

6. CULTURE & COMMUNITY

Cr Libby Coker declared an indirect conflict of interest in Item 6.1 Quarterly Advocacy Priorities Update - April 2018 under Section 78B of the Local Government Act 1989 – conflicting duty. The nature of the interest being that Cr Libby Coker McKiterick intends to stand in the upcoming Federal Government election in the Corangamite electorate.

Cr Libby Coker left the meeting at 8:23pm

Cr Brian McKiterick declared an indirect conflict of interest in Item 6.1 Quarterly Advocacy Priorities Update - April 2018 under Section 78B of the Local Government Act 1989 – conflicting duty. The nature of the interest being that Cr Brian McKiterick intends to stand in the upcoming State Government election in the Bellarine electorate.

Cr Brian McKiterick left the meeting at 8:23pm.

6.1 Quarterly Advocacy Priorities Update - April 2018

Author's Title: Manager Community Relations

General Manager: Chris Pike

Department: Community Relations

File No: F17/968

Division: Culture & Community

Trim No: IC18/433

Appendix:

1. Detailed Advocacy Priorities - April 2018 (D18/46045)

Officer Direct or Indirect Conflict of Interest:

Status:

In accordance with Local Government Act 1989 – Section 80C:

Information classified confidential in accordance with Local Government Act 1989 – Section 77(2)(c):

☐ Yes

☒ No

☐ Yes

☒ No

Reason: Nil

Reason: Nil

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to affirm Council's advocacy priorities and adopt Council's motions for the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) State Council Meeting on 18 May 2018.

Summary

Council advocating on behalf of communities is a core role and needs to be a continuous process. Council continues to have a long term view of advocacy and will use current and future advocacy opportunities to pursue benefits for the Surf Coast community.

Council is striving to be 'An innovative and flexible leader, a constructive partner that values the strengths of others'. Partnerships with government and non-government organisations are critical to this goal.

Having clearly defined priorities at all times is a feature of successful advocacy planning. Council recognises that there are many, ongoing advocacy opportunities that we should be ready for such as regional forums, funding rounds and state and federal budgets. To capitalise on these opportunities, Council is updating advocacy priorities on a quarterly basis.

The State Election will be held on 24 November 2018. Council identified State Election priorities in July 2017 to effectively communicate priorities to key politicians and advisors in the lead up to the election. The election priorities have been refined for this report taking into account Council's adopted commitments financially to projects and policy positions.

This quarterly update includes the community projects that have been prioritised by Council through the Community Project Development program as there is expected to be some interest in smaller projects from State Election candidates.

6.1 Quarterly Advocacy Priorities Update - April 2018

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Confirm the current strategic advocacy priorities (with associated projects detailed in Appendix 1) as:
 - 1.1 Great Ocean Road Visitor Economy.
 - 1.2 Towards Environmental Leadership.
 - 1.3 Building our Future.
 - 1.4 Community and Partner-Led Priorities including the Community Project Development program.
 - 1.5 Key Policy Campaigns.
2. Adopt the revised State Election priorities as detailed in Appendix 1.
3. Put the following motion to the MAV State Council Meeting on 18 May 2018:
 - 3.1 That the MAV advocate to the State Government that councils in Victoria are not responsible for or delegated to be drainage authorities.

Amended Recommendation

That Council:

1. Confirm the current strategic advocacy priorities (with associated projects detailed in Appendix 1) as:
 - a. Great Ocean Road Visitor Economy.
 - b. Towards Environmental Leadership.
 - c. Building our Future.
 - d. Community and Partner-Led Priorities including the Community Project Development program.
 - e. Key Policy Campaigns.
2. Adopt the revised State Election priorities as detailed in Appendix 1.
3. Notify the MAV that Cr David Bell will replace Cr Libby Coker as Council's representative at the MAV State Council Meetings on 18 May 2018 and 19 October 2018.
4. Put the following motion to the MAV State Council Meeting on 18 May 2018:
 - a. That the MAV advocate to the Victorian Government to establish clarity in relation to rural drainage roles and responsibilities, through processes consistent with the principles of the Victorian State-Local Government Agreement and have these matters supported in legislation or a formalised intergovernmental agreement rather than through a series of policy level strategies issued by the Victorian Government.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Margot Smith, Seconded Cr Carol McGregor

That Council:

1. Confirm the current strategic advocacy priorities (with associated projects detailed in Appendix 1) as:
 - a. Great Ocean Road Visitor Economy.
 - b. Towards Environmental Leadership.
 - c. Building our Future.
 - d. Community and Partner-Led Priorities including the Community Project Development program.
 - e. Key Policy Campaigns.
2. Adopt the revised State Election priorities as detailed in Appendix 1.
3. Notify the MAV that Cr David Bell will replace Cr Libby Coker as Council's representative at the MAV State Council Meetings on 18 May 2018 and 19 October 2018.
4. Put the following motion to the MAV State Council Meeting on 18 May 2018:
 - a. That the MAV advocate to the Victorian Government to establish clarity in relation to rural drainage roles and responsibilities, through processes consistent with the principles of the Victorian State-Local Government Agreement and have these matters supported in legislation or a formalised intergovernmental agreement rather than through a series of policy level strategies issued by the Victorian Government.

CARRIED 7:0

Cr Libby Coker returned to the meeting at 8:27pm.

Cr Brian McKitterick returned to the meeting at 8:27pm.

6.1 Quarterly Advocacy Priorities Update - April 2018

Report

Background

Council is reliant on the actions of other levels of government to achieve its objectives which means advocacy is a critically important activity. Likewise, other levels of government are often reliant on partnerships with Council to achieve their objectives.

Council continues to be committed to attracting support from the State and Federal Government to deliver infrastructure, provide services and shift policy.

Good advocacy planning with clearly articulated priorities will improve Council's chances of advocacy success. This approach will ensure our key spokespeople are prepared with relevant data and clear messages aimed at the right people.

Affirming advocacy priorities each quarter prepares Council to capitalise on many opportunities. The State Election will be held on 24 November 2018 and this brings a significant opportunity to gain support for Council priorities. It is also an opportunity to deepen understanding of how Surf Coast Shire can achieve government and opposition parties' objectives.

A Federal Election will be held prior to mid-2019 and could be called earlier. Regularly affirming advocacy priorities positions Surf Coast Shire well in preparation for the next Federal Election.

Other advocacy opportunities include frequent funding rounds and regular meetings with Ministers and Members of Parliament. This constant advocacy schedule requires planning and pre-work for major proposals including well developed business cases, project plans and grant applications.

Strong relationships need to exist at many levels including with elected representatives and candidates, advisory and campaign staff and organisations with mutual objectives. Council will continue to identify and build strong relationships with them to gain support for priorities.

It is very important to understand government and major political party policy context when determining Council's advocacy priorities. The development of Council's advocacy priorities has included research into policy platforms of each of the major parties. Council priorities are more likely to be supported if they achieve the objectives of government or parties in opposition.

Focussing Council's advocacy efforts on defined, key projects and issues does not diminish the importance of other projects and activities. They will be progressed through advocacy opportunities including but not limited to; meetings and conversations with politicians, advisors and government staff, advocating through the MAV and Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) and active representation at the G21 Regional Alliance.

Discussion

Establishing the current advocacy priorities has included a review of Council's strategic planning work which is shaped by community input through specific engagement processes. The strategic plans considered included:

- Council Plan incorporating the Health and Wellbeing Plan
- Council policy positions
- Council strategies and master plans
- Local land use plans and township design frameworks
- Developer contribution plans.

It is important to be clear with potential partners and stakeholders about Surf Coast Shire's priorities. To this end Surf Coast Shire has identified three strategic advocacy priorities:

1.Great Ocean Road Visitor Economy	2. Towards Environmental Leadership	3. Building our Future
We attract millions of visitors each year and the Great Ocean Road is a unique driver of our economy.	We recognise the Surf Coast's assets are built on our natural environment. We will pull our weight to address climate change and help reach the renewable energy target of 25% by 2020	We are growing rapidly and need to deliver facilities and services that make our communities great places to live.

6.1 Quarterly Advocacy Priorities Update - April 2018

A number of key projects sit within each advocacy priority (more project information is in Appendix 1). The 2018 State Election Advocacy Program includes priorities which are aligned with government and opposition policies, contribute to the long term sustainability of Surf Coast Shire and are significant for the community and environment.

This report seeks to clearly identify State Election Priorities based on Council having an allocated financial commitment to a project or there is a policy or time imperative to achieve an outcome. Project specific changes to the State Election Advocacy Program are detailed later in the discussion section.

Great Ocean Road Visitor Economy - **State Election Priorities**

<i>Shipwreck Coast Master Plan (Partner led)</i>	<i>Growing Adventure Tourism – Surf Coast Trails</i>
<i>Winchelsea River Loop Walk and Memorial</i>	<i>Point Grey Redevelopment Lorne (Partner-led)</i>

Great Ocean Road Visitor Economy - **Long-Term Priorities**

<i>Continued investment in Great Ocean Road renewal</i>	<i>Alcoa Site Regeneration - Anglesea</i>
<i>Great Ocean Road Gateway Experience</i>	<i>Walk the Painkalac</i>

Towards Environmental Leadership – **State Election Priorities**

N/a

Towards Environmental Leadership – **Long Term Priorities**

<i>Hinterland Futures</i>	<i>Thompson Valley Feasibility and Investment Prospectus</i>
<i>Strengthening Town Boundaries (policy)</i>	

Building our Future - **State Election Priorities**

<i>Stribling Reserve Redevelopment</i>	<i>Horseshoe Bend Road Upgrade</i>
<i>Torquay Town Centre Place Making</i>	

Building our Future – **Long-Term Priorities**

<i>Torquay Walking and Cycling Connections</i>	<i>Improved Phone and Internet Coverage</i>
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Building our Future – **Federal funding applications pending**

<i>Surf Coast Multi-purpose Indoor Stadium</i>	<i>North Torquay Soccer Facilities</i>
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Key Policy Campaigns

Retaining Funding for Council's Rural Access program.

Public transport improvements to include:

- Rerouting a V/Line service from Bellbrae more directly to Waurn Ponds and the addition of a V/Line service on the Great Ocean Road.*
- Surf Coast Shire inclusion in future planning.*

Continued coastal agency and Great Ocean Road governance coordination.

Sustainable future for emergency services.

Kinder funding for 15 hours access to continue.

6.1 Quarterly Advocacy Priorities Update - April 2018

Council has completed investigations on 40 community project proposals in and currently has ten projects recommended to progress to a funding strategy. Sourcing external funding for these projects will help deliver them so they are important additions to Council's advocacy program.

Community and Partner-Led Priorities

- Barwon Park Fire Protection - Led by the National Trust
- Anglesea Motor Yacht Club Upgrade – Led by Anglesea Motor Yacht Club.

PROJECTS IN COUNCIL'S COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

- Ellimatta Reserve Anglesea Football Club Training Lights Upgrade
- Mt Moriac Reserve Equestrian Clubroom Redevelopment
- Anglesea Men's Shed – repurpose and refit 2 storage spaces
- Lorne Skate Park Shelter
- Deep Creek Reserve Tennis Court multi-use area
- Mt Moriac Reserve Oval 1 net behind goals
- Quay Reserve – BBQ/picnic shelter
- Freshwater Creek Res old Tennis Clubroom – Recommission
- Anglesea Recreation & Sports Club – power connection
- Anglesea Netball Club –additional netball shelters
- And any Community Led Project Proposals Council may adopt to progress to funding strategy stage at this Council meeting – 24 April 2018.

The State Election Advocacy Program may evolve during 2018 in response to the policies of the major parties, the emergence of community led projects and financial allocations to other projects.

Recent advocacy developments

The Mayor and Surf Coast Shire Chief Executive Officer (CEO) have continued to meet with local politicians and Ministers at a State and Federal level to advance support for Council's priorities. Officers continue to liaise with the advisors and office staff of politicians. Surf Coast Shire continues to be an active member of G21 and is represented on all G21 Pillars.

On 17 January 2018, the Prime Minister and the Acting Premier of Victoria signed a Memorandum of Understanding, committing to work together Victoria's first City Deal for the Geelong region. The Australian and Victorian Governments will work together with local government partners to negotiate the City Deal in 2018.

A City Deal will help to deliver new jobs and make the area an ever better place to live and work. Areas of focus will include improved transport links in the region, ensuring the Great Ocean Road reaches its full potential, revitalising the Geelong city centre and supporting innovation and the growth of knowledge industries

The CEO joined a G21 delegation to Canberra to discuss the importance of the Shipwreck Coast Masterplan to the region and the importance of its inclusion in a City Deal for the region.

Council provided a submission to Alcoa and Department Land Water and Planning (DEWLP) on the future of land use plan on the Alcoa site in Anglesea.

Council received the news after the end of the quarter in April that it will receive \$3 million for the Multipurpose Indoor Stadium in Torquay from the State Government's Better Stadiums Fund.

6.1 Quarterly Advocacy Priorities Update - April 2018

The table below summaries other project specific activities undertaken for the quarter:

Point Grey Redevelopment - Lorne	Council has been working closely with Great Ocean Road Coastal Committee (GORCC) on design function and scope and planning the advocacy strategy. Council is considering a request received from GORRC to contribute funding to this project at tonight's Council meeting.
Growing Adventure Tourism – Surf Coast Trails	Council submitted a funding application for \$100,000 in December 2017 to the Federal Government's Building Better Regions Fund. The outcome of this application to undertake planning work is expected in mid-2018.
Multipurpose Indoor Stadium - Torquay	Council is awaiting the outcome of a \$5 million funding application to the Federal Government's Building Better Regions Fund.
Torquay Soccer Facilities	Council was advised we will receive a \$100,000 grant from Sport and Recreation Victoria for this project. Council is awaiting the outcome of a \$360,500 funding application to the Federal Government's Building Better Regions Fund.
Winchelsea Netball Facilities Upgrade	Council was advised during the quarter that our \$100,000 funding application to the Sport and Recreation Victoria Female Friendly facilities program was unsuccessful.
Stribling Reserve Redevelopment- Lorne	Detailed design work for the change facilities progressed during the quarter and will extend into much of 2018.
Improved Phone and Internet Coverage	The Federal Government announced "Smallcell" mobile base station upgrades will be delivered for Bellbrae, Anglesea and Aireys Inlet. It is expected that these upgrades will be completed by the end of the year
Ellimatta Reserve Lights Upgrade - Anglesea	Council resolved to submit a \$100,000 funding application to Sport and Recreation Victoria's Country Football Netball Grants in March.

Changes to the advocacy program

Horseshoe Bend Rd Upgrade - NEW

This project will widen Horseshoe Bend Road from South Beach Road to Blackgate Road to provide a sealed shoulder on each side which will improve vehicle and cycle use.

Winchelsea River Loop Walk and War Memorial - NEW

This project will connect Winchelsea with pathways along the beautiful Barwon River and provide a new pedestrian bridge. The 'Walk of Honour' will continue to recognise men and women who have served Australia in conflicts by delivering more Memorial Cairns to compliment the current WW1 Cairn. The pathways, decking and boardwalks will support Winchelsea's growing economy by attracting visitors and will provide better connections for the community.

Torquay Town Centre Place Making – AMENDMENT

Council adopted the Torquay Town Centre Urban Design Framework in December 2017 which outlines concepts for streetscape, lighting, sculpture elements; play elements, street and footpath improvements. Delivering these elements will transform the town centre and help grow the Great Ocean Road Visitor Economy and Build for our Future. This has been amended from the last quarter report to highlight only place making elements from the program of works resulting in a reduction in cost to an estimated \$1.2 million.

Winchelsea Netball Facilities - REMOVED

Council has exhausted State Government funding opportunities and will now proceed to deliver this project as a Council, community and Federal Government partnership.

Community projects - NEW

The community projects added to Council's advocacy program include the projects investigated through the Community Project Development program. This includes:

- Ellimatta Reserve Anglesea Football Club Training Lights Upgrade
- Mt Moriac Reserve Equestrian Clubroom Redevelopment
- Anglesea Men's Shed – repurpose and refit 2 storage spaces
- Lorne Skate Park Shelter
- Deep Creek Reserve Tennis Court multi-use area

6.1 Quarterly Advocacy Priorities Update - April 2018

- Mt Moriac Reserve Oval 1 net behind goals
- Quay Reserve – BBQ/picnic shelter
- Freshwater Creek Res old Tennis Clubroom – Recommission
- Anglesea Recreation & Sports Club – power connection
- Anglesea Netball Club –additional netball shelters

Torquay Renewable Energy Project - REMOVED

The potential partnership project with Deakin University to establish a renewable energy microgrid in the Civic and Community Precinct is no longer viable. There is no alternative renewable energy generation project forecast for the future in Torquay and therefore this priority should be removed from the advocacy program.

MAV State Council

MAV State Council provides an important advocacy avenue for Council. State Council Motions may not have an immediate impact to the operation of Councils who put them forward. However, the MAV is an influential organisation and Council should seek to leverage MAV's ability to advocate on our behalf for issues of regional and state significance.

Council's proposed motion seeks to make clear local government's responsibility in relation to drainage. Councils over time have been expected to have great responsibility as drainage authorities when this should be the responsibility of other agencies including catchment management authorities.

Financial Implications

This quarterly update seeks to provide greater certainty and clarity about which The State Election priorities have a confirmed Council financial commitment already in place. The details are included in Appendix 1.

A successful advocacy program can deliver significant income to Council projects. In the event these advocacy priorities are funded, Council will need to consider how its financial contribution to these projects will impact on its capacity to deliver other capital projects in future budgets.

Consideration will need to be given to equity and the spread of projects across the shire. Council's cash position and the possibility of debt funding larger projects will also need to be considered.

Council Plan

Theme	5 High Performing Council
Objective	5.1 Ensure Council is financially sustainable and has the capability to deliver strategic objectives
Strategy	5.1.4 Build on relationships with agencies and key stakeholders for the benefit of the community

Theme	3 Balancing Growth
Objective	3.2 Ensure infrastructure is in place to support existing communities and provide for growth
Strategy	3.2.6 Advocate for supporting infrastructure

Policy/Legal Implications

The *Local Government Act 1989* articulates that a role of a Council includes; "advocating the interests of the local community to other communities and governments".

A review of State and Federal Government policy continues to inform Council's advocacy program. Council's advocacy activities seek to influence government policy to deliver outcomes which benefit the Surf Coast community.

Officer Direct or Indirect Interest

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has any conflicts of interest.

Risk Assessment

Failure to determine clear advocacy priorities for action may limit Council's ability to achieve support for its priorities. A clear and ongoing advocacy plan with regularly updated priorities mitigates against this risk.

6.1 Quarterly Advocacy Priorities Update - April 2018

Social Considerations

Effective advocacy planning is a key ingredient in Council achieving support for its priorities. This increases the likelihood of Council achieving social benefits for the community.

Community Engagement

Previous community engagement activities have informed the choice of priorities. They are informed by earlier engagement conducted for the Council Plan incorporating the Health and Wellbeing Plan, established master plans, developer contribution plans and other capital works planning exercises.

Environmental Implications

Council is committed to being an environmental leader and this is evident in the current advocacy priorities. Council has established the 25% by 2020 Taskforce which has led to the scoping of the Renewable Energy Precinct project

Communication

The Advocacy Priorities will be communicated via Council's communication channels and media reporting is likely to communicate to the wider community of Council's priorities.

Council will update the Advocacy Program including the State Election Priorities on a quarterly basis at ordinary Council meetings until November 2018.

Options

Option 1 – Affirm the proposed Advocacy priorities

This option is recommended by officers as the priorities are Council deliverables and support many objectives and policy positions of the State and Federal Governments. The strategic priorities - Great Ocean Road Visitor Economy, Environmental Leadership and Building for our Future - support delivery of objectives in the Council Plan 2017-21 and have proven to be a consistent and understandable narrative for discussions with Governments and political figures in opposition. Affirming these priorities regularly provides transparency and currency which helps when communicating with other levels of government and the community.

Option 2 – Alter the projects in the Advocacy program

This option is not recommended by officers as each project is proposed on the basis of its contribution to delivering on the Council Plan 2017-21.

Option 3 – Do not adopt an Advocacy program

This option is not recommended as Council is highly reliant on the actions of other levels of government to achieve its objectives which means advocacy is a critically important activity. The absence of a transparently agreed advocacy program with clearly articulated priorities will reduce Council's chances of attracting support, likely as a result of inconsistent messaging about Council's most important priorities.

Conclusion

Updating and affirming advocacy priorities regularly and implementing actions to gain support gives Council the best chance of advocacy success. The State and Federal Elections will take place in 2018 and before mid-2019 respectively so it essential that Council is well prepared to advocate to governments and parties in opposition in the lead up to these elections.

However, whilst elections are important, Council will continue to take a long-term approach to its advocacy effort. The focus will continue to be on maintaining government relations, developing business cases for projects and capitalising on key opportunities to achieve benefits for the community.

6.1 Quarterly Advocacy Priorities Update - April 2018

APPENDIX 1 DETAILED ADVOCACY PRIORITIES - APRIL 2018

Appendix 1 – Project Information – Surf Coast Shire Advocacy Priorities – April 2018




COUNCIL-LED PRIORITIES



- State Election Priority
DCP = Developer Contributions Plan





Project	Description	Project Cost	Council Contribution
GREAT OCEAN ROAD VISITOR ECONOMY - State Election Priorities			
Shipwreck Coast Master Plan (Partner led priority)	Advocate on behalf of partner organisations to gain support for the implementation of the Shipwreck Coast Masterplan and improve visitor connections to Surf Coast Shire. Increasing visitation along the Great Ocean Road will benefit all of its communities and the region's economy.	\$174,000,000	Nil Partner Led
Growing Adventure Tourism – Surf Coast Trails	Complete the enhancement of the existing Surf Coast Walk to enable dual use by pedestrians and cyclists. Feasibility and design of Stage 2 of the Surf Coast Walk to extend the current trail from Fairhaven to Cumberland River, Lorne.	\$210,000	\$100,000
Winchelsea River Loop Walk and Memorial Cairns	This project will connect Winchelsea with pathways along the beautiful Barwon River and provide a new pedestrian bridge. The 'Walk of Honour' will continue to recognise men and women who have served Australia in conflicts by delivering another memorial to compliment the current WW1 Cairn. The pathways, decking and boardwalks will support Winchelsea's growing economy by attracting visitors and will provide better connections for the community.	\$830,000	\$130,000
Point Grey Redevelopment Lorne (Partner led priority)	A Great Ocean Road Coastal Committee (GORCC) project to deliver new and improved community infrastructure and facilities including: Redeveloping two existing buildings, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stand-alone aquatic and angling clubroom Improvement to public open spaces New picnic and BBQ areas 	\$6,000,000	Nil Partner Led
GREAT OCEAN ROAD VISITOR ECONOMY - Long-Term Priorities			
Continued investment in Great Ocean Road renewal	Recent announcements from the State and Federal governments to invest in renewing the Great Ocean Road will support the 5 million visitors per year. Funding needs to continue in road renewal to ensure it meets visitor expectation for future years.	As required	Not required. Govt infrastructure
Great Ocean Road Gateway Experience	Creating a 'must do' destination at the beginning of the Great Ocean Road to frame and influence the visitor journey along the Great Ocean Road. This would be achieved through combination of various elements, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Great Ocean Road Gateway experience An enhanced Australian National Surfing Museum A visitor transit hub and visitor centre 	TBC	\$50,000

Project	Description	Project Cost	Council Contribution
Alcoa Site Regeneration – Anglesea	Consultation on the future use of the Alcoa site in Anglesea is continuing. Council is pursuing positive environmental and community outcomes for the site consistent with community aspirations put forward through the consultation.	TBC	TBC
Walk the Paikacac	This project is aligned with the Great Ocean Road Visitor Economy. This project proposes establishing a nature-based walking experience that is a unique offering on Great Ocean Road. Feasibility and business case investigation is required and there is potential for this project to become an advocacy project later in 2018.	\$1.5 - 2 million	TBC
TOWARDS ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP - Long Term Priorities			
Hinterland Futures	Capitalising on new opportunities in Surf Coast Shire's beautiful and productive hinterland through local food, niche tourism and agricultural exports.	TBC	TBC
Thompson Valley Feasibility and Investment Prospectus	This project explores the feasibility of the use of recycled water in the Thompson Valley area. It will consider aspects such as soil quality, water quality, required infrastructure land availability and market sounding.	\$250,000	TBC
Strengthening Town Boundaries	Current town boundaries are capable of accommodating forecast population growth and retain township character. Residential and other urban development will occur within defined settlement boundaries. Surf Coast shire seeks government policies which support Council's land use planning.	Nil	Policy Support
BUILDING OUR FUTURE - State Election Priorities			
 Stribling Reserve Redevelopment	Completing reserve redevelopment by upgrading male and female change facilities to enable more use for local sport and community events. The project will enhance the capability of the reserve to play a key role in emergency management.	\$1,220,000	TBC
 Horseshoe Bend Rd Upgrade	This project will widen Horseshoe Bend Road from South Beach Road to Blackgate Road to provide a sealed shoulder on each side which will improve vehicle and cycle use.	\$1,650,000	\$1,225,000
 Torquay Town Centre Place Making	Improving central Torquay through streetscape works, play and dwell spaces, sculpture treatments and event areas. Delivering these elements would transform the town centre and help grow the Great Ocean Road Visitor Economy and Build for our Future.	\$1.2 million	Nil
BUILDING OUR FUTURE – Long-Term Priorities			
Torquay Walking and Cycling Connections (DCP project)	Investing in walking and bike paths will help keep the Surf Coast community an active community and enhance our reputation as a home for major events such as the Cadel Evans Road Race.	\$1,750,000	\$600,000

Project	Description	Project Cost	Council Contribution
 Improved Phone and Internet Coverage	Mobile towers are needed in Surf Coast Shire to improve mobile and internet coverage. There is a particular focus on equitable access to the nbn services where towers do not cover all households in a particular location. Due to the topography of the Surf Coast Shire, mobile and internet coverage is poor in many places. Even the larger towns experience poor reception.	Federal Government infrastructure	Not required. Govt infrastructure
 Multipurpose Indoor Stadium-Torquay (DCP project)	Deliver a multi-court facility providing space for indoor sports such as basketball, netball, futsal, badminton and volleyball. Facility would provide scope for additional health and fitness programs such as group fitness classes. This is a key element of the Civic and Community Precinct Masterplan.	\$13,500,000	\$2,875,000
 North Torquay Soccer Facilities (DCP Project)	The popularity of soccer in Torquay continues to grow and pressure on existing facilities is already evident. Torquay has recently become the home of Galaxy United – the regional female representative club. Surf Coast FC uses these facilities and is growing rapidly The project includes: establishment of 3rd soccer pitch, fencing, goals, shelters, lighting, and scoreboards.	\$725,000	\$625,000

N.B. - Projects in DCPs are contractual commitments and Council has a funding obligation to deliver these projects.

KEY POLICY CAMPAIGNS

Policy	Description
 Retaining Funding for Councils for Rural Access programs.	Funding of Rural Access programs in councils is not guaranteed beyond 30 June 2018. Funding will transition from the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). Council will advocate that this funding is retained in the NDIS so councils can continue to improve access and inclusion.
 Public transport improvements to include:	Council will advocate that the State Government invest in rerouting a Great Ocean Road bus service to run more directly from Anglesea to Waurn Ponds to help improve travel efficiency people in Surf Coast Shire. Longer term, Council seeks the State Government invest in additional, more direct services into Geelong from Surf Coast Shire.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investment from the State Government to re-route a V/Line service from Anglesea directly to Waurn Ponds and the future addition of a V/Line service from Surf Coast Shire to Waurn Ponds Surf Coast Shire to be included in future planning 	Council will advocate to be included by other levels of government in future public transport planning.
 Coastal agency and Great Ocean Road Governance coordination.	Many agencies have coastal management responsibilities in Victoria. Council will advocate for better coordination between these agencies to deliver better outcomes for the community and environment. Council strongly encourages the State government to go further to address complexity, clarify roles and responsibilities, promote shared services and reduce or remove inefficiencies in coastal land management. Council will advocate for clearer governance and institutional arrangements for management of the Great Ocean Road.
 Sustainable future for emergency services.	Council will advocate that emergency services (SES, Marine Rescue, and Surf Life Saving) in Victoria are funded adequately by the State Government.



Kinder funding for 15 hours access to continue.	Seeking support from the Victorian Government to deliver its commitment to make Victoria the Education State by advocating to the Federal Government for ongoing funding for 15 hours of kindergarten. Council will support the MAV advocacy campaign to strengthen local government's voice with the federal government.
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PRIORITIES DEVELOPED BY COMMUNITY AND PARTNERS

Project	Description
Barwon Park Fire Protection	Establishing water supply and fire protection systems to protect this heritage and economic asset.
Anglesea Motor Yacht Club Upgrade	Extend & renovate existing clubrooms to better serve the needs of the increased club membership and other community groups, including the addition of a lift for disabled access.
PROJECTS IN COUNCIL'S COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM	
Ellimatta Reserve Anglesea Football Club Training Lights Upgrade	Sports lighting infrastructure to meet club needs and also to be complaint with AFL guidelines for community club level competition.
Mt Moriac Reserve Equestrian Clubroom Redevelopment	Concept design and preliminary cost report for the redevelopment of the Mt Moriac Reserve Equestrian Clubroom Facility
Anglesea Men's Shed – repurpose and refit 2 storage spaces	Men's Shed to reconfigure storage areas – extend community room, creating private meeting space + relocate welding area.
Lorne Skate Park Shelter	Siting and installing of a shelter at the Lorne Skate Park with the main aim of providing a shaded gathering and seating area for skate park users and spectators.
Deep Creek Reserve Tennis Court multi-use area	Additional activities to be included on the 2 asphalt community tennis courts at Deep Creek Reserve to complement the adjacent play space.
Mt Moriac Reserve Oval 1 net behind goals	Supply and installation of barrier netting behind football goal posts at Mt Moriac Reserve to address safety of participants, spectators and vehicles accessing the reserve and for training and game day functionality.
Quay Reserve – BBQ/picnic shelter	Quay Residents Association proposal for provision of a shelter /shade structure to cover the BBQ and picnic area at Quay Reserve.
Freshwater Creek Res old Tennis Clubroom – Recommission	Internal refurbishment of the old Freshwater Creek Reserve Tennis Clubrooms to support and encourage casual and group use of the recently developed tennis play space area.
Anglesea Recreation & Sports Club – power connection	Connection of power to the Anglesea Recreation & Sports Club to allow the installation of security and fire services (fire sprinkler system proposed).
Anglesea Netball Club –additional netball shelters	Investigate addition of 3 new netball shelters at the Anglesea Netball Club facility to address inadequate shelters for participants, officials and spectators.

6.2 Quarterly Report - Community Project Development - April 2018

Author's Title: Community Project Development Officer **General Manager:** Chris Pike

Department: Recreation & Open Space Planning **File No:** F16/1580

Division: Culture & Community **Trim No:** IC18/451

Appendix:

1. Community Project Proposal Master List - 6 March 2018 (D18/26906)

Officer Direct or Indirect Conflict of Interest:

In accordance with Local Government Act 1989 – Section 80C:

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Yes

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No

Reason: Nil

Status:

Information classified confidential in accordance with Local Government Act 1989 – Section 77(2)(c):

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Yes

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No

Reason: Nil

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to receive the April 2018 Community Project Development recommendations.

Summary

Seven community project proposals were referred for detailed investigation at the December 2017 Council Meeting. Recommendations related to four of these proposals are provided for Council consideration:

- CPP20: Anglesea Pre School Basket Swing Installation – *Progress*
- CPP22: Anglesea to Waurin Ponds Bus Service Proposal – *Progress*
- CPP23: Connewarre & District Riding Club Dressage Arenas - *Progress*
- CPP25: Torquay Football Netball Club player interchange boxes – *Progress*.

Investigation is continuing on the following two project proposals with recommendations to be referred to the next quarterly reporting opportunity in June 2018:

- CPP21: Torquay Pre School Garden Redesign Plan
- CPP24: Nautical Rise Linear Reserve Indigenous Garden/Reserve Activation.

The investigation of CPP26 (Torquay Tigers Cricket Club new shed for turf roller) has been put on hold awaiting progress with the club on implementation of a project currently in delivery phase.

The Community Project Proposal Master List currently includes 34 outstanding project proposals. 12 new community project proposals were registered during the last quarter. Of these 12 proposals, 1 proposal was referred to an alternative Council program and 11 proposals were accepted for inclusion in the Community Project Proposal Master List.

Four of the highest ranked proposals from the Master List have been recommended to proceed to detailed investigation stage.

6.2 Quarterly Report - Community Project Development - April 2018

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Refer the Anglesea Pre School Basket Swing Proposal (CPP20) with a total budget of \$8,955 to Council's Small Grants Program for funding consideration with the Preschool Parents Committee pledging 50% of the total project cost.
2. Refer the Anglesea to Waurin Ponds Bus Service Proposal (CPP22) to Council's advocacy program for public transport improvements including the re-routing of V-Line bus services to a direct route from Anglesea to Waurin Ponds and also for the provision of additional Great Ocean Road V-Line bus services towards the goal of five return services per day (as per the G21 Region Public Transport Strategy Action Plan).
3. Refer the following projects to Council's project prioritisation and budget processes including consideration for future grant opportunities alongside other eligible projects:
 - 3.1 Connewarre & District Riding Club Dressage Arenas (CPP23) – total project cost for Stage 1 is \$60,000 and includes proposed 25% contribution from Connewarre & District Riding Club; and
 - 3.2 Torquay Football Netball Club player and officials interchange boxes (CPP25) – total project cost is \$57,100 and includes proposed 25% contribution from Torquay Football Netball Club.
4. Refer the following four priority project proposals from the Community Project Proposal Master List to the Community Project Development Officer for investigation in the April to June 2018 quarter:
 - 4.1 Quay Reserve Public Toilet.
 - 4.2 Great Ocean Views Reserve Activation
 - 4.3 Anglesea Hall Sound, Lighting and Projection Improvements; and
 - 4.4 Deans Marsh Priority Pathways #1.
5. Allocate \$9,000 from the Accumulated Unallocated Cash Reserve to allow detailed investigation of the four project proposals referred for investigation in the April to June 2018 quarter.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Margot Smith, Seconded Cr Rose Hodge

That Council:

1. Refer the Anglesea Pre School Basket Swing Proposal (CPP20) with a total budget of \$8,955 to Council's Small Grants Program for funding consideration with the Preschool Parents Committee pledging 50% of the total project cost.
2. Refer the Anglesea to Waurin Ponds Bus Service Proposal (CPP22) to Council's advocacy program for public transport improvements including the re-routing of V-Line bus services to a direct route from Anglesea to Waurin Ponds and also for the provision of additional Great Ocean Road V-Line bus services towards the goal of five return services per day (as per the G21 Region Public Transport Strategy Action Plan).
3. Refer the following projects to Council's project prioritisation and budget processes including consideration for future grant opportunities alongside other eligible projects:
 - 3.1 Connewarre & District Riding Club Dressage Arenas (CPP23) – total project cost for Stage 1 is \$60,000 and includes proposed 25% contribution from Connewarre & District Riding Club; and
 - 3.2 Torquay Football Netball Club player and officials interchange boxes (CPP25) – total project cost is \$57,100 and includes proposed 25% contribution from Torquay Football Netball Club.
4. Refer the following four priority project proposals from the Community Project Proposal Master List to the Community Project Development Officer for investigation in the April to June 2018 quarter:
 - 4.1 Quay Reserve Public Toilet.
 - 4.2 Great Ocean Views Reserve Activation.
 - 4.3 Anglesea Hall Sound, Lighting and Projection Improvements; and
 - 4.4 Deans Marsh Priority Pathways #1.
5. Allocate \$9,000 from the Accumulated Unallocated Cash Reserve to allow detailed investigation of the four project proposals referred for investigation in the April to June 2018 quarter.

CARRIED 9:0

6.2 Quarterly Report - Community Project Development - April 2018

Report

Background

The Community Project Development Officer exists to improve Council's ability to respond to an increasing number of community project ideas and to ensure that projects seeking Council support and / or funding are appropriately assessed, scoped and prioritised.

The Community Project Officer has worked on a total of seven project proposals in the December 2017 to March 2018 quarter:

- CPP20: Anglesea Pre School - basket swing installation
- CPP21: Torquay Pre School Garden Redesign Plan
- CPP22: Anglesea to Waurin Ponds Bus Service Proposal
- CPP23: Connewarre & District Riding Club Dressage Arenas
- CPP24: Nautical Rise Linear Reserve Indigenous Garden/Reserve Activation
- CPP25: Torquay Football Club - relocate player interchange boxes
- CPP26: Torquay Tigers Cricket Club - new shed for turf roller.

Discussion

Prioritised Community Project Proposals for Further Investigation (referred in December 2017)

The key findings and recommendations relating to the following community project proposal referred by Council in December 2017 for detailed investigation are found below:

- CPP20: Anglesea Pre School Basket Swing Installation
- CPP22: Anglesea to Waurin Ponds Bus Service Proposal
- CPP23: Connewarre & District Riding Club Dressage Arenas
- CPP25: Torquay Football Netball Club player interchange boxes.

CPP20	Anglesea Pre School Basket Swing Installation Proposal – PROGRESS
Proposal Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate the installation of a multi-purpose double swing frame (with capacity to hold a basket swing) into a suitable location within the existing outdoor play area at the Anglesea Pre School.
Background Info	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This proposal has been submitted by Anglesea Pre School Parents Committee who fundraise each year for kindergarten facility improvements. • The Anglesea Pre School grounds previously had a swing that was removed when the building was extended into the grounds. • The outdoor play space is also used by the Anglesea Playgroup.
Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This investigation has involved engagement with the Anglesea Pre School Parents Committee, Council Early Years staff including Anglesea Pre School staff and Team Leader of Kindergartens, discussions with other relevant Council staff and site consultation with contractors.
What we know	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Underground services report has been obtained as part of investigation. • Investigation has determined 2 suitable swing site options (with required swing boundary area of 3.2 x 6.62m). • Both sites impacted by underground services but swing footings would be clear of services. • Cost estimate consistent for both site options and scope of works would rectify fence and site slope issue in SE corner of yard regardless of which site is chosen. • Quotes sourced for following works scope: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Grinding out of tree stump in SE corner (SCS in kind works) ○ SE corner fence realignment works ○ SE corner timber retaining wall modifications and surface level infill ○ Site preparation works to level / excavate area for swing to enable softfall installation to depth of 300mm

6.2 Quarterly Report - Community Project Development - April 2018

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Supply/install swing frame and basket swing seat plus interchangeable swing seats) ○ Supply and install softfall to depth 300mm ○ Landscape works for border, compacted gravel swing access point and tidy up • Preschool Parents Committee keen to deliver an additional landscape project (mound over tunnel tidy up) potentially at the same time as landscaper is doing swing site works. A quote has been obtained for this additional work.
Potential funding partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council (Small Grants Program) • Anglesea Preschool Parents Committee and Anglesea Playgroup
Officer Summary / Recommendation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total Project Cost \$8,955 excluding GST (including PM and contingency) with option of delivering additional site works (central mound area) to value of \$1,120 excluding GST at same time. • Opportunity for Council to refer this project to Council's Small Grants Program for consideration as it meets the guidelines of this program with the Anglesea Pre-school Parents Committee pledging 50% project cost plus GST and preparing an application for March 2018 round.

CPP22	Anglesea to Waurin Ponds Bus Service Proposal– PROGRESS (to Council's advocacy priority list)
Proposal Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigation of a bus trial from Anglesea direct to Waurin Ponds Shopping Centre (via Waurin Ponds Station) – closest regional rail and specialist retail centre as well as university, medical, leisure and entertainment facilities.
Background Info	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community campaign has been now over 3 years – since February 2015. • 2015 bus survey. • Community attended workshops for Regional Victoria's Regional Network Development planning in 2015. • Numerous letters to Minister Jacinta Allan, Public Transport Victoria, VLine, McHarry's, Council. • 630+ community petition sent to Jacinta Allan, Minister for Transport in February 2017. • Community submission to 17/18 Council draft budget to seek funding (suggested \$20,000 for a community bus and volunteer driver) – for a pilot bus trial program to run a community bus biweekly to Waurin Ponds from Anglesea. Referred project to Community Project Development process for further planning to understand alignment to G21 Public Transport Strategy, PTV level of support for the project, bus availability, costs, insurances etc. • Council Plan includes "advocate for better public transport ...investigate local transport connections".
Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anglesea Public Transport Action Group, Anglesea Community Network (campaigning for a permanent direct bus service is a high priority), community survey (Jan / Feb 2018) attracted 527 responses. • Liaison with bus service providers • Meetings with Public Transport Victoria (PTV) who provide the operational function for transport services and Transport for Victoria (TforV) who provide the strategic and funding function for transport services. • This investigation has involved engagement with officers from Council's Community Relations, Engineering Services, Positive Ageing and Recreation and Open Space Planning Departments.
What we know	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The investigation has unpacked the proposal and the original scope changed in the process to work towards a sustainable outcome for the community (setting it up with best chance to succeed).

