The Schwartz Group of companies, which operates Kaufland hypermarkets worldwide, proposed building 6 stores in Melbourne. This included one in Mornington at the gateway to Mornington. The Mornington Shire refused the application and the Victorian government appointed a panel to assess the 6 proposals.

The Mornington Shire, MEA, other organizations and many individuals, objected on the grounds that such a large building on that site would not be in keeping with the existing streetscape. It would also cause traffic congestion and would not be connected to any existing retail area.

After hearing all the objections from the community the panel recommended that the proposal be refused. Planning Minister Richard Wynne agreed and refused the application.

Kaufland has now abandoned all Australian development plans and its properties are on the market. (February 2020)

