wetlands through pollution, changes to the hydrology and impacts of humans and their pets.

Richard Hunter
Chief Executive Officer