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- Not a local community transport issue – it is a public / mass transport issue.
- A bus trial using a community bus with volunteer driver is a local community method that is not suited to the desired public transport solution – the former may have little to no impact on affecting a permanent outcome.
- Early advice (Dec 2017) from PTV was that for a successful bus trial there are important principles – service needs to be stable, frequent, visible, accessible, consistent – i.e. a commercial bus service with a paid driver is the model required to get real results from a trial.
- Bus Trial Survey - ran from 11 January to 28 February - responses (527) – 70% to be kept informed, 77 people want to help with campaign, 66% female, 65% over 50 years old (Anglesea median age is 51yrs vs Victorian median age of 37 years), 44% would use the service at least once per week, 54% don't drive or prefer not to drive, 84% indicated a desired destination is the Waurm Ponds station and 76% desired destination is Waurm Ponds Shopping Centre.
- The Anglesea community's preferred Bus Trial scope – is for a stand alone Anglesea to Waurm Ponds bus service of 12 months duration (to pick up seasonal variations), 7 days per week including public holidays (survey shows no particular day is preferred and aim is for a stable, frequent, consistent service), 1 return service daily on 57 seat bus (for bikes, mobility walkers, personal storage trolleys, surfboards etc).
- Alternatives (less desirable for community – in order of preference) are:
 - Existing route on VLine to be changed to go direct from Anglesea to Waurm Ponds (existing V Line service or additional V Line service). Possible Bellbrae bus interchange for Torquay / Jan Juc bus to connect to the V Line bus route and also need connecting busses at Waurm Ponds station to link to Waurm Ponds shopping centre.
 - Existing VLine bus rerouted after leaving Torquay to go direct / express to Waurm Ponds Station.
- Fee proposals for community's preferred Bus Trial scope - Coles Coaches (standard 57 seat non DDA coach) and McHarry's Buslines (DDA compliant coach) *utilising school bus infrastructure where possible* at approx total annual cost of \$145,000 - \$150,000. (Coles quote rises to approx. \$170,000 for DDA compliant bus).
- Later meetings (Feb – April 2018) with TFV indicated that there are no relevant funding programs to support the community preferred bus trial and there are reservations about supporting a bus trial in any form that may raise community expectations for a permanent service.
- TFV keen to investigate the V-Line bus service rerouting option (this was raised first by community in 2015). It is unknown what cost is involved, whether this option could be provided within existing TFV budgets or if not, how long it may be before a resolution / outcome on this VLine rerouting option may be reached (could be 2-3 years if additional funding needs to be sought from future State transport budgets).
- G21 Region Transport Strategy (August 2014) - actions relevant for Surf Coast Shire and this investigation include "advocating for increase in services from Apollo Bay (via Anglesea) to Geelong (to 5 services per day in short term)" – currently only 4 on weekdays and 2 on weekends) and also "advocating for prioritising new services to settlements with high numbers of younger or older persons". Based on this strategy action, there is potential for Surf Coast Shire to be advocating for additional V-Line services as well as rerouting options – would enable a more regional benefit to residents and visitors travelling to and from communities along Anglesea Road and along Great Ocean Road through to Lorne and on to Apollo Bay.
- Regional Victoria's Regional Network Development Report (May 2016) highlights "use of school buses out of school times" and "reviewing bus networks to ensure appropriate local transport routes".

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Potential funding partners

- Council - potential contribution towards a non-recurrent bus trial / pilot service that supports the community preferred bus trial scope or an alternative bus pilot program involving an additional or rerouted V-Line bus service. However Council funding bus transport is not sustainable given TFM feedback that a bus trial would need to be a Council led program and that there would be limited chance of funding support through TFM.
- Council would not be a funding partner with Transport for Victoria for any ongoing permanent bus services.
- Transport for Victoria (awaiting further clarification from TFM re likely timing for any progress on planning V Line services).

Officer Summary / Recommendation

Considering advice from TFM, risks, viability, local and regional benefits and opportunities for short term and ongoing success (sustainability), Option 2 appears to be Council's best advocacy position.

Options for Council to consider (including risks and benefits of each option):

1. Opportunity for Council to support the community preferred bus trial involving a new direct bus service connecting Anglesea to Waurin Ponds (with a pilot program running for 12 months, 7 days per week, 1 return service per day and with a budget of \$150,000-\$170,000) and to add this project to Council's advocacy priority list, seeking external funding for this trial service or considering potential co-contribution funding options.

Funding options may include:

- seeking 100% external funding for this bus trial
- providing a 50% project cost contribution pre-allocated from 18/19 (with Council recouping bus fares) and for Council to seek State Government funding for the balance.
- providing a 50% project cost contribution pre-allocated from 18/19 (with Council and Transport for Victoria recouping bus fares on a 50/50 split) and for Council to seek State Government funding for the balance.

Option 1 Benefits	Option 1 Risks
Advocating on behalf of our community and supporting their preferred bus trial scope. Supporting a bus trial that will generate data to influence decision making about a permanent bus service. Council funding contribution to a bus trial or pilot program may prompt short term action from external funding sources. Supports Council Plan action "advocate for better public transport ...investigate local transport connections".	TFM have reservations about bus trials raising expectations and favour the VLine bus service rerouting opportunities. If involved in funding a pilot program, with no ongoing funding expectation, Council risk community dissatisfaction should a permanent service not eventuate. Council contributing funds for a service that is outside of jurisdiction. Setting precedent for other communities with transport issues.

Option 1 (with or without funding from Council) for a bus trial to progress a stand-alone direct service linking Anglesea to Waurin Ponds appears to have limited chance of short term and ongoing success.

2. Opportunity for Council to add this project to Council's advocacy priority list with an advocacy position of supporting the Anglesea community and the Great Ocean Road region by advocating for changes to the V-Line bus service including the re-routing of the service to a direct route from Anglesea to Waurin Ponds and also for the provision of additional V-Line bus services towards the goal of 5 return services per day (as per the Action Plan in the G21 Region Public Transport Strategy).

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Option 2 Benefits	Option 2 Risks
<p>Acknowledges TFV preference for investigating the VLine bus service opportunities.</p> <p>Working with TFV on a sustainable public transport solution.</p> <p>Multiple municipality and Great Ocean Road regional benefits – 1 additional daily V-Line service would mean there are then 5 weekday and 3 weekend services bringing the outcome closer to the G21 Transport Strategy goal of 5 daily services between Apollo Bay and Geelong.</p> <p>Faster travel times for all VLine bus commuters with a more direct and faster service.</p> <p>Supports Council Plan action “advocate for better public transport ...investigate local transport connections”.</p>	<p>Potential community dissatisfaction with Council for not supporting community preferred bus trial option.</p> <p>A transport solution involving changes to VLine service may take 18 months to 3 years to progress (according to TFV planning schedule).</p> <p>Rerouting VLine buses would result in additional planning that considers VLine bus travellers to and from Torquay / Jan Juc (may need to establish a Bellbrae interchange)</p> <p>Anglesea residents wishing to connect to Waurm Ponds shopping centre would need to access a connecting bus from Waurm Ponds Station if the V-Line bus route did not include a stop close to the shopping and leisure facilities at Waurm Ponds.</p>

Option 2 would result in greatest local and regional benefit.

- Opportunity for Council to add this project to Council's advocacy priority list with an advocacy position of supporting the Anglesea community and the Great Ocean Road region by advocating for changes to rerouting of the V-Line bus service to a direct route from Anglesea to Waurm Ponds.

Option 3 Benefits	Option 3 Risks
<p>Acknowledges TFV preference for investigating opportunities to reroute existing VLine bus services.</p> <p>Working with TFV on a sustainable public transport solution.</p> <p>Faster travel times for VLine bus commuters with a more direct and faster service.</p> <p>Supports Council Plan action “advocate for better public transport ...investigate local transport connections”.</p>	<p>Potential community dissatisfaction with Council for not supporting community preferred bus trial option.</p> <p>A transport solution involving changes to VLine service may take 18 months to 3 years to progress (according to TFV planning schedule).</p> <p>Rerouting VLine buses would result in additional planning that considers VLine bus travellers to and from Torquay / Jan Juc (may need to establish a Bellbrae interchange)</p> <p>Anglesea residents wishing to connect to Waurm Ponds shopping centre would need to access a connecting bus from Waurm Ponds Station if the V-Line bus route did not include a stop close to the shopping and leisure facilities at Waurm Ponds.</p>

Option 3 aligns with what is understood to be TFV's preferred option and is likely to have greatest chance for short term progress and success.

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CPP23	Connewarre & District Riding Club Dressage Arenas Proposal – PROGRESS
Proposal Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To construct competition dressage arenas with drained crushed rock base and an all-weather sand surface - will provide horse riders with a safe surface to practice dressage techniques and drills, allow Club to hold dressage training days and also conduct dressage competitions.
Background Info	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Club membership is experiencing steady growth as facilities improve. Connewarre Reserve Masterplan showed 3 dressage arenas but club have confirmed that only 2 dressage arenas are required to meet future needs (dimension for each arena is 60m x 20m) Club currently have 1 temporary dressage arena marked out on natural grass surface with unsecured perimeter poles – limited use due to uneven surface, wet in winter, cracks in summer.
Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions with Connewarre and District Riding Club, site consultation with contractors, discussions with relevant Council staff.
What we know	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigation included a feature and levels survey, a detailed design for 2 arenas and a preliminary cost estimate presenting the following options: Arena #1 at \$60,000 excluding GST including PM and contingency (1 dressage arena construction with Arena #2 to come at a later date). <i>Note - club accepting of this more feasible staged construction recommendation but do feel that cost estimate is conservative and that potentially could be delivered at 20% cost saving with use of local contractors and due to low complexity of project.</i> Construction of Arena 1& 2 at estimated total cost \$100,000 (completes desired 2 arenas) Club can purchase materials for arena boundary plus in-kind contribution for installation Club have exemplary maintenance record with existing show jumping arena (a 2014 project) Potential to leverage funding through future Sport & Recreation Victoria CISF Minor Facilities Program at funding ratio of \$1:\$2 SRV (however this is highly competitive, club have accessed this grant in 2013/14 and also would be pending Council prioritisation and capital contribution).
Potential funding partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council (capital) Connewarre and District Riding Club (25% of total project cost) Sport and Recreation Victoria
Officer Summary / Recommendation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arena #1 should progress with a total project cost \$60,000 excluding GST (including PM and contingency). Refer to service manager as a future budget submission or to leverage funding via grant opportunities. Proposed funding strategy includes 25% contribution from Connewarre and District Riding Club of up to \$10,000 cash plus GST and also in-kind contribution to value of \$5,000.
CPP25	Torquay Football Club player interchange boxes Proposal – PROGRESS
Proposal Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate possible relocation and upgrade of player and official interchange boxes.
Background Info	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently the Spring Creek Reserve facilities are not on SCS Asset Register as they were provided by club and are maintained by the club under licence agreement.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> However asset rating is a 2 or 3 out of 5 with intervention for renewal expenditure at a rating 4 or above (likely to be 3-5 years away from renewal expenditure)
Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions with Torquay Football Netball Club, Torquay Cricket Club, site consultation with contractors, discussions with relevant Council staff.
What we know	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Torquay Football Netball Club confirmed that current location of player and official interchange benches is preferred. However upgrade of this infrastructure is desired by club to meet AFL guidelines and to be consistent with infrastructure at Banyul Warri Fields Spring Creek Reserve is SCS premier AFL facility and hosts VFL games and BFL finals AFL Preferred Facility Guidelines recommend minimum required for regional facility is 2 x player benches 4.8m wide to accommodate 8 people (6.0m for State level) and 1 x interchange officials bench 1.8m long for 3 people (minimum 3.6m long State level). Banyul Warri fields - State level infrastructure (6m player interchange/and a larger than State standard 4.5m wide officials bench). Infrastructure upgrade to include standard 25% total project cost contribution from club. Potential for future SRV Country Football Netball Grant (subject to Council prioritisation) and pending a Council capital contribution via a future budget submission). Club also requested another project of behind goal barrier netting (both ends) with a preliminary costing determined of \$57,500 excluding GST (including PM and contingency).
Potential funding partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council (capital) Torquay Tigers Football Netball Club (25% of total project cost) Sport and Recreation Victoria (Country Football Netball Program)
Officer Summary / Recommendation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total Project Cost \$57,100 excluding GST (including PM and contingency). Proposed funding strategy includes 25% contribution from Torquay Football Netball Club with balance subject to Council capital contribution and / or prioritised grant leverage opportunities).

Project proposals where investigation is continuing

The following proposals are referred to the next quarterly reporting opportunity in June 2018:

- CPP21: Torquay Pre School Garden Redesign Plan* – draft plan for suitable redesign of outdoor space is nearing completion and liaison with Early Years staff and Pre School Parents Committee is continuing until all are satisfied with proposed changes.
- CPP24: Nautical Rise Linear Reserve Indigenous Garden/Reserve Activation* – draft plan for this reserve is nearing completion and process is underway ensuring that in principle support for the concept is obtained from the Wadawurrung RAP before finalising plan detail and progressing to proposal costing.

Project proposals investigation on hold

The investigation of the following project proposal has been put on hold awaiting progress with the club on implementation of a project currently in delivery phase:

- CPP26: Torquay Tigers Cricket Club – new shed for turf roller.*

Reviewing of the Community Project Proposal Master List (refer attached D18/26906)

There are currently 34 outstanding community project proposals on the Community Project Proposal Master List. At the end of each quarter and following the Council Meeting resolution, each project proposal submitter is provided with a status update. Proposals that are yet to progress into the investigation stage are reviewed at this time and submitters are invited to provide an update about their proposal, to have a conversation about how their proposal can be strengthened or alternatively a proposal may be withdrawn if it is no longer relevant or required.

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New Community Project Proposals Received

53 new project proposals (at an average rate of 4 per month) have been submitted since 1 November 2016, 40 of which have been registered via Council's new on line registration process since 1 February 2017. As each new project proposal is submitted on line, it is assessed by the Community Project Development Officer together with relevant Council service area officers. The Community Project Proposal Priority Assessment Matrix determines where the proposal sits in priority order within the Master List.

Prioritised Community Project Proposals for Further Investigation (during the April to June 2018 Quarter)

The Community Project Proposal Master List currently includes 34 outstanding project proposals presented in a prioritised order of highest to lowest when assessed against a priority assessment matrix.

Four of the highest ranked proposals from the master list have been recommended to proceed to detailed investigation stage including:

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| 1. Quay Reserve Public Toilet | (score 59 / MEDIUM) |
| 2. Great Ocean Views Reserve Activation | (score 58 / MEDIUM) |
| 3. Anglesea Hall Sound, Lighting and Projection Improvements | (score 58 / MEDIUM) |
| 4. Deans Marsh Priority Pathways #1 | (score 57 / MEDIUM) |

Each of the above project proposals has a MEDIUM rating (50-59 out of 100). There are currently no project proposals in this master list with a HIGH rating (60+ out of 100).

Recommendations or progress relating to these projects will be presented to Council in the next quarterly Community Project Development report in June 2018 or earlier if investigations are complete.

Investigation Costs

It is proposed that \$9,000 in costs associated with the feasibility investigation of this new list of project proposals be funded from the Accumulated Unallocated Cash Reserve. To date (over a 17 month period from November 2016 to March 2018, a total of \$23,500 has been spent to adequately investigate a total of 26 community project proposals.

A breakdown of the \$9,000 proposed to cover proposal investigation costs is as follows:

- \$2500 required for concept design and costing for investigation of the Quay Reserve Public Toilet proposal
- \$600 required to cover communications costs for investigation of the Great Ocean Views Reserve Activation proposal
- \$3000 required for the consultants fees and assessments for investigation of the Anglesea Hall Sound, Lighting and Projection Improvements proposal
- \$1000 required for potential legal advice and documentation (private land access) for Deans Marsh Priority Pathways #1 proposal
- An investigation contingency of \$1900 is added to the above estimates allowing for a potential increased investigation costs once there is a more detailed understanding of the project proposal scope.

Financial Implications

The Anglesea Pre School Basket Swing Proposal (CPP20) with a total budget of \$8,955 is recommended to be referred to Council's Small Grants Program for funding consideration with the Pre-school Parents Committee pledging 50% total project cost. The Pre-school Parents Committee are also keen to deliver additional priority site works (central mound area) at the same time to value of \$1,120 excluding GST and this has been packaged within a Small Grant Program application to be considered for the March 2018 round.

The Anglesea to Waurin Ponds Bus Service Proposal (CPP22) investigation determined that the community preferred bus trial option for a direct bus service connecting Anglesea to Waurin Ponds (with a pilot program running for 12 months, 7 days per week, 1 return service per day) could be provided with a budget of \$150,000-\$170,000. In relation to this community preferred bus trial, this report provides Council with options to consider including advocacy without Council funding or alternatively advocacy with a Council funding contribution. This proposal however is not supported by Transport for Victoria and should Council pursue this option, it would be considered as a Council led program.

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The Anglesea to Waurn Ponds Bus Service Proposal (CPP22) investigation determined that Transport for Victoria favour an alternative potential bus service option involving a rerouted or potentially an additional V-Line bus service (that would run direct from Anglesea to Waurn Ponds) and benefiting communities along the Great Ocean Road and Anglesea Road. The cost of a rerouted or additional VLine bus service is still to be determined by Transport for Victoria. Council can support the Anglesea community and the Great Ocean Road Region by advocating for progress on this option, without any pilot or ongoing funding commitment.

The following project proposals include financial recommendations to be referred to Council's project prioritisation and budget processes including consideration for future grant opportunities alongside other eligible projects as follows:

- Connewarre & District Riding Club Dressage Arenas (CPP23) – total project cost for Stage 1 is \$60,000 and includes proposed 25% contribution from Connewarre & District Riding Club
- Torquay Football Netball Club player and officials interchange boxes (CPP25) – total project cost is \$57,100 and includes proposed 25% contribution from Torquay Football Netball Club.

It is proposed that \$9,000 in costs associated with the feasibility investigation of the new list of 4 project proposals be referred to Council's Accumulated Unallocated Cash Reserve.

Council Plan

Theme	1 Community Wellbeing
Objective	1.1 Support people to participate in and contribute to community life
Strategy	1.1.1 Develop and implement a program to support communities of place and interest, and to provide opportunities for them to identify and achieve their community aspirations

Theme	3 Balancing Growth
Objective	3.2 Ensure infrastructure is in place to support existing communities and provide for growth
Strategy	3.2.6 Advocate for supporting infrastructure

Policy/Legal Implications

There are no policy or legal implications relating to this proposal.

Officer Direct or Indirect Interest

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has any conflicts of interest.

Risk Assessment

The recommendations related to the Anglesea Pre School Basket Swing Installation Proposal (CPP20) address the provision of a safe play environment within a Council owned and managed kindergarten and also rectifies an undesirable fence issue and a unsatisfactory surfacing issue in the process.

The recommendations related to the Anglesea to Waurn Ponds Bus Service Proposal (CPP22) support Council's commitment to our local communities through advocacy and support for public transport needs. A further breakdown of risks and benefits of recommendation options are included within the Discussion section of this report.

The recommendations related to the Connewarre & District Riding Club Dressage Arenas Proposal (CPP23) address risk associated with equestrian dressage activities being conducted within Connewarre Reserve on a natural grass dressage arena surface that is uneven, impacted by cracking in dry weather, boggy in wet weather and therefore less than desirable.

The recommendations related to the Torquay Football Netball Club player interchange boxes proposal (CPP25) address risk associated with player and officials interchange facilities being at a standard less than what the AFL Preferred Facility Guidelines recommend.

The recommendation related to the proposed funding allocation for community project feasibility investigation will ensure that a more comprehensive understanding of project feasibility including scope and cost is obtained prior to making decisions relating to future budget allocations.

6.2 Quarterly Report - Community Project Development - April 2018

Social Considerations

The Community Project Development Officer role and process is aimed at creating partnerships, providing support and feedback to community project ideas, facilitating community strengthening and supporting prioritised projects to get to a project ready stage.

Community Engagement

Regular and ongoing communication and engagement with community is undertaken during the assessment of project proposals and during proposal investigation and scoping stage.

Environmental Implications

There are no impacts to the environment.

Communication

A Community Project Development page is available on Council's website, providing information about the process for registering community project proposals. A link to the on-line Community Project Proposal Registration Form is available from the webpage.

All proposal applicants are contacted following a proposal registration to clarify project details. Further engagement is undertaken with applicants for those proposals that are referred for detailed investigation.

There is also regular communication with submitters of project proposals waiting in the Community Project Proposal Master List about ways in which proposal ratings against key assessment criteria can be strengthened.

Quarterly reports are presented to Council with recommendations relating to proposals that have been endorsed for detailed investigation. This reporting process also resolves on project proposals to be referred for detailed investigation in the next quarter.

Options

Option 1 – Receive and support the Community Project Development recommendations 1 – 5 as identified in this report

This option is recommended by officers as it is supported by comprehensive feasibility investigation into each community project proposal and provides clear direction regarding Council's level of support for each project.

Option 2 – Receive and support the Community Project Development recommendations 1 – 5 as identified in this report with minor amendments

This option is not recommended by officers, however Councillors do have the option to discuss individual project recommendations and if agreed make amendments prior to final resolution.

Option 3 – Do not support the Community Project Development recommendations 1 – 5 as identified in this report

This option is not recommended by officers as it provides little confidence to project proposal applicants in the Community Project Development Process and does not support our purpose to help our community and environment to thrive.

Conclusion

A Community Project Development Process has been established to provide transparency in how new community project proposals are registered, assessed and prioritised for investigation. The process will support the Community Project Development Officer to create partnerships, provide support and feedback to community project ideas, facilitate community strengthening and support prioritised projects to get to a project ready stage. Seven of the highest ranked proposals from the Community Project Proposal Master List have been recommended to proceed to detailed investigation stage.

6.2 Quarterly Report - Community Project Development - April 2018

APPENDIX 1 COMMUNITY PROJECT PROPOSAL MASTER LIST - 6 MARCH 2018

Community Project Proposal Master List

As at 6 March 2018 *(since last reporting cut off 10 October 2017)*

OUTSTANDING PROPOSALS			INVESTIGATION \$	RATING
Oct 2017 <i>(NEW)</i>	Torquay	Quay Reserve Public Toilet	\$2.5K	59
Oct 2017 <i>(NEW)</i>	Torquay	Great Ocean Views Reserve Activation	\$600	58
Dec 2017 <i>(NEW)</i>	Anglesea	Anglesea Hall Sound, Lighting and Projection Improvements	\$3K	58
Dec 2017 <i>(NEW)</i>	Anglesea	Anglesea Bowls Club and Mens Shed - Carpark Upgrade	\$10K	57
Feb 2018 <i>(NEW)</i>	Winchelsea	Deans Marsh Priority Pathways #1	\$1K	57
Sept 2017	Torquay	1st Torquay Scouts storage extension / storage shed	\$5K	56
Feb 2018 <i>(NEW)</i>	Winchelsea	Newling Reserve Playground Inclusive Basket Swing Proposal	\$1K	56
Apr 2017	Anglesea	Anglesea RSL Village Green Memorial	\$3K	55
Oct 2017	Torquay	Torquay & District Historical Society - Historical Signs Project	\$1K	54
Nov 2017 <i>(NEW)</i>	Torquay	Surf Coast Soccer - Storage Shed for Goals	\$1.2K	54
June 2016	Winchelsea	Wurdale Hall Reserve Development Stage 2	\$0	54
Nov 2017 <i>(NEW)</i>	Torquay	Surf Coast Soccer New Pavilion Banyul Warri Fields	\$5K	53
June 2016	Torquay	Spring Valley Park – informal goals in open space area	\$0	53
Feb 2016	Lorne	Deans Marsh Reserve - Fitness Element Installation	\$0	53
Feb 2016	Anglesea	Anglesea Skate Park - Stage 3 extension	\$10K	52
Jan 2015	Winchelsea	Winchelsea Railway Station Redevelopment	\$5K	52
March 2015	Winchelsea	Mt Moriac Reserve - Gym Facility Construction	\$5K	51
March 2016	Winchelsea	Kalkarra Park Playspace - basketball pad extension	\$0	51
Dec 2015	Winchelsea	Winchelsea Skate Park - Light Installation	\$0	51
Dec 2015	Winchelsea	Freshwater Creek Riding Club – Additional fencing	\$0	50
April 2017	Torquay	Torquay Mens Shed – new larger shed	\$0	50
Dec 2015	Torquay	Torquay Tennis Club – seal pathway between courts	\$0	48
June 2016	Winchelsea	Wurdale Hall Reserve Development Stage 3	\$5K	47
Dec 2015	Torquay	Torquay Tennis Club - Storage Container Purchase /Placement	\$0	46
Jan 2016	Anglesea	Anglesea Netball Club – Existing carpark sealing	\$10K	45
Feb 2018 <i>(NEW)</i>	Winchelsea	Deans Marsh Priority Pathways #2	\$3K	43
Feb 2018 <i>(NEW)</i>	Torquay	Djila Tjarri Skate Bowl Shade / Shelter	\$1K	43
Dec 2015	Torquay	Torquay Grant Pavilion - Kiosk Window Installation	\$0	40
Dec 2015	Torquay	Torquay Tennis Clubrooms - Male Toilet Refurbish	\$0	38
Nov 2016	Torquay	Downhill Bike Tracks and Dirt Jumps	\$0	37
Jan 2017	Anglesea	Anglesea Netball Club – Viewing deck	\$4K	36
Feb 2018 <i>(NEW)</i>	Torquay	Djila Tjarri Skate Park Permanent Lighting	\$1K	36
Jan 2017	Winchelsea	Winchelsea Township Cultural Heritage Facility	\$5K	31
Jan 2017	Winchelsea	Bicycle and horse riding track from Winchelsea to Inverleigh	\$5K	28
TOTAL		34		

HIGH	Proposals rated 60+ out of 100
MEDIUM	Proposals rated 50-59/100
LOW	Proposals rated <50/100

UNDER INVESTIGATION	
CPP20	Anglesea Pre School re Basket Swing Installation
CPP21	Torquay Pre School re Garden Redesign Plan
CPP22	Anglesea to Waurrn Ponds Bus Service Proposal
CPP23	Connewarre & District Riding Club Dressage Arenas
CPP24	Torquay Nautical Rise Linear Reserve Indigenous Garden/ Reserve Activation
CPP25	Torquay Football Club - relocate player interchange boxes
CPP26	Torquay Tigers Cricket Club – new shed for turf roller
TOTAL	7

DECLINED / REFERRED AT INITIAL PROPOSAL FILTER	
	Anglesea Historical Society – Bathing Box <i>(COMPLETE)</i>
Service Manager	Bellbrae Tennis Club – Seating <i>(approved)</i>
Service Manager	All Aboard container and garden <i>(declined)</i>
Service Manager	Lorne Men’s Shed Flagpole <i>(Service Manager PM / COMPLETE)</i>
Service Manager	Connewarre Reserve 1 Million Trees <i>(Service Manager as PM)</i>
Service Manager	Connewarre Reserve Walking Path <i>(Service Manager as PM)</i>
Small Grants	Connewarre & Dist Riding Club Equitation Park-Funded Small Grants
Small Grants	Torquay Historical Society Bathing Box/Boardwalk
Service Manager	Anglesea Transfer Station Store Shed <i>(Approved / COMPLETE)</i>
Service Manager	Deans Marsh hall curtain sign <i>(Service Manager as PM)</i>
Service Manager	Anglesea Seniors /Lions Garden <i>(Service Manager PM / COMPLETE)</i>
Service Manager	Spring Creek Res drainage erosion rectification <i>(Maintenance)</i>
Small Grants	Anglesea flagpole / street light artwork installations <i>NEW</i>
TOTAL	13

REFERRED/RESOLVED PRIOR TO INVESTIGATION	
Service Manager	Torquay Bowls Club – Masterplan Priorities
Small Grants March 17	Anglesea Community Garden seat <i>(Application Successful)</i>
Service Manager	Mt Moriac Res lighting – upgrade Oval 1, provision Oval 2 and Netball Crt 3
Service Manager	Coogoorah Park Rec Reserve - Noticeboard Refurb / Content
No longer required	Hill Top Reserve - shelter battens for wind protection
Service Manager	Connewarre Reserve Viewing Mound
Referred Small Grants	Soundproofing Torquay Men’s Shed <i>(Future Application)</i>
Referred Small Grants	Anglesea Netball Club – Shade sail <i>(Future Application)</i>
No longer required	Torquay Parwan Pitch Flag Pole
Resolved	Torquay Women’s Shed
Referred Small Grants	Aireys Inlet Community Garden Seat <i>(Future App)</i>
TOTAL	11

INVESTIGATION COMPLETE	
CPP06	Ellimatta Reserve Anglesea Football Club Training Lights Upgrade
CPP08	Mt Moriac Reserve Equestrian Clubroom Redevelopment
CPP09	Anglesea Mens Shed – repurpose and refit 2 storage spaces
CPP11	Lorne Skate Park Shelter
CPP13	Deep Creek Reserve Tennis Court multi-use area
CPP14	Mt Moriac Reserve Oval 1 net behind goals
CPP15	Quay Reserve – BBQ/picnic shelter
CPP16	Freshwater Creek Res old Tennis Clubroom – Recommission
CPP17	Anglesea Recreation & Sports Club – power connection
CPP19	Anglesea Netball Club –additional netball shelters
TOTAL	10

PROJECT IN PROGRESS	
CPP01	Torquay Cricket Club Practice Facility Upgrade
CPP02	Ellimatta Reserve / Anglesea Netball Club Additional Car Park Design
CPP03	Lorne Historical Society Front Facade Project <i>(AWAITING COMMUNITY FUNDS)</i>
CPP07	Stribling Reserve Stadium Ventilation
CPP10	Wurdale Hall Reserve - History Board
TOTAL	5

PROJECT DELIVERED OR PROPOSAL CLOSED	
CPP04	Hesse St Reserve Winchelsea Scouts and Tennis Shared Facility
CPP05	Jan Juc Pre School Expansion of Play Space
CPP12	Torquay Hill Top Reserve Vegetation Barrier
CPP18	Anglesea Recreation & Sports Club – new boat platform
TOTAL	4



6.3 Torquay Hotel Electronic Gaming Machine Application Submission to VCGLR

Author's Title: Recreation Officer

General Manager: Chris Pike

Department: Recreation & Open Space Planning

File No: F18/18

Division: Culture & Community

Trim No: IC18/569

Appendix:

1. Torquay Hotel Economic and Social Impact Submission and Attachments (D18/43896)

Officer Direct or Indirect Conflict of Interest:

Status:

In accordance with Local Government Act 1989 –
Section 80C:

Information classified confidential in accordance with
Local Government Act 1989 – Section 77(2)(c):

☐ Yes

☒ No

☐ Yes

☒ No

Reason: Nil

Reason: Nil

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present Council with the Submission to the Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation (VCGLR) for the Torquay Hotel's application for 15 additional gaming machines.

Summary

Torquay Hotel has submitted an application to the VCGLR for an additional 15 electronic gaming machines. Under the Gaming Regulation Act 2003, Council has the opportunity to make a submission outlining the impact the proposal will have on the social and economic wellbeing of the community. At the 27 March Council meeting Council resolved to notify the VCGLR of its intention to lodge a submission regarding the Torquay Hotel's application. Council is required to lodge its submission to the VCGLR prior to 1 May 2018.

Surf Coast Shire currently has three gaming venues and a total of 74 electronic gaming machines (EGMs), over 40% of those EGMs are located at the Torquay Hotel. \$2.9M was lost on gaming machines in 2016/17 in the Surf Coast Shire, equating to \$39,522 per machine and a loss of \$8,013 per day. Based on these figures \$1.2M was lost in Torquay alone in 2016/17. Should the application for an additional 15 gaming machines be approved at the Torquay Hotel it will likely result in an increased loss amount of \$3.5M annually, \$1.8M of this will be solely lost in Torquay.

In addition to the financial pressure gambling can place on the community, gambling can also have detrimental effects upon personal and social life, family and employment. This often results in personal distress, diminished social life, family violence and reduced productivity at work.

The attached submission highlights the social and economic impacts that gaming has on the Surf Coast Shire community and how the approval for an additional 15 machines at the Torquay Hotel is likely to enhance these negative impacts and have a net detriment on the community. Approval to lodge this submission to the VCGLR allows these concerns to be raised and considered by the Commission whilst assessing the Torquay Hotel entitlement application.

Recommendation

That Council agree to lodge the submission addressing the Torquay Hotel's application for 15 additional gaming machines (as at Appendix 1) with the Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Rose Hodge, Seconded Cr Martin Duke

That Council agree to lodge the submission addressing the Torquay Hotel's application for 15 additional gaming machines (as at Appendix 1) with the Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation.

CARRIED 9:0

6.3 Torquay Hotel Electronic Gaming Machine Application Submission to VCGLR

Report

Background

Torquay Hotel has submitted an application to the VCGLR for an additional 15 electronic gaming machines. Under the Gaming Regulation Act 2003, Council has the opportunity to make a submission outlining the impact the proposal will have on the social and economic wellbeing of the community. At the 27 March Council meeting Council resolved to notify the VCGLR of its intention to lodge a submission regarding the Torquay Hotel's application. Council is required to lodge its submission to the VCGLR prior to 1 May 2018.

At 17 April 2018 Council briefing meeting, the social and economic impact issues relating to Torquay Hotel's application and a first draft of the submission to the VCGLR was provided for noting. Feedback from Councillors was for officers to continue to develop the submission with the inclusion of previous community consultation completed in 2008 relating to the developing of a Gaming Policy. Officers were to provide the completed submission at the 24 April Council meeting for approval.

Discussion

Council's gaming policy provides officers with advice on where gaming venues and electronic gaming machines should be located by outlining an assessment criteria. However Council's policy does not provide guidance on assessing the impact and net detriment gaming venues and machines have on the community.

Officers have assessed the social and economic impacts as well as evaluating the Torquay Hotel's application against Council's policy and have highlighted some concerns including:

- \$2.9m was spent on electronic gaming machines in 2016/17 in Surf Coast Shire. An additional 15 machines will increase this spend to a total of \$3.5m with \$1.7m in Torquay alone
- Research demonstrates that areas with a higher density of electronic gaming machines experience high levels of family violence
- Research highlights that the majority of people playing electronic gaming machines are problem gamblers and therefore increasing the number of machines and availability of machines will have a further negative impact on these members of the community
- No evidence was provided to demonstrate the increased demand for gaming machines, according to data provided by Torquay Hotel their maximum use during the peak season only reached a high of 87% on a Saturday night at 8pm
- Research suggests that only 3.2 jobs are created per \$1M spent on gambling versus 20.2 jobs per \$1M spent on meals and food sales.

Officers have identified issues regarding the enforcement and adherence of conditions pertaining to existing gaming machines at the Torquay Hotel and the additional conditions proposed in their application. These issues include:

- Failure to adhere to existing conditions outlined in 2013 licence approvals
- In-kind and sponsorship reported against required cash contributions
- Level of enforcement of conditions by VCGLR
- The proposed increased \$30,000 annual cash contribution to the community, each machine is set to generate \$39,522 expenditure per annum resulting in an increase gaming spend of \$592,830 per annum from the 15 machines. Despite the increase this figure equates only 3.06% of the annual player expenditure forecasts at the venue (\$1,800,000).

Officers have further outlined the above concerns and their impact on the community in the attached submission to the VCGLR. Attachment 4 highlights these concerns in full detail.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications for Council relating to this submission.

Council Plan

Theme	1 Community Wellbeing
Objective	1.2 Support people to be healthy and active
Strategy	1.2.4 Reinforce policies to manage electronic gaming machines

6.3 Torquay Hotel Electronic Gaming Machine Application Submission to VCGLR

Policy/Legal Implications

In 2010 Council amended the Surf Coast Shire Planning Scheme to include the Gaming Policy. This policy provides advice on how and where gaming venues and electronic gaming machines should be located and criteria on which applications should be assessed. To assist Council in assessing the criteria applicants are required to submit a Social and Economic Impact Assessment, Torquay Hotel has completed this requirement.

In relation to making a submission to the VCGLR the legal requirements are that the VCGLR are notified by 9 April 2018 of Councils intention to make a submission relating to the application and that this submission be completed prior to 1 May 2018. The submission will be heard at a public hearing in which Council can attend.

Council's planning department are currently seeking legal advice on the requirement of a planning permit for the proposed additional 15 machines. Legal advice obtained in the consideration of the application in 2013 found that no permit was required in that instance.

Officer Direct or Indirect Interest

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has any conflicts of interest.

Risk Assessment

The issue of gaming machines and their increase in the municipality needs to consider the impacts on the broader community and issues of problem gambling. The opportunities and risks associated with the current application are still being assessed.

Social Considerations

Current Council policy aims to reduce the impact on the community from gaming machines by ensuring they are not located in areas of disadvantage or where convenience gambling could be promoted. The Torquay Hotel has argued that the social and economic impacts of the current proposal would have minimal impact and be in compliance with Council policy. Officers have assessed the application and the associated social and economic impacts and have found that the proposal will have a net detriment to the community. These impacts are outlined in the attached submission, specifically attachment 4.

Community Engagement

The Victorian Local Governance Association, through their program *Community Solutions: Local Government Working for a Victoria Free from Gambling Harm*, have started engaging the community and providing support for individuals or groups who wish to make submissions to the VCGLR. Council officers have assessed community feedback gained through the development of the Gaming Policy in 2008 and more recently the Council Plan 2017-2021.

Environmental Implications

There are no specific impacts on the natural environment from this proposal.

Communication

VCGLR have been notified of Councils intention to lodge a submission objecting the Torquay Hotel application. Torquay Hotel has been notified by the VCGLR of this decision. Council is required to lodge the submission to VCGLR prior to 1 May; all submissions are made available to the public on their website.

Options

Option 1 – Approve the submission to be lodged with the VCGLR

This option is recommended by officers as the internal assessment found that the proposal for 15 additional gaming machines at the Torquay will have negative social and economic impacts on the community. Lodging a submission objecting the approval of the application provides Council with the opportunity to raise these concerns to the VCGLR.

Option 2 – Not approve the submission to be lodged with the VCGLR

This option is not recommended by officers as lodging a submission to the VCGLR is the only opportunity Council has to outline their concerns with the approval of 15 additional gaming machines being installed at Torquay Hotel. An internal assessment has highlighted significant social and economic concerns relating to the proposal and a formal submission is required by the Commission for any objections to be considered.

6.3 Torquay Hotel Electronic Gaming Machine Application Submission to VCGLR

Conclusion

Surf Coast Shire currently has three gaming venues and a total of 74 electronic gaming machines (EGMs), over 40% of those EGMs are located at the Torquay Hotel. \$2.9M was lost on gaming machines in 2016/17 in the Surf Coast Shire, equating to \$39,522 per machine and a loss of \$8,013 per day. Based on these figures \$1.2M was lost in Torquay alone in 2016/17. Should the application for an additional 15 gaming machines be approved at the Torquay Hotel it will likely result in an increased loss amount of \$3.5M annually, \$1.8M of this will be solely lost in Torquay.

In addition to the financial pressure gambling can place on the community, gambling can also have detrimental effects upon personal and social life, family and employment. This often results in personal distress, diminished social life, family violence and reduced productivity at work.

The attached submission highlights the social and economic impacts that gaming has on the Surf Coast Shire community and how the approval for an additional 15 machines at the Torquay Hotel is likely to enhance these negative impacts and have a net detriment on the community. Approval to lodge this submission to the VCGLR allows these concerns to be raised and considered by the Commission whilst assessing the Torquay Hotel entitlement application.

6.3 Torquay Hotel Electronic Gaming Machine Application Submission to VCGLR

APPENDIX 1 TORQUAY HOTEL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACT SUBMISSION AND ATTACHMENTS

Gambling application kit

Economic and social impact submission

OCTOBER 2015

CD/15/460065

This package contains the application and information material for responsible local authorities to make a submission for assessment of applications for approval of gaming machines and/or gaming premises.

How to apply

Send application to:

Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation
GPO Box 1988
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

or lodge in person at:

49 Elizabeth Street
RICHMOND Victoria 3121

Need help?

