



**The Greens Mornington Peninsula Statement Re. The Briars Sanctuary.
Wrong venue for Harry Potter Experience.**

The Greens Mornington Peninsula Branch are aghast at the decision by the Shire Council to engage with Warner Bros. Discovery Global Themed Entertainment to use The Briars Wildlife Reserve, the only fenced sanctuary on the Mornington Peninsula, and home to diverse habitat systems that support endangered species, as a venue for an inappropriate interactive event, expected to have 3000 participants nightly from April through to July. We have two startling deviations from the Council's duty of care:

1. This decision shows a lack of adherence by Council to commitments articulated in The Shires' Policies on protecting flora and fauna and ecologically sensitive sites. This Event must be transferred to a different site to be in line with all the Shire's Biodiversity and Conservation policies, and other documents related to environmentally sensitive sites, in particular, The Briars.
2. Most importantly, we have significant concerns around the lack of consultation and transparency, and the secrecy around contractual arrangements with Warner Bros. The Non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) Councillors were asked to make during negotiations are an affront to residents. All but two councillors signed these and some information around the event is not on the record for residents to view. This secrecy shuts the door in the face of taxpayers keeping them in the dark. The mitigation statements made by the Council are ill-informed and an FOI request has been made to release the so-called Risk Assessment and Impact on Environment Reports, to check the qualifications of those authors giving advice.

The Greens will target those Councillors who signed the NDAs, and approved of the event at the Briars, in the upcoming October Elections.

We will join other groups and individuals to oppose this and garner community awareness and support to stop this event occurring at this venue.

The Greens Mornington Peninsula denounces this Council for this decision that has been undertaken and will actively discourage residents and visitors from purchasing tickets.

James Kilby. Convenor

The Australian Greens

Mornington Peninsula Branch.