For more information on how to apply for a liquor or gambling licence or permit:

- visit the Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation (VCGLR) website at vcglr.vic.gov.au
- telephone the VCGLR on 1300 182 457
- email the VCGLR at contact@vcglr.vic.gov.au



Important Information

Legislation

Section 3.3.4 and 3.4.17 of the *Gambling Regulation Act 2003* make provisions for the assessment of:

- Applications to approve premises as suitable for gaming
- Applications to amend venue operator's licences to vary the number of gaming machines for an approved venue.

For these applications to be accepted by the VCGLR, a complete copy of the application must be given to the responsible authority within the meaning of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, and then lodged with the VCGLR within three days.

Responsible authority can make a submission

Section 3.3.6 and 3.4.19 of the *Gambling Regulation Act 2003* allow responsible authorities to make submissions in respect of either of the above applications. The submissions should address the economic and social impact of the application on the well-being of the community of the municipal district in which the premises is located, and can also take into account surrounding municipal districts.

A submission by a responsible authority must be in the approved form. The appropriate submission form can be found on the VCGLR website.

Responsible authorities can supply any additional information to the VCGLR which may be of assistance in making an assessment of the application. The information required by the submission form is only the minimum that is required. Applicants and responsible authorities are free to communicate directly throughout the application process.

Application process

The *Gambling Regulation Act 2003* requires the responsible authority to:

- advise the VCGLR whether they intend to make an economic and social impact submission within 37 days of being advised of the application by the VCGLR
- lodge an economic and social impact submission within 60 days of being advised of the application by the VCGLR should it choose to.

Responsible authorities may request an extension of time to lodge a submission if they

believe exceptional circumstances are impeding their ability to make a submission within the prescribed 60 day period.

The *Gambling Regulation Act 2003* requires the VCGLR to determine an application at a public hearing within 60 days of either:

- being notified that the responsible authority will not make a submission
- or
- receiving a submission from the responsible authority.

As a responsible authority you may appear at the public hearing and present evidence in regard to an application. Applicants will also appear at the public hearings and present their evidence, in support of the application.

Amended applications

An applicant may amend an application for new premises approval at any time before the VCGLR gives its determination.

An applicant may only amend an application to increase the number of gaming machines in an approved venue within 30 days after giving the responsible authority a copy of the application.

Any amended applications must be given to the responsible authority and lodged with the VCGLR **on the same day**.

If an amended application is received the responsible authority must:

- advise the VCGLR whether it intends to make an economic and social impact submission within 37 days of receiving the amended application
- lodge an economic and social impact submission within 60 days of receiving the amended application, should it choose to.

An applicant cannot change the number of gaming machines sought in application for approval of premises once the first 30 days of giving a copy of the application to the responsible authority elapse.

If an amendment is made to the number of gaming machines sought the VCGLR may grant an extension of up to 30 days for the responsible authority to make an economic and social impact submission.

Application to increase gaming machines by less than 10 per cent

Applications to amend venue operator's licences to increase the number of gaming machines for an approved venue by less than 10 per cent will not be determined at a public hearing if:

- a) the responsible authority does not make a submission; or
- b) the responsible authority make a submission and the applicant and responsible authority agree to the VCGLR not conducting a public hearing; or
- c) there has not been a previous application to increase the number of gaming machines by less than 10 per cent within two years.

Matters for consideration

The matters the VCGLR will consider when determining a proposed amendment to the conditions of a venue operator's licence to vary the number of gaming machines permitted in an approved venue are set out under 3.4.20(1) of the *Gambling Regulation Act 2003*. The matters to be considered when determining an application for approval of premises as suitable for gaming are set out under section 3.3.7 of the Act.

Importantly, for either of these applications to be approved, the VCGLR must be satisfied that the net economic and social impact of the approval will not be detrimental to the well-being of the community of the municipal district in which the premises is located.

Information provided by the applicant

Part B of the applicants application form contains information specifically relating to the economic and social impact of their proposal. This information will assist responsible authorities in answering the following questions in this submission form:

2.2, 5.1, 6.2, 7.1, 8.1, 8.2, 9.1, 9.2, 10.1, 12.2, 13.1, 13.2, 15.1, 15.2, 15.3, 15.4, 15.5, 15.6, 15.7 (15.4 - 15.7 for an existing venue); 15.8, 15.9 (15.8 - 15.9 for a proposed venue) and 16.7.

Guidelines for Submission

Types of impacts which may be described

A submission from a responsible authority should address economic and social impact of the application on the well-being of the community of the municipal district in which the

gaming venue is located, and can also take into account surrounding municipal districts.

Submissions can comment on the current gaming machine environment within the community, however emphasis should be placed on the specific impact which the application will have if approved. Therefore:

- the economic and social impact examined for a proposal to approve **new premises** will be that arising from the operation of an additional venue and gaming machines
- or
- the economic and social impact examined for a proposal to **increase the number of gaming machines** will be that arising from the use of additional machines in an approved venue.

At a minimum a submission should include comment on impacts as they apply to your municipal district and surrounding municipal districts. It is not necessary to provide a quantified cost/benefit analysis, however statements about impacts should be substantiated, and wherever possible supported with quantitative or qualitative data.

A brief explanation of impacts, and some other relevant explanations of terms, can be found at the back of the form. Please consult this section in completing your submission.

Further information

Please include, as an attachment to this submission, information on any matters not covered in this form which the responsible authority believe is relevant to the economic and social impact on the municipal district.

Information sources

To complete this form you may need to contact local service providers. You may also need to contact the VCGLR on 1300 182 457 or visit the VCGLR website at vcglr.vic.gov.au.

Submissions are to address the following questions:

"What is the net social and economic impact of this application?"

"Will this proposal result in net social and economic detriment to the community?"

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACT SUBMISSION

- (a) Name of responsible authority making submission:

Surf Coast Shire

- (b) Name(s) of surrounding municipal districts:

City of Greater Geelong, Colac Otway, Golden Plains

- (c) Application to which this submission refers.

Applicant name:

TTHL Pty Ltd

(Name of entity for incorporated bodies i.e. company or incorporated club)

- (d) Premises or approved venue name and address:

36 Bell Street

(Name) (No) (Street)

Torquay

Victoria

3228

(City/Town/Suburb)

(State)

(Postcode)

- (e) The Surf Coast Shire Council ~~DOES~~/DOES NOT (delete whichever does not apply) want to make a submission under section 3.3.4 or 3.4.17 of the *Gambling Regulation Act* 2003. If you **do not** wish to make a submission, complete items (a) to (f) on this page, sign in the box below and remit to the Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation.

Name (please print):

Chief Executive Officer of responsible authority making submission.

Signature: _____ Date / /

- (f) The Surf Coast Shire Council ~~DOES~~/DOES NOT (delete whichever does not apply) support the above application.

- (g) Do any of the municipal districts listed at (b) have any objection(s) to the application?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If 'YES', attach details to this submission (attachment/page number is:/.....)

- (h) A copy of this submission **was** provided to the applicant on: _____ Date / /

- (i) I, the undersigned for the responsible authority making this submission, declare that all statements contained in and all matters accompanying this submission are to the best of my knowledge true and correct in every detail. I also understand that the applicant can make comment on this submission to the Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation.

Name (please print): Keith Baillie

Chief Executive Officer of responsible authority making submission.

Signature: _____ Date / /

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT PROFILE

1. Profile of municipal district	
1.1	In an attachment provide a profile of your municipal district and if there is a relationship between any profile characteristics and gaming. Items to cover could include, but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• local community demographics, by way of example, age distribution and trends, cultural attributes or recreational information• economy• tourism patronage.
1.2	Has an attachment been included? YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
1.3	If 'YES', attachment/page number is:1..... /.....
2. Electronic gaming machines (EGM)	
2.1	Total number of EGMs currently in the municipal district:74..... (Information available from VCGLR website.)
2.2	Number to be added by the proposal:15..... (EGMs sought less those recycled from within municipal district, information provided in Part B of applicant's form.)
Information to complete 2.3 to 2.8 is available on the VCGLR website.	
2.3	EGMs per 1000 of the total population in the municipal district:2.43.....
2.4	EGMs per 1000 (over 18 years) of the total population in the municipal district:3.....
2.5	EGMs per 1000 State-wide average:
2.6	Metro /Country average: (Delete whichever is not applicable.)
2.7	EGMs per 1000 (over 18yrs) State-wide average:5.....
2.8	Metro /Country average:6..... (Delete whichever is not applicable.)
Further information/comment:	
Please provide any further information as an attachment.	
2.9	Has an attachment been included? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.10	If 'YES', attachment/page number is: /.....

3. Number of gaming venues

3.1 Total number of venues currently in the municipal district: 3.....
(Information available from VCGLR website.)

3.2 Will a new venue be created by the proposal? No.....

Information to complete 3.3 to 3.8 is available on the VCGLR website.

3.3 Persons per venue of the total population in the municipal district:
9799.....

3.4 Adults per venue (over 18 years) of the total population in the municipal district:
7498.....

3.5 Person per venue State-wide average: 12768.....

3.6 Metro/Country average:
(Delete whichever is not applicable.)

3.7 Adults per venue (over 18 years) State-wide average: 9690.....

3.8 Metro/Country average: 6312.....
(Delete whichever is not applicable.)

Further information/comment:

Please provide any further information as an attachment.

3.9 Has an attachment been included? YES ☐ NO ☒

3.10 If 'YES', attachment/page number is: /.....

4. SEIFA index of relative socio-economic disadvantage	
4.1	Current SEIFA index value for the municipal district:1077..... (Socio-economic index for areas, available from Australian Bureau of Statistics via Cdata and SEIFA software can be assembled down to CD level.)
4.2.1	SEIFA index value State-wide average:1009.....
4.2.2	Metro /Country average:1021..... (Delete whichever is not applicable.)
4.3.1	Has the responsible authority any information it wishes to attach in relation to its citizens' economic capacity for gaming (e.g. income, wealth or savings levels)? In an attachment the responsible authority needs to use this additional economic capacity information to address how the incremental effect of this proposal may impact on the citizens of the municipal district: (Attach evidence to substantiate any conclusion reached.)
4.3.2	Has an attachment been included? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4.3.3	If 'YES', attachment/page number is: /
Further information/comment: Please provide any further information as an attachment.	
4.4	Has an attachment been included? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4.5	If 'YES', attachment/page number is: /
5. Venue patron profile	
5.1	Describe the expected patron profile of the venue if the proposal is approved. Make reference to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • do they live near the proposed venue, elsewhere in the municipal district, or do they work but not live in the municipal district • are they from a particular socio-economic background (includes ethnicity, gender, age, income level/type) • are they significantly different from the general population of the municipal district as described in the 'Profile of Municipal District' section • are they already customers of other gaming venues in the municipal district? (Information provided in Part B of applicant's form.) Please provide your response as an attachment.
5.2	Has an attachment been included? YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
5.3	If 'YES', attachment/page number is: /

ECONOMIC IMPACT ON YOUR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

6. Gaming expenditure

- 6.1 Total net EGM expenditure in municipal district for the last financial year (Net expenditure equals total money less prizes paid i.e. player losses - available from VCGLR website):

\$ 2,924,662.....

- 6.2 Anticipated net EGM expenditure arising from this proposal over first 12 months (information provided in Part B of applicant's form):

\$ 247,405 - \$291,065

Information to complete 6.3 to 6.5 is available on the VCGLR website.

- 6.3 Net EGM expenditure per adult (over 18 years) of the total population in the municipal district for the last financial year:

\$ 130.....

- 6.4 Net EGM expenditure per adult (over 18 years) for the last financial year:

State-wide average: \$ 2,609,530,060...

- 6.5 Metro/Country average: \$ 562,643,025.....
(Delete whichever is not applicable.)

Further information/comment:

Please provide any further information as an attachment.

- 6.6 Has an attachment been included? YES ☐ NO ☒

- 6.7 If 'YES', attachment/page number is: /

7. Employment

- 7.1 Direct gaming employment from proposal: 1.5 EFT.....
(Provide equivalent full-time figures. Information provided in Part B of applicant's form.)

- 7.2 Unemployment for municipal district (per cent): 2.68%.....
(Information for 7.2, 7.3.1 and 7.3.2 obtainable from the Australian Government's Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations website)

- 7.3.1 Unemployment (percent): State: 5.92%.....

- 7.3.2 Metro/Country: 5.41%.....
(Delete whichever is not applicable.)

Further information/comment:

See explanation section at the end of the form for further details required.
Mention could be made of possible effects on indirect employment.

Please provide any further information as an attachment.

- 7.4 Has an attachment been included? YES ☒ NO ☐

- 7.5 If 'YES', attachment/page number is: ...3..... /

8. Infrastructure investment, development and maintenance	
8.1	Value of new building or renovation works from proposal: \$ 600,000 (Information provided in Part B of applicant's form.)
8.2	Value of building maintenance contracts from proposal for next 12 months: \$ 15,000 - \$20,000 (Information provided in Part B of applicant's form.)
Further information/comment: Please provide any further information as an attachment.	
8.5	Has an attachment been included? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8.6	If 'YES', attachment/page number is: /
9. Supply contracts	
For new premises this will involve all contracts. For applications to increase gaming machine numbers, this will involve the additional value (if any) of contracts.	
9.1	Value of supply contracts to venue for next 12 months: \$ 260,000 (Information provided in Part B of applicant's form.)
9.2	Estimated proportion to be provided by suppliers from within municipal district: \$ unable to determine (Information provided in Part B of applicant's form.)
Further information/comment: Please provide any further information as an attachment.	
9.3	Has an attachment been included? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9.4	If 'YES', attachment/page number is: /
10. Complementary expenditures	
For new premises this will involve all complementary expenditures. For applications to increase gaming machine numbers, this will involve the additional value (if any) of complementary expenditures.	
10.1	Value of complementary expenditures for the next 12 months: \$ 276,000 (Information provided in Part B of applicant's form.)
Further information/comment: Please provide any further information as an attachment.	
10.2	Has an attachment been included? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10.3	If 'YES', attachment/page number is: /

11. Shifts in expenditure

11.1 Business closures in municipal district:
(Number in last financial year.) Unable to accurately determine ☒

11.2 Can the responsible authority attribute any business closures to EGM expenditure? If you can, estimate how many:
(Attach evidence to substantiate estimate.) Unable to accurately determine ☒

11.3 Can the responsible authority attribute any decline in local business (sales) in the previous financial year to EGM expenditure? If you can, estimate the dollar value: \$
(Attach evidence to substantiate estimate.) Unable to accurately determine ☒

11.4.1 Anticipated impacts from proposal in first 12 months:
(Attach evidence to substantiate estimate.)
Closures (number):
Unable to accurately determine ☒

11.4.2 Decline in business (value):
Unable to accurately determine ☒

Further information/comment:

Please provide any further information or comment as an attachment.

11.5 Has an attachment been included? YES ☐ NO ☒

11.6 If 'YES', attachment/page number is: /

12. Revenue distribution

Venue operator model tax structure

Under the venue operator model, a progressive tax scheme applies. The tax rate is based on each venue's average monthly gaming machine revenue, subject to the following thresholds:

Thresholds (average monthly revenue per machine)	Marginal tax rate	
	Hotels	Clubs
\$0 - \$2666	8.33%	Tax Free
\$2667 - \$12,500	55.03%	46.7%
\$12,501 +	62.53%	54.2%

Under this model, the consolidated fund is equal to the amount of tax payable for clubs and hotels.

- 12.1 Complete the following table using the applicable distribution schedule (hotel or club), ownership model (venue operator) and the net EGM expenditure provided by the applicant for section 6.2. In the space provided calculate the distribution of net EGM expenditure of the proposal, entered for section 6.2.

	Net EGM expenditure from proposal	
Venue	\$ 291,065	
Consolidated Fund	\$ 24,245	
Community Support Fund	\$ 30,000	If applicable
Total	\$ 345,310	

- 12.2 In an attachment provide further comment and information in relation to the net expenditure on EGMs that remains in the municipal district or returns to the municipal district.
(Information provided in Part B of applicant's form.)

Please provide any further information or comment as an attachment.

- 12.3 Has an attachment been included? YES ☒ NO ☐

- 12.4 If 'YES', attachment/page number is: ..3..... /

13. Tourism

The applicant may have provided some information concerning EGMs and tourism that may assist you in answering this section.

- 13.1 Estimated impact of gaming on tourism to the municipal district for the previous financial year:

- 13.2 Estimated impact on tourism from the proposal (first 12 months): UTAD
(Information provided in Part B of applicant's form.)

Further information/comment:

Please provide any further information or comment as an attachment.

- 13.3 Has an attachment been included? YES ☒ NO ☐

- 13.4 If 'YES', attachment/page number is: ..³..... /

14. Evidence of financial stress	
14.1 Bankrupt persons in municipal district:	
(Number in previous financial year.)	Unable to accurately determine <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
14.2 Can the responsible authority attribute any of the above bankruptcies to expenditure on EGMs? If you can, how many?	
(Attach evidence to substantiate estimate.)	Unable to accurately determine <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
14.3 If you answered 14.2, can the responsible authority estimate how many additional bankruptcies could be attributed to expenditure on EGMs by this proposal in the first 12 months of operation?	
(Attach evidence to substantiate estimate.)	Unable to accurately determine <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
14.4 Can the responsible authority attribute any financial stress to persons within the community to expenditure on EGMs? If you can, how many?	
(Attach evidence to substantiate estimate.)	Unable to accurately determine <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
14.5 If you answered 14.4, can the responsible authority estimate how many more persons may come under financial stress due to the additional EGM expenditure estimated for this proposal (6.2) in the first twelve months of operation?	
(Attach evidence to substantiate estimate.)	Unable to accurately determine <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
For example: use of DHS Office of Housing data such as local rent arrears, or number of households with special payment arrangements with utilities such as water companies.)	
Further information/comment:	
Please provide any further information or comment as an attachment.	
14.6 Has an attachment been included?	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
14.7 If 'YES', attachment/page number is: /

SOCIAL IMPACT ON YOUR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

15. Social, recreational and entertainment opportunities

(Information provided in Part B of applicant's form.)

- 15.1 Estimate of funding or contributions towards improvements to recreational, entertainment or community facilities from this proposal: \$ } Additional
\$30,000 cash
- 15.2 Estimate of the value of sponsorship of sporting activities, social events and live entertainment from this proposal: \$ } contribution
per year
- 15.3 Estimate funding towards opportunities for particular social groups from this proposal: \$ }

For an existing venue:

- 15.4 Estimate the average number of patrons who attend, any part or all of, Peak season 7,000
entire venue weekly: Non peak season 2,223
- 15.5 Estimate the average number of patrons who use the gaming facility weekly: UTAD
- 15.6 Estimate the additional weekly patrons who may attend, any part or all of, the venue weekly due to the approval of this proposal: UTAD
- 15.7 Estimate the additional average number of patrons who may use the gaming facility weekly due to the proposal: Peak season 987
Non Peak Season 364

For a proposed venue:

- 15.8 Estimate the average number of patrons who may use, any part or all of, the entire venue weekly:
- 15.9 Estimate the average number of patrons who may use the gaming facility weekly:

Further information/comment:

Please provide any further information or comment as an attachment.

- 15.10 Has an attachment been included? YES ☒ NO ☐

- 15.11 If 'YES', attachment/page number is:2./.....

(NOTE: applicant to provide information where relevant.)

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SEIA Report p22-25

16. Incidence of problem gaming/residents at risk and demand for community support services

16.1 Attach a list of the names, addresses and contact numbers of all services in your municipal district that specifically or substantially deal with problem gaming.

Attachment/page number is:⁴ /

16.2 Provide in an attachment, a synopsis of the provision of services, if any, provided by the responsible authority for problem gamblers. Synopsis could include: funding provided, programs provided and counselling provided.

16.2.1 Has an attachment been included? YES ☐ NO ☒

16.2.2 If 'YES', attachment/page number is: /

16.3 In total, how many new contacts were made to these service providers in the previous 12 months?
(Attach evidence to substantiate estimate.) Unable to accurately determine ☒

16.4 Proportion of these new contacts with specifically EGM related problems.
(number and percent):
(Attach evidence to substantiate estimate.) Unable to accurately determine ☒

16.5 Estimate how many new, or additional, EGM problem gamblers could be expected to contact these service providers in the next twelve months due to this proposal:
(Attach evidence to substantiate estimate.) Unable to accurately determine ☒

16.6 Estimate any further financial requirements, if any, of the provision of services to the additional EGM problem gamblers due to this proposal:
(Utilise estimate from previous question [16.5], again attach evidence to substantiate.) Unable to accurately determine ☒

16.7 If an existing venue, what are its responsible gaming practices and harm minimisation strategies?
OR
If this is a proposal for a new venue, what will be its responsible gaming practices and harm minimisation strategies?
(Comments could be made on any harm minimisation (or proposed) partnerships with any local agencies.)
Please provide your response as an attachment.
(Information provided in Part B of applicant's form.)

Attachment/page number is:⁵ /

16.8.1 Does the municipality have a responsible gaming policy and/or charter?
YES ☒ NO ☐

16.8.2 Does the venue, or will the proposed venue, comply with this policy and/or charter?
YES ☒ NO ☐

Further information/comment:

Please use an attachment to provide any further information or comment, for example, on any local modelling undertaken or to expand on your answers to 16.8.1 and 16.8.2.

16.9 Has an attachment been included? YES ☒ NO ☐

16.10 If 'YES', attachment/page number is: 3..... /.....

17. Incidence of gaming-related crime and social disturbance

The previous section asked for an estimate of the number of new contacts to support services, in the previous 12 months that were EGM problem gamblers (16.4).

The following questions ask for further information.

17.1.1 Can the responsible authority provide any information, in an attachment, that can attribute any criminal activity to the EGM expenditure for those problem gamblers estimated for section 16.4?

YES ☐ NO ☒

(If 'YES', attach evidence to substantiate estimate.) Unable to accurately determine ☐

17.1.2 Has an attachment been included? YES ☐ NO ☒

17.1.3 If 'YES', attachment/page number is: /.....

17.2.1 Can the responsible authority provide a reasoned estimate, in an attachment, of how many more crimes could be attributed to any additional problem EGM gamblers (16.5) created by this proposal?

YES ☐ NO ☒

(If 'YES', attach evidence to substantiate estimate.) Unable to accurately determine ☐

17.2.2 Has an attachment been included? YES ☐ NO ☒

17.2.3 If 'YES', attachment/page number is: /.....

Further Information/Comment:

Please provide any further information or comment as an attachment.

17.3 Has an attachment been included? YES ☐ NO ☒

17.4 If 'YES', attachment/page number is: /.....

18. Relationship and emotional costs and impact on community values and lifestyle

A previous section asked for the number of new contacts, in the last 12 months, to support services that were EGM problem gamblers (16.4). The following questions ask for further information in regards to them.

18.1.1 Can the responsible authority provide any information, in an attachment, that can attribute any marital/relationship breakdown and domestic conflict to any problem gambler's (16.4) EGM expenditure?

YES ☐ NO ☒

(Construct a reasoned response and attach evidence to substantiate any estimates.)

Unable to accurately determine ☐

18.1.2 Has an attachment been included?

YES ☐ NO ☒

18.1.3 If 'YES', attachment/page number is:

..... /

18.2.1 Can the responsible authority provide any information, in an attachment, that can attribute any long-term unemployment to any problem gambler's (16.4) EGM expenditures?

YES ☐ NO ☒

(Construct a reasoned response and attach evidence to substantiate any estimates.)

Unable to accurately determine ☐

18.2.2 Has an attachment been included?

YES ☐ NO ☒

18.2.3 If 'YES', attachment/page number is:

..... /

18.3.1 If an answer was provided to 18.1.1, can the responsible authority, in an attachment, estimate how many more relationship breakdowns or domestic conflicts could be attributed to any additional problem EGM gamblers (16.5) that may be created by this proposal?

YES ☐ NO ☐

(Attach evidence to substantiate estimate.)

Unable to accurately determine ☐

18.3.2 Has an attachment been included?

YES ☐ NO ☐

18.3.3 If 'YES', attachment/page number is:

..... /

18.4.1 If an answer was provided to 18.2.1, can the responsible authority, in an attachment, estimate how many more cases of long term unemployment could be attributed to any additional problem EGM gamblers (16.5) that may be created by this proposal?

YES ☐ NO ☒

(Attach evidence to substantiate estimate.)

Unable to accurately determine ☐

18.4.2 Has an attachment been included?

YES ☐ NO ☒

18.4.3 If 'YES', attachment/page number is:

..... /

<p>Further information/comment:</p> <p>Please provide any further information or comment as an attachment.</p> <p>18.5 Has an attachment been included? YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>18.6 If 'YES', attachment/page number is:³..... /</p>											
<p>19. Additional social and economic impact information</p> <p>19.1 Social and economic impacts include, but are not limited to, the previous sections. Please attach any additional information that you believe is relevant to this submission. This includes the provision for the submission of any detailed modelling undertaken by the responsible authority.</p> <p>Additional social and economic impact information and or comment:</p> <p>Please provide any further information or comment as an attachment.</p> <p>19.2 Has an attachment been included? YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>19.3 If 'YES', attachment/page number is:3.../.....</p>											
<p>20. Impacts on other municipalities</p> <p>20.1 In an attachment describe any anticipated social and economic impacts of the proposal on surrounding municipal districts. Where no page reference is provided, it will be taken to mean that no comment has been provided.</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 60%;">Name of responsible authority</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 40%;">Provide page reference in attachment</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>.....</td> <td>.....</td> </tr> <tr> <td>.....</td> <td>.....</td> </tr> <tr> <td>.....</td> <td>.....</td> </tr> <tr> <td>.....</td> <td>.....</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Name of responsible authority	Provide page reference in attachment
Name of responsible authority	Provide page reference in attachment										
.....										
.....										
.....										
.....										
<p>21. Community attitudinal surveys</p> <p>21.1 Has the responsible authority conducted a community attitudinal survey in relation to the proposal?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>21.2 Has an attachment been provided? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If 'YES', attachment/page number is:/.....</p>											

22. Conclusions

22.1 The responsible authority regards the anticipated **economic** impact of the proposal on the municipal district as:

neutral ☐ beneficial ☐ detrimental ☒

22.1 The responsible authority regards the anticipated **social** impact of the proposal on the municipal district as:

neutral ☐ beneficial ☐ detrimental ☒

22.2 The responsible authority regards the anticipated **economic** and **social** impact of the proposal on the **well-being of the community of the municipal district** as:

neutral ☐ beneficial ☐ detrimental ☒

22.3 The main areas of concern for the responsible authority making this submission are (indicate N/A if there are no concerns):

1. Increased number and variety of electronic gaming machines is likely to increase risk of convenience/problem gambling.
2. There are some vulnerable people in the community who may be impacted by increased access to EGMs.
3. The proposal does not generate any community benefit.

22.4 These matters ~~HAVE~~/HAVE NOT (delete whichever does not apply) been discussed with the applicant.

22.5.1 All of the responsible authorities surrounding the municipal district regard the impact of the proposal for gaming provision on their municipal district as:

neutral ☐ beneficial ☐ detrimental ☒

22.5.2 If one or more responsible authorities are not in agreement with the other responsible authorities, attach details of their differing views to this submission.

22.5.3 The main areas of concern for the surrounding responsible authorities are (indicate N/A if there are no concerns):

1. Increased number and variety of electronic gaming machines that their local residents will have access to.
2. No net community benefit.
3.
4.
5.
6.

22.5.4 These matters ~~HAVE~~/HAVE NOT (delete whichever does not apply) been discussed with the applicant.

23. Processes and data used to prepare submission

23.1 Did the responsible authority conduct or commission any original research that has been used for this submission? YES ☐ NO ☒

If 'YES', please provide a statement about each of the following:
Use an attachment if insufficient space.

23.2 Methodology used for the research:

.....
.....
.....
.....

23.3 Limitations and difficulties arising in the conduct of the research:

.....
.....
.....
.....

23.4 Assumptions or data adjustments built into research methodology:

.....
.....
.....
.....

23.5 Has an attachment been included? YES ☐ NO ☒

23.6 If 'YES', attachment/page number is: /

24. Consideration of economic and social impacts by other bodies

24.1 Has another body considered the proposal or a related matter? YES ☐ NO ☒

If 'YES':

24.2.1 Victorian Civil and Administrative Appeals Tribunal YES ☐ NO ☒

24.2.2 Other (specify): YES ☐ NO ☒

24.2.3 If 'YES' to 23.2.1 or 23.2.2, you must provide a copy of the judgement with reasons for decision with this submission.

24.2.4 Has an attachment been included? YES ☐ NO ☒

24.2.5 If 'YES', attachment/page number is: /

EXPLANATION OF TERMS

TERM

Economic impact of the proposal

EXPLANATION

Economic impact is the sum of the effects on the viability and development of the economy (of the municipal district) in the short or medium term, and how this is likely to affect the well-being of the community.

Includes consideration of **benefits** and **costs** (or favourable and adverse effects).

Economic benefits are positive effects (favourable consequences) of increased gaming provision which are likely to contribute to the growth of the economy of the municipal district and an increase in the overall wealth of the community.

Economic costs are negative effects (adverse consequences) of increased gaming provision which are likely to contribute to the deterioration of the economy of the municipal district and greater economic dependence.

Where a municipal economy shows no net gain or loss, the economic impact can be said to be neutral.

Examples of economic effects

- Bankruptcy
- Community support fund
- Complementary expenditures
- Employment
- Infrastructure investment, development and maintenance

Incidence of gaming related bankruptcy or growing financial indebtedness.

Value of grants for projects or activities in the municipal district funded from the CSF.

Expenditure by gaming patrons on goods/services additional to gaming expenditure and arising from their participation in this form of entertainment, e.g. consumption of meals and beverages

The amount and type of direct new employment created e.g. in the venue. For example, number of new full-time or part time, permanent or casual positions; whether in gaming, hospitality or administration; whether wages and conditions are above the award.

Impact on net employment and types of jobs, including multiplier effects, indirect employment and job displacement.

Building works (new premises, renovation, building maintenance, etc.) related to the new premises/venue itself

TERM	EXPLANATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local business 	<p>Businesses which may have a change in expenditure patterns due to this application.</p> <p>Alternative businesses that could have arisen in the municipal district if investment was available.</p> <p>Effects on other entertainment or hospitality businesses of new gaming provision.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of revenues to local economy Supply contracts 	<p>Value of profits/taxes from gaming that leaves the municipal district.</p> <p>Value of contracts with businesses located within the municipal district to supply goods or services to the venue.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tourism 	<p>Value of spending by visitors to the venue and the municipal district.</p>
Examples of social effects	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demand for community support services 	<p>The demand for support related to problem gaming behaviours. This may be reflected in individuals seeking addiction counselling, financial counselling, or relationship counselling.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effect of gaming on community life/values 	<p>Effects on community life that may arise from the proposal. For example, whether new patrons will be drawn from particular demographic groups and what effects this might have.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incidence of gaming related crime 	<p>The potential effect of the proposal on crime in the municipal district.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Problem gambling 	<p>The recommended definition of problem gambling adopted in Victoria is the following:</p> <p>“Problem gambling is characterised by difficulties in limiting money and/or time spent on gambling, which leads to adverse consequences for the gambler, others or for the community.”</p> <p>For more detail see <i>Taking Action on Problem Gambling, October 2006</i>, Victorian Government.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relationship and emotional impacts 	<p>Domestic violence, child abuse or neglect, divorce, depression, or suicide which may be a result of increased problem gaming.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social, recreational and entertainment opportunities 	<p>Increased social recreational and entertainment opportunities that have resulted from gaming at the venue (or proposed venue).</p>

TERM	EXPLANATION
Municipal district.	District under the jurisdiction of a local government.
Municipal profile	<p>Basic data about the municipal district.</p> <p>Most of this information is available in published sources including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VCGLR website at vcglr.vic.gov.au • VCGA research publications (available on the VCGLR website) • Australian Bureau of Statistics publications and website.
Statistical local areas	<p>The Statistical Local Area (SLA) is an Australian standard geographical classification defined area which consists of one or more collection districts. SLAs are local government areas (LGAs), or parts thereof. SLAs cover, in aggregate, the whole of Australia without gaps or overlaps.</p>
Net economic and social impact	<p>An evaluation which weighs up the positive and negative economic and social effects of the proposed change in gaming provision to estimate what the impact will be on the municipal district from the proposal.</p>
Social impact of the proposal	<p>Social impact is the sum of the effects on the social infrastructure, social opportunities and social interactions (of the municipal district) in the short or medium term, and how this is likely to affect the well-being of the community.</p> <p>Includes consideration of benefits and costs (or favourable and adverse effects).</p> <p>Social benefits are positive effects (favourable consequences) of increased gaming provision which are likely to contribute to development of social infrastructure, social opportunities and social interaction, and an overall improvement of the social capital of the municipal district.</p> <p>Social costs are negative effects (adverse consequences) of increased gaming provision which are likely to contribute to the decline of social infrastructure, social opportunities and social interactions, and an overall deterioration of the social capital of the municipal district.</p> <p>Where the social capital of a municipal district shows no net gain or loss, the social impact can be said to be neutral.</p>

TERM	EXPLANATION
Surrounding municipal districts	District(s) under the control of local government(s) that abut the municipal district in which the applicant's premises/venue are located.
Well-being of the community of the municipal district	Economic prosperity and social robustness or health of the overall community of the municipal district.
Will not be detrimental to the well-being of the community of the municipal district	When the net economic and social impact of the proposal (i.e. the sum to the incremental effects) is considered neutral or positive.



Attachment 1

The background of the cover page is a photograph of two young girls running on a sandy beach. The girl in the foreground is in sharp focus, wearing a pink off-the-shoulder top and dark shorts, and is smiling broadly. The girl in the background is slightly out of focus, wearing a patterned dress. The ocean and sky are visible in the background.

SURF COAST REGION PROFILE

OCTOBER 2014





G21 IS THE FORMAL ALLIANCE OF GOVERNMENT, BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS, WORKING TOGETHER TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF PEOPLE WITHIN THE GEELONG REGION ACROSS FIVE MUNICIPALITIES – COLAC OTWAY, GOLDEN PLAINS, GREATER GEELONG, QUEENSCLIFFE AND SURF COAST.

The G21 Geelong Region Alliance is a collaborative voice for the region that provides:

- A platform for the region to speak with one voice to all levels of government
- A forum to discuss 'big picture' regional issues across interest groups and municipalities
- Efficiency through facilitating multiagency collaboration and sharing of information and resources
- More resources from all levels of government and the private sector through the co-ordination and prioritisation of regional projects, and
- Alignment of the objectives of major regional organisations to achieve growth and sustainability.

This document was prepared by Nancy Vaughan for the G21 Geelong Region Alliance

 Nancy Vaughan


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Cover photo by Mark Chew
Visions of Victoria

Please refer to data tables in appendix for detailed data, at www.g21.com.au/region-profile-data-tables



G21 is an alliance of the government, industry and community organisations working to improve people's lives in the Geelong region.



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The Surf Coast Community Profile 2014 (2014) has been prepared by the G21 Geelong Region Alliance to provide an evidence-based resource for planning, priority project identification and implementation and advocacy for regional growth, health and wellbeing.

The profile has been prepared as a stand-alone document, but may also be read in conjunction with the G21 Region Profile (2014) which takes in the five local government areas that comprise the G21 region: Colac Otway, Golden Plains, Greater Geelong, Queenscliff and Surf Coast.

A broad range of demographic, socio-economic, health, community and economic data is covered in the profile, including an update and expansion of many of the data elements contained in the G21 Health and Wellbeing Profile (2009). In addition, the profile presents updated data that is relevant to many aspects of key G21 planning documents, particularly the Geelong Region Plan (2007), and it complements the G21 Regional Growth Plan (2013). Where LGA level information has not been available, G21 region information has been included.

The most current readily available data has been included in the profile, with the intention of providing a broad picture of key characteristics of the Surf Coast region. As updated data becomes available from source agencies, data updates will be released as an addendum to the Surf Coast Community Profile (2014).

The profile comprises two sections: 1) a written description of the key characteristics of the region - which includes description of specific indicators, identification of key strengths and challenges and identification of population groups and locations with characteristics of disadvantage, and 2) an extensive series of data tables, contained in the appendix, that support the written component of the profile and provide additional detail.





1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.2 GLOSSARY

AVOIDABLE MORTALITY	Avoidable mortality covers those causes of death that are potentially avoidable at the present time, given available knowledge about social and economic policy impacts, health behaviours, and health care. (The Public Health Information Development Unit)
CORE ACTIVITY NEED FOR ASSISTANCE	The Core Activity Need for Assistance variable was developed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) to measure the number of people with a profound or severe disability - with a definition of: 'those people needing help or assistance in one or more of the three core activity areas of self-care, mobility and communication, because of a long-term health condition (lasting six months or more), a disability (lasting six months or more), or old age'.
FAMILY INCIDENTS AND FAMILY VIOLENCE	<p>Family violence is defined in the Victoria Police Code of Practice for Investigation of Family Violence in accordance with the Family Violence Protection Act (2008). Family violence is defined as any behaviour, whether a criminal offence or not, that in any way controls or dominates a family member and causes them to feel fear for their own, or other family members' safety or well-being. It includes violent, threatening, coercive or controlling behaviour that occurs in current or former family, domestic or intimate relationships. Family means any family or family-like relationship, including current and former intimate partners, relatives, same-sex partners and carers.</p> <p>In its statistical reports, Victoria Police use the term Family Incident while the Victorian Family Violence Database (which uses Victoria Police data) uses the term Family Violence Incident. These terms are both based on the definition above.</p>
LABOUR FORCE	Labour force refers to population aged 15 years and over that is either employed or seeking employment.
LLEN (LOCAL LEARNING AND EMPLOYMENT NETWORK)	LLENs are made up a range of groups and organisations including education and training providers, business and industry, community agencies, and parent and family organisations. The goal of each LLEN is to support young people, 10 - 19 years old, within its geographical boundaries by improving their participation, engagement, attainment and transition outcomes. There are 31 Local Learning and Employment Networks, or LLENs in Victoria.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.2 GLOSSARY

MEDIAN	The median is the middle value of an ordered set of values.
MORTGAGE STRESS	Mortgage stress is where a household in the bottom 40% of income distribution spends 30% or more of household income on mortgage repayments.
NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES	Notifiable conditions are specified in Schedule 4 of the Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009. In Victoria, the Department of Health conducts surveillance on infectious diseases to pinpoint outbreaks and to prevent the spread of infection. Notifications of conditions from medical practitioners and laboratories are the fundamental component of the surveillance. (Victorian Government Department of Health website 2014)
REGIONAL VICTORIA	The part of Victoria not included in the metropolitan Melbourne area. This is also described as Non-metropolitan Victoria, rural Victoria, rest of Victoria and balance of Victoria in various source documents. Boundaries may vary a little between source agencies.
RENTAL STRESS	Rental stress is where a household in the bottom 40% of income distribution spends 30% or more of household income on rent.
STATISTICAL LOCAL AREA (SLA)	A Statistical Local Area is a geographic area defined by the ABS. The ABS and some other agencies provide information at the SLA level. A Local Government Area (LGA) is typically made up of one or more SLA.
MODELLED ESTIMATE	Some data in the profile refers to modelled estimates from the Public Health Information Development Unit (PHIDU). These estimates were developed by the PHIDU using modelled survey data collected in the 2007-08 ABS National Health Survey (NHS) and known characteristics of the area. Note that numbers are estimates for an area, not measured events, and should be used only as indicator of likely levels of a condition or risk factor in an area. Further information about the description of modelled estimates is available at www.publichealth.gov.au

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.3 ABBREVIATIONS

ABS	AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS
ACSC	AMBULATORY CARE SENSITIVE CONDITION
AEDI	AUSTRALIAN EARLY DEVELOPMENT INDEX
CALD	CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE
CCF	CONGESTIVE CARDIAC FAILURE
COPD	CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE
DEECD	DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT (STATE GOVERNMENT)
DPCD	DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (STATE GOVERNMENT)
DSE	DEPARTMENT OF SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENT (STATE GOVERNMENT)
DTPLI	DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT, PLANNING AND LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE (STATE GOVERNMENT)
ERP	ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION
GP	GENERAL PRACTITIONER
GRP	GROSS REGIONAL PRODUCT
GVA	GROSS VALUE ADDED
HACC	HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE
IRSD	INDEX OF RELATIVE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGE
IVO	INTERVENTION ORDER
LGA	LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA. E.G. SURF COAST SHIRE
LGBTI	LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER AND INTERSEX
LLEN	LOCAL LEARNING AND EMPLOYMENT NETWORK
PSA	POLICE SERVICE AREA
SEIFA	SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDEX FOR AREAS
SLA	STATISTICAL LOCAL AREA
TAC	TRANSPORT ACCIDENT COMMISSION
VHIS	VICHEALTH INDICATORS SURVEY

1.4 DATA NOTES

The most current readily available data has been included in the profile, with the intention of providing a broad picture of key characteristics of the G21 region.

Demographic, health and community wellbeing data with gender and age bracket break-down has been used where it was available and statistically reliable. It is recommended that data contained in this report should be used in combination with other research and consultation, including consultation with local and regional health and community agencies.

Data for locations and population groups with smaller population numbers should be interpreted with particular caution. In many instances, actual numbers are very low and/or data has been aggregated over a number of years. Many agencies, including the Australian Bureau of Statistics, use random errors for small numbers to ensure privacy of individuals is protected. For this reason, small numbers (e.g. under 20) should be treated as an approximate guide only.

It has not always been possible to include time trend data in this profile, as methodology, geographic boundaries, indicator description or data availability have changed in some cases.

Data was correct and current at the time of writing, however much of the information contained in this profile is subject to regular change and review by the relevant agencies. When interpreting data, readers are urged to refer to the original source of the data where possible.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.5 ABOUT SURF COAST

Surf Coast is located in regional Victoria, to the south west of Geelong and Melbourne. In 2011, it had a usual resident population of 25,870, with 65% of these residents located in the coastal settlements from Torquay to Lorne. The remainder of the population are dispersed through rural areas and small towns of less than 1,000 people. Surf Coast contributes 9.3% of the total population of the G21 Region. The most recent ABS population estimates (released in April 2014) for Surf Coast estimate the 2013 resident population to be 28,282, reflecting continued strong population growth in the LGA. The original inhabitants of the area are the Wadawurrung Aboriginal people.

Surf Coast encompasses an area of 1,560 square kilometres. The popular coastal areas in the south include the iconic Great Ocean Road and the renowned surfing destination of Bells Beach. The historic inland town of Winchelsea is a service centre for surrounding rural areas and is a gateway to both the Great Ocean Road and the Otway ranges. The rapidly growing township of Torquay is situated in the south east of the LGA with good access to Geelong and Melbourne.

THE G21 REGION AND SURF COAST LGA



Map prepared by the G21 Geelong Region Alliance, 2014



2.0 THE REGIONAL PROFILE

2.1 THE SURF COAST PROFILE

The Regional Profile comprises seven sections:

DEMOGRAPHIC SUMMARY

This section provides a broad description of characteristics of the current population and examines population change and projections

SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS

This section includes information about overall socio-economic status through IRSD scores, income, transport, education, employment status and other factors

HEALTH

This section includes information about health behaviours, prevalence of diseases and health conditions, and access to health services

STRONG COMMUNITIES

This section includes information about community participation, facilities and services

ENVIRONMENT

This section includes information about natural environment features, climate, water and climate change

SUSTAINABLE SETTLEMENTS

This section includes information about urban settlement patterns and housing

INDUSTRY AND ECONOMY

This section includes information about industries of employment and trends in this area, labour force characteristics, skill shortages, current and projected Gross Regional Product, tourism, and key growth areas.

There are considerable interconnections between data elements across the sections.



2.0 THE REGIONAL PROFILE

2.2 DEMOGRAPHIC SUMMARY

In 2011, Surf Coast had a population of 25,870 and this comprised approximately 9% of the population of G21 Region. More than half of the Surf Coast population lives in Torquay and nine percent lives in Anglesea. Winchelsea and Lorne (6% and 4% respectively of total Surf Coast population) were the next largest settlements.

The Surf Coast population increased by some 4,100 between 2006 and 2011, representing growth of 18.8% over the period, which was more than double the Victoria average growth rate. Population growth in Torquay* has been substantial (35% increase) and accounted for approximately 85% of total population growth in Surf Coast between 2006 and 2011. Growth in Winchelsea* (18.2%) was also more than double the state average.

Detailed population analysis, including of small geographic areas within the municipality, has been commissioned by Surf Coast Shire and can be viewed at <http://profile.id.com.au/surf-coast>.

In 2011, 67.6% of the population aged five years and over had lived in Surf Coast for more than five years. This figure is lower than the G21 average (80.6%) and reflects the significant contribution of internal migration to the LGA's population growth rate. Not including Surf Coast itself, the most common LGA that Surf Coast residents lived in five years ago was Greater Geelong (7%), followed by Port Phillip, Boroondara, Hobsons Bay and Wyndham (accounting for between 0.6% and 0.7% each).

* Note that ABS defined boundaries of locations have changes between 2006 and 2011.

KEY DEMOGRAPHIC FEATURES

- A population increase of 18.8% between 2006 and 2011, which was more than double the Victoria average
- A population increase of 35% in Torquay between 2006 and 2011, which was almost four times the Victorian average growth rate
- A projected population of 40,565 By 2031, representing an increase of 13,899 (52%) between 2011 and 2031, which is much greater than the increases forecast for the G21 region (35%), regional Victoria (25%) or Victoria (39%)
- The proportion of population aged 20 to 34 years (14%) was notably lower than Victoria (21%)
- The proportion aged 35 to 69 years (49%) was higher than Victoria (44%)
- The proportion aged 75 years and over (6%) was slightly lower than the Victorian average (7%)

- A notably higher proportion of males aged 10 to 19 years and aged 60 years and over, compared to Victorian averages*; with conversely lower proportions of females in these age brackets
- A notably lower proportion of males aged 25 to 29 years and aged 35 to 39 years, compared to Victorian averages* with conversely higher proportions of females in these age brackets

*Please refer to tables in appendix for the range of relevant figures

GROWTH CHALLENGES

The G21 Regional Growth Plan (2013) sets out eight critical challenges for the G21 Region that were identified by regional stakeholders:

- Delivering land, infrastructure and services for identified growth
- Planning for and adapting to climate change
- Accommodating population growth without negatively affecting the region's unique environment and liveability
- Reducing dependence on cars
- Education and building skills
- Providing a variety of housing choices
- Managing land use conflicts, and
- Managing the expectations of the G21 community.

G21 Regional Growth Plan (2013) - G21 Geelong Region Alliance, April 2013

AGE STRUCTURE

The Surf Coast population has a median age of 40 years, which is four years higher than Victoria, and one year lower than regional Victoria. The median has increased by one year since 2006. In 2011, compared to Victorian averages, the age structure of the Surf Coast population had four key characteristics:

- The proportion aged 0 to 19 years (27.4%) - which was higher than Victoria (25.1%)
- The proportion aged 20 to 34 years (14.1%) - which was much lower than Victoria (21.3%)
- The proportion aged 35 to 74 years (52.3%) - which was higher than Victoria (47.0%), and
- The proportion aged 75 years and over (6.2%) - which was similar to Victoria (6.7%).

Between 2006 and 2011, reflecting the trends seen in regional Victoria and Victoria, the proportion of Surf Coast population aged less than 60 years decreased, while the proportion aged 60 years and over increased. While the greatest increase in proportion was seen



in the older age groups, there was also proportional increase seen in population aged 0 to 9 years, 20 to 24 years, and 40 to 44 years. The greatest numerical increase (646 people) was seen in the 60 to 64 years age group, however population aged 0 to 4 years, 5 to 9 years, 40 to 44 years, and 65 to 69 years all had increases of 350 or more people, suggesting that the region has a growing number of families with young children as well as retirees.

GENDER

Overall, gender distribution in Surf Coast is generally comparable to the Victoria average with an overall distribution of approximately 49.6% males to 50.4% females.

However, the Surf Coast gender and age pattern is different to the state average, with a slightly higher proportion of males aged 10 to 24 years and a higher proportion aged 55 years and over (seen in each 5 year age group); while there was a notably smaller proportion of male population aged 25 to 29 years and 35 - 39 years.

POPULATION PROJECTIONS

By 2031, the state Government **Victoria in Future 2014** population projections forecast that the population of Surf Coast will reach 40,565, representing an increase of 13,899 between 2011 and 2031. The projected increase (52%) is substantially greater than the increases forecast for the G21 region (35%), regional Victoria (25%) or Victoria (39%).

All age groups are forecast to grow by a much higher proportion than state and regional Victoria averages. The Surf Coast population aged 65 years and over is projected to increase by the greatest proportion (122%), followed by the 15 to 24 years cohort (79%), then the 25 to 64 years and the 0 to 14 years cohorts (both 35%).

By 2031, the 65 years and over age cohort will represent 21% of the total Surf Coast population.

Surf Coast Shire has commissioned forecast.id to prepare detailed population projections. These projections are higher than those prepared by **Victoria in Future 2014**. They can be accessed online at <http://forecast.id.com.au/surf-coast>

FAMILY STRUCTURE

The majority of families living in Surf Coast are couples with no children (40%), followed by couples with children aged under 15 years (35%). Compared to state averages, Surf Coast has a higher proportion of couple families with no children as well as couple families with children aged less than 15 years.

Couple families make up 88% of all Surf Coast families, which is a greater proportion than the state (83%) or regional Victoria average (82%). There has been only minor variation to family structures in Surf Coast since 2006.

In 2011, one parent families with children aged under 15 years comprised 6% of all Surf Coast family types and this figure was lower than the regional Victoria (9%) and state average (8%).

In 2011, same sex couples made up 0.6% of all couples in Surf Coast that were living in the same household. Surf Coast had a greater proportion of all same sex couple households than the G21 region and regional Victoria (both 0.4%) but a lower proportion than Victoria (0.7%). Females couples made up 79% of all same sex couples living in the same household in Surf Coast, while males made up 21%.



INDIGENOUS POPULATION

The original inhabitants of Surf Coast are the Wadawurrung Aboriginal people.

Surf Coast has a small Indigenous population. In 2011, there were 145 Indigenous people living in Surf Coast and this figure accounted for 0.6% of the total population. The proportion of the total Surf Coast population that is Indigenous (0.6%) is slightly lower than the Victorian average (0.7%) and less than half of the regional Victoria average (1.5%).

Between 2006 and 2011, the number of Indigenous people living in Surf Coast increased by a large proportion (over 81%), however this is likely be partly attributed to an increase in the number of people who have self identified as Indigenous. Please refer to **ABS 2077.0 Census of Population and Housing: Understanding the increase in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Counts, 2006 - 2011** for further explanation of this topic.

More than half (56%) of the Surf Coast indigenous population is aged under 20 years, which is higher than the average for Victoria (46%). The very small counts in many age groups in the Indigenous population mean that figures for many age groups, particularly those over 45 years, are not statistically reliable. However, G21 region level figures indicate that, in contrast to the trend towards an ageing population in the total population, the age distribution of the Indigenous

population generally shows a steady decline in the proportional representation of each 5 year age group beyond 45 years. The under-representation of Indigenous persons in the ageing population is consistent with a life expectancy that is typically more than ten years lower than the total population average.

The lower life expectancy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians can be attributed to a higher infant mortality rate, and a higher incidence of diseases such as diabetes mellitus, respiratory disorders, ear disease, eye disorders and some cancers, among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

(Measures of Australia's Progress, ABS 1370.0)

CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Most people who live in Surf Coast were born in Australia (84%) and this proportion is much higher than the Victorian average (69%) but the same as the regional Victoria average (84%).

In 2011, after Australia, the next most common country of birth for Surf Coast residents was the United Kingdom (4.8%) followed by New Zealand (1.1%), Germany (0.5%) and the Netherlands (0.5%).

In 2010-2011, the rate of new settlers (from overseas) in the region was much lower than the state average, but around double that of Regional Victoria. No new settlers to Surf Coast were humanitarian arrivals. Compared to a state average of 3.2%, only 0.2% of the



Surf Coast population did not speak English or did not speak English well and females were much more likely than males to not speak English or not speak English well.

Christianity is the most common religious affiliation among Surf Coast residents (55.5%), followed by Buddhism (1.1%). Over 32% of Surf Coast residents stated they had no religious affiliation. Compared to state average figures, Surf Coast residents were less likely to state Christianity or any other religious affiliation, while they were much more likely to state they had 'no religion'. Between 2006 and 2011, the proportion of Surf Coast residents who stated Christianity was their religious affiliation decreased, while it increased for Buddhism and Islam, as well as for stating they had 'no religion'.

Data from the Diversitat 2012-13 Annual Report, which covers the Barwon South Western region, indicates that in 2012-13 the organisation supported 178 new cases or 411 clients through the Humanitarian Settlement Services (HSS) program representing 66 families and 112 single men.

Of the 178 new cases, some 47% (84 cases) arrived on a Protection Visa, 30% (54 cases) arrived on a Refugee Visa, 21% (38 cases) arrived on a Women at Risk Visa, and 1.1% (two cases) arrived on a Global Humanitarian Visa. Afghanistan and Pakistan were the most common countries of origin, accounting for 72% of new cases. Burma and Iraq were the next most common countries of origin, each accounting for 7% of new cases.

The most common issues addressed by Diversitat from new arrivals were: Life skills, document help, tenancy, mental health, migration issues, household management, health issues, accommodation, proposing family members, and education and training. Please refer to the Diversitat 2013 Annual Report for further details at www.diversitat.org.au.



3.0 SOCIO ECONOMIC PROFILE

3.1 SOCIO ECONOMIC PROFILE

Vichealth's Position Statement on Health Inequalities (2005) states that socio-economic position is a major determinant of health inequalities and those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage generally have poorer health than those who are more advantaged.

Addressing Disadvantage in the G21 Region (Burkett.I, 2013) identifies high rates of unemployment, lower education levels, and high levels of low-skilled occupations as major contributors to disadvantage and lower household incomes in the G21 region's most disadvantaged suburbs and towns. Additionally, Burkett explains that joblessness in many of the G21 region's disadvantaged areas - at the smaller area level - is often complicated by other factors such as higher populations of people who have low English language proficiency or of people with severe disabilities.

KEY STRENGTHS

- Surf Coast is in the tenth decile of 2011 IRSD scores, indicating it is among the least disadvantaged LGAs in Victoria
- Compared to state average figures, Surf Coast residents:
 - Had a higher median weekly household income (\$1,277 v's \$1,216)
 - Were more likely to have completed Year 12 (53% versus 37%)
 - Were more likely to hold a bachelor or post graduate university degree or a diploma qualification (34% in total v's 29%)
 - Were less likely (children) to be identified as developmentally vulnerable across each of the five AEDI domains*
 - Were more likely to be participating in the labour force (75% v's 72%)
 - Were less likely to have a core activity need for assistance (severe disability) as someone aged 0 to 64 (1.6% versus the state average of 2.5%) or aged 65 years and over (14% versus 19%), and
 - Were more likely to have an internet connection in their household (82% v's 77%).

KEY CHALLENGES

- Surf Coast females aged 15 to 19 years, 25 to 44 years, and 85 years and over - together with Surf Coast males aged 15 to 19 years - were more likely than the state female or male averages in those age brackets to be earning less than \$400 per week*
- In 2009, Surf Coast government schools had a higher number of average absence days per annum than state average figures for Years Prep to 2 and Years 5 to 12*
- In 2011, compared to the state average (74.3%), only 32% of Surf Coast residents lived near public transport
- Residents of Surf Coast (28.0%) were more likely than the state average (23.7%) to report having experienced transport limitations in the last 12 months, and
- Only 3% of Surf Coast residents use public transport to travel to work compared to a state average of 11%.

* Please refer to the data tables in the appendix for figures for this data set
NOTE: where possible, figures in this section have been rounded up to a whole number. Please refer to tables in the appendix for full details and notes on data, including rates per population, dates and other important information.

3.0 SOCIO ECONOMIC PROFILE

3.2 INDEX OF RELATIVE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGE (IRSD)

The 2011 Social Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) index of relative socio-economic disadvantage (IRSD) summarises a range of information about the economic and social conditions of people and households within an area and provides a useful snapshot that combines different socio-economic factors.

IRSD scores indicate that, overall, Surf Coast has a very low level of relative socio-economic disadvantage. Surf Coast is in the tenth decile of IRSD scores, indicating it is among the least disadvantaged LGAs in Victoria.

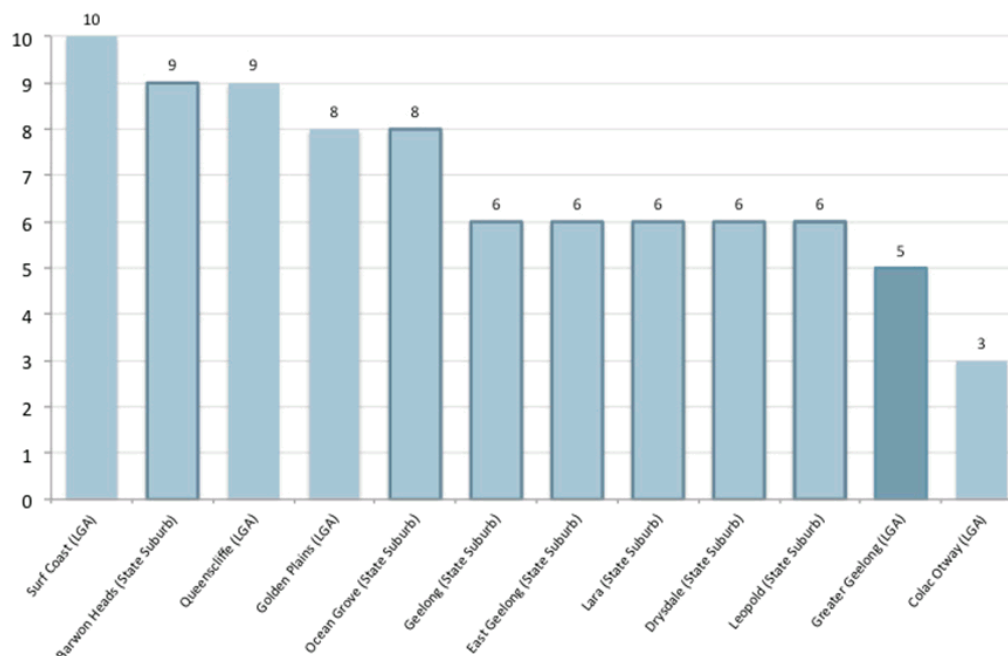
Examination of IRSD scores at the state suburb# level indicates low levels of relative socio-economic disadvantage (between the seventh and tenth deciles) throughout Surf Coast with one notable exception: Winchelsea. Winchelsea has an IRSD score of 957 and this score falls in the third decile of all Victorian

state suburbs, indicating a high level of relative socio-economic disadvantage.

The ABS provides IRSD score mapping, which may be accessed (via Google Earth) at <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/2033.0.55.001main+feature100262011>

State Suburbs are an ABS approximation of localities gazetted by the Geographical Place Name authority in each State and Territory. The boundary of a state suburb may extend beyond the urban/town boundary and boundaries often change between census periods

IRSD SCORE STATE DECILES (2011)



Socio-Economic Index for Areas (State Suburb and LGA Data Cubes) ABS 2013

3.0 SOCIO ECONOMIC PROFILE

3.2 INDEX OF RELATIVE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGE (IRSD)

INCOME

In 2011, the median weekly household income in Surf Coast was \$1,277, while it was \$602 for median individual weekly income. Both of these medians are higher than Victorian (\$1,216 and \$561) and regional Victorian (\$945 and \$493) averages.

Between 2006 and 2011, compared to regional Victorian and Victorian averages, Surf Coast had a greater increase in median household and individual weekly incomes.

Overall, Surf Coast has a lower than average rate of population who earned less than \$400 per week. However Surf Coast females aged 15 to 19 years, 25 to 44 years, and 85 years and over were more likely than the state female averages to be earning less than \$400 per week; while Surf Coast males aged 15-19 years were more likely than the state male averages to be earning less than \$400 per week. Overall, females - especially those aged 25 years to 74 years - were significantly more likely than males to be earning less than \$400 per week.

Surf Coast residents are notably less likely than the Victorian average to be receiving each of the main types of Centrelink benefits. In June 2012, approximately 5,000 Surf Coast residents received Centrelink benefits and 3,700 of these were Age Pension recipients. Not including various payment variances for each benefit type, payments generally range from approximately \$250 per week for a single person with no dependents on the Newstart allowance to \$375 per week for a single person receiving the old Age Pension, Disability Support Payment, Single Parenting Payment or Carer Payment.

EDUCATION

Residents of Surf Coast (52.7%) are slightly more likely to have completed Year 12 than the Victorian average (51.7%) and much more likely than the regional Victorian average (37.0%). Reflecting state trends, females (55.6%) were more likely than males (49.6%) to have completed Year 12. Also reflecting state trends, the proportion of Surf Coast residents that had completed Year 12 increased between 2006 and 2011 and this figure increased by a slightly higher percentage than the state average.

Surf Coast residents are also notably more likely to hold a bachelor or post graduate university degree or a diploma qualification (34.2% in total), compared to the state average (29.2%) or the regional Victoria (19.7%) average. Reflecting state trends, the proportion of Surf Coast residents that held a bachelor or post graduate university degree or a diploma qualification increased between 2006 and 2011 and this figure increased by a similar percentage to the state average.

Surf Coast residents were also more likely to hold a certificate III or IV (17.6%), compared to the Victorian average (14.0%).

School average absence days figures from 2009 for schools located in Surf Coast are consistently higher than state average figures for all school years that data was available for (Years Prep to 2 and Years 5 to 12). The highest number of average absence days was seen in Year 8, followed by Year 9 and 10. Note that figures are based on location of school and not place of residence and data is for government schools only.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND SCHOOL LEAVERS

In 2011, approximately 82% of all 15 to 19 year olds in Surf Coast were fully engaged in work or study, which was equivalent to the Victoria average. The most common engagement was in full time study (not working) at 48.6%, and this proportion was lower than the state average of 51.5%. Surf Coast young people were more likely to be working part-time while studying part-time (24.6%), compared to the state average (21.0%).

The **On Track** survey completed annually by DEECD charts the activity of school leavers in the year after they left school. Figures for the Smart Geelong Local Learning and Employment Network (LLEN) area which covers schools based in Greater Geelong, Surf Coast and Queenscliffe LGAs, provide the best available indication of school leaver activity in Surf Coast.

The **On Track** survey results for 2012 school leavers indicate that 48% of the Year 12 completers went to university and 14% entered Vocational Education and Training and that these proportions were both lower than the Victorian averages. The **Smart Geelong LLEN*** had a higher proportion of Year 12 completers

3.0 SOCIO ECONOMIC PROFILE

3.2 INDEX OF RELATIVE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGE (IRSD)

who went on to apprenticeships or traineeships, and a notably higher proportion who went on to employment. The **Smart Geelong** LLEN catchment also had a higher proportion of Year 12 completers who were not in the labour force, education or training.

On Track 2012 results for young people who left school in Year 10, 11 or during Year 12 also indicate that a much higher proportion entered apprenticeships compared to the Victorian average.

Note: Data is based on the location of the school and not place of residence of the student. In 2011, LGA level data is not reliable, due to the high proportion of students who travel to a school from a neighbouring or other LGA. *The Smart Geelong LLEN is now known as the Geelong Region LLEN.

CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

The Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) measures five areas (or 'domains') of early childhood development during the first year of primary school: physical health and wellbeing, social competence, emotional maturity, language and cognitive skills and, communication skills and general knowledge. These five domains are closely linked to the predictors of good adult health, education and social outcomes. Children who fall into the lowest 10% of a domain are

considered developmentally vulnerable. Children who fall into the lowest 25% of a domain are considered to be developmentally at risk.

In 2012, Surf Coast children were significantly less likely than the Victoria average to be identified as developmentally vulnerable across each of the five domains. They were also less likely to be identified as developmentally at risk in each domain.

EMPLOYMENT

'In the G21 Region, understanding the gaps and opportunities that exist for generating and targeting employment at a systemic level is a critical part of addressing disadvantage...'

- Addressing Disadvantage in the G21 Region (Burkett.I 2013)

The **Geelong Region Plan (2007)** also emphasises the importance of the connection between employment industries and vulnerable population groups ...

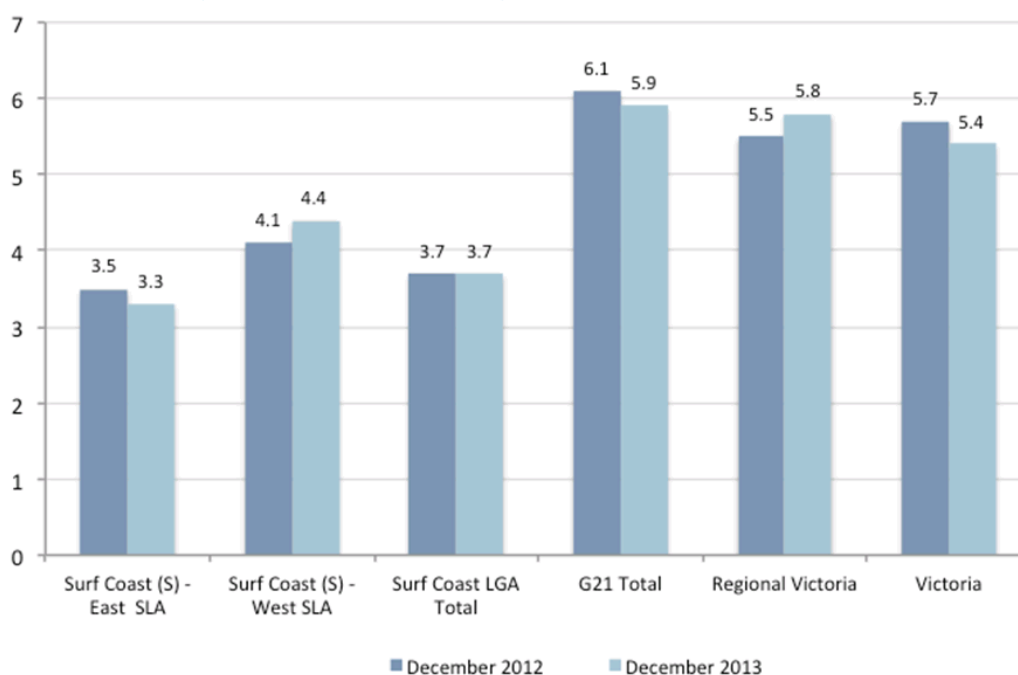
'The most vulnerable sectors of the population are often reliant on jobs in lower skilled areas that are under pressure from low global wage levels and more likely to be lower paid and based on part-time, casual or contract work conditions.'

In December 2013, there were some 506 unemployed people living in Surf Coast. The unemployment rate was 3.7% and this rate was much lower than the state (5.8%) and regional Victoria (5.4%) average. Between December 2012 and December 2013, unemployment in Surf Coast did not change, compared to a small increase in the state average rate.

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UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (DECEMBER 2012 AND DECEMBER 2013)



Small Area Labour Markets Australia - December Quarter 2013, Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The proportion of Surf Coast residents aged 15 to 64 years participating in the labour force (people who are employed or seeking employment) in the region is 75.1% and this figure is higher than the Victorian average (72.1%).

In 2011, Surf Coast resident workers were most likely to be employed in the industry sectors of construction (12.6%) followed by health care and social assistance (12.1%) and, education and training (10.2%).

Compared to state and regional Victoria averages, the Surf Coast resident workforce was notably more likely to be employed in: the construction; accommodation and food services; and education and training sectors - while it was notably less likely to be employed in the: manufacturing; and transport, postal and warehousing sectors.

The Geelong Region Profile (2007) emphasises the importance of the connection between employment industries and vulnerable population groups ... 'The most vulnerable sectors of the population are often reliant on jobs in lower skilled areas that are under pressure from low global wage levels and more likely to be lower paid and based on part-time, casual or contract work conditions.'

Between 2006 and 2011, there was a notable decrease in the proportion of Surf Coast residents employed in the following sectors: manufacturing; agriculture, forestry and fishing; retail trade; and accommodation and food services. However, the only decrease in numbers of jobs was seen in the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector (49 jobs).

Between 2006 and 2011, there was a notable increase

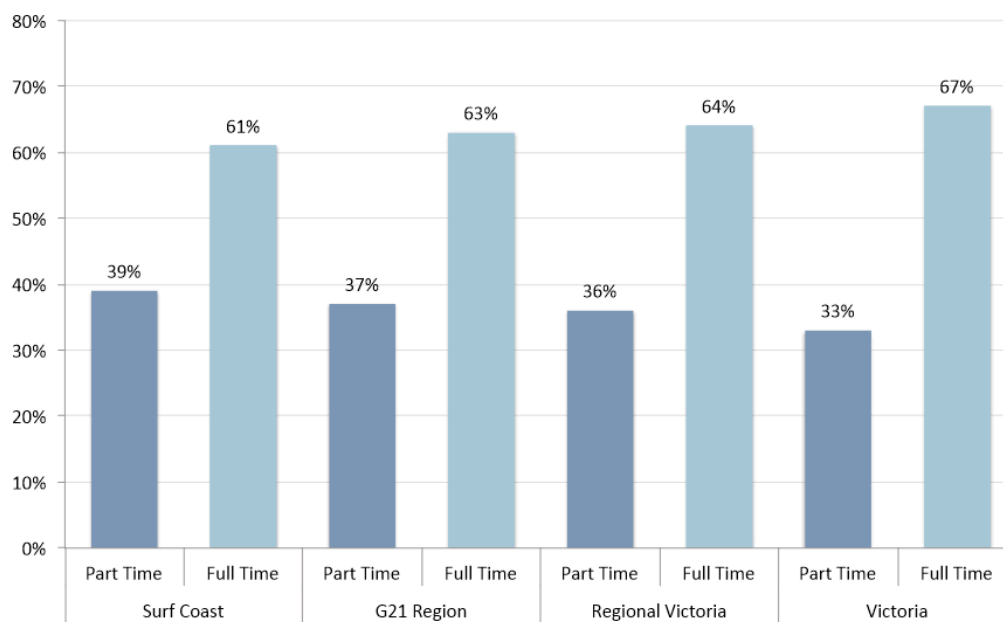
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in the proportion of Surf Coast residents employed in the following sectors: health care and social assistance; construction; and financial and insurance services. However, the greatest increase in numbers of jobs was seen in the following sectors: health care and social assistance (386 jobs); construction (357 jobs); education and training (255 jobs); and professional, scientific and technical services (250 jobs).

In 2011, Surf Coast workers were more likely to work part-time (39%) and less likely to work full-time (61%) than the state average. Surf Coast females were much more likely than the state female average to work part-time and were also more than twice as likely as Surf Coast male to be working part-time.

PART-TIME AND FULL-TIME WORKFORCE STATUS (2011)



2011 Census of Population and Housing, Expanded Community Profiles, ABS 2012

Note: Part Time working hours are from 1 to 34 hours per week and Full Time working hours are 35 hours or more per week.

Workers living in Surf Coast were notably more likely to have occupations as professionals, managers, or technicians and trades workers than state averages; while they were notably less likely to be employed as clerical and administrative workers or machinery operators and drivers.

HOMELESSNESS

Homelessness is not just the result of too few houses. Its causes are many and varied. Domestic violence, a shortage of affordable housing, unemployment, mental illness, family breakdown and drug and alcohol abuse all contribute to the level of homelessness in Australia

(FaHCSIA 2008)

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The ABS has recently introduced a revised methodology for estimating homelessness which aims to improve accuracy of the count of homeless people as well as those considered to be at risk of being homeless. Data is currently available at the Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2) level only. The 2011 SA2 data indicates that there were three homeless persons living in the Lorne-Anglesea SA2, while there were ten in the Torquay SA2 and four in the Winchelsea SA2. All figures are very low and should be interpreted with caution. Additionally, some agency workers report that figures are still likely to be an undercount of homeless persons.

SA2 GEOGRAPHIC AREAS IN SURF COAST



Adapted from mapping on the ABS website - accessed March 2014



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DISABILITY

The Core Activity Need for Assistance concept was developed by the ABS to give an indication of the prevalence of population with a severed disability. The Core Activity Need for Assistance data identifies the proportion of the population who require assistance to conduct routine activities such as self-care, movement or communication.

In 2011, 1.6% of the Surf Coast population under age 65 years had a core activity need for assistance and this figure was much lower than the Victoria average (2.5%). Males (1.7%) aged under 65 years were more likely to have a core activity need for assistance than females (1.5%).

Of the Surf Coast population aged 65 years and over, 13.8% had a core activity need for assistance and this figure was also much lower than the state average (18.7%). Surf Coast females (16.6%) aged 65 years and over were notably more likely than males (10.8%) to have a core activity need for assistance.

Between 2006 and 2011, the proportion of population aged under 65 years or 65 years and over with a core activity need for assistance increased by a very small amount.

Data prepared by the ABS for the Disability Policy and Research Working Group (DPRWG)*, indicates that, in 2009, all types of disability were more prevalent in Surf Coast - West Statistical Local Area (SLA) than in Surf Coast - East SLA. Rates of profound/severe



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disability, moderate disability and mild disability were all approximately 50% higher in Surf Coast - West SLA than in Surf Coast - East. The data also indicated that:

- Surf Coast males were more likely than females to have an acquired brain injury disability, intellectual disability or sensory disability
- Surf Coast females were more likely than males to have a physical disability, and
- Males and Females had similar rates of psychological conditions disabilities.

FOOD SECURITY

In 2008, some 5.4% of Surf Coast residents reported they had run out of food in the previous 12 months and couldn't afford to buy more. This figure was slightly lower than the state average (5.6%) and, at the Barwon South West region level, females were more likely than males to have run out of food in the previous 12 months and couldn't afford to buy more.

Surf Coast residents were less likely than the state average to report the reason they could not always have the food they desired was 'some foods are too expensive', 'can't always get right quality', 'can't always get right variety', or 'can't always get culturally appropriate food'. However, Surf Coast residents were slightly more likely than the state average to report that 'inadequate and unreliable public transport' was a reason.

GAMBLING

The Victorian Gambling Study, A Longitudinal Study of Gambling and Public Health - Wave Two Findings (DoJ, 2011) found that a number of variables were associated with the increased risk of 'transitioning' from a non-gambler/non-problem gambler to a low or moderate risk or problem gambler.

These variables were:

- Poor general health
- Poor psychological health
- Past year smoking
- Group households (that is, with non-relatives)
- One-parent families

- Speaking a language other than English at home
- Year 10 or lower education levels
- Betting weekly or greater on horse, harness racing or greyhounds, and
- Troubles with work, boss or superiors and an increase in the number of arguments with someone close.

The study also found that males are significantly more likely to be problem gamblers or moderate risk gamblers than females. For males, those aged 25-34 years have the highest prevalence of problem gambling, followed by those aged 50-64 years.

The 25-34 years age group also had the highest prevalence of problem gambling for females, along with the 35-49 years age group, closely by the 60-64 years age group. For both males and females, the lowest problem gambling prevalence was in the 65 years or older age group. 2008 data for the Victorian Government regions indicates that 0.37% of the Barwon South Western region population were problem gamblers and this figure was much lower than the state average (0.70%).

EGM VENUES AND EXPENDITURE

In 2012-13, there were four electronic gaming machine (EGM) venues in Surf Coast and 107 EGMs in total. For each EGM venue in Surf Coast, there are 5,381 adult residents, compared to the state average of one venue per 8,904 adult residents. Net expenditure per 1,000 Surf Coast adults was \$133.75 compared to the state average of \$549.50.

Note that all data is based on the location of the EGM and not the place of residence of the person who is gaming.

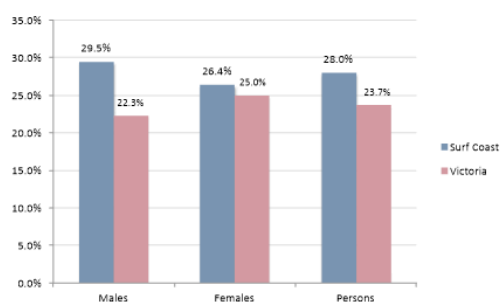
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TRANSPORT

Access to public transport underpins equitable access to important health, community and other services as well as to education facilities and employment hubs. People on low incomes, and people in specific age groups or with a disability, typically have a greater reliance on public transport to get them to the places they need and want to go.

PROPORTION OF POPULATION REPORTING TRANSPORT LIMITATIONS (2011)



Victoria Health Indicators Survey 2011, VicHealth 2012

The proportion of population that lives near public transport is defined in the 2011 VicHealth Indicators Survey (VHIS) as those living within 400 metres of a bus or tram stop or within 800 metres of a train stop. In 2011, an estimated 32% of Surf Coast residents lived near public transport, and this figure was less than half the state average (74.3%).

Private motor vehicle ownership in Surf Coast is markedly different to Victoria averages. Surf Coast has unusually high proportions of households owning multiple motor vehicles, and a correspondingly lower number of single vehicle households. Only 3% of households had no motor vehicle, which was approximately one third of the state average. Motor vehicles per household may be influenced by various factors, including household size and family structure, local availability of public transport, accessibility/walking distance to services and facilities, and the nature of the dwelling and land use (e.g. farms typically have more motor vehicles than typical urban dwellings).

The 2011 VicHealth Indicators Survey results also indicate that, despite have a higher average number of cars per household than Victoria, residents of Surf Coast (28.0%) were more likely than the state average (23.7%) to report having experienced transport limitations in the last 12 months. The survey results also suggest that in Surf Coast, males were more likely than females to report having experienced transport restrictions, which is the opposite of the state pattern.

Only 3% of Surf Coast residents use public transport to travel to work compared to a state average of 11%; while 69% used a motor vehicle to get to work, compared to the state average of 67%. Surf Coast residents were half as likely as the state average to use a bicycle to get to work but were slightly more likely to have walked to work. Surf Coast residents (8%) were twice as likely to have worked from home on the day of the census, compared to the state average (4%).

Between 2006 and 2011, the proportion of Surf Coast workers who used public transport to get to work or who walked to work increased, while the proportion that used a motor vehicle or that worked from home or used a bicycle to get to work decreased slightly. Location of the workplace and availability of public transport both influence travel modes to work.

THE G21 REGION PUBLIC TRANSPORT STRATEGY

Responding to many of the social and health aspects of public transport access, as well as key environmental and economic factors, the G21 Region Public Transport Strategy (2014) was released in September 2014 and sets out goals, long-term strategic directions and a four year Action Plan for public transport in the G21 region. The Strategy has the overall goal of increasing utilisation of public transport, and in turn: reducing traffic congestion, improving the environment and overcoming social isolation.

Developed in collaboration with G21 region stakeholders and the G21 region community, the strategy sets out four strategic objectives that reflect the different needs of communities across the G21 region: =

- **Access for all.** The G21 region advocates that a base level of service should be available to all across the region, and that all services should be accessible to potential users

3.0 SOCIO ECONOMIC PROFILE

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- **A well connected region.** The G21 region seeks a public transport network that will serve the need for access to and between the region's centres
- **Urban public transport for an urban centre.** The G21 region supports developing a 'go anywhere' public transport network in Geelong by reshaping and simplifying the current network, and
- **Improving information, planning and partnerships.** The G21 region will take a leadership role in finding new ways to implement better public transport, sooner.

INTERNET CONNECTION

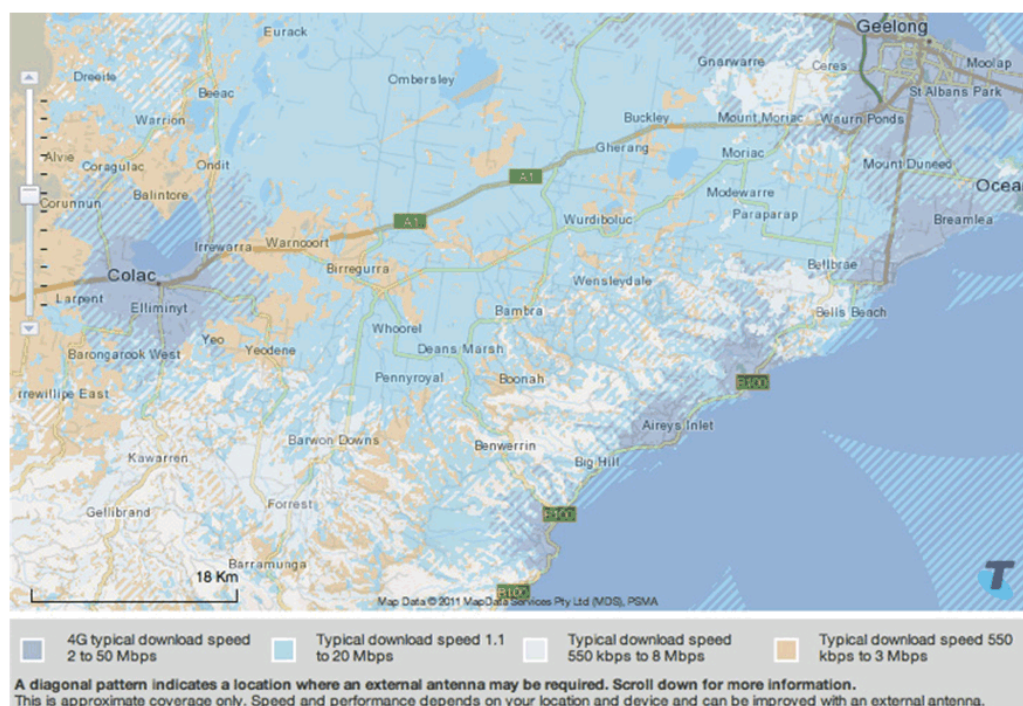
Fast and reliable internet connection provides important access to social, education, employment and recreational opportunities. The 2011 census results indicate that approximately 82% of Surf

Coast households had an internet connection and this proportion was notably higher than the Victoria average (77%). Between 2006 and 2011, the proportion of Surf Coast households that have broadband internet connection has increased substantially.

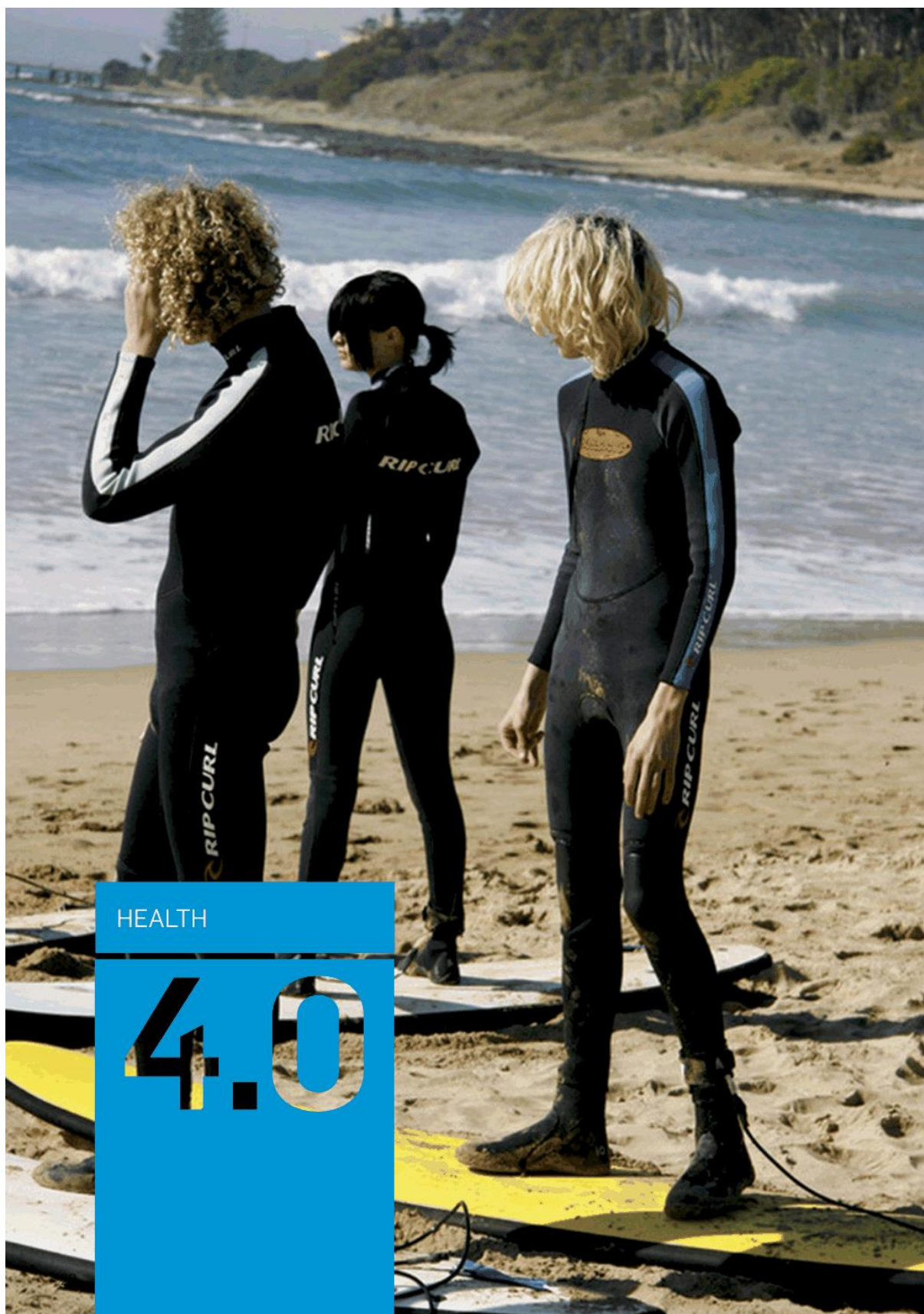
However, the 2011 VicHealth Indicators Survey results indicate that 93% of survey respondents had internet access at home, compared to a state average of 89%. From these results, it can be inferred that a very high proportion of households in Surf Coast have an internet connection and that rates are higher than the state average.

As the map below indicates, Telstra mobile broadband availability and speeds are variable within Surf Coast and the G21 region.

TELSTRA MOBILE BROADBAND COVERAGE MAP - ACCESSED ONLINE AUGUST 2014



<http://register.bigpond.com/check-availability.do> Areas shaded white do not have mobile broadband coverage but Telstra Mobile Satellite is available.



4.0 HEALTH

4.1 HEALTH

As well as being a fundamental goal for all communities, a healthy population underpins a strong and resilient region, reducing the strain on health and other services, maximising community strength and boosting labour force and economic participation. Health status levels and healthy behaviours are generally very good in Surf Coast, with overall health ratings typically better than Victorian averages. However, there are some distinct examples of poor health and behaviours, including: very high rates of high risk alcohol consumption for short term health, high rates of dental conditions, high rates of cancers in females and high rates of injuries or deaths caused by traffic accidents.

KEY STRENGTHS

Compared to state averages, the Surf Coast population had:

- Higher life expectancy for males (81.2 versus 80.3) and females (83.3 v's 84.4); and a notably lower rate of avoidable deaths per population (119 v's 158)
- Higher self-reported levels of good / excellent health (55% v's 47%)
- A lower prevalence of diabetes (3% v's 5%)
- A lower proportion of low birth weight births (4% v's 7%)
- A much higher proportion of volunteers (27% v's 18%) and people actively participating in their community*
- A lower proportion of population that reported they had inadequate sleep (27% v's 31%)
- A much higher proportion of population that consumed the recommended daily serves of fruit (53% v's 45%) or vegetables (10% v's 7%); that had sufficient physical activity (70% v's 64%); or that wore a hat when out in the sun (63% v's 53%)
- A much lower proportion of obese males and females (12% v's 17% and 13% v's 17%), and
- Higher rates of screening for cervical (67% v's 59%) or bowel cancer (43% v's 29%).

KEY CHALLENGES

Compared to Victorian averages, Surf Coast:

- Residents were more likely to report they lacked time for family and friends or that they were under time pressure (33% v's 28% and 43% v's 14%)
- Residents were more likely to consume alcohol at levels that are risky or high risk to short term health (56% v's 45%)
- Had a higher rate of alcohol-related serious road injuries (6.3 v's 4.1)
- Had fewer dental services available per 1,000 persons (0.04 v's 0.21)
- Had a higher rate of potentially avoidable deaths from lung cancer (22.0 v's of 20.6)
- Had a much higher rate of malignant cancers diagnosed in females (537.5 v's of 454.3)
- Residents had more admissions for dental conditions (males: 6.4 v's 2.9 and females: 4.1 v's 3.1), and
- Females had slightly lower mammogram participation rates (74% v's 76%).
- Had a 179% increase in diabetes prevalence between 2001 - 2011 (from 306 to 853 people)

* Please refer to the data tables in the Appendix for figures for this data set
NOTE: where possible, figures in this section have been rounded up to a whole number. Please refer to tables in the appendix for full details and notes on data, including rates per population, dates and other important information.

4.0 HEALTH

4.2 INEQUITIES IN HEALTH

It is important to note that, while LGA level health data may indicate a generally healthy population, good health is not shared equitably across population groups. Age, gender, socio-economic factors and location/access to services all play key roles in health behaviours, health status and health service access levels.

AGE

A number of chronic health conditions become more prevalent with age, with the notable exceptions of asthma and type 1 diabetes. However many chronic disease risk factors, such as smoking and high levels of alcohol consumption, are typically more prevalent in younger age groups. Region or state level age breakdown of key health indicators suggest that:

- People aged 18 to 34 years are more likely to have asthma and are more likely to consume alcohol at risky/high risk to short term health
- People aged 25-54 years are more likely to consume alcohol at levels that are risky/high risk to long term health
- People aged 18-54 years are more likely to be smokers
- People aged 44 years and under are less likely to have had health checks or screening for blood pressure, cholesterol and blood glucose and are generally less likely to eat recommended daily intake of vegetables
- People aged 54 years and under are less likely to eat recommended daily intake of fruit compared to older population
- People aged 55 years and over are more likely to report having had cancer, heart disease, type 2 diabetes or osteoporosis, and
- The older a person is, the less likely they are to do 'sufficient' levels of physical activity.

GENDER

MALES

Compared to females, males ...

- had higher hospital admission rates for: diabetes complications, COPD, asthma, congestive cardiac failure, convulsions and epilepsy and angina
- Were less likely to visit a GP
- had lower rates of recommended daily intake of vegetables or fruit
- were much more likely to have risky or high risk patterns of alcohol consumption leading to short-term or long-term risk of damage to health
- Were much more likely to be smokers, and
- had higher rates of population aged 0 to 64 years that had a severe disability.

FEMALES

Compared to males, females...

- had higher hospital admission rates for: dental conditions, Pyelonephritis, ear, nose and throat infections, cellulitis, and iron deficiency anaemia
- had lower rates of colorectal cancer screening
- had higher rates of population aged 65 years and over that had a severe disability
- had higher rates of population with mental and behavioural problems, and
- had higher rates of population with high or very high levels of psychological distress.

4.0 HEALTH

4.2 INEQUITIES IN HEALTH

SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS

The most socioeconomically disadvantaged people in communities often have the poorest health and lowest life expectancy, with health status generally improving with wealth.

VicHealth (Dec. 2012) Reducing Health Inequalities Local Government Action Guide No. 1

The socio-economic status of an individual or community has a substantial influence on their health status. There are also complex and multi-layered interconnections between socio-economic status with age, gender, Indigenous status, location, disability and other population characteristics.

INDIGENOUS STATUS

The Health and Wellbeing of Aboriginal Victorians - Victorian Population Health Survey 2008 Supplementary Report reported that:

- In 2008 Aboriginal Victorians had a significantly higher prevalence of depression and anxiety, cancer, stroke and asthma, and were more likely to rate themselves as being of only fair or poor health compared with non-Aboriginal Victorians
- There were profound disparities between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Victorians in the social determinants of health, and
- Of the six disease-inducing behaviours evaluated, Aboriginal Victorians only fared worse in three compared with their non-Aboriginal counterparts: they were more likely to smoke, not eat enough fruit, and be obese if they resided in rural Victoria.

Victorian Population Health Survey 2008 Supplementary Report, DoH 2011

CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY (CALD) COMMUNITIES

Data from the Diversitat 2012-13 Annual Report, which covers the Barwon South Western region, indicates that in 2012-13 mental health and other health issues were among the most common issues addressed by Diversitat from new arrivals. Please refer to the Diversitat 2013 Annual Report for further details at www.diversitat.org.au.

The Burden of Disease Due to Health Inequalities Research Summary (VicHealth April 2008) reports that:

- Newly arrived refugees are among the population groups in Victoria that experience the most marked health inequalities
- Only 29% of Victorians born in non-English speaking countries with limited proficiency in English rated their health as excellent or very good. This compared with 53.1% of Victorians born in non-English speaking countries who were proficient in English and 63% of Victorians born in Australia, and
- Despite available health services, CALD communities are often reluctant to use them due to cultural differences, perceived racism and misunderstandings leading to the existing health disparities.

The health impacts of racism have also been explored and documented by VicHealth:

'Racism can have a negative impact on health for a number of reasons. It can restrict people's access to resources required for good health. It can also result in stress and negative emotions that have negative psychological and physiological effects and may cause injury through racially motivated assault. People who become worried about being racially discriminated against may experience anxiety. Past experiences of racism may cause social isolation of both individuals and communities, which can contribute to mental disorders.'

- Mental health impacts of racial discrimination in Victorian culturally and linguistically diverse communities Experiences of Racism survey: a summary (VicHealth, November 2012)

LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANS/TRANSGENDER AND INTERSEX (LGBTI)

'There is great diversity of identities and experiences within and between LGBTI communities, influenced by age, ethnicity, geographical location, (dis)ability, migration experience, socioeconomic status, etc. LGBTI people are part of all other population groups, while also forming a specific marginalized population group, with specific health needs.'

- LGBTI People - Mental Health & Suicide - Briefing Paper, Revised 2nd Edition (National LGBTI Health Alliance, 2013)

'It is not possible to accurately estimate numbers of GLBTI community members



as people often do not disclose and fear a homophobic or discriminatory response. However, in a research study while only 2% of the population identified as non-heterosexual, up to 15% have experienced same sex attraction or have had sexual contact with someone of the same sex.' - Smith, A.M.A., Rissel, C., Richters, J., Grulich, A. & De Visser, R.D. (2003). Sexual identity, sexual attraction and sexual experience in a representative sample of adults. Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health, 27(2): 138-145)

People who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or intersex (LGBTI) have higher rates of mental health issues. Key figures set out in the LGBTI People - Mental Health & Suicide - Briefing Paper, Revised 2nd Edition (National LGBTI Health Alliance, 2013) include:

- The mental health of LGBTI people is among the poorest in Australia
- At least 36.2% of trans and 24.4% of gay, lesbian and bisexual Australians met the criteria for experiencing a major depressive episode in 2005, compared with 6.8% of the general population
- Lesbian, gay and bisexual Australians are twice as likely to have a high/very high level of psychological distress as their heterosexual peers (18.2% v. 9.2%)
- More than twice as many homosexual/bisexual Australians experience anxiety disorders as heterosexual people (31% vs 14%) and over three times as many experience affective disorders (19% vs 6%) - and the rates are higher across any age group,

country of birth, income level, area of residence or level of education/ employment

- LGBTI people have the highest rates of suicide of any population in Australia
- 20% of trans Australians and 15.7% of lesbian, gay and bisexual Australians report current suicidal thoughts
- Same-sex attracted Australians have up to 14 x higher rates of suicide attempts than their heterosexual peers. Rates are 6 x higher for same-sex attracted young people (20-42% cf. 7-13%)
- The average age of a first suicide attempt is 16 years - often before 'coming out', and
- Indigenous LGBTI Australians, LGBTI migrants and refugees, LGBTI young people and LGBTI people residing in rural and remote areas are likely to be at particularly high risk of suicide, in line with tendencies of high risk identified in the population as a whole.

4.0 HEALTH

4.3 OVERALL HEALTH

KEY HEALTH INDICATORS SNAPSHOT#

LOCATION	LIFE EXPECTANCY		WELLBEING SCORE	SELF-REPORTED AS GOOD OR EXCELLENT HEALTH (%)	RATE* OF AVOIDABLE DEATHS
	MALES	FEMALES			
Surf Coast	81.2	86.3	80.6	54.6	119.1
Regional Victoria	78.9	83.8	79.3	**	182.1
Victoria	80.3	84.4	77.7	46.6	158.2

Please refer to data tables in the appendix for full details, including sources and data notes.

* Indirectly age-standardised average annual rate per 100,000 population ** Not available in the preliminary VPHS findings

Compared to state average figures, the Surf Coast population had a higher subjective wellbeing score (81.2% versus 77%) and were more much likely to report their health as good or excellent (54.6% versus 46.6%).

Avoidable death rates are also notably lower in the Surf Coast population (119.1) compared to the state average (158.2). Generally speaking, deaths from potentially avoidable causes are those deaths that may have been avoided through improved health behaviours, timely delivery of quality health care services, education and screening.

The life expectancy of Surf Coast males born in 2007 is 81.2 years, while life expectancy for Surf Coast females is 86.3 years. Both figures are above the state and regional Victoria average.

Hospital admission rates for Surf Coast males and females for all ambulatory care sensitive conditions (ACSC), particularly for chronic ACSCs, were lower than the state average. Compared to males, females from Surf Coast were much less likely to be admitted for chronic ACSCs but were more likely to be admitted for acute ACSCs. Males also had a much higher admission rate for vaccine preventable ACSCs, compared to females.

INFANTS AND CHILDREN

Compared to the state average, Surf Coast had a much lower proportion of live births that were low birth weight (weighing less than 2,500 grams). The proportion of children who were fully immunised was higher than the state average for the 12-<15 month age group but was slightly lower than state averages for the 24-<27 months and 60-<63 months age groups. The rate of teenage births in Surf Coast was not available, due to very low figures.

MENTAL HEALTH

As well as strengthening the community, volunteering provides important social connection and other mental health benefits to volunteers. In 2011, Surf Coast (26.7%) had a much higher proportion of population that volunteered compared to Victoria (17.7%). Females were more likely to volunteer than males. Contrary to state trends, the proportion of Surf Coast population that were volunteers increased slightly between 2006 and 2011. Results from the 2011 VicHealth Indicators Survey also indicate that some 40.7% of Surf Coast residents volunteer at least once per month, compared to the state average of 33.9%.

Other aspects of community and social connection are measured in the Indicators of Community Strength (2008) and in the VicHealth Indicators Survey (2011). Results from these surveys indicate that Surf Coast has very strong community strength in the areas of community participation and citizen engagement.

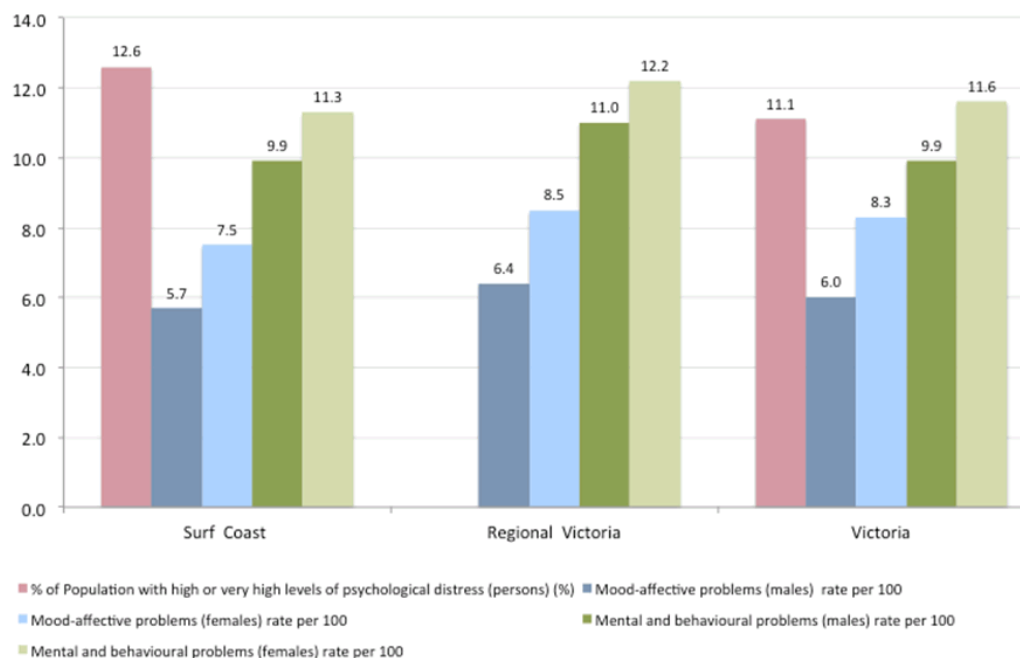
Compared to Victorian averages, Surf Coast residents were much more likely to report being involved in their community as: volunteers; members of clubs and

4.0 HEALTH

4.3 OVERALL HEALTH

groups; members of local groups that have taken local action; attendees at local community events; attendees of arts activities or events; participants in organised sport; participants as parents in schools; and to have participated in citizen engagement.

MENTAL HEALTH INDICATORS (VARIOUS)#





Surf Coast residents were less likely to report that they had inadequate sleep or an inadequate work/life balance, compared to state averages, however they were more likely to report that they lacked time for family and friends or that they were under time pressure.

More than half of Surf Coast resident workers travel outside of Surf Coast to their place of work. Of this figure, 35% travel to Greater Geelong and a further 11% travel to locations within the Metropolitan Melbourne area. Long distance commuting is linked to various negative health and social impacts including increased stress levels, short sleeping times, and low self-reported health as well as a lower life satisfaction and increased work-family conflict.

(Victorian Health Promotion Fund 2012)

In 2007-08, Surf Coast had a similar rate of population with mental and behavioural problems, and had a slightly lower rate of population with mood (affective) problems. Reflecting state averages, rates were higher for Surf Coast females than males. Mood (affective)

problems include depressive disorders including major depressive disorder and bipolar disorder.

The percentage of population suffering high or very high levels of psychological distress was slightly higher than average, however actual numbers were very low and have a low level of statistical reliability. Measures of psychological stress are not a diagnosis of mental health conditions but can help estimate population need for mental health services (ABS 2007-08).

Despite having rates of mental health conditions that were generally similar to state averages, Surf Coast had a much lower rate per population of mental health care plans prepared for them through the Better Access Program (via GP referral). Surf Coast also had a much lower rate (approximately half) of registered mental health clients per population, compared to the state average. Figures for deaths from suicide and self-inflicted injuries between 2003 and 2007 indicate that Surf Coast had a lower rate than Victoria and regional Victoria.

4.0 HEALTH

4.3 OVERALL HEALTH

HEALTH BEHAVIOURS

KEY HEALTH BEHAVIOURS SNAPSHOT (2011 - 12)#

LOCATION	CURRENT SMOKER	CONSUMES ≥ FIVE SERVES OF VEGETABLES PER DAY	CONSUMES ≥ TWO SERVES OF FRUIT PER DAY	TAKES SUFFICIENT PHYSICAL ACTIVITY	CONSUMES ALCOHOL AT RISKY OR HIGH RISK LEVELS FOR	
					SHORT TERM HEALTH	LONG TERM HEALTH
Surf Coast	14.1	10.3	52.6	69.8	55.6	2.9
Victoria	15.7	7.2	45.3	63.9	45.3	3.3

Please refer to data tables in the appendices for full details, including sources and data notes. *Estimate has a relative standard error of between 25 and 50 per cent and should be interpreted with caution. Please note that 2011/12 health behaviour figures for Regional Victoria were not available from the Preliminary VPHS Findings at the time of writing

The 2011-12 Victorian Population Health Survey (VPHS) Preliminary Findings indicate that 14.1% of Surf Coast residents are smokers, while 31.5% are ex-smokers, compared to the state averages of 15.7% and 25.2% respectively. 2008 VPHS data for the Barwon South Western region indicates that males were likely to be smokers than females.

The 2011-12 VPHS Preliminary Findings also indicate that rates of consumption of alcohol at levels risky or high risk for short term health are very high in Surf Coast (55.6%) and are notably higher than the state average (45.3%). Of all 79 Victorian LGAs, Surf Coast was ranked 10th highest for the proportion of population that consumed alcohol at levels risky or high risk for short term health.

Rates of consumption of alcohol at levels risky or high risk for long term health, however, were lower in Surf Coast (2.9%) than the state average (3.3%), and of the 79 Victorian LGAs, Surf Coast was ranked 78th highest for the proportion of population that consumed alcohol at levels risky or high risk for long term health.

Data for the Barwon South Western region indicates that males were much more likely than females to consume alcohol at levels risky or high risk to short or long term health.

Drug and Alcohol client figures from 2011-12 indicate that Surf Coast had a much lower proportion of population registered as Drug and Alcohol clients compared to the state average.

High levels of alcohol consumption can lead to various

types of alcohol-related harm. Data from 2009-10 indicates that Surf Coast had a lower than state average rate of alcohol-related hospital admissions. However, the rate of admissions per population has increased by 30% since 2005-06. Rates of alcohol-related assaults that took place in Surf Coast were also lower than the state average and have halved since 2005-06, although the small numbers suggest caution should be applied in interpretation. However, the rate of alcohol-related serious road injuries that occurred in Surf Coast is 50% higher than the state average.

Consumption of the recommended daily quantities of fruit and vegetables is significantly more prevalent in Surf Coast with approximately 10% of the population consuming five or more serves of vegetables daily and 53% consuming two or more serves of fruit, compared to the state averages of 7% and 45% respectively. Levels of sufficient physical activity in the Surf Coast population (70%) were also higher than the state average (64%).

In line with the positive dietary and exercise behaviours, the proportion of population that is overweight or obesity is much lower in the Surf Coast male and female population. Males were much more likely than females to be overweight, however obesity was slightly more common among females.

Surf Coast residents were more likely to wear a hat or to wear sunglasses when out in the sun compared to state average figures. Data for the Barwon South Western region indicates that men were more likely to wear a hat while women were more likely to wear sunglasses.

4.0 HEALTH

4.3 OVERALL HEALTH

SCREENING, HEALTH CHECKS AND ACCESS

Participation in preventative health checks and screening in Surf Coast is variable. Mammogram participation rates for Surf Coast females (73.8%) were lower than the state average (75.9%), however cervical screening rates (67.4%) were markedly higher (59.2%); as were bowel cancer screening rates (42.5% versus 29.4%). Participation rates for blood pressure, cholesterol and glucose checks were all lower than state average.

SCREENING PARTICIPATION SNAPSHOT (2011 - 12)#

LOCATION	MAMMOGRAM Women aged 50 - 69 yrs who had a mammogram in last two years (%)	PAP TEST Women aged 20 - 69 yrs who had a pap test (%)	BOWEL CANCER TEST Population aged ≥ 50 yrs that has a bowel cancer test in the last two years (%)	BLOOD PRESSURE CHECK Population aged ≥ 18 yrs that had a blood pressure check in last two years (%)	CHOLESTEROL CHECK Population aged ≥ 18 yrs that had a cholesterol check in last two years (%)	BLOOD GLUCOSE CHECK Population aged ≥ 18 yrs that had a blood glucose check in last two years (%)
Surf Coast	73.8	67.4	42.5	78.5	50.1	46.5
Victoria	75.9	59.2	29.4	79.5	56.5	52.2

Please refer to data tables in the appendices for full details, including date ranges, data sources and important data notes.

Despite Surf Coast having a slightly higher rate of GPs per population compared to the state average, it had a lower rate of GP services delivered. Proximity to and availability of GP clinics may influence delivery rates, as well as population health (and the perceived need to visit a GP), affordability and social/cultural norms.

HEALTH CONDITIONS

AMBULATORY CARE SENSITIVE CONDITIONS

Ambulatory Care Sensitive Conditions (ACSCs) are those for which hospitalisation is thought to be avoidable with the application of public health interventions and early disease management, usually delivered in ambulatory setting such as primary care. High rates of hospital admissions for ACSCs may provide indirect evidence of problems with patient access to primary healthcare, inadequate skills and resources, or disconnection with specialist services. (Victorian Health Information Surveillance System, Department of Health 2014)

Compared to state averages, Surf Coast males had a much higher rate of ACSC admissions for

dental conditions and for asthma; while they had a much lower rate of ACSC admissions for diabetes complications and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). For many other common ACSCs, Surf Coast males had similar admission rates. Compared to females, Surf Coast males had higher admission rates for: dental conditions; diabetes complications; congestive cardiac failure; asthma; angina; and ear, nose and throat infections.

Compared to state averages, Surf Coast females had a notably higher rate of ACSC admissions for dental

conditions; while they had a much lower rate of admissions for diabetes complications and COPD. For other common ACSC admissions, Surf Coast females typically had similar admission rates. Compared to males, Surf Coast females had higher admission rates for pyelonephritis, iron deficiency anaemia and convulsions and epilepsy.

DIABETES

Compared to the state average (4.8%), Surf Coast (2.4%) had a much lower (half) the rate of population with type 2 diabetes (self-reported). However this figure has a low level of statistical reliability and should be interpreted with caution.

Figures from Diabetes Victoria indicate that the prevalence of all types of diabetes in Surf Coast (3.2%) is lower than the state average (4.5%) however the Surf Coast figure has more than doubled since 2001.

CANCER

Cancer Council Victoria 2010 figures for diagnoses of new malignant cancers indicate that diagnoses were more prevalent in Surf Coast females than the state

4.0 HEALTH

4.3 OVERALL HEALTH

female average (537.5 vs 454.3 per 100,000 persons) while they were slightly lower for Surf Coast males (564.6 vs 573.4)

Figures from Cancer Council Victoria for the period 2007 - 2011 indicate that there was an average of 149 new cancer cases diagnosed each year in the Surf Coast population and that 83 (56%) of these new cases were in the male population compared to 65 (44%) in the female population.

Over the period 2007 - 2011, the most commonly diagnosed cancer in the Surf Coast population was prostate cancer, with an average of 32 cases diagnosed per year, followed by bowel (21 cases per year), then breast (16 cases per year) and melanoma (15 cases per year).

The rate of potentially avoidable deaths between 2003 and 2007 from lung cancer was higher in Surf Coast (22.0) than the state average (20.6); while the rate of potentially avoidable deaths from colorectal cancer was slightly lower (11.0 vs 11.3), and the rate of avoidable deaths from other cancers was much lower (51.1 vs 61.4).

CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE

Cardiovascular disease is also often referred to as circulatory system disease and refers to diseases of the heart and blood vessels, and includes conditions such as coronary heart disease (also known as ischaemic heart disease), cerebrovascular disease (stroke), heart failure, rheumatic heart disease and hypertension.

(Department of Health Acronyms and Glossary, Australian Government).

In 2007-08, compared to state averages (17.3 and 10.3 respectively), the Surf Coast population (16.2 and 9.8) had a slightly lower rate of circulatory system diseases, including hypertensive disease.

In 2008, Surf Coast residents (7.3%) were slightly more likely than the state average (6.7%) to report a doctor had diagnosed them with heart disease; however 2003 - 2007 the rate of potentially avoidable deaths due to cardiovascular diseases in the Surf Coast population was notably lower than state average (26.6 v's 39.8 per 100,000).

In 2007-08, The proportion of Surf Coast population with high cholesterol was also estimated to be lower compared to the state average (5.3 vs 5.5 per 100).

RESPIRATORY SYSTEM DISEASES

Respiratory system diseases, overall, were more common in the Surf Coast population (30.6) compared to the state average (27.3); although rates of COPD (2.2) and current asthma (9.1) are the same as or lower than state averages (2.2 and 10.7 respectively).

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The Victorian Government's Department of Human Services conducts surveillance of infectious diseases. It should be noted that this is a measurement of the diseases that are presented at medical practices and laboratories and not actual prevalence of a disease. Data is updated regularly on the Department's website and should be referred to for the most up to date figures. Reported rates of HIV are not included in the LGA-level surveillance reports.

Compared to state averages, the Surf Coast population had a higher rate of many infectious diseases. Rates were particularly high for: campylobacter infection, Barmah Forest virus infection, and dengue virus infection.

Surf Coast also had higher than state average rates of: hepatitis C - newly acquired*, hepatitis C - unspecified*, campylobacter infection, shigellosis*, mycobacterium ulcerans*, varicella zoster infection, Barmah Forest virus infection, Chikungunya virus*, dengue virus, malaria*, Ross River virus infection* and Q fever*.

Please refer to <http://ideas.health.vic.gov.au/resources.asp> for further information about these infectious diseases. *Note there was only a single reported occurrence of these conditions.

4.0 HEALTH

4.3 OVERALL HEALTH

DENTAL HEALTH AND SERVICES

In 2011-12, males and females living in Surf Coast (6.4 and 4.1 per 1,000 persons) had a higher hospital admission rate for dental conditions compared to state averages (2.9 and 3.1 per 1,000 persons).

The rate of dental services/clinics per population in Surf Coast is much lower than the state average (0.04 vs 0.21 per 1,000 persons).

The Victorian Government's Dental Health Program provides emergency, general and denture care to eligible Victorians through community dental clinics in community health services, rural hospitals and the Royal Dental Hospital of Melbourne.

Figures for April-June 2011 indicate that the waiting time to receive treatment for general dental care at regional health services ranged from 16 months (at Barwon Health - Newcomb) to 27 months (at Bellarine Community Health Ltd).





5.0 STRONG COMMUNITIES

5.1 STRONG COMMUNITIES

This section looks at some of the key characteristics of community strength in the community. As well as income, education and social status, a person's connection to and the attributes of the community or place in which they live are an important factor in determining health status. Surf Coast generally has strong community strength attributes as well as having low levels of crime and home ownership.

The key challenges for Surf Coast are largely focused around local availability and accessibility of facilities and services; high median property values that are increasing at a greater rate than state averages; relatively low levels of public transport availability; and substantial seasonal population fluctuations.

KEY STRENGTHS

Compared to state averages, Surf Coast:

- Residents were more likely to report that their community has: a pleasant environment, nice streets, is well planned and has open spaces; is an active community; and has a wide range of community and support groups*
- Residents were more likely to report participating in their community, being involved in citizen engagement, and believing they had opportunities to have a real say on important issues and that they felt valued by society*
- Residents were more likely to report they could get help from friends, family or neighbours when needed; and that they could raise \$2,000 in an emergency (93% v's 91% and 91% v's 85%)
- Residents were more likely to fully own (38% v's 34%) or be purchasing their residence (37% v's 36%), and
- Had much lower crime rates, including reported family incidents*.

KEY CHALLENGES

Compared to state averages, Surf Coast:

- Residents were less likely to agree that where they lived had: easy access to recreational and leisure facilities; good facilities and services like shops, childcare, schools, libraries; and opportunities to volunteer in local groups*
- Residents were less likely to live near public transport and more likely to report they have experienced transport limitations (32% vs 74% and 28% vs 24%)
- Had a much lower proportion of affordable rental properties (11% vs 20%)
- Had a very high proportion (44% vs 11%) of unoccupied private dwellings, and
- Has many towns that experience substantial population increases (up to nine-fold) in tourist high season.

* Please refer to the data tables in the appendix for figures for this data set
NOTE: where possible, figures in this section have been rounded up. Please refer to tables in the appendix for full details and notes on data, including rates per population, dates and other important information.

5.0 STRONG COMMUNITIES

5.2 CHARACTERISTICS OF SURF COAST

LOCATION & ACCESS TO SERVICES & FACILITIES

The **Geelong Region Plan (2007)**, referring to the total G21 region, identifies key objectives for improving access to services and facilities. The broad objectives of connectivity and well-planned urban areas are also applicable to Surf Coast.

‘Given that the region’s population is anticipated to almost double and include many more older people over the next 45 years, the challenge will be to ensure that all communities and sub regional areas are well linked to quality services and infrastructure. This will require well planned integrated transport systems, best practice urban design including access to quality open spaces and high standard recreational opportunities, communication networks and a high level of community engagement.’

Data from various community strength indicators suggest that, compared to state averages, Surf Coast had:

- A notably higher proportion of population that report that their community has:
 - a pleasant environment, nice streets, is well planned and has open spaces
 - is an active community, and
 - has a wide range of community and support groups
- A lower proportion of population that agreed that where they lived had:
 - Easy access to recreational and leisure facilities
 - Good facilities and services like shops, childcare, schools, libraries
 - Opportunities to volunteer in local groups
- A lower rate of population visiting GPs, and a much lower rate of population receiving mental health care plans prepared by their GPs - although it should be noted that these figures do not just reflect the accessibility and availability of local services and may be impacted by a wide range of factors including the health status of the population
- A much lower rate of dental services available per population, and

- A much lower proportion of population that lives near public transport and a higher proportion of population that reported it has experienced transport limitations.

For some 42% of Surf Coast resident workers, their place of work is within Surf Coast. A further 35% work in Greater Geelong. After Surf Coast and Greater Geelong, the next most common workplace locations for Surf Coast residents were metropolitan Melbourne LGAs: Melbourne (3.8%), Wyndham (1.1%), and Port Phillip (0.7%). In total, approximately 11% of Surf Coast resident workers travel to work locations in metropolitan Melbourne.

Long commuting times can restrict the time residents have to participate in their local community and this can impact upon the cohesion, capacity and vitality of a local community as well as limiting the important social connection and related health benefits that community participation offers individuals.

Housing affordability can also impact upon the strength of a community and certainly influences the capacity of many people to live in a particular community. High housing costs can drive permanent residents, including local workers, out of some locations.

Median property values in Surf Coast are very high compared to Victorian and regional Victorian figures; and, between 2007 and 2012, house values have increased by a larger proportion (29%) than the Victorian (27%) or regional Victorian (22%) figures.

In 2012, the median house value in Surf Coast was \$570,000 compared to the state median of \$412,000. In 2011, median home loan repayments were higher than the state average. Median rent figures for the March 2014 quarter indicate that median rents for three and four bedroom houses (\$450 and \$400 p/week respectively) are much higher than Victorian medians; while median rents for one, two or three bedroom flats are lower than the state median but higher than the regional Victoria medians.

December 2013 data indicates that, compared to the state average (20.7%), Surf Coast (10.6%) had approximately half the proportion of rental properties classified as affordable. In 2011, the proportion of



households experiencing rental or mortgage stress was lower than the state average.

Compared to state averages, Surf Coast residents are more likely to fully own the home they live in (38% versus 34%) and are slightly more likely to be purchasing their home (37% versus 36%); while they are notably less likely to be renting (22% versus 27%).

Coastal resort towns, such as Lorne, Aireys Inlet, Anglesea and Torquay are typically characterised by high proportions of vacant housing in the low season then substantial population increases in the peak season, placing significant pressure on community and other facilities, services and resources. Estimates of peak population in high tourist season indicate that the population of Lorne increases by 964% (from 1,500 people to 15,954 people); while Aireys Inlet/Fairhaven/Moggs Creek increases by 666%; and Anglesea by 493%. Deans Marsh, Jan Juc and Torquay also all increase by between 120% and 150% each.

Almost 44% of private dwellings in Surf Coast were unoccupied at the 2011 census (which is conducted in August). This fluctuating population and reduced proportion of permanent residents can impact upon the cohesion, amenity and capacity of the community.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL SUPPORT

The Vichealth Indicators Survey 2011 - Selected Findings, (VicHealth 2012) reports that:

'Rates of participation in citizen engagement activities were similar for males and females but showed a clear socioeconomic gradient, with participants who were employed, university educated, on higher incomes (\$60,000+ per annum), speaking English at home, and not from CALD backgrounds having significantly higher rates of participation than the average Victorian. There were also geographical associations, with those living in inner metropolitan, regional and peri-urban areas having significantly higher rates of participation than those residing in growth and outer metropolitan areas'.

Residents of Surf Coast were more likely to report being involved in their community as volunteers, members of clubs and groups, participants/attendees at local community events or in arts activities or events and to have participated in citizen engagement. Conversely, accessibility and reported quality of various community facilities as well as availability of opportunities to volunteer were reported as lower than average by Surf Coast residents.

Over 90% of residents reported they could get help from friends, family or neighbours when needed; and that they could raise \$2,000 in an emergency.

5.0 STRONG COMMUNITIES

5.2 CHARACTERISTICS OF SURF COAST

LOCAL GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

Residents of Surf Coast were more likely to report that they were: members of a decision-making board or committee; members of community groups or of organised groups that had taken local action; and participating as a parent at a school. Residents were also more likely to report they believed they had opportunities to have a real say on important issues and that they felt valued by society.

CRIME AND SAFETY

Surf Coast residents also enjoy a very high perception of safety, with 100% of residents feeling safe walking alone by day and 86% of residents feel safe walking alone at night, compared to the state average figures of 97% and 70% respectively.

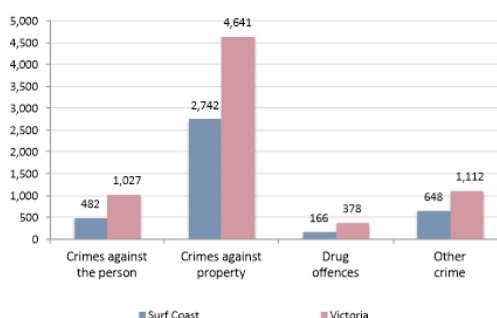
Victoria Police 2012 data for impounded vehicles in Surf Coast Police Service Area (which takes in both Surf Coast and Colac Otway LGAs) indicates that impoundments for offences for excessive speed, careless driving, and improper use of a motor vehicle were more common than the Victorian average. Impoundments for driving while disqualified were far less common, at one tenth of the state rate.

CRIME RATES

Crime rates in Surf Coast are notably lower than state average figures for crimes against the person, crimes against property, family incidents, drug offences and other crime. Between 2011/12 and 2012/13, the rate of crimes against the person and of reported family incidents increased more than the state average, while the rate of crimes against property decreased.

* Please refer to tables in the appendix for all crime and family incident figures

CRIME RATES* (2012 - 13)#



Victoria Police 2012-13 Crime Statistics by LGA *Rate per 100,00 Population
Please refer to data tables in the appendix for full details, including date ranges, data sources and important data notes.

FAMILY VIOLENCE

Note: Family Violence is defined in the Victoria Police Code of Practice for Investigation of Family Violence in accordance with the Family Violence Protection Act (2008). Family violence is defined as any behaviour, whether a criminal offence or not, that in any way controls or dominates a family member and causes them to feel fear for their own, or other family members' safety or well-being. It includes violent, threatening, coercive or controlling behaviour that occurs in current or former family, domestic or intimate relationships. Family means any family or family-like relationship, including current and former intimate partners, relatives, same-sex partners and carers.

In its statistical reports, Victoria Police use the term Family Incident while the Victorian Family Violence Database (which uses Victoria Police data) uses the term Family Violence Incident. These terms refer to the same incidents (as defined above). Please note that the figures are for any family violence incidents attended by Victoria Police and may or may not involve violence and may not result in charges being laid.

Figures for the relationship between the gender of victim and gender of the perpetrator in the reported family violence incident figures set out below were not available from the data source: The Victorian Family Violence Database Volume 5: Eleven Year Trend Analysis (1999-2010). Similarly, the relationship



between age of victim and relationship to perpetrator; or age of victim and sex of perpetrator (or visa versa) was not available.

For further information regarding family violence in Victoria, documents found at the following link may be useful: <http://www.victimsofcrime.vic.gov.au/utility/for+professionals/research+reports/>

VICTORIA POLICE FAMILY INCIDENT DATA

In 2012-13, the rate of reported family incidents was much lower in Surf Coast than the state average (585.3 vs 1,071.0 per 100,000). The rate of reported family incidents where charges were laid was also much lower (206.1 vs 450.3 per 100,000) compared to the state average, as was the rate of incidents where children were present (184.0 vs 333.2 per 100,000). Between 2011-12 and 2012-13, the rate of family incidents increased from 422.8 to 585.3 per 100,000.

In 2009-10, females accounted for 74% of family incident affected family members (victims) in Surf Coast; while males accounted for 78% of those identified as the 'other party' (perpetrator).

The most common age range of victims of reported family incidents was 34 to 44 years (34%); and the most common age range of perpetrators in reported family incidents was also 35 - 44 years (36%).

The most common relationship between victim and perpetrator in reported family incidents was a spouse/

de factor/domestic partner, accounting for 66% of all reported incidents. Former spouse/de factor/domestic partner was the next most common relationship (10%). Please refer to data tables in appendix for further details.

ROAD ACCIDENTS

Between September 2007 to 2013, there were 259 hospitalisations that resulted from road accidents that occurred in Surf Coast. The accidents were much more likely than the state average to involve males (66% vs 58%), persons aged 18 - 59 years (85% vs 73%), and a motorcyclist (31% vs 17%).

Accident types were more likely to involve running off a straight road (29% vs 23%) or running off road on a curve (12% vs 6%) compared to state averages.

Between March 2007 to 2014, there were 25 fatalities that resulted from road accidents in Surf Coast. Fatalities were notably more likely to involve persons aged 40 to 60 years compared to state average figures (44% vs 25%) and were notably less likely to involve persons aged 18 to 25 (8% vs 22%) or persons aged 60 years and over (12% vs 25%).

Fatalities were also much more likely to be a motorcyclist (24% vs 15%) or a passenger (24% vs 20%). Running off a straight road and overtaking were the leading cause of fatal road accidents in Surf Coast.



6.0 ENVIRONMENT

6.1 ENVIRONMENT

'It is now accepted that physical, mental and social wellbeing are inextricably linked to our environment and social values'

- Australia's Health 2008, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Canberra 2008

This section looks at some of the key characteristics of the Surf Coast environment. For the purpose of this report, the term environment is used in a broad sense, taking in natural and built environment as well as climate, water and air quality. Selected cultural and social environmental factors, such as crime and community strength, are also covered in the Strong Communities section of this document.

The characteristics of the environment in which a person lives has significant and multiple influences upon their health and wellbeing.

KEY STRENGTHS

- Very high quality and highly valued natural environments - especially coastal areas - making a significant contribution to biodiversity and the liveability values that attract residents and visitors
- Close proximity to Geelong as a major employment and services hub
- Relatively high rainfall compared to metropolitan Melbourne and many parts of regional Victoria*
- Relatively cool summer peak temperatures compared to metropolitan Melbourne and many parts of regional Victoria*

KEY CHALLENGES

- The impacts of a rapidly growing population and large visitor numbers on fragile environments
- Extreme bushfire risk in Lorne, Anglesea, Aireys Inlet and Bambra; while Deans Marsh and Jan Juc/Bellbrae have Very High bushfire risk
- The impacts of climate change on natural and built assets, the agricultural sector, population health and wellbeing, biodiversity, and infrastructure
- Relatively low population density (16.7 persons per km² v's 23.5), with some areas have restricted access to key services and facilities
- A housing mix that is dominated by separate houses (90% v's state average of 77%)
- High property values combined with low levels of social housing and affordable rentals (4% v's 12% and 11% v's 20%)
- Very high levels of unoccupied private dwellings (43.6%) can create a 'ghost town' effect in low tourist season and contribute to the isolation of many residents.

NOTE: Some figures in this section have been rounded up to a whole number. Please refer to tables in the appendix for full details and notes on data, including rates per population, dates and other important information.
*Please refer to tables in appendix for relevant figures

6.0 ENVIRONMENT

6.2 NATURAL FEATURES AND LAND USE

KEY ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES

Surf Coast encompasses a total land area of 3,438 square kilometres and includes substantial areas of National Park and areas used for agricultural purposes. It has many significant natural and cultural places including: national estate heathlands and Otway National Park, the Barwon River, and spectacular coastal landscapes

Significant built assets that contribute to the built environment include the Great Ocean Road, Aireys Inlet Lighthouse, Lorne Pier, and many historic bluestone buildings and structures.

‘The coastline and adjoining land between Point Impossible and Mt Defiance along the Great Ocean Road, is considered one of the most spectacular in Australia. Many natural qualities and diverse environments, including cliffs and dunes, significant coastal wetlands, Iron Bark forests, National Estate heathlands and Blue Gums growing down to the sea, combine to create a unique coastline.’

- Surf Coast Shire website - accessed March 2014

POPULATION GROWTH AND THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

By 2031, the state government’s Victoria in Future 2014 population projections estimate that the population of Surf Coast will reach 40,565. Compared to the 2011 population estimate from Victoria in Future*, this figure would represent an increase of 13,899 people across the municipality.

* VIF methodology applies certain assumptions and adjustments to determine the base year population, which therefore will not exactly match the Census usual resident population count.

The Surf Coast population projected increase (52%) is substantially higher than the projected growth for the G21 region (35%), regional Victoria (25%) and the Victoria average (39%).

Increase in population growth and visitors numbers, particularly in coastal townships, has the potential to have a substantial impact upon the region’s valued and fragile natural assets, particularly coastal areas.

The **Geelong Region Plan (2007)** identifies significant concerns relating to the impact that population growth

and increasing visitor numbers have on the natural environment, valued landscapes and the liveability of the region and these comments have particular relevance to Surf Coast ...

‘The coast line is the focus of development pressures and tourism use and includes the most fragile and vulnerable ecosystems in the G21 region. Traffic to coastal towns during busy weekends and peak holiday times is becoming extreme. The popularity of G21 beaches will only increase as Melbourne and the state’s population continue to grow and as access to the coast gets better through improvements to the Princes Highway and the Geelong By-Pass.’

The **Draft Victorian Coastal Strategy (2013)** also reinforces these concerns when describing the various pressures on fragile coastal areas from development ...

‘Our desire to be near and visit the coast creates pressure on the very aesthetic, cultural, and environmental values which attract us. Careful planning is required to meet these growing demands in a way that preserves the significant natural values and ecosystems of the coast.’

LAND USE

In 2008, more than 78% of land in Surf Coast was used for farming or forestry purposes, and the bulk of this was used for dryland agriculture and plantations. Approximately 14% of the region was used for conservation and natural environments, while 5% was used for intensive uses such as housing, manufacturing, commercial industry, mining, services and utilities and intensive agriculture and horticulture. Compared to state averages, Surf Coast had a larger proportion of land used for: production from relatively natural environments; production from dryland agriculture and plantations; intensive uses; and water.

6.0 ENVIRONMENT

6.2 NATURAL FEATURES AND LAND USE

SURF COAST MAIN LAND USES (2008)

LAND USE	SURF COAST		VICTORIA
	Hectares	(%)	(%)
Conservation and Natural Environments	22,550.8	14.5%	21.8%
Production from Relatively Natural Environments	28,882.0	18.6%	14.2%
Production from Dryland Agriculture and Plantations	91,568.0	59.0%	54.1%
Production from Irrigated Agriculture and Plantations	890.8	0.6%	3.6%
Intensive Uses*	8,378.0	5.4%	4.8%
Water	2,949.5	1.9%	1.5%
TOTAL	155,219.1	100.0%	100.0%

ABS National Regional Profiles, ABS 2012
*Includes residential, manufacturing and industrial

With respect to land use zoning, as set out in the Surf Coast Planning Scheme, less than 1% of the land in the municipality is zoned for business or industrial; 2% is zoned for residential use and 64.9% is zoned for rural use. A further 33% is zoned for other land uses. Compared to the state averages and the regional Victoria averages, Surf Coast had a higher proportion of land zoned for residential land use or for rural land use.

BUSHFIRE

A number of towns and small settlements in Surf Coast have been assessed as having very high or extreme bushfire risk in accordance with the Victorian Fire Risk Register. Lorne, Anglesea, Aireys Inlet and Bamba

have been assessed as having Extreme bushfire risk; while Deans Marsh and Jan Juc/Bellbrae have been assessed as having Very High risk. Please refer to the CFA community guides for more information about bushfire risk in individual communities at: <http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/community-information-guides/>

RIVER HEALTH

Surf Coast is largely located within the Otway and Barwon river basins. In 2010, while results were varied, the condition of streams and rivers in the centre, central north, north east, and on the eastern edge of Surf Coast were typically poor or very poor; while conditions in the south west of the municipality were typically good to excellent.

WATER USE

Barwon Region Water Corporation is Surf Coast Shire's urban water corporation. Metred water consumption figures for 2008-09 and 2012-13 indicate that consumption increased by a substantial amount in Anglesea (19.4%), Torquay (18%) and Aireys Inlet (7.9%) over the period, compared to an increase of 4% across the total Barwon Region Water Corporation region. Consumption increased by 1.3% in Lorne.

Demand levels for drinking water in Aireys Inlet and Lorne are projected to increase by 27% and 38% respectively between 2012 and 2060, compared to an estimated 64% increase for the total Barwon Region Water Corporation region.

PROJECTED TOTAL DEMAND FOR DRINKING WATER (2012 - 2060)

LOCATION	PROJECTED CHANGE IN POPULATION		AGREED SERVICE LEVEL (ML/A) ¹		% INCREASE IN ML/A
	2012	2060	2012	2060	
Geelong	268,000	499,000	27,800	48,500	74%
Barwon Water Total	290,962	527,130	34,044	55,827	64%

Water Supply Demand Strategy 2012-2062, Barwon Water 2012
1. Normal levels (for 19 of 20 years) under Permanent Water Saving Plan

6.0 ENVIRONMENT

6.2 NATURAL FEATURES AND LAND USE

RAINFALL

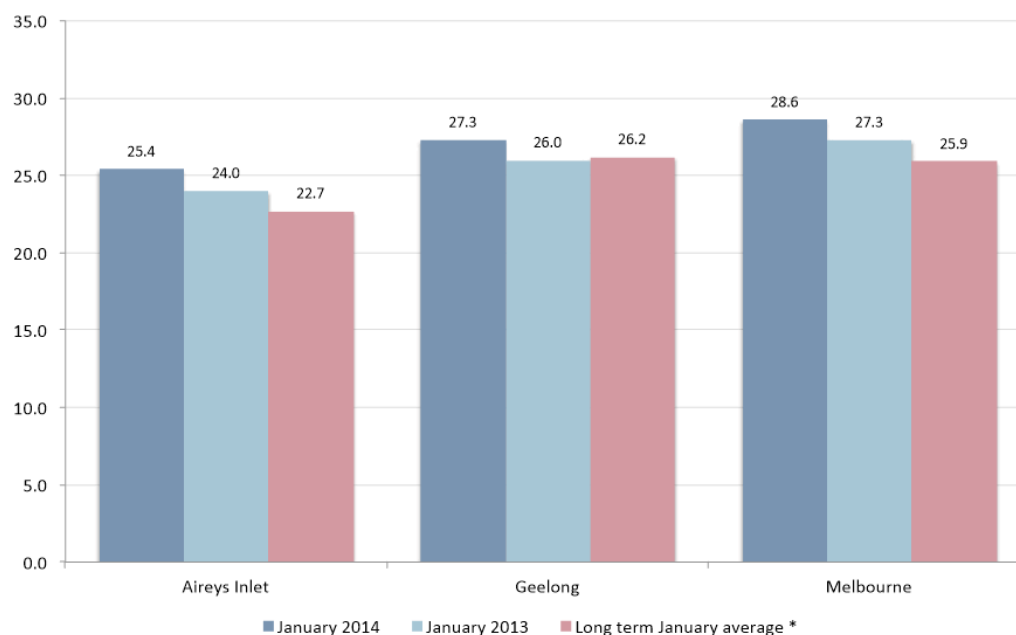
In 2013, the average annual rainfall figures from weather stations in Aireys Inlet and near Deans Marsh (Pennyroyal Creek weather station) and Winchelsea (Wurdiboluc Reservoir weather station) were all higher than the Victorian average. Of the weather station data that was available, figures indicate that rainfall was notably higher in the south west of the municipality and lower in the north and north east.

MAXIMUM AVERAGE TEMPERATURES

Average January temperatures in Aireys Inlet are cooler than the metropolitan Melbourne average, while temperatures at Mount Gellibrand (near Winchelsea) in the central north of the municipality were very similar to metropolitan Melbourne. Temperature data was not available for others locations in Surf Coast (only rainfall data).

Note that monthly mean maximum temperatures combine day and night time maximums. Long-term January averages at Aireys Inlet were slightly cooler than the January 2014 and January 2013 mean figures.

JANUARY MEAN MAXIMUM TEMPERATURES# ACROSS SELECTED WEATHER STATIONS



Climate Data Online, Bureau of Meteorology - access at www.bom.gov.au accessed in March 2014

*All long term averages are based on a different range of years and should be used as a rough guide only. Year ranges are as follows: Aireys Inlet 1991-2013, Geelong (Avalon Airport) 1995-2013, Melbourne 1855-2013.

6.0 ENVIRONMENT

6.3 CLIMATE AND RAINFALL

HEATWAVES

In January 2009 and 2014, Victoria experienced heatwaves of unprecedented intensity and duration. Metropolitan Melbourne-based health service data from the 2009 heatwave has been analysed by the Victorian government and results indicate that it had a substantial impact upon the health and the death rate of the Victorian population.

Population groups most likely to have presented at a metropolitan Melbourne hospital emergency department with a heat-related health condition during the 2009 heatwave were: people aged ≥65 years (four times more likely than any other age group); people born in Australia; and people living alone in a private residence. Other key findings from the analysis of metropolitan Melbourne health services* include:

Ambulance Victoria metropolitan emergency case load:

- A 25% increase in total emergency cases and a 46% increase over the three hottest days
- A 34 fold increase in cases with direct heat-related conditions (61% in those ≥75 years)
- A 2.8 fold increase in cardiac arrest cases

Emergency Department presentations:

- A 12% overall increase in presentations, with a greater proportion of acutely ill patients and a 37% increase in those aged 75 years or older
- An almost 3 fold increase in patients dead on arrival (69% being ≥75 years)

Total all-cause mortality:

- There were 374 excess deaths (62% increase) over what would be expected, and
- The greatest number of deaths occurred in those ≥75 years.

*Health service delivery data from other regions from the January 2009 heatwave was not available

EXTREME HEAT AND HEALTH

The analysis of the 2009 heatwave also resulted in the development of heat health temperature thresholds*. The threshold is the lower temperature limit above

which heat-related illness and mortality increase. Thresholds differ by weather district, with higher thresholds set in areas where temperatures are typically higher and more common.

Surf Coast is situated within the Central weather district, which has a heat health temperature threshold of a mean temperature# of 29 - 30°C, or a maximum temperature of 37 - 39°C. NOTE: In this profile and other G21 region community profiles, due to the complexity of calculating daily mean temperatures across many months for weather stations across the G21 region, the maximum temperature threshold has been used.

For two or more consecutive days of extreme heat, the threshold drops to a maximum temperature of 34 - 36°C. Data for the metropolitan Melbourne based health services in the Central weather district from the 2009 heatwave, indicates that:

- Heat-related health service activity increased above expected levels within the first 24 hours of an extreme heat event
- Subsequent days of extreme heat resulted in an increase in service activity that was higher than the increase observed on the first day of an extreme heat event, and
- A lack of relief from the heat overnight appears to contribute to higher than normal levels of mortality during periods of extreme heat.

* For further information about heat health temperature thresholds refer to The population health impacts of heat: Key learnings from the Victorian Heat Health Information Surveillance System (Department of Health 2011) # The mean of the maximum day and maximum night temperature

HEAT HEALTH THRESHOLD DAYS AT AIREYS INLET

From December 2012 to March 2013, Aireys Inlet recorded four days that exceeded the maximum daily temperature threshold (37°C) for the Central district; and a further four days that exceeded the threshold were recorded between December 2013 and February 2014.

From January 2013 to February 2014, with respect to subsequent days that exceeded the maximum temperature threshold (34°C) for the Central district, Aireys Inlet did not have any events two events that exceeded the threshold for subsequent days.

6.0 ENVIRONMENT

6.3 CLIMATE AND RAINFALL

HEAT HEALTH THRESHOLD DAYS AT AIREYS INLET

MONTH & YEAR	SINGLE DAY EXTREME HEAT EVENTS (Max. of $\geq 37^{\circ}\text{C}$)	CONSECUTIVE DAY EXTREME HEAT EVENTS (Days of max. $\geq 34^{\circ}\text{C}$ following a day of max. $\geq 37^{\circ}\text{C}$)	
	No. of Days	No. of events in month	No. of days in each event
January 2013	1	0	
February 2013	1	0	
March 2013	2	0	
December 2013	1	0	
January 2014	3	0	
February 2014	0	0	

Climate Data Online, Bureau of Meteorology - access at www.bom.gov.au
accessed in March 2014

Further data, including historic records and records for other weather stations in
the G21 region, is available from the Bureau of Meteorology.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Responding to the challenge of climate change is one of the 21 policies set out in **The Geelong Region Plan (2007)**. The impacts of climate change on the G21 region are predicted to be complex and substantial, particularly with respect to the region's many coast-based towns and tourist attractions - but also for the region's substantial agricultural sector.

Current modelling for sea level rise projections indicate that parts of Geelong and Queenscliff, as well as smaller areas in some small coastal settlements, will be impacted by rising sea levels and storm surges, bringing new risks to communities and shorelines from inundation and erosion.

More frequent and prolonged periods of extreme heat will have substantial impacts upon population health as well as economic productivity, while the increased frequency of bushfires and extreme weather



6.0 ENVIRONMENT

6.3 CLIMATE AND RAINFALL

events will have major impacts upon population health, agriculture, tourism, industry and community infrastructure and the region's many businesses. Projected reductions in rainfall will mean less water is available for residential, agriculture and industry needs. Changes to temperatures and rainfall will also impact upon the region's biodiversity.

The following information is drawn from the **2008 Climate Change in the Corangamite Region** document and the **G21 Regional Growth Plan Background Report (2012)**.

THE CORANGAMITE REGION CLIMATE BETWEEN 1998 AND 2007:

- Average annual temperatures were 0.3°C warmer than the 30 year (1961-1990) average
- Average minimum and maximum temperatures increased by roughly the same amount
- The average annual number of days over 30°C or over 35°C increased
- There were ten fewer cold nights (minimum temperature below 5°C) and three fewer frosts on average per year
- The region's average rainfall was 12% below the 1961 to 1990 average*, and
- Rainfall decreases were greatest in autumn and winter, while average summer rainfall actually showed a small increase.

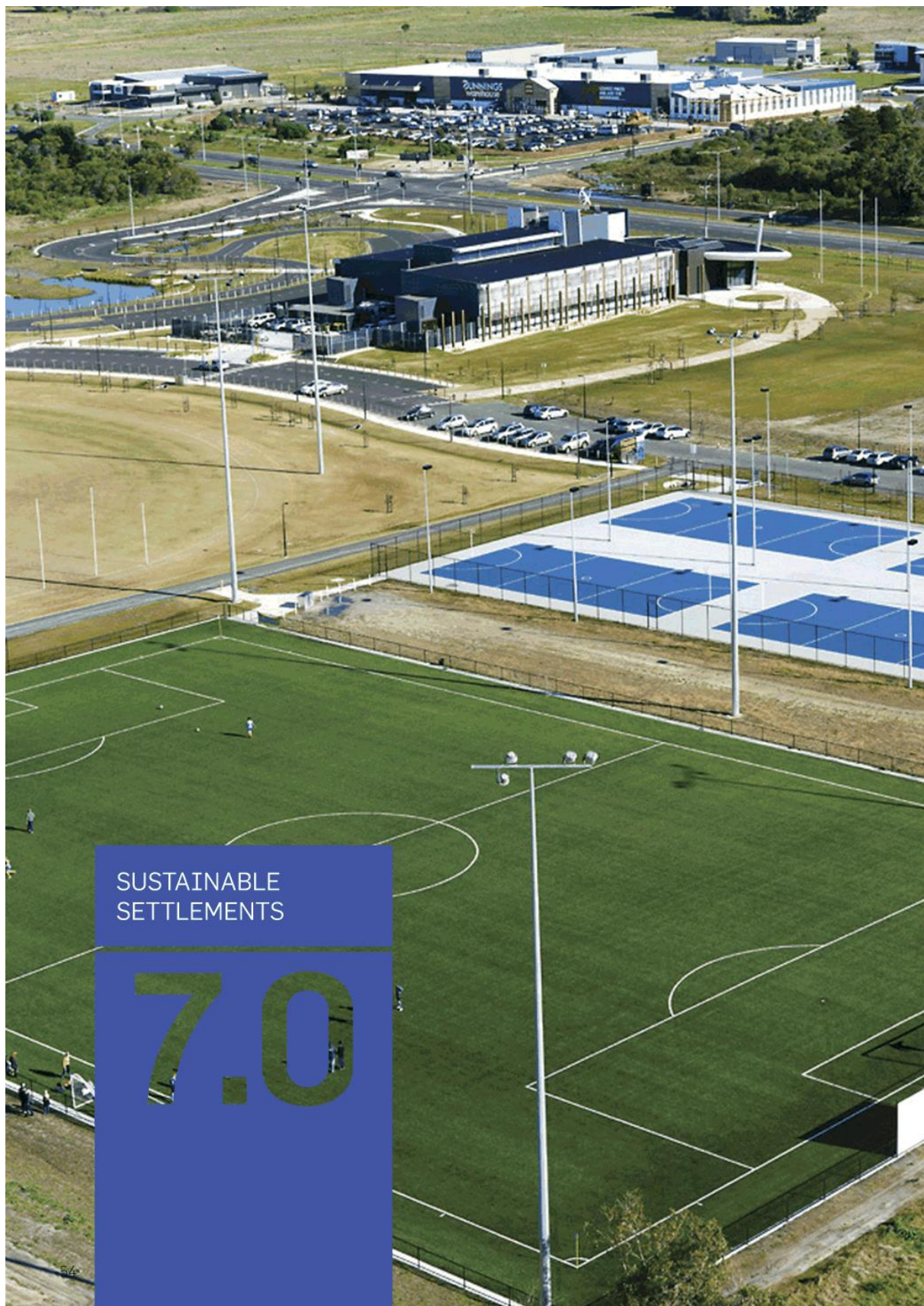
*Author note: Data from the Bureau of Meteorology indicates that between November 2010 and October 2013, most of the G21 region had higher than average annual rainfall.

THE PROJECTED CORANGAMITE REGION CLIMATE 1990 FIGURES VERSUS 2030 PROJECTION

- Average annual temperatures are projected to be around 0.8°C warmer
- The number of hot days (days over 30°C) is expected to increase
- Reductions in the total average annual rainfall of around 4% are expected
- Increases in potential evaporation and reductions in relative humidity are expected
- Small increases (0.8%) in solar radiation are expected.

THE PROJECTED CORANGAMITE REGION CLIMATE 1990 FIGURES VERSUS 2070 PROJECTION

- Further increases in temperature are expected and increases could be as high as 2.4°C.
- The number of hot days will continue to increase
- Rainfall totals will continue to drop - with greatest reductions likely in the Spring
- Conditions will become increasingly drier as potential evaporation continues to increase and relative humidity decreases.



SUSTAINABLE
SETTLEMENTS

7.0

7.0 SUSTAINABLE SETTLEMENTS

7.1 SUSTAINABLE SETTLEMENTS

‘What we build and how we go about our lives has a profound impact on our health and wellbeing, both now and for future generations. Humans need to be physically active. How they get about in their daily lives can contribute to that daily physical activity quota if the built environment is conducive to walking and cycling activity.

There is now a proven link between people’s physical and mental health and the urban form of towns and cities. Furthermore, there is a strong overlap between the characteristics of a sustainable city and those required for active living. Both require street networks and higher urban densities that are supportive of walking, cycling and public transport; mixed uses; good streetscapes; a high-quality public realm; broad housing choice and extensive opportunities for social interaction.’

- Planning for Health Urban Environments, A quick guide to supportive Victorian planning clauses (Heart Foundation, November 2013)

The **G21 Regional Growth Plan (2013)** was finalised in April 2013. Its framework for growth will manage growth and land use pressures to 2050, when the population is estimated to reach 500,000. The Growth Plan pulls together and builds upon the existing strategic land use and growth planning work from across the region, identifying where future residential and employment growth will occur and the critical infrastructure required to support it.

The Growth Plan identifies critical drivers that will enable the G21 region to remain successful as it grows:

- An efficient and effective transport network
- A strong economy and job diversity
- Adequate land set aside for housing and employment
- A vibrant and healthy central Geelong
- Infrastructure that supports new and existing areas, and
- Protection of our natural assets and the essential character of the region.

- G21 Regional Growth Plan (April 2013), G21 Region Alliance

7.0 SUSTAINABLE SETTLEMENTS

7.1 SUSTAINABLE SETTLEMENTS

SURF COAST URBAN SETTLEMENT PATTERN

In 2012, Surf Coast had a population density of 16.7 people per km², which is lower than the Victorian density figure and notably higher than the regional Victorian figure.

Torquay is the largest urban centre in Surf Coast, followed by Anglesea, Winchelsea then Lorne. Population distribution within the municipality is largely focused along the coast, with a handful of inland settlements including Winchelsea and Deans Marsh.

Creating sustainable settlements is a key direction in **The Geelong Region Plan (2007)** and the objectives for this direction are particularly applicable to Surf Coast, with its series of scattered small settlements and relatively limited public transport connections. The direction is focused on consolidating residential development in easy to access 'service hubs' and providing more diversity in housing styles and sizes areas so that the current and future needs of the region's population may be met by: improving physical activity and sustainable transport options; improved proximity and accessibility to key facilities and services; and diversifying housing choices – including affordable housing. Reducing the impact of population growth on the region's natural environment, productive agricultural areas and valued landscapes is also a key objective as part of the direction.

'Smart urban design has resulted in inter-generational living in choices of medium density housing in and around easy-to-access service hubs, with an increasing instance of walking and cycling to get to key destinations...'

- Part of the Vision 2050 for the G21 region – The Geelong Region Plan (2007)

The **G21 Regional Growth Plan Background Report (2012)** identifies key challenges associated with the current G21 urban form and many of these are pertinent to Surf Coast:

- New housing development needs to be managed carefully, particularly in regard to the provision of physical and social infrastructure and the capacity of different services providers to fund and deliver services in multiple areas
- The average number of lots per hectare across the region is low and there is a need to identify ways to increase the average housing density beyond 15 lots per hectare to achieve greater efficiency and utilisation of existing services, provision of additional services such as public transport and to accommodate growth
- Housing stock is dominated by single detached dwellings and high housing costs in coastal areas; as such, there is a need to provide a broader diversity of housing types, including affordable housing, social housing, medium density housing, and increased rental stock to meet the existing and future needs of the population
- Climate change, particularly in coastal settlements, limits opportunities for residential growth in some instances, and
- Providing future housing needs solely within greenfield-urban expansion areas is not sustainable over the next 40 years and will have significant negative impacts, including the viability of higher density housing projects.

7.0 SUSTAINABLE SETTLEMENTS

7.1 SUSTAINABLE SETTLEMENTS

HOUSING

The **Geelong Region Plan (2007)** identifies the lack of affordable and diverse housing options as a regional issue. Median mortgage repayments (\$1,800 p/month) and rental payments (\$280 p/week) in Surf Coast are slightly higher than state averages (\$1,700 p/month and \$277 per week respectively) and the proportion of Surf Coast rental properties classified as 'affordable' (10.6%) is much lower than the state (20.7%) or regional Victoria (56.6%) average.

However, the relatively high income levels in the municipality mean that the proportion of households with mortgage stress (9.9%) or rental stress (23.7%) is lower than state and regional Victoria averages.

Between 2006 and 2011, median weekly rents in Surf Coast increased by 43.6% which was lower than the state average increase but higher than the regional Victoria average increase. Median monthly housing loan repayments increased by 41.7% over the same period and this increase was greater than both state and regional Victoria average increases.

Housing choices remain limited in the municipality, with 90.2% of private occupied dwellings being separate houses and just 9.3% being semi-detached or flats/units/apartments. The proportion of separate houses is higher in Surf Coast than state or regional Victoria averages. Between 2006 and 2011, the proportion of housing that is separate dwellings decreased by a small amount.

The VicHealth report '**Precarious housing and health inequalities: what are the links?**' (2011), defines precarious housing as housing that is: 1) unaffordable (high housing costs relative to income), 2) insecure of tenure (insecure tenure type and subject to forced moves), and 3) unsuitable (overcrowded, poor dwelling condition, unsafe, poorly located).

The report found that, on average, people living in precarious housing had worse health than people who

were not precariously housed and that this relationship existed regardless of a person's income, employment, education, occupation and other demographic factors.

Additionally, the report found that:

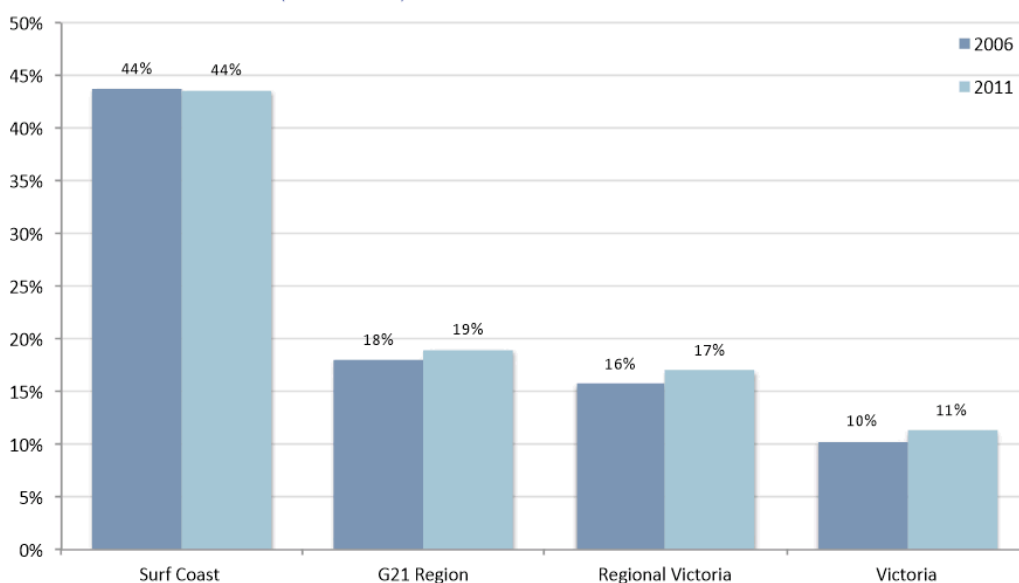
- The poorer people's housing, the poorer their mental health
- Particular groups are more susceptible to precarious housing:
 - Lone parents and singles were much more likely than other household types to experience precarious housing
 - Young people were more likely than other age cohorts to be in precarious housing - more likely to be in unaffordable housing, private rental, overcrowded households, and to have experienced a forced move recently
 - Older private renters (that is, people older than 65 years) were particularly vulnerable to unaffordable housing: half were experiencing housing affordability stress
 - Children living with a lone parent were much more vulnerable to precarious housing than those living with two parents
 - As lone parents, young women and their children are particularly vulnerable to precarious housing, and
 - For lone young mothers, precarious housing creates or contributes to poor health.

In 2011, there were approximately 7,000 private dwellings in Surf Coast that were unoccupied, representing 43.6% of all private dwellings. This proportion is almost four times the state average figure and is also much higher than the regional Victoria (17.0%) or G21 region (19%) average.

7.0 SUSTAINABLE SETTLEMENTS

7.1 SUSTAINABLE SETTLEMENTS

UNOCCUPIED PRIVATE DWELLINGS (2006 AND 2011)



2011 Census of Population and Housing, Basic Community Profiles, ABS 2012

Compared to state averages, Surf Coast residents are more likely to fully own the home they live in (38% versus 34%) and are slightly more likely to be purchasing their home (37% versus 36%); while they are notably less likely to be renting (22% versus 27%).

Between 2006 and 2011, the proportion of residents who fully owned the house they lived in decreased, reflecting Victorian trends; while the proportion that was renting increased.

SELECTED HOUSING DATA SNAPSHOT*

LOCATION	HOUSEHOLDS WITH MORTGAGE STRESS (2011)	HOUSEHOLDS WITH RENTAL STRESS (2011)	RENTALS THAT CLASSIFIED AS AFFORDABLE (DEC 2013)	RENTALS THAT ARE PUBLIC HOUSING (2011)	MEDIAN WEEKLY RENT (2011)	MEDIAN MONTHLY MORTGAGE REPAYMENT (2011)	HOMES FULLY OWNED BY RESIDENT (2011)
Surf Coast	10%	24%	11%	4%	\$280	\$1,800	38%
G21 Region	10%	28%	na	15%	na	na	37%
Regional Victoria	11%	27%	58%	17%	\$190	\$1,300	38%
Victoria	11%	25%	20%	12%	\$277	\$1,700	34%

* Please refer to data tables in the appendices for full details, including sources and data notes. na = not available



There were 85 occupied public housing properties in Surf Coast in 2011. Comprising 4% of the total occupied rented dwellings, the proportion of rented public housing in Surf Coast was significantly lower than the Victoria (12%) or regional Victoria (17%) average. Public housing provides important affordable rental options for many people in the community. The need to provide more public or social housing stock is identified in the G21 Regional Growth Plan Background Report (2012).

Between 2006 and 2011, the proportion of rented occupied private dwellings in Surf Coast that were public housing properties decreased from 5% to 4%.



8.0 ECONOMY AND INDUSTRY

8.1 ECONOMY AND INDUSTRY

The health of the Surf Coast and G21 region economy underpins the ongoing health and wellbeing of the region's population, particularly through providing diverse and plentiful employment opportunities and by supporting the delivery of and ongoing investment in a wide range of regional services and facilities for residents, workers and business owners.

The **Regional Economic Profile G21 (2013)** and the **Draft G21 Economic Development Strategy (2014)** contain comprehensive economic information and analysis that readers are recommended to refer to. The G21 Geelong Region Alliance also commissions REMPLAN to produce economic data and reports for the region and this information is available on the G21 website. Surf Coast Shire also commissions detailed economic analysis and this can be accessed at <http://economy.id.com.au/surf-coast>.

This section draws upon relevant material identified in four key strategic documents: The **Geelong Region Plan (2007)**, the **Regional Economic Profile G21 (2013)**, the **Draft G21 Economic Development Strategy (2014)**, and the **G21 Regional Growth Plan (2013)**.

KEY STRENGTHS

- Proximity to Geelong as a major regional city that provides employment opportunities and high order education, health, commercial and community services
- A very strong lifestyle appeal that continues to attract new residents and visitors
- Strong growth in jobs across most industry sectors between 2006 and 2011*
- Compared to state averages, Surf Coast had:
 - A lower unemployment rate in December 2013 (3.7% v's 5.8%)
 - Higher labour force participation for residents aged 15 - 64 years (75% v's 72%)
 - Stronger growth in labour force participation from 1996 to 2011 (5.6% v's 1.3%)
 - A higher proportion of population that had completed Year 12 (53% versus 52%) or attained a bachelor or post graduate university degree or a diploma qualification (34% in total v's 29%)
 - A much higher rate of patents registered per capita (28.1 v's 17.9)
 - Much higher median house and unit/apartment values (\$570,000 v's \$412,000 and \$485,000 v's 400,000)

KEY CHALLENGES

- Direct and indirect impacts of the substantial changes to industry and economy in Geelong including on Surf Coast employment levels, businesses and industry sector such as construction
- A heavy reliance on the construction sector and the impact increased interest rates may have on jobs, local businesses and related industries
- Responding to current and future transitions in key employment industries - particularly in manufacturing but also agriculture, and
- Potential climate change impacts such as damage to infrastructure, buildings and natural features as well as costs to meet increased pressure on health and emergency services.

NOTE: Some figures in this section have been rounded up to a whole number. Please refer to tables in the appendix for full details and notes on all data, including rates per population, dates and other important information.

8.0 ECONOMY AND INDUSTRY

8.2 GROSS REGIONAL PRODUCT

GROSS REGIONAL PRODUCT

In April 2014, the Surf Coast Gross Regional Product (GRP) was estimated to be \$923.64 million#. Between 1997 and 2012, the municipality's GRP had an average annual growth rate of 5.2%## which was notably higher than the Victorian rate or the G21 region rate (both 3.3%) and higher than the regional Victorian rate (2.0%).

Figure sourced from REMPLAN Surf Coast Economic Overview April 2014, accessed May 2014.

##Figures sourced from the Regional Economic Profile G21 (RDV 2013)

INDUSTRY PERFORMANCE AND GROWTH

GROSS VALUE ADDED

In January 2014, the total Gross Value Added (GVA) for Surf Coast was estimated at \$819.8 million. The major contributors to GVA were rental, hiring and real estate services (18%); construction (12%); and wholesale

trade (9%). Between December 2012 and January 2014, modeled data prepared by REMPLAN indicates that, overall, the total GVA for Surf Coast increased by \$9.1 million (1.1%). The GVA of the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector decreased by the greatest figure (\$8.42 million), followed by the administrative and support services sector decrease of \$3.62 million. The greatest proportionate decrease was seen in the mining sector, with a 51.7% decrease, followed by the administrative and support services sector (20.5% decrease).

Over the period, the GVA of the rental, hiring and real estate services sector increased by the greatest figure (\$10.31 million); followed by the construction sector (\$4.9 million). The greatest proportionate increase was recorded in the Electricity, Gas, Water & Waste Services sector (8.5%), followed by the rental, hiring and real estate services sector (6.9%).



8.0 ECONOMY AND INDUSTRY

8.2 GROSS REGIONAL PRODUCT

SURF COAST GROSS VALUED ADDED BY INDUSTRY (DECEMBER 2012 AND APRIL 2014)

INDUSTRY SECTOR	DEC 2012	APR 2014	CHANGE	
	\$M	\$M	\$M	%
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	\$48.04	\$39.61	-\$8.42	-17.5%
Mining	\$9.58	\$6.31	-\$3.27	-34.1%
Manufacturing	\$34.82	\$35.58	\$0.75	2.2%
Electricity, Gas, Water & Waste Services	\$37.52	\$41.02	\$3.50	9.3%
Construction	\$90.17	\$95.08	\$4.90	5.4%
Wholesale Trade	\$77.21	\$77.12	-\$0.09	-0.1%
Retail Trade	\$53.99	\$56.34	\$2.35	4.3%
Accommodation & Food Services	\$62.90	\$66.27	\$3.37	5.4%
Transport, Postal & Warehousing	\$9.45	\$9.83	\$0.37	3.9%
Information Media & Telecommunications	\$12.05	\$12.79	\$0.73	6.1%
Financial & Insurance Services	\$42.78	\$43.36	\$0.58	1.4%
Rental, Hiring & Real Estate Services	\$138.19	\$148.50	\$10.31	7.5%
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	\$41.00	\$42.37	\$1.37	3.3%
Administrative & Support Services	\$21.24	\$17.62	-\$3.62	-17.0%
Public Administration & Safety	\$30.81	\$30.82	\$0.01	0.0%
Education & Training	\$34.89	\$32.22	-\$2.67	-7.6%
Health Care & Social Assistance	\$41.29	\$40.45	-\$0.84	-2.0%
Arts & Recreation Services	\$9.58	\$8.59	-\$0.99	-10.3%
Other Services	\$15.17	\$15.91	\$0.74	4.9%
Total	\$810.67	\$819.77	\$9.10	1.1%

REMPAN data incorporating Australian Bureau of Statistics' (ABS) June 2012 and June 2013 Gross State Product, 2008 / 2009 and 2009 / 10 National Input Output Tables and 2011 Census Place of Work Employment Data

8.0 ECONOMY AND INDUSTRY

8.3 INDUSTRY PERFORMANCE AND GROWTH

PROJECTED GROWTH

‘As the low cost competitive positions of international players increases, industries at risk will need to transform economic output and employment into areas of comparative advantage to survive. This will require further investment to develop new product and service innovations, increased marketing effort and ongoing efficiency improvements linked to strategies, tactics and business models that are globally competitive.’

The Geelong Region Plan (2007)

‘Over the last 10 years the drivers of economic growth in Geelong have been the health care, education, construction and retail sectors. Geelong has many comparative strengths and natural advantages that will ensure growth into the future. Strengths include proximity to Melbourne, transport infrastructure and the diversity of our economy and labour force.’

- The G21 Regional Growth Plan (2013)

The Geelong Region Plan (2007) sets out an aspirational population target for the G21 region of 500,000 by 2051. This population goal would see an additional 221,137 people living in the region compared to the current population and would represent a 79% increase of the current population. The 2014 Victoria in Future population projections project that the population of the G21 region will reach 288,806 by 2031.

The G21 Regional Growth Plan (2013) provides clear directions for regional infrastructure, land supply and housing strategies to support regional livability and prosperity.

The Regional Economic Profile G21 (2013) includes projected economic data for 2031 for the entire G21 region*, including:

- The size and role of Geelong as a major regional city, together with historical trends, indicate that the bulk of economic, employment and output growth in the G21 region will largely be focused in and around Geelong
- The shift in the economy towards population-focused service sectors, such as health and education, is projected to continue over the next decades

- By 2031, it is projected that the health care, manufacturing, construction and professional services sectors will form the bulk of the Regional Industry GVA. Collectively, these sectors are projected to account for 44% of the regional GRP by 2031. While manufacturing is projected to decline over the period, it will remain important to the economy. The highest GVA growth is projected to be in the following sectors:

- Health care and social assistance
- Professional, scientific and technical services, and
- Other high-growth sectors include public administration and safety, accommodation and food services, agriculture, forestry and fishing and construction.

- By 2031, the regional employment profile is projected to be heavily concentrated in the services sector, with the projected top five employment sectors being health care and social assistance, retail trade, construction, accommodation and food services, and education and training – and, by 2031, the top five sectors are projected to account for 61% of total employment in the region, and

- The fastest growing employment sectors will also be mostly those that are services oriented, with the highest projected annual average growth in employment projected to occur in the: arts and recreation, accommodation, retail trade, health care and professional services sectors; while employment in the manufacturing sector is projected to decline at an annual average rate of -1.8% over the time period.

* Surf Coast projected economic trends were not included in the Regional Economic Profile G21 (2013).

The G21 Regional Growth Plan (2013) identifies the following key regional infrastructure objectives considered essential to support G21 population and economic growth:

- An efficient and equitable public transport, road and freight network
- Providing infrastructure and services for planned growth areas and infill development
- Development of a national transport and logistics precinct

8.0 ECONOMY AND INDUSTRY

8.3 INDUSTRY PERFORMANCE AND GROWTH

- Strengthening Central Geelong: Continue to develop Central Geelong as a major regional city and Victoria's second city
- Land and infrastructure for existing, and future employment nodes
- The rollout of the NBN - constantly growing new technology over the next 40 years within the region is essential
- Building on the region's capability in education, knowledge and research
- Maintaining and improving natural infrastructure
- Efficient and cost effective roll out of water infrastructure and services, and
- Develop and build new renewable energy sources.

LOCAL OBSERVATIONS AND RESEARCH

Research undertaken or compiled by the Surf Coast Shire Economic Development Unit also projects that:

- There is a need to create an additional 3,025 jobs between 2011 - 2031 in Surf Coast to ensure jobs within the municipality keep pace with population growth
- Within Surf Coast, the health sector is forecast to become the greatest employment sector (out of all jobs located in the municipality). Combined with construction, retail and accommodation and food, these sectors currently account for more than 50% of all jobs located in Surf Coast and this 'share' of jobs is expected to continue and to grow.
- While currently accounting for just 6.5% of jobs located in Surf Coast, the agricultural sector has been identified as an important emerging employer. The municipality's hinterland and rural areas have been identified as having largely untapped potential for various sustainable, specialty businesses and employment opportunities.

A range of studies and reports, including a study into the value of the Surf Industry, have been or are being prepared by Surf Coast Shire Economic Development Unit. For information about these studies, please contact Surf Coast Shire on 03 5261 0600.

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS

According to REMPlan estimates, the value of total regional exports for Surf Coast in January 2014 was \$525.79 million. Construction comprised 18% of Surf Coast's regional exports, followed by manufacturing (16.7%), then accommodation and food services (16.5%).

In January 2014, according to REMPlan estimates, the total regional imports for Surf Coast were valued at \$486.95 million. Manufacturing comprised 22.3% of Surf Coast's regional imports, followed by construction (18.5%), and accommodation and food services (11.4%).

REGISTERED PATENTS

The rate of patents registered per capita can provide a useful indicator of innovation and technological change. In the decade of 2002 and 2012, the rate of patents per capita in Surf Coast was 28.1, which was significantly higher than the state average (17.9), regional Victoria average (9.8) or the other LGAs in the G21 region (rates ranged from 7.7 to 22.6).

EMPLOYMENT

'It is necessary to encourage investment in new technologies, research and development, best practice and collaboration to develop comparative advantages. Alternatively we must consider the transition of output and employment away from industries in decline into areas of comparative advantage.'

The Geelong Region Plan (2007)

Note that these figures are based on the usual resident population of Surf Coast and the place of employment may not be located in Surf Coast

In 2011, 42% of Surf Coast residents worked in Surf Coast, while 35% worked in Greater Geelong - the next most common LGA as a place of work. A further 11% worked in LGAs located across metropolitan Melbourne.

Reflecting state trends, the sectors that service the growing population - such as health and education - are becoming increasingly important as employers to the Surf Coast population. In the last 12 months in the Geelong area, jobs in the manufacturing, retail and

8.0 ECONOMY AND INDUSTRY

8.3 INDUSTRY PERFORMANCE AND GROWTH

energy sectors have been severely impacted and this is likely to either directly or indirectly contribute to job losses for some Surf Coast resident workers.

In 2011, the construction sector and the health care and social assistance sector employed the greatest proportion (12.6% and 12.1% respectively) of the Surf Coast resident workforce. The education and training sector employed the next greatest proportion (10.2%) of the resident workforce, closely followed by retail trade (10.1%). Compared to Victorian averages, the Surf Coast resident workforce was notably more likely to be employed in the: construction; accommodation and food services; education and training; and agriculture, forestry and fishing industry sectors; while it was notably less likely to be employed in the manufacturing or financial and insurance services sectors.

Between 2006 and 2011, there was significant growth in jobs across most sectors for Surf Coast resident workers, largely owing to the strong population growth over the period. The total number of Surf Coast employed persons increased by 21.4% between 2006 and 2011 compared to the state average increase of 11.3%.

However, there was a decrease in the number of Surf Coast residents employed in the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector (49 fewer jobs). Sectors that recorded the greatest increase in number of jobs for Surf Coast residents over the period were: health care and social assistance (386 more jobs); construction (357 more jobs); education and training (255 more jobs); and professional, scientific and technical services (250 more jobs).

The Surf Coast resident workforce was more likely to work part-time (39%) than the state or regional Victorian average (33% and 36% respectively). The accommodation and food services; health care and social assistance; and retail trade sectors all had a particularly high proportion of jobs that were part-time (more than 50%). Between 2006 and 2011, the proportion of Surf Coast workers who worked part-time increased from 37% to 39%.



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8.3 INDUSTRY PERFORMANCE AND GROWTH

INDUSTRY SECTOR AND JOBS (2006 AND 2011)

INDUSTRY SECTOR	2006 JOBS	2011 JOBS	CHANGE	
			JOBS	%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	513	464	-49	-9.6%
Mining	14	34	20	142.9%
Manufacturing	908	930	22	2.4%
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	113	154	41	36.3%
Construction	1,212	1,569	357	29.5%
Wholesale trade	484	549	65	13.4%
Retail trade	1,132	1,259	127	11.2%
Accommodation and food services	923	1,048	125	13.5%
Transport, postal and warehousing	288	337	49	17.0%
Information media and telecommunications	146	161	15	10.3%
Financial and insurance services	180	310	130	72.2%
Rental, hiring and real estate services	192	211	19	9.9%
Professional, scientific and technical services	594	844	250	42.1%
Administrative and support services	263	352	89	33.8%
Public administration and safety	485	651	166	34.2%
Education and training	1,013	1,268	255	25.2%
Health care and social assistance	1,130	1,516	386	34.2%
Arts and recreation services	187	232	45	24.1%
Other services	299	395	96	32.1%
Inadequately described/Not stated	214	208	-6	-2.8%
Total	10,290	12,492	2,202	21.4%

2011 Census of Population and Housing, Expanded Community Profiles, ABS 2012

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TOURISM

Data was recently commissioned from Tourism Research Australia (TRA) by Surf Coast Shire for the 2013 calendar year and this has been the basis for the Surf Coast Shire Draft Visitor Insights 2014 report. Data was supplied by TRA at the SA2 level and comprises: Torquay, Lorne - Anglesea and Winchelsea SA2 areas. The Western region (2012/13 year) has been used to calculate expenditure. Surf Coast Shire has provided the following summarised key information from the **Draft Visitor Insights 2014** report:

- Over 1.67 million people visited Surf Coast Shire in 2013
- The average length of stay was 3.1 nights for domestic visitors and 4.8 nights for international visitors
- Visitors to Surf Coast spent approximately:
 - \$103 per domestic day trip
 - \$131 per night on domestic overnight trips, and
 - \$113 per night on international overnight trips.
- In total, visitors expended approximately \$410 million, which increases to more than \$600 million when including flow on expenditure
- Surf Coast beaches had over 1 million unique visitors (excluding people from Geelong and locally) while restaurants (889,000) and sightseeing (525,00) were also popular
- January to March is the most significant period for visitation, followed by April to June.
- Lorne - Anglesea (4th) and Torquay (10th) were in regional Victoria's top ten destinations for domestic overnight visitors, and
- People visiting the area to surf spent some \$50 million.

Further information is available from Surf Coast Shire Economic Development Unit - 03) 5261 0600.

HUMAN CAPITAL

EDUCATION

In 2011, Surf Coast (52.7%), compared to the regional Victorian (37.0%) or Victorian average (51.7%), had a higher proportion of population aged 15 years and over that had completed Year 12. Surf Coast (17.0%)

had a notably higher proportion of population aged 15 years and over that had attained a bachelor degree compared to regional Victoria or Victoria (9.1% and 14.7% respectively); or a postgraduate degree, graduate diploma or graduate certificate (6.5% versus 3.4% and 6.1% respectively).

Both Year 12 completion and university degree attainment rates have increased in Surf Coast between 2006 and 2011, reflecting state trends.

UNEMPLOYMENT

In December 2013, unemployment in Surf Coast was 3.7%, which was the same rate recorded for December 2012. Unemployment rates were lower than the Victorian (5.8%) and regional Victorian (5.4%) average rates. Unemployment rates were higher in the Surf Coast (S) - West Statistical Local Area (SLA) than in the Surf Coast (S) - East SLA; however both rates were lower than state and regional Victoria averages.

Between December 2012 and December 2013, the number of unemployed persons decreased by 1.7% (9 people) in Surf Coast overall, while it increased by 5.4% (11 people) in the Surf Coast (S) - West SLA.

LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION

Labour Force participation is the total number of persons of working age who are either working or looking for work. The ABS defines the labour force to be "conceptually equivalent to the pool of labour available for the production of economic goods and services", so a lower than normal participation rate may indicate potential labour shortages.

Results from the 2011 census indicate that labour force participation in population aged 15 to 64 years is higher in Surf Coast (75.1%) than the regional Victorian (71.3%) or Victorian average (72.1%). The participation rate has increased since 2006 (n=73.0%) and this increase is greater than that seen in regional Victoria (increase from 70.9%) or Victoria (increase from 71.0%).

Between 1996 and 2011, the labour force participation rate for all population aged 15 years and over increased by 5.6% for Surf Coast residents. This increase was more than four times the total Victorian increase (1.3%).

(Regional Economic Profile G21, RDV July 2013).

8.0 ECONOMY AND INDUSTRY

8.3 INDUSTRY PERFORMANCE AND GROWTH

OCCUPATION AND SKILL LEVELS

In 2011, the most common occupation for Surf Coast resident workers was as a professional (24% of employed persons). Managers and technicians / trades workers (each 16%) were the next most common occupations.

Workers living in Surf Coast were more likely than the Victorian average to be employed as professionals, managers, technicians and trade workers, or as community and personal service workers; while workers were less likely than the Victorian average to be employed as: clerical and administrative workers; sales workers; machinery operators and drivers; or labourers.

In 2011, the proportion of adult population with tertiary qualifications in science and technology in Surf Coast (9%), was lower than the Victorian average (10%) but higher than the regional Victoria average.

'Skill gaps and shortages are a significant barrier to industry transition and economic growth. Global competition is increasing the need for local businesses to invest in developing new product and service innovations plus the need to increase efficiency and marketing effort to improve competitive positions. Attracting, developing and retaining the talent required to develop economic activity in these areas has become a critical issue for the region...

The capacity of businesses to realise transition is dependent on their ability to obtain and apply the high quality people, technological knowledge, capital and resources that enable them to compete. Businesses will continue to gain comparative advantage by leveraging and enhancing the specialised skills, advanced technological knowledge, key infrastructure and the exceptional natural resources that the region has to offer.'

- The Geelong Region Plan (2007)

The City of Greater Geelong Skill Shortages survey (2012) results reported that, across the total G21 region, there were 235 positions were identified as current skill shortages and a further 345 positions were reported as anticipated skill shortages for 2013.

The key skill shortages were reported as: professionals (77 positions - particularly health professionals);

technicians and trades workers (62 positions - particularly automotive and engineering trades workers); machinery operators and drivers (48 positions - particularly road and rail drivers); and community and personal service workers (34 positions - particularly carers and aides).

BUILDING APPROVALS

'Coastal towns have experienced unprecedented demand for residential development. Land prices are rapidly increasing, vacant lots are being developed, medium density housing is becoming prevalent and new subdivision is occurring where towns are able to grow.'

- The Geelong Region Plan (2007)

Building approvals are a useful indicator of general levels of economic activity, investment and employment. Between November 2012 and November 2013, there were 314 building approvals issued for new dwellings in Surf Coast and this represented 11% of all G21 residential building approvals.

Between November 2012 and November 2013, Surf Coast residential building approvals had a total value of \$142.97 million, which represented 16% of the total value of all G21 residential building approvals.

PROPERTY VALUES

In 2012, the median value of houses (\$570,000), units/apartments (\$485,000) or vacant housing blocks (\$259,500) in Surf Coast were all notably higher than Victoria or regional Victoria median figures.

Between 2007 and 2012, growth in values of houses (29.0%) was higher in Surf Coast than the regional Victoria and Victoria average figures (21.6% and 26.8%); while growth in median values of units/apartments in Surf Coast (21.3%) grew by a greater proportion than the regional Victorian average (17.1%) but a lower proportion than Victorian average (23.1%). Growth in the median value of vacant housing blocks in Surf Coast (26.6%) was lower than that seen in either regional Victoria (29.1%) or Victoria (33.3%).

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10.0 APPENDIX

10.1 APPENDIX

DEMOGRAPHIC SUMMARY SECTION - TABLES

SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE SECTION - TABLES

HEALTH SECTION - TABLES

STRONG COMMUNITIES SECTION - TABLES

ENVIRONMENT SECTION - TABLES

ECONOMY AND INDUSTRY SECTION - TABLES



Attachment 2

ratio:

Report
Prepared for
TTHL Pty Ltd

February 2018

**Social and Economic Impact
Assessment**

Torquay Hotel
36 Bell Street, Torquay

Social & Economic Impact Assessment

r:

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5 The Study Area:

- 5.1.1 In determining the patron profile of the venue, it is important to determine whether the venue will serve as a local or destination gaming venue. Given the location of the venue along the Great Ocean Road tourist route, we would expect the venue to have a seasonal tourist trade, especially during the peak summer months. However, outside of peak times we would expect that most patrons of the Hotel would come from within a 5km radius and that the venue would serve a predominantly local role.
- 5.1.2 Based on previous experience and undertaking of patron surveys in a wide variety of gaming venues, we generally estimate that in the order of 70-80% of patrons for a typical venue would come from a 5km radius. This is consistent with the findings of the Victorian Longitudinal Community Attitudes Survey 2003.
- 5.1.3 The patron profile for the Torquay Hotel has been established by conducting three separate suburb surveys of the patronage of the gaming room.
- 5.1.4 The first round of surveys was conducted during two weeks between 11 August 2017 and 24 August 2017 (inclusive). These surveys are considered to be reflective of the 'non-peak' time patron catchment.
- 5.1.5 The second round was conducted during the last week of the September school holidays, between 3 October 2017 and 10 October 2017 (inclusive) during the school holiday period.
- 5.1.6 A third round of surveys was undertaken during the Melbourne Cup week between 3 November 2017 and 9 November 2017 (inclusive).
- 5.1.7 Each survey was undertaken in the gaming room on the hour for every hour that the gaming room was operational and patrons using the gaming machines were asked their suburb of residence.
- 5.1.8 The results of the patron surveys are summarised in the table's below. Each table uses the 'top' suburb responses from the survey, which effectively identifies the patron catchment of the Hotel.

Table 5.1: Torquay Hotel Patron Review August 2017 (Non-Peak Season)

Suburb	No. of patrons	Percentage of patrons
Torquay	454	62.8%
Anglesea	76	10.5%
Tourists ¹⁴	58	8.0%
Grovedale	47	6.5%
Melbourne (various suburbs)	39	5.4%
Waurin Ponds	20	2.8%
Lara	13	1.8%
Geelong	10	1.4%
Corio	3	0.4%
Lorne	3	0.4%
TOTAL PATRONS SURVEYED	723	

Source: Torquay Hotel Patron Surveys August 2017.

- 5.1.9 Based on the above patron surveys, the primary 'non-peak' patron catchment of the venue comes from the suburb of Torquay (accounting for 62.8% of gaming patrons). Whilst the secondary patron catchment comes from the suburbs of Anglesea and Grovedale (which accounts for a further 17.0% of gaming patrons). This is expected given the regional nature of Torquay.
- 5.1.10 It is noted that a further 13.4% of patrons could be classified as visitors or tourists to the area (those patrons that stated they were from Melbourne, a house guest, on holiday or from the caravan park). During this period, a total of 723 patrons were surveyed (average of 362 per week).
- 5.1.11 The additional surveys were undertaken during the last week of the September school holidays, between 3 October 2017 and 10 October 2017 (inclusive).
- 5.1.12 These surveys showed a significant uplift in the number of patrons through the venue, increasing from 723 patrons over a two week period to 1003 patrons over an 8 day period in October. This equates to an average of 52 patrons/day during the non-peak period, increasing to 125 patrons/day during the peak school holiday period (a 140% increase in patrons).
- 5.1.13 The results of the survey during the school holiday period is summarised in the table below.

¹⁴ Non-locals in this instance includes those patrons that listed the following when asked where they lived: house guest, holiday and caravan park

Table 5.2: Torquay Hotel Patron Review October 2017 (school holidays) and November 2017 (Melbourne Cup week)

Suburb	October Surveys		November Surveys	
	No. of patrons	Percentage of patrons	No. of patrons	Percentage of patrons
Torquay	546	54.4%	321	48.9%
Tourists ¹⁵	186	18.5%	146	22.2%
Melbourne (various suburbs)	106	10.6%	84	12.8%
Geelong	72	7.2%	56	8.5%
Anglesea	64	6.4%	41	6.2%
Aireys Inlet	16	1.6%	5	0.8%
Lorne	13	1.3%	4	0.6%
TOTAL PATRONS SURVEYED	1003		657	

- 5.1.14 During both the October school holiday period and the Melbourne Cup week, the percentage of tourists and visitors¹⁶ increases as does the overall business of the venue. Those patrons who are tourists and visitors equated to 29.1% and 35.0% respectively during the peak periods compared to 13.4% during the 'off peak' period.
- 5.1.15 This indicates that while the primary patron is from within 5km of the venue during both the peak and off-peak survey period, a substantial portion of venue patrons are tourists or visitors to the Torquay area.
- 5.1.16 We would expect that this share of visitors would significantly increase during the summer and Easter peak periods given the significant influx of visitors into Torquay during these periods.
- 5.1.17 This is further supported by the patron surveys that were undertaken in the previous application to increase the number of EGMs from 15 to 30.
- 5.1.18 In that instance the patronage of the gaming room were surveyed during three weeks between 27 May 2013 and 14 June 2013 (inclusive), noting that this period includes the Queen's Birthday long weekend.
- 5.1.19 The results of the gaming patron survey are summarised in the table below. This table uses the 'top' suburb responses from the survey (2% or higher), which effectively identifies the primary patron catchment of the Hotel.

Table 5.3: The Torquay Hotel Patron Review 2013

Suburb	Total patron survey results	Queens Birthday long weekend (Fri – Mon)	Survey period excluding long weekend
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¹⁵ This includes patrons who listed the following when asked where they reside: Ballarat, on holidays, house guests, Bendigo, Perth and Warrnambool.

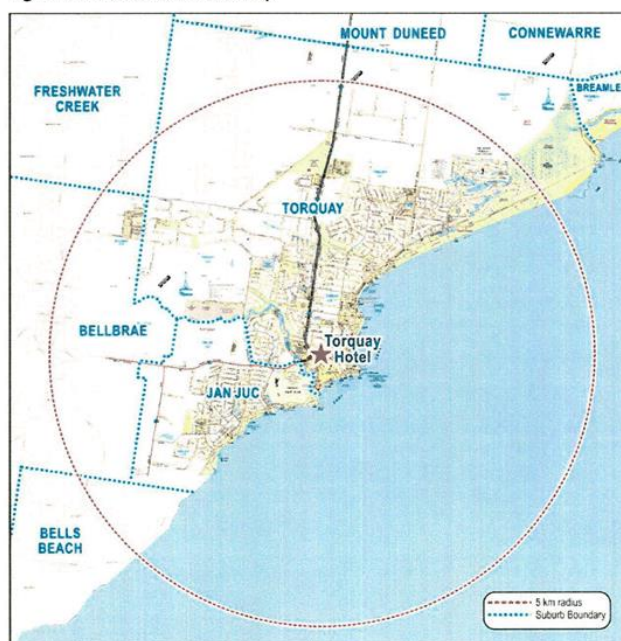
¹⁶ Including those who stated they reside in a suburb of Melbourne.

Torquay	41.5%	34.9%	44.3%
Jan Juc	15.1%	10.8%	16.9%
Melbourne	14.0%	22.4%	10.4%
Geelong	11.6%	13.9%	10.7%
Country Victoria	5.1%	3.3%	5.9%
NSW	2.6%	5.5%	1.3%
Total Persons	1641	490	1151

Source: Gaming Patron Survey May/June 2013

- 5.1.20 A review of the survey results shows that during the Queen's Birthday long weekend (Friday 7th June to Monday 10th June) there was a reduction in the proportion of patrons from Torquay and Jan Juc to 45.7%, down from 56.6% for the entire survey period and 61.2% for the survey period excluding the long weekend. This further illustrates the role that tourism plays on the Hotel.

Figure 5.1: Patron Catchment Map



Source: Ratio Consultants

Attachment 3: Additional Social & Economic Impact Information, Torquay Hotel Application

Overview of electronic gaming in Surf Coast Shire

Surf Coast Shire currently has three gaming venues and a total of 74 electronic gaming machines (EGMs), over 40% of those EGMs are located at the Torquay Hotel, Torquay. Surf Coast Shire Council (Council) are proud to be ranked 60 out of 70 Local Government Areas (LGAs) for gaming machine losses in Victoria. Despite this positive ranking, a staggering \$2.9M was lost on gaming machines in 2016/17, equating to \$39,522 per machine and a loss of \$8,013 per day. Based on these figures \$1.2M was lost in Torquay alone in 2016/17. Should the application for an additional 15 gaming machines be approved at the Torquay Hotel it will likely result in an increased loss amount of \$3.5M annually, \$1.8M of this will be solely lost in Torquay. This amount is based on gaming expenditure remaining stable, however the table below demonstrates that Surf Coast Shire has seen a 2.5% change in losses in 2016/17, a figure higher than the Victoria average and a demonstration that the introduction of additional EGMs will only further increase losses within the Shire.

Table one: EGM gambling measures for Surf Coast Shire vs Victorian Average 2017

Select a locality				Select a comparison locality				Surf Coast : number higher or lower than Victoria	Surf Coast : per cent more or less than Victoria
Surf Coast				Victoria					
	Totals		Ranking		Totals		Ranking		
Venues: 2017 [excludes venues with no attached EGMs] (1)	3		Relative to Victorian LGAs		502		Relative to Victorian LGAs	499 fewer	100% less
Licensed EGMs: 2016 (2)	74		60		26,365		*	26291 fewer	100% less
EGMs per 1,000 Adults: 2016/2017	3.3		61		5.5		*	2.3 fewer	41% less
EGM Gambling Losses 2016/2017	\$2.9 million		60		\$2,610 million		*	\$2606.7 million lower	100% less
EGM Gambling Losses per day	\$8,013		-		\$7,149,397		-	\$7141385 lower	100% less
Losses per Adult 2016/2017 (3)	\$130		68		\$542		*	\$413 lower	77% less
Cumulative Losses since 1992 [2016 dollars]					\$67,982 million	\$30329 per household			
% Change in Losses in year 2016/2017	2.5 %		17		-0.3 %		*	2.8 higher	-1002% greater
% Change in Losses - adjusted for Inflation (4)	0.3 %		-		-2.4 %		-	2.7 higher	-111% greater

Sources of data used here: Victorian Commission for Gambling & Liquor Regulation 2017 (EGM gambling losses and EGM numbers) and the Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning 2017 (population). Due to extensive inconsistencies in information about EGM numbers presented on the website of the VCGLR, EGM numbers shown here are drawn from a table of EGM numbers, venue numbers and venue-level losses featured on the VCGLR website, and not from other tables presented on the same site.

Updated: July 28, 2017

1 From VCGLR, Gaming Expenditure by venue sheet, featuring EGM numbers and venues as at 2017. Accessed at <https://www.vcglr.vic.gov.au/resources/data-and-research/gambling-data/gaming-expenditure-venue> on 28/7/2017

2 From VCGLR, Gaming Expenditure by venue sheet, featuring EGM numbers and venues as at 2017. Accessed at <https://www.vcglr.vic.gov.au/resources/data-and-research/gambling-data/gaming-expenditure-venue> on 28/7/2017

3 Based on losses published by the VCGLR in July 2017, divided by adult population for 2017, from Victoria in Future, published by the State Government

4 Calculated using the CPI indices for Melbourne, for June 2016 and 2017

Community Attitudes towards EGMs in Surf Coast Shire

In 2010 Council completed a survey to identify the community attitudes towards the introduction of EGMs within the Jan Juc/Torquay precinct. This survey was completed by The Wallis Group and concluded the following:

- 60% of residents oppose developments or re-development with the presence of EGMs
- Opposition is due to a general dislike of EGMs (54%)
- 20% expressed concerns about the potential negative impacts EGMs would have on the community
- 74% believe that EGMs have a negative impact on Hotels being family friendly venues
- Residents felt their quality of life would be impacted by the introduction of EGMs into the precinct

These results highlight the negative community attitude towards EGMs and more broadly gambling within the Surf Coast Shire. These findings were further supported during Council's consultation for the Surf Coast Shire Council Plan 2017-2021, in response Council has committed to reinforce policies to manage electronic gaming machines and reduce gambling related harm within the community. The installation of 15 additional gaming machines at the Torquay Hotel is not supported by Council and does not help achieve the objective of reducing problem gambling.

Torquay Hotel

The Torquay Hotel is one of three gaming venues within the Surf Coast Shire and is located at 36 Bell Street Torquay. The venue is situated in a small activity area surrounded by accommodation, residential, retail, hospitality and public open space and recreation facilities (see below map).



Despite not being located in a main activity zone the Bell Street precinct is highly utilised during both peak and non-peak periods by locals and tourists and therefore convenience gaming can still occur.

The Torquay Hotel has a good relationship with the local community and sporting and community groups and is often the destination of choice for functions, social activities and dining. As part of their application the Torquay Hotel has outlined it will undertake a \$600,000 redevelopment of the venue within the next two years. These works will focus on updating the amenity of the spaces as well as creating an additional bistro and alfresco seating to cater for increased patronage. It will also include changes to the gaming room with a new entry developed and a partition to be removed within the gaming room to allow for more machines and patrons. Although the Torquay Hotel have outlined the benefits to the community within their Social Economic Impact Assessment (SEIA), they have failed to outline the potential negative impact of these renovations. Upgrades to the Hotel, whilst a benefit to locals in regards to live music and dining, will increase the patronage of the hotel

and therefore increase the likelihood of convenience gambling. In addition, although the removal of the existing sole entry into the gaming room from the car park will reduce the anonymity of patrons participating in gaming activities, the development of a single entry for patrons to use to access all aspects of the venue will expose the gaming facilities to more people and also forces those who may be trying to avoid the gaming room to be faced with the temptation upon entering and leaving the venue. This can lead to an increase in the prevalence of problem gambling.

Responsible Gambling:

The Torquay Hotel outlines a number of practices at the venue relating to responsible gambling, which, it claims may alleviate the development of gaming problems by venue patrons. However, evidence shows that of regular gamblers in Victoria only 2.4% had sought help with their gambling in the previous year, representing approximately 1 in 2000 regular gamblers (Victorian Longitudinal Community Attitudes Survey, 2003). In addition, the Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation report "*Behavioural Indicators of Responsible Gambling Consumption*" found that signs of problem gambling in patrons are often ignored unless a patron is aggressive or disturbing other patrons. Therefore, whatever assistance may be advertised or extended to gaming patrons, the evidence does not support the notion that gaming-related problems at a venue would be substantially alleviated by the measures proposed by Torquay Hotel.

Community Contributions:

As part of the licence application to the VCGLR Torquay Hotel is required to outline conditions of their licence approval. Below are the conditions proposed by Torquay Hotel:

- Torquay Hotel will undertake a \$600,000 redevelopment of the venue within the next two years. These works will focus on updating the amenity of the spaces as well as creating an additional bistro and alfresco seating to cater for peak periods.
- Provide an annual additional \$30,000 cash contribution to be donated to a range of community organisations for the life of the entitlements (up to 2022)

Assessment into conditions on existing Torquay Hotel electronic gaming machines has found that the Hotel are currently required to provide the following:

- Extension to the Bell's Gallery function area (Bar Lounge) which would increase the function capacity by 120 patrons
- Upgrade children's play area
- Community cash contribution of \$25,000 per year
- 2 additional full time positions
- 8-10 additional casual positions

The new owners of the Torquay Hotel have highlighted to Council and the VCGLR's that the majority of the above conditions have failed to be met by the previous owners.

A key concern of Council officers is the condition relating to the community cash contribution. Below is a breakdown of Torquay Hotel's community contribution for 2017 (amount required is \$25,000 cash):

Table Two: Breakdown of Torquay Hotel community contribution 2017

Beneficiary	Amount
Cash	
Torquay Football Club	\$2,000
Torquay Cricket Club	\$1,000

Torquay Bowls Club	\$500
CASH TOTAL	\$3,500
In-kind	
Torquay Football Club	\$1,000
Torquay Netball Club	\$1,000
Torquay Bowling Club	\$1,200
Various organisations	\$7,400
Various products/prizes	\$3,000
Various community groups utilise facilities for meetings and lunches free of charge	\$5,000
In-kind TOTAL	\$18,600
OVERALL TOTAL	\$22,100
Outstanding	\$2,900

The above table highlights that the level of community contribution is lower than what is required as part of the gaming licence. In addition, the level of cash versus in-kind contributions raises concerns regarding the true level of community benefit gained. In-kind contributions, meeting spaces, prizes and lunches for free, while characterised as community benefits, are reminiscent of promotional activities in which many businesses engage in expectation of attracting patronage which would more than offset these promotions. Furthermore, if such promotional activities had achieved their intended effect of attracting customers, then more people than otherwise would have been exposed to opportunities to participate in gambling at the venue. The consequences of this participation may outweigh any social benefits of such promotions and in-kind contributions.

Torquay Hotel has proposed an additional \$30,000 per year taking the total cash contributions to \$55,000 per year. Despite the increase this figure equates only 3.06% of the annual player expenditure forecasts at the venue (\$1,800,000). In addition the Torquay Hotel has outlined that this contribution will cease in 2022 when the entitlements of the machines expire. Council has concerns that these conditions will not carry over if any entitlements are renewed.

Council's past experience with conditions being up-held does not provide confidence that the new Torquay Hotel owners will comply with what they have proposed and requests stronger enforcement of these conditions.

Prevalence of Problem Gambling

The Torquay Hotel SEIA states that surveys undertaken in August 2017 indicated that the venue currently has low utilisation of its gaming machines during non-peak periods and that there is a slightly higher demand during peak periods. It is from this survey they have concluded that problem gambling is not significantly prevalent at Torquay Hotel. There is no evidence to suggest this is correct, nor is there evidence to demonstrate that each person in the venue at the time of the survey is not a problem gambler.

The Productivity Commission (2010) stated that problem gamblers may account for up to 40% of the venue patronage at any one time and concluded that between 27% - 76% of regular EGM players were problem gamblers or moderate-risk gamblers. The Productivity Commission also found that accessibility stimulates demand and that high accessibility makes gambling tempting for emotionally vulnerable problem gamblers.

These findings are supported by other studies, in particular the "Local Impacts of EGMs Gambling in Moreland (2011)" which found that having a large number of gaming machines, adequate facilities so that patrons do not have to wait, and the availability of patrons favourite machines, were all associated with a higher prevalence of gambling harm.

The Torquay Hotel's gaming facilities are currently not being used to their full capacity in both peak and non-peak periods, therefore accessibility to machines is already at a higher level than other venues. The addition of 15 machines will only increase this accessibility and therefore increase like likelihood of gambling harm. Furthermore, the introduction of 15 machines allows the Hotel to install the latest model of machines, thus creating a further attraction and excitement to the gaming facility leading to increase gaming activity within the community.

Torquay Hotel indicates that locals are unlikely to use the additional gaming machines. They state that they are targeting these machines at non-locals. However, data gained through venue surveys demonstrates that during non-peak and peak periods the majority of patrons utilising the venue are local residents, with 74% and 63% local patrons respectively.

The prospective rise in number and range of gaming machines increased the accessibility of gaming and may contribute to a rise in the prevalence of gambling problems and with no way of regulating who is using these machines it is highly likely that this will be experienced by local residents.

Impact of gambling

Many people gamble to ease boredom, social isolation or depression, while others are swayed by unrealistic expectations about the chances of winning, or lured by convenient access to venues. In addition, gaming machines are designed to addict and deceive users, enticing them into losing more money than they otherwise may not gamble.

Gambling related problems generally arise when a person persistently loses more money than they, or their household, can comfortably afford. The resulting financial hardship may have detrimental effects upon personal and social life, family and employment. This often results in personal distress, diminished social life, family conflict and reduced productivity at work.

Personal distress:

Many investigations report a higher prevalence of personal distress, including depression and suicidal thoughts among people with gambling related problems. In its investigation of gaming problems, the Productivity Commission found that 50% of people with severe gambling related problems said gambling made life less enjoyable, compared with just 5% of other gamblers.

According to the Victorian Health Population Survey, Surf Coast Shire has a higher rate of depression than the Victorian average with 24.5% of residents suffering from depression. *beyondblue* has found that people experiencing depression are at a greater risk of developing problem gambling. Further to this, the connection between mood and gambling is not always one-way and being depressed may push someone towards gambling in the

first place. For example, feeling depressed, down or alone can place people at risk of developing or increasing their gambling problem:

- People may use gambling as a break or escape from negative feelings or situations
- Gambling may provide a 'pick me up' or a sense of feeling connected to other people

Given the alarming rates of depression within the Surf Coast Shire it is more likely for problem gambling to be prevalent within our community.

Family Disruption and Violence:

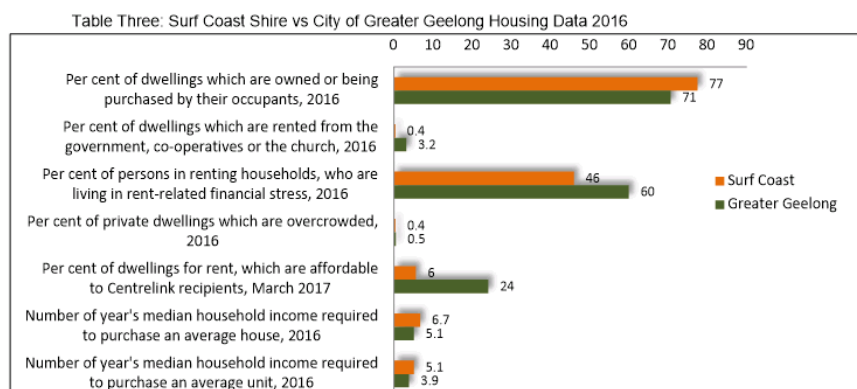
The effect of persistent gambling losses upon many families includes mistrust and arguments about gambling. This can often lead to family breakdowns, divorce and family violence. The Australian Gambling Research Centre (2014) found that family environments of people with gambling problems are characterised by high levels of anger and conflict, less independence, and less participation in social and recreational activities. Furthermore, the children of people with gambling problems are exposed to a range of family stressors, including financial and emotional deprivation, parental neglect/abuse, family conflict and reduced security and stability.

Research indicates that community with higher density of gaming machines experience higher levels of family violence (Responsible Gambling Victoria 2017). Violence against women and children is an important focus of Council, with one in three women experiencing physical violence since the age of 15 (Our Watch). Anecdotal evidence indicates that family violence is an issue in every community, though often concealed behind more conspicuous social problems such as delinquent behaviour, homelessness, alcohol and other drug problems, gambling issues, depression and suicidal behaviour.

Surf Coast Shire is supporting the regional work of G21 through its Strategic Plan to prevent and address violence against women and children (Surf Coast Shire Council Plan 2017-2021). In 2016/17 there were 120 affected family members applying for a Family Violence Intervention Order in Surf Coast Shire (Crime Statistics Victoria). Any activity that is likely to increase the violence against women and children within the municipality is not supported by Council.

Housing Stress:

The 2016 Census data outlines that less than 0.4% of dwellings in Surf Coast Shire are available for community housing through agencies such as the government, churches or cooperatives and only 6% of all of the rental properties are affordable to persons receiving Centrelink payments. In addition almost half (46%) of persons renting are living in rent relating financial stress. Rental stress is defined as per the National Centre for Social and Economic Modeling (NATSEM) model as households in the lowest 40% of equivalised incomes (income adjusted using equivalence factors to remove the effect of household size on income) across Australia, who are paying more than 30% of their usual gross weekly income on rent.



Research outlines that a major impact of problem gambling is financial stress. The data demonstrated above highlights that Surf Coast Shire residents are already experiencing financial and rental stress which may be attributed to problem gambling within the area. In addition, the limited community housing options for those experiencing rental and housing stress within the Shire may result in those experiencing these problems to be forced to move away from the area or face homelessness. Any activity that is likely to increase financial and housing stress within the community is not supported by Council.

Economic Impact:

It is generally recognised that gaming venues create some level of employment in local communities. Ongoing employment opportunities created by gaming venues are generally in the hospitality sector, and are generally part-time positions (Hames Sharley (1997) *"Impact of Electronic Gaming Machines on Small Rural Communities"*).

The VCAT decision in the Laurimar Venue case (*Whittlesea CC v George Adams Pty Ltd [2011]*) determined that consideration of employment impacts at a proposed EGM venue should be limited to those that relate specifically to gaming activity. That is, other employment associated with non-gaming activities at a Venue club (e.g. bar workers or bistro staff) should not be considered as benefits of a gaming application.

In general, the gaming sector is a capital-intensive sector that provides low levels of employment relative to the revenue (player expenditure) that is generated. A study in Bendigo determined that for every \$1 million spent on EGMs, 6 full-time jobs were generated. This compares to 10 full-time jobs for the equivalent expenditure in the retail sector. (Ian Pinge (2008) *"Electronic Gaming Machines in Bendigo – assessing their economic impact"*)

Another study prepared for the Victorian Department of Justice estimated that the employment generated by gaming venues is 3.2 full-time positions for every \$1 million spent on EGMs. This figure compares to 20 full-time positions in the restaurant and café sector (The South Australian Centre for Economic Studies (2005) *"Community Impacts of Electronic Gaming Machine Gambling – Part A"*).

Research undertaken by the former Victorian Casino and Gaming Authority found that approximately 30% of employees at gaming venues were directly involved in the gaming operations of a venue. Research conducted in Victoria has demonstrated that those employed in venues with gaming machines are 6 times more likely to experience problem gambling than the general Victorian population.

The table below identifies that if residents and tourists spent \$1M on retail and hospitality in the Surf Coast, it would result in 9 new jobs and an additional 2 indirect jobs. Whereas the same spend on gambling would not result in any additional jobs. This demonstrated a greater employment outcome for Surf Coast when residents and tourists invest in non-gaming industries.

Impact Summary	Direct Effect	Industrial Flow On Effect	Consumption Flow On Effect	Total	Type 1 Multiplier	Type 2 Multiplier
Output (\$M)	\$1.000	\$0.367	\$0.341	\$1.708	1.367	1.708
Employment (Jobs)	9	1	1	11	1.111	1.222
Wages and Salaries (\$M)	\$0.356	\$0.096	\$0.080	\$0.531	1.269	1.493
Value-Added (\$M)	\$0.540	\$0.172	\$0.199	\$0.911	1.319	1.688

Attachment 4 – List of services that support Problem Gaming in Surf Coast Shire

There are no services located within Surf Coast Shire. The nearest face to face service is located in the City of Greater Geelong and only provides limited afterhours appointments for working residents:

Bethany

16 Ballarat Rd, Hamlyn Heights, Victoria 3125

Contact details

Phone: (03) 5278 8122 or email: gamblershelpintakebarwon@bethany.org.au

Opening hours

Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm

After-hours appointments available Wednesdays 5-7pm.

Attachment 5

ratio:

Report
Prepared for
TTHL Pty Ltd

February 2018

**Social and Economic Impact
Assessment**

Torquay Hotel
36 Bell Street, Torquay

Social & Economic Impact Assessment

r:

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12 Problem Gambling:

12.1 What is Problem Gambling

- 12.1.1 Problem Gambling is generally defined as follows:
*Problem Gambling is characterised by difficulties in limiting money and / or time spent on gambling, which leads to adverse consequences for the gambler, others or for the community.*³⁷
- 12.1.2 With the addition of 15 EGMs to an existing gaming venue and the subsequent expected increase in expenditure at this venue, there is the potential for some of this additional expenditure to be derived from problem gambling behaviour.
- 12.1.3 The best estimates that are available (such as those made by the Productivity Commission and Longitudinal Study) estimate that 1-2% of the Victorian adult population are problem gamblers. The Productivity Commission Report also estimates that in the order of 40% of gaming revenue is the result of problem gambling. Whilst some seek to attribute 40% of increased gaming expenditure from problem gambling, such a rudimentary approach is neither accurate nor useful in seeking to determine the impact of gaming proposals on problem gamblers.
- 12.1.4 It is reasonable to assume that as a consequence of the introduction of additional gaming machines, there is a risk of an increase in problem gambling. However, as detailed below, we consider this risk to be relatively low.
- 12.1.5 For a significant period of time, the Department of Justice report '*Problem Gambling from a Public Health Perspective*' was the only source that provided some guidance on the risk of problem gambling in the area.
- 12.1.6 To a degree, some of the findings in this report have been superseded by the state governments '*Study of Gambling and Health in Victoria, Findings from the Victorian Prevalence Study 2014*'.
- 12.1.7 The latest report provides updated figures on the changes in prevalence of problem gambling within each Victorian Government region.
- 12.1.8 The Barwon South West region (within which the Surf Coast Shire sits) recorded a prevalence of 1.24% of adults surveyed being problem gamblers with the rate of problem gambling in Victoria sitting at 0.81%.
- 12.1.9 In addition, specific to this application, we have sought to understand the prevalence of problem gambling in the Surf Coast area by writing to the Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation.
- 12.1.10 This office wrote to the Gambling Information Resource Office (GIRO) at the Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation on 10 October 2017 requesting information regarding the provision of problem gambling/financial counselling services within the Surf Coast Shire as well as the number of presents to this service, average waiting times and staff resourcing.
- 12.1.11 A response was received on 23 October 2017 and is included at Appendix I.
- 12.1.12 The GIRO advised that Bethany Community Support delivers Gambler's Help services across the Barwon catchment which covers the Colac-Otway, Greater Geelong, Queenscliff and Surf Coast municipalities.

³⁷ Neal P, Delfabbro P & O'Neil M, 2005, *Problem Gambling and Harm: Towards a National Definition* – Prepared for the former Victoria Gambling Research Panel by the South Australian Centre for Economic Studies.

- 12.1.13 During the 2016-2017 financial year, a total of 34 unique clients that live in the Surf Coast Shire LGA presented to Bethany for gamblers help. This was broken down into financial counselling (17 presents) and therapeutic counselling (33 presents)³⁸.
- 12.1.14 Bethany's main service operates out of Hamlyn Heights and is open Monday to Friday 8am to 5pm, with extending hours of 7pm on a Thursday night.
- 12.1.15 A secondary outreach service operates out Colac on Thursdays between 10am and 4pm.
- 12.1.16 Average wait times from initial needs identification to the first appointment is in the order of 1 – 2 days, noting that this can vary for a number of reasons.
- 12.1.17 There were approximately 4.1 FTE therapeutic counselling staff and 1.5 FTE financial counselling staff at Bethany Gamblers Help in the Barwon catchment for the 2016-2017 financial year.
- 12.1.18 We note the limitations of this data in that it does not capture those using phone or online gamblers help services nor does it capture people who have not provided a residential address. However, it does provide a simplistic snapshot of the provision of gamblers help services within the Surf Coast LGA.

12.2 Risks for Problem Gambling

- 12.2.1 Whilst there are no reliable determinative factors to establish what the characteristics of a problem gambler are³⁹, there are some factors that are considered to lead to an increased risk of problem gambling.
- 12.2.2 Specific to this proposal is the Hotel's location within an activity centre. We will address this in the next section.

12.3 Problem Gambling at Torquay Hotel

- 12.3.1 The surveys undertaken in August 2017 indicate that the venue currently has very low utilisation of its gaming machines during non-peak periods, experiencing 2 peak hours over the two week period. Additional surveys undertaken during the last week of the September school holidays (during the first week of October) indicates that during peak periods, there is slightly higher demand, with the venue experiencing 2 peak hours over the 8-day period.
- 12.3.2 The NMR for the last financial year (i.e. to 30 June 2017) was \$166.13, compared to the Country Hotel and Metro Hotel averages of \$246.86 and \$367.67 respectively.
- 12.3.3 Given that there are only two peak hours across the two-week survey period and the remainder of the surveyed periods show consistent peaks and troughs in EGM utilisation, it suggests that problem gambling is not significantly prevalent at the venue. This is supported by the low NMR at the venue compared to the Country Hotel average.
- 12.3.4 For example, a common indication of the likelihood of problem gambling occurring at a venue would be where no or a very low number of peak hours exist in combination with a much higher than average NMR.
- 12.3.5 Whilst there is insufficient information to accurately determine to what level, if any, problem gambling is occurring at the venue or even the

³⁸ Some clients presented for both financial counselling and therapeutic counselling

³⁹ Although the 2009 DoJ Report does provide some assistance in this area

municipality, we are satisfied that the level of expenditure and level of peak utilisation of the machines do not indicate any significant concerns.

- 12.3.6 We are mindful that as the venue is already in operation with 30 machines, there is already a level of underlying risk. Accordingly, we have focussed our consideration on the additional risk that is likely to result from the additional 15 EGMs and the potential impacts from the revisions to the venue and its layout.
- 12.3.7 The increase in the number EGMs from 30 to 45 machines will change the venue from a small to medium sized gaming venue. Notwithstanding this, the overall size of the gaming room will only increase slightly (noting that green line remains the same). The main consequence of such an increase in EGMs is the potential for an increase in anonymity in the gaming room, which can be attractive for problem gamblers. The increase in the staffing in the gaming room (by 1.5efst) will assist in the increase supervision and customer interaction within the gaming.
- 12.3.8 In addition, the removal of the direct access from the car park and motel reception into the gaming room will assist in increased general surveillance of gaming patrons from the bistro and motel reception and reinforce the non-gaming entertainment options at the Hotel.
- 12.3.9 In addition, we are satisfied that there is unlikely to be a significant increase in problem gambling at the venue should the grant of this application be approved for the following reasons:
- The venue will continue to provide for a range of other entertainment options including a sports bar with pool tables, bistro, lounge area and kids play area. In addition, a DJ and live music play in the sports bar on Friday and Saturday nights. Importantly, there are other facilities open when the gaming room is operational. The extent of these depend on the season and include the main bar and sports bar at a minimum. We consider this to be in line with the responsible service of gaming.
 - The venue is an existing gaming venue and therefore access to gaming machines in the area already exists. Problem gamblers in the local community are already serviced in the area and we consider it unlikely that additional EGMs to this venue will create new problem gamblers. Furthermore, the modest utilisation of the existing EGMs ensures that there is existing access to EGMs within the venue during all periods of the day.
 - The additional machines will only have an impact when there is peak utilisation of the existing machines. These are likely to occur primarily during the peak summer and Christmas periods when non-locals will be playing the machines.
 - Furthermore, the demand for the additional machines and their usage will generally only occur during peak periods, and these periods align with peak tourism periods, it is likely that any increase in problem gambling behaviour will not be from members of the local community.
- 12.3.10 For the above reasons, we consider that it is unlikely that introducing additional EGMs to this venue will create new problem gamblers.

13 Impacts on the Local Community:

13.1 Convenience Gambling

- 13.1.1 Contemporary thinking on the location of gaming venues is that these facilities should not be located adjacent to convenience shopping facilities. The rationale is that such a location increases the potential for 'impulse' or 'convenience' gaming behaviour.
- 13.1.2 Convenience gambling is gambling that results from people going about their day to day business being 'confronted' with opportunities to gamble that they had not set out to find. It is generally accepted that confronting and tempting gamblers can be minimised if gambling venues are not located in places where people frequent for convenience shopping.
- 13.1.3 A consideration associated with this proposal is the location of the venue within a small neighbourhood activity centre and whether the increase in gaming machines will present an unacceptable risk to convenience gambling. The centre is primarily made up of small commercial premises focused towards the provision of goods and services to visitors to the area such as surf board hire, boutique retailing/homewares, food and drinks premises such as a fish and chipper, ice creamery and small restaurants.
- 13.1.4 This is not to say that some local residents would not frequently pass by the centre but it is not one that they would generally stop at for day to day conveniences. These centres are located further to the north of the site within Torquay Central Shopping Centre and in the main commercial strip along Gilbert Street and Bristol Road.
- 13.1.5 Were this application a proposal for a new gaming venue, the concern about proximity to shopping facilities would be reviewed closely in determining the net impact of gaming machines.
- 13.1.6 However, the determining factor in this application is the additional risk to problem gamblers given that there are already 30 machines in operation at the Torquay Hotel. We have been mindful in our consideration of the existence of the current gaming room and the level of risk these machines have on convenience and problem gambling.
- 13.1.7 Having reviewed this issue in detail, we are satisfied that there will not be a negative impact due to:
 - The existence of 30 machines at the venue already, which reduces the accessibility/impact of the new machines.
 - The venue is already considered to be a 'destination' venue considering its landmark status within Torquay, is well removed from the main town centre and away from day to day convenience retailing.
 - The greatest impact of the additional 15EGMs will be during peak seasonal times when a significant portion of the venue patrons will be from non-local areas (approx.29% during the survey period).
 - The location of the Hotel within the neighbourhood activity centre does not pose an additional risk due to the nature of the activity centre and the lack of pedestrian traffic and convenience retailing.

14 The Role of Management and Responsible Gambling Practices:

14.1.1 Given the prevalence of gaming throughout Victoria and the existing access to gaming machines and venues, it is at the 'coal face' where the greatest influence of problem gamblers can occur and engaging with patrons is the cornerstone of harm minimisation.

14.1.2 Whilst there are critics of such an approach on the basis that friendly staff will attract a problem gambler to a venue, the continual monitoring of the gaming room is essential to understand patron behaviour. The adoption of an interventionist approach, where staff will consistently talk and engage with patrons, can only assist with the identification of problematic behaviours. Customer engagement that is constant is unattractive for problem gamblers, who generally seek to be left alone and gamble. Anonymity is attractive for a problem gambler.

"...gamblers do not want to wait to get on a machine nor to be interrupted while gambling. Thus, it is the gambling facilities that are most important to these gamblers, rather than other facilities or activities on offer in a venue. They prioritised the types of gaming machines on offer, the layout in the gaming room and the atmosphere created there, and wanted to be able to access these easily and at the times and for the length of time of their choosing"

Hing and Haw 2010, The Influence of Venue Characteristics on a Player's Decision to Attend a Gambling Venue', Centre for Gambling Education and Research, Southern University

14.1.3 The addition of more gaming machines or venues, in the context of the existing regulatory regime, has a relatively marginal impact on problem gamblers. This is in part as the anecdotal evidence is that problem gamblers will go to significant lengths to satisfy their addiction. This is not to say that the consideration of locational effects or the social and economic impact of gaming machines is not important. However, the introduction of venue specific responsible gaming practices and the use of best practice initiatives should be a minimum for any gaming venue.

14.1.4 We do not consider that the increased number of machines and the proposed redevelopment of the venue will increase the 'attractiveness' of the venue for all patrons, including problem gamblers.

14.1.5 The increase from 30 to 45 machines has the potential to increase the anonymity of players in the room, which is an attractive feature for problem gamblers. However, increasing the presence of staff in the room will likely counteract the perception of being able to 'fade into the background' and, together with the removal of the direct access of the gaming room from the car park, will work to offset the additional risk in this regard.

14.2 Responsible Gambling Initiatives

14.2.1 The management of The Torquay Hotel accept their responsibility to ensure responsible gaming at their venue and have introduced a number of practices consistent with the principles of harm minimisation. These include both statutory requirements as well as venue specific initiatives.

14.2.2 A Responsible Gambling Policy and Procedures Manual has been prepared by Leigh Barret & Associates (circulated separately).

15 Community Attitude:

- 15.1.1 We are cognisant of the necessity to consider community attitude to the introduction of EGMs on community wellbeing, in particular, noting the Court of Appeal decision on the Romsey Hotel. There were very specific circumstances in that particular case that led VCAT to form the view that community opposition to gaming would have a significant social detriment on that community.
- 15.1.2 This application is considered to be significantly different to that of Romsey for the following reasons and therefore little weight should be placed on likely community opposition to the proposal:
- Torquay experiences substantial tourism trade during peak seasons. This tourist trade accounts for approximately 29% of venue patrons during surveyed peak times and will likely be significantly higher again during the summer and Easter peak periods. It is this tourism trade that the proposal seeks to cater for and when demand for the machines is at its highest.
 - The community already has access to gaming within the municipality and at the venue. This situation is unlike the Romsey case, whereby the Hotel was to introduce gaming into the town that didn't already have gaming and residents would have to travel much greater distances to participate in gaming (in the order of 20-25km).
 - This application is for a top up of additional machines at an existing gaming venue. The introduction of an additional 15 machines will have significantly lesser impact on community wellbeing than the creation of a new venue, regardless of the proximity of other gaming venues in the locality.
- 15.1.3 We do not consider that an additional 15 machines at The Torquay Hotel will have any unreasonable impact on the psyche of residents.
- 15.1.4 In forming this view, it is noted that residents already have a level of exposure to gaming in the local community with the existing machines at the venue and other venues outside the patron catchment. Therefore, the introduction of the additional machines at the venue will only have a small incremental impact.

16 Social and Economic Impacts:

- 16.1.1 The social and economic impacts of gaming can be both positive and negative. Having reviewed a range of potential impacts on the local community as well as documents regarding whether or not gaming expenditure is a positive or negative impact, the approval of this application will have a slightly positive impact on the local community, which is evidenced by the following tables.
- 16.1.2 The main benefits of the application are:
- Redevelopment of the venue at a cost of \$600,000 that will result in the establishment of new and improved facilities and an overall greater offer to the community;
 - Creation of a net increase of 2.5 EFT positions as a result of the application (including 1.5 in the gaming room);
 - Provision of an additional \$30,000 annual cash community contributions;
 - \$276,000 in complementary expenditure;
 - Economic flow on effects through the creation of greater supply contracts for food and beverage from local suppliers.
- 16.1.3 There are other benefits attached to the application which are discussed in further detail in Table 16.1 and Table 16.2.
- 16.1.4 As with any application for gaming machines, the main disbenefit is the potential increased risk to problem gamblers. This application is no exception. However, for the reasons set out in this report we do not believe problem gambling to be a significant concern as this venue.
- 16.1.5 We have reviewed each of the benefits and disbenefits of the application and attached weight to each in order to establish what the overall net impact on the community will be.

7. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

8. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

8.1 Assemblies of Councillors

Author's Title: Administration Officer

General Manager: Anne Howard

Department: Governance

File No: F18/225

Division: Governance & Infrastructure

Trim No: IC18/476

Appendix:

1. Assembly of Councillors - Council Briefings - 20 March 2018 (D18/40743)
2. Assembly of Councillors - Council Briefings - 27 March 2018 (D18/40744)
3. Assembly of Councillors - Council Briefings - 3 April 2018 (D18/42372)

Officer Direct or Indirect Conflict of Interest:

Status:

In accordance with Local Government Act 1989 –
Section 80C:

Information classified confidential in accordance with
Local Government Act 1989 – Section 77(2)(c):

☐ Yes

☒ No

☐ Yes

☒ No

Reason: Nil

Reason: Nil

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to receive and note the Assembly of Councillors records received since the previous Council Meeting.

Summary

The Local Government Act 1989 section 80A(2) states that the Chief Executive Officer must ensure that the written record of an assembly of Councillors is as soon as practicable reported at an Ordinary Meeting of Council and incorporated in the minutes of that Council Meeting.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Assembly of Councillors records for the following meetings:

1. Council Briefings - 20 March 2018.
2. Council Briefings - 27 March 2018.
3. Council Briefings - 3 April 2018.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Brian McKiterick, Seconded Cr Rose Hodge

That Council receive and note the Assembly of Councillors records for the following meetings:

1. Council Briefings - 20 March 2018.
2. Council Briefings - 27 March 2018.
3. Council Briefings - 3 April 2018.

CARRIED 9:0

8.1 Assemblies of Councillors

APPENDIX 1 ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS - COUNCIL BRIEFINGS - 20 MARCH 2018



Assembly of Councillors Record

Description of Meeting: Council Briefing Meeting
Responsible Officer: Anne Howard – General Manager, Governance and Infrastructure
Date: 20 March 2018
In Attendance: Yes (✓) No (X) N/R (Not Required)

Councillors		Officers		Others	
Cr. David Bell, Mayor	✓	Chief Executive Officer - Keith Baillie	✓		
Cr. Libby Coker	✓	General Manager Governance & Infrastructure - Anne Howard	✓		
Cr. Martin Duke	✓	Acting General Manager Environment & Development – Rowena Frost	✓		
Cr. Clive Goldsworthy	✓	General Manager Culture & Community - Chris Pike	✓		
Cr. Rose Hodge	✓	Team Leader Governance - Candice Holloway (minutes)	✓		
Cr. Carol McGregor	✓	Manager Governance & Risk - Wendy Hope	✓		
Cr. Brian McKitterick	✓	Manager Aged & Family - Bronwyn Saffron	✓		
Cr. Margot Smith	✓	Michelle Watt – Coordinator Statutory Planning	✓		
Cr. Heather Wellington (arrived at 1:52pm)	✓	Acting Coordinator Community Health & Development - Jessica Bennett	✓		
		Manager Community Relations - Damian Waight	✓		
		Leanne Perryman – Manager People & Culture	✓		

MEETING COMMENCED	1.30pm	MEETING CONCLUDED	3.29pm
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Matters considered at the meeting

1. Confirmation of Council briefing Minutes – 20 & 27 February 2018
2. Conflicts of Interest
3. Review of Local Law 2 – Meeting Procedures
4. Otway Yabby Farm
5. Planning Permit Application 17/0332 – 5/24 Price Street, Torquay
6. Planning Permit Application 17/0294 – 115 Strathmore Drive, Jan Juc – Two Lot Subdivision
7. Torquay Hotel Electronic Gaming Machine Application
8. Councillor and Staff Interaction Protocol
9. Sale of Council Land Policy SCS-013
10. The future of flying the Rainbow Flag
11. Road Management Plan Update

Councillor/Officer Declarations of Interest

Councillor/Officer	Left Meeting (Yes/No)	Type & Details of Interest(s) Disclosed
Nil declared.		

Responsible Officer Signature:

Print Name: Anne Howard

Date: 22 March 2018

To be completed on conclusion of session and provided to Governance Administration Officer.



General Information:

An assembly of Councillors means a meeting of an advisory committee of the Council, if at least one Councillor is present, or a planned or scheduled meeting of at least half of the Councillors and one member of Council staff which considers matters that are intended or likely to be -

- (a) the subject of a decision of the Council; or
- (b) subject to the exercise of a function, duty or power of the Council that has been delegated to a person or committee— but does not include a meeting of the Council, a special committee of the Council, an audit committee established under section 139, a club, association, peak body, political party or other organisation;
- The CEO must also ensure that the written record of an assembly of Councillors is kept for 4 years after the date of the assembly, and made available for public inspection at the Council offices for 12 months after the date of the assembly [s80A(2)].
- The CEO must ensure that at an assembly of Councillors, a written record is kept of the names of all Councillors and members of Council staff attending the meeting, the matters considered at the meeting, and any conflict of interest disclosures made by a Councillor attending [s.80A(1)].
- A Councillor must disclose the conflict of interest either immediately before the matter is considered, or where the Councillor realises he or she has a conflict of interest after consideration of the matter has begun, as soon as the Councillor becomes aware he or she has a conflict of interest [s.80A(4)].
- A Councillor attending an assembly of Councillors must disclose a conflict of interest and leave the assembly while a matter is being considered, if he or she knows that the particular matter is one that if it was to be considered and decided by Council, he or she would have to disclose a conflict of interest* under the Act [s.80A(3)].

8.1 Assemblies of Councillors

APPENDIX 2 ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS - COUNCIL BRIEFINGS - 27 MARCH 2018




Assembly of Councillors Record

Description of Meeting: Council Briefing Meeting
Responsible Officer: Anne Howard – General Manager, Governance and Infrastructure
Date: 27 March 2018
In Attendance: Yes (✓) No (X) N/R (Not Required)

Councillors		Officers		Others	
Cr. David Bell, Mayor	✓	Chief Executive Officer - Keith Baillie	X		
Cr. Libby Coker	✓	General Manager Governance & Infrastructure - Anne Howard	✓		
Cr. Martin Duke	✓	General Manager Environment & Development - Ransce Salan	✓		
Cr. Clive Goldsworthy	✓	General Manager Culture & Community - Chris Pike	✓		
Cr. Rose Hodge	✓	Team Leader Governance - Candice Holloway (minutes)	✓		
Cr. Carol McGregor	✓	Manager Community Relations - Damian Waight	✓		
Cr. Brian McKiterick	✓	Coordinator Governance and Corporate Planning - Danielle Foster	✓		
Cr. Margot Smith	✓				
Cr. Heather Wellington	X				

MEETING COMMENCED	3.30pm	MEETING CONCLUDED	4.11pm
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Matters considered at the meeting		
1. Conflicts of Interests		
2. Monthly Finance Report - February 2018		
3. Monthly Program Status Update - February 2018		
4. Annual Review of Council Plan		
5. Digital Transformation Program Update		
6. Agenda Review - 27 March 2018 Council Meeting Agenda		
Councillor/Officer Declarations of Interest		
Councillor/Officer	Left Meeting (Yes/No)	Type & Details of Interest(s) Disclosed
Nil declared.		
Responsible Officer Signature:		Print Name: Anne Howard
		
Date: 29 March 2018		
To be completed on conclusion of session and provided to Governance Administration Officer.		

General Information:

An assembly of Councillors means a meeting of an advisory committee of the Council, if at least one Councillor is present, or a planned or scheduled meeting of at least half of the Councillors and one member of Council staff which considers matters that are intended or likely to be -

- (a) the subject of a decision of the Council, or
- (b) subject to the exercise of a function, duty or power of the Council that has been delegated to a person or committee— but does not include a meeting of the Council, a special committee of the Council, an audit committee established under section 139, a club, association, peak body, political party or other organisation;
- The CEO must also ensure that the written record of an assembly of Councillors is kept for 4 years after the date of the assembly, and made available for public inspection at the Council offices for 12 months after the date of the assembly [s80A(2)].
- The CEO must ensure that at an assembly of Councillors, a written record is kept of the names of all Councillors and members of Council staff attending the meeting, the matters considered at the meeting, and any conflict of interest disclosures made by a Councillor attending [s.80A(1)].
- A Councillor must disclose the conflict of interest either immediately before the matter is considered, or where the Councillor realises he or she has a conflict of interest after consideration of the matter has begun, as soon as the Councillor becomes aware he or she has a conflict of interest [s.80A(4)].
- A Councillor attending an assembly of Councillors must disclose a conflict of interest and leave the assembly while a matter is being considered, if he or she knows that the particular matter is one that if it was to be considered and decided by Council, he or she would have to disclose a conflict of interest* under the Act [s.80A(3)].

8.1 Assemblies of Councillors

APPENDIX 3 ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS - COUNCIL BRIEFINGS - 3 APRIL 2018



Assembly of Councillors Record

Description of Meeting: Council Briefing Meeting
Responsible Officer: Ransce Salan – General Manager, Environment & Development
Date: 3 April 2018
In Attendance: Yes (✓) No (X) N/R (Not Required)

Councillors		Officers		Others	
Cr. David Bell, Mayor	✓	Chief Executive Officer - Keith Baillie	✓		
Cr. Libby Coker (arrived at 9.07am)	✓	Acting General Manager Governance & Infrastructure – Ian Stewart	✓		
Cr. Martin Duke	✓	General Manager Environment & Development - Ransce Salan	✓		
Cr. Clive Goldsworthy	X	Acting General Manager Culture & Community – Damian Waight	✓		
Cr. Rose Hodge	✓	Administration Officer Governance – Claire Rose (minutes)	✓		
Cr. Carol McGregor	✓	Manager Development & Planning - Bill Cathcart	✓		
Cr. Brian McKitterick	X	Senior Statutory/Strategic Planner -Bianca Wilkin	✓		
Cr. Margot Smith	✓	Coordinator Business and Tourism Strategy - Simon Loone	✓		
Cr. Heather Wellington	X	Recreation Development Officer - Paul Elshaug	✓		
		Open Space Planning Coordinator - Leanne Lucas	✓		
		Community Project Development Officer - Nicky Angus	✓		
		Manager Aged & Family - Bronwyn Saffron	✓		
		Property & Legal Services Officer - Trina Hughes	✓		

MEETING COMMENCED	9.00am	MEETING CONCLUDED	12.27pm
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Matters considered at the meeting

1. Confirmation of Council Briefing Minutes – 6, 20 & 27 March 2018
2. Conflicts of Interest
3. Recycling - Verbal Update
4. Planning Permit Application 17/0376 - Use of the land for a Helicopter Landing site - 420 Coombes Road, Freshwater Creek
5. Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2017 - 2021
6. Amendment C118 - Extension of West Coast Business Park - 40 Coombes Road, Torquay
7. Planning Consultation Policy SCS-027
8. Planning Application Call-In Policy MPP-011
9. Summer Peak Period Debrief - December 2017 to January 2018
10. Quarterly Report - Advocacy Priorities
11. Community Project Development - April 2018 Quarterly Update
12. Torquay Hotel Electronic Gaming Machine Application VCGLR Submission
13. Jan Juc Kindergarten Boundary Realignment
14. Other Business

Councillor/Officer Declarations of Interest

Councillor/Officer	Left Meeting (Yes/No)	Type & Details of Interest(s) Disclosed
Cr Libby Coker	Yes	Cr. Libby Coker declared a Conflict of Interest in Briefing Item 10 (Agenda Item 4.1) Quarterly Report - Advocacy Priorities – January – March 2018 under section 77A of the <i>Local Government Act 1989</i> – Direct Interest. Cr Libby Coker is the Labour Candidate for Corangamite.



Responsible Officer Signature:		Print Name: Ransce Salan
Date: 6 April 2018		
To be completed on conclusion of session and provided to Governance Administration Officer.		

General Information:

An assembly of Councillors means a meeting of an advisory committee of the Council, if at least one Councillor is present, or a planned or scheduled meeting of at least half of the Councillors and one member of Council staff which considers matters that are intended or likely to be -

- (a) the subject of a decision of the Council, or
- (b) subject to the exercise of a function, duty or power of the Council that has been delegated to a person or committee— but does not include a meeting of the Council, a special committee of the Council, an audit committee established under section 139, a club, association, peak body, political party or other organisation;

- The CEO must also ensure that the written record of an assembly of Councillors is kept for 4 years after the date of the assembly, and made available for public inspection at the Council offices for 12 months after the date of the assembly [s80A(2)].
- The CEO must ensure that at an assembly of Councillors, a written record is kept of the names of all Councillors and members of Council staff attending the meeting, the matters considered at the meeting, and any conflict of interest disclosures made by a Councillor attending [s.80A(1)].
- A Councillor must disclose the conflict of interest either immediately before the matter is considered, or where the Councillor realises he or she has a conflict of interest after consideration of the matter has begun, as soon as the Councillor becomes aware he or she has a conflict of interest [s.80A(4)].
- A Councillor attending an assembly of Councillors must disclose a conflict of interest and leave the assembly while a matter is being considered, if he or she knows that the particular matter is one that if it was to be considered and decided by Council, he or she would have to disclose a conflict of interest* under the Act [s.80A(3)].

8.2 Section 86 Committee Minutes

Author's Title: Administration Officer

General Manager: Anne Howard

Department: Governance

File No: F18/221

Division: Governance & Infrastructure

Trim No: IC18/454

Appendix:

1. Hearing of Submissions Committee Meeting Minutes - 20 March 2018 (D18/38001)

Officer Direct or Indirect Conflict of Interest:

Status:

In accordance with Local Government Act 1989 –
Section 80C:

Information classified confidential in accordance with
Local Government Act 1989 – Section 77(2)(c):

☐

Yes

☒

No

☐

Yes

☒

No

Reason: Nil

Reason: Nil

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to receive and note the minutes of the Section 86 Committee meetings as appended.

Summary

The minutes provided in this report are draft unless otherwise identified. Committees do not re-issue minutes if any corrections are made at the time of adoption, rather note these corrections in the agenda item confirming adoption of the minutes at the following committee meeting.

Any corrections to draft minutes of material significance made by the committees will be provided to Council for noting in a subsequent report.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the following minutes of the Section 86 Committee meetings:

1. Hearing of Submissions Committee Meeting - 20 March 2018.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Brian McKiterick, Seconded Cr Rose Hodge

That Council receive and note the following minutes of the Section 86 Committee meetings:

1. Hearing of Submissions Committee Meeting - 20 March 2018.

CARRIED 9:0

8.2 Section 86 Committee Minutes

APPENDIX 1 HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - 20 MARCH 2018



Minutes

Hearing of Submissions Committee Tuesday, 20 March 2018

Held in the
Council Chambers
1 Merrijig Drive, Torquay
Commencing at 5.00pm

Council:

Cr David Bell (Mayor)
Cr Libby Coker
Cr Martin Duke
Cr Clive Goldsworthy
Cr Rose Hodge
Cr Carol McGregor
Cr Brian McKitterick
Cr Margot Smith
Cr Heather Wellington

MINUTES FOR THE HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS MEETING OF SURF COAST SHIRE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 1 MERRIJIG DRIVE, TORQUAY
ON TUESDAY 20 MARCH 2018 COMMENCING AT 5.00PM

PRESENT:

Cr David Bell (Mayor)
Cr Libby Coker
Cr Martin Duke
Cr Clive Goldsworthy
Cr Rose Hodge
Cr Carol McGregor
Cr Brian McKiterick
Cr Margot Smith
Cr Heather Wellington

In Attendance:

CEO - Keith Baillie
General Manager Environment and Development – Rowena Frost (Acting)
General Manager Governance & Infrastructure – Anne Howard
General Manager Culture & Community – Chris Pike
Manager Development & Planning - Bill Cathcart
Coordinator Statutory Planning - Michelle Watt
Coordinator Development Compliance and Local Laws - Andrew Hewitt

20 members of the public
0 members of the press

APOLOGIES:

Nil

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

Committee Resolution

MOVED Cr Clive Goldsworthy, Seconded Cr Margot Smith

That the Hearing of Submissions Committee note the minutes of the Hearing of Submissions Committee meeting held on 6 March 2018 as a correct record of the meeting.

CARRIED 9:0

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:

Nil.

SUBMITTERS HEARD

Planning Matters

Environment and Development

**1.1 Planning Permit Application 17/0370 – Use of the land for a Helicopter Landing Site – 420
Coombes Road, Fresh Water Creek**

1. Cassie and David Curnow.
2. Tarney Spencer.
3. Anne Bullen (late speaker).
4. Chris Marshall TLM Group and T & K Metcalf (applicant).

Other Matters

Environment and Development

2.1 Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2017 – 2021

1. Tim Kottek and Yvonne Hunter.
2. Sandra Jennings.

BUSINESS:

1. PLANNING MATTERS.....	4
1.1 <i>Planning Application 17/0376 - Use of the land for a Helicopter Landing Site - 420 Coombes Road, Freshwater Creek.....</i>	<i>4</i>
2. OTHER MATTERS.....	45
2.1 <i>Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2017 - 2021</i>	<i>45</i>

1. PLANNING MATTERS

1.1 Planning Application 17/0376 - Use of the land for a Helicopter Landing Site - 420 Coombes Road, Freshwater Creek

Author's Title: Senior Statutory/Strategic Planner

General Manager: Ransce Salan

Department: Planning & Development

File No: 17/0376

Division: Environment & Development

Trim No: IC18/265

Appendix:

1. Order of Speakers (D18/30602)
2. Planning Permit Application - 17/0376 (D17/137387)

Officer Direct or Indirect Conflict of Interest:

Status:

In accordance with Local Government Act 1989 –
Section 80C:

Information classified confidential in accordance with
Local Government Act 1989 – Section 77(2)(c):

☐ Yes

☒ No

☐ Yes

☒ No

Reason: Nil

Reason: Nil

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to hear submissions relating to Planning Permit Application 17/0376 for the use of the land for a helicopter landing site at 420 Coombes Road, Freshwater Creek.

Summary

An application has been received to allow the use of the land as a helicopter landing and departure site to accommodate three helicopters. There are no buildings and works proposed as the helicopters are able to depart and land from the existing concrete pad adjacent to the existing shed/hanger.

The application proposes a total of four helicopter movements per day between the hours of 7am and 8pm daily. The helicopters will be required to follow a designated flight path approved by the Civil Aviation Authority and Air Services Australia, along with being regulated by the owner and registered in log books as required by the Civil Aviation Regulations 1988.

The applicant has noted that the helicopters will be used to support emergency services and agricultural practices within the area, along with private use generally constituting commuter trips to Melbourne where the owner business operates. Pursuant to the Surf Coast Planning Scheme the use for emergency services and agricultural practices is exempt, given sufficient evidence is provided.

The site is located on the north-east corner of Coombes Road and Anglesea Road and is located within the Farming Zone. The purpose of the Farming Zone is to provide for the use and retention of land for agriculture, and to ensure that that non-agricultural uses do not adversely affect the use of land for agriculture. There are no Overlays associated with this site. Clause 52.15 of the planning scheme contains the particular provisions for a heliport and helicopter landing site relevant to this application.

Public notice of the application resulted in 49 submissions being received including 48 objections and one in support. The following concerns were raised:

- Helicopters could be used for commercial use
- Number and frequency of movements of the helicopter
- Noise – disturbance to residents
- Loss of rural character
- Breach of privacy
- Safety issues
- Disturbance to the environment (animals/farming production).

The issues raised in the submissions will be considered in detail in a report to be presented to the 24 April 2018 Council meeting.

1.1 Planning Application 17/0376 - Use of the land for a Helicopter Landing Site - 420 Coombes Road, Freshwater Creek

Recommendation

That the Hearing of Submissions Committee receive and note the submissions relating to Planning Permit 17/0376 for 420 Coombes Road, Freshwater Creek, and forward to Council for consideration at the 24 April 2018 Ordinary Meeting.

Committee Resolution

MOVED Cr Brian McKitterick, Seconded Cr Margot Smith

That the Hearing of Submissions Committee receive and note the submissions relating to Planning Permit 17/0376 for 420 Coombes Road, Freshwater Creek, and forward to Council for consideration at the 24 April 2018 Ordinary Meeting.

CARRIED 9:0

1.1 Planning Application 17/0376 - Use of the land for a Helicopter Landing Site - 420 Coombes Road, Freshwater Creek

APPENDIX 1 ORDER OF SPEAKERS



Hearing of Submissions
20 March 2018
5pm
Council Chambers
1 Merrijig Drive, Torquay

ORDER OF SPEAKERS

Planning Matters

Environment and Development

1.1 Planning Permit Application 17/0370 – Use of the land for a Helicopter Landing Site – 420
Coombes Road, Fresh Water Creek

	Submitter Name
1.	Sue O'Shanassy
2.	Cassie and David Curnow
3.	Tammy Spencer
4	TGM Group (applicant) – representing T & K Metcalf

**1.1 Planning Application 17/0376 - Use of the land for a Helicopter Landing Site - 420
Coombes Road, Freshwater Creek**

APPENDIX 2 PLANNING PERMIT APPLICATION - 17/0376

The information contained in this online registry is provided for the purposes of the planning process set out in the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The information must not be used for any other purpose. You acknowledge and agree that you will only use the information for the purpose specified above and that any dissemination or distribution of this information is strictly prohibited.

Office Use Only
Application No. _____ Date Lodged: / /

Application for a Planning Permit

Planning Enquiries
Web: www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au

If you need help to complete this form, read MORE INFORMATION at the end of this form.

- Any material submitted with this application, including plans and personal information, will be made available for public viewing, including electronically, and copies may be made for interested parties for the purpose of enabling consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. If you have any questions, please contact Council's planning department.
- Questions marked with an asterisk (*) must be completed.
- If the space provided on the form is insufficient, attach a separate sheet.
- Click for further information.

The Land

Address of the land. Complete the Street Address and one of the Formal Land Descriptions.

Street Address *

Unit No.: _____ St. No.: 420 St. Name: Coombes Road
Suburb/Locality: Freshwater Creek Postcode: _____

Formal Land Description *
Complete either A or B.

☐ This information can be found on the certificate of title.

If this application relates to more than one address, attach a separate sheet setting out any additional property details.

A Lot No.: Land in Plan ☐ Lodged Plan ☐ Title Plan ☐ Plan of Subdivision No.: 377310T

OR

B Crown Allotment No.: _____ Section No.: _____
Parish/Township Name: _____

The Proposal

☐ You must give full details of your proposal and attach the information required to assess the application. Insufficient or unclear information will delay your application.

1 For what use, development or other matter do you require a permit? *

Use of a Helicopter Landing Site.

☒ Provide additional information about the proposal, including plans and elevations, any information required by the planning scheme, requested by Council or outlined in a Council planning permit checklist, and if required, a description of the likely effect of the proposal.

1 Estimated cost of any development for which the permit is required *

Cost \$0 You may be required to verify this estimate. Insert '0' if no development is proposed.

Application for a Planning Permit | Regional Council

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Existing Conditions

Describe how the land is used and developed now.
For example, vacant, three dwellings, medical centre with two practitioners, licensed restaurant with 80 seats, grazing.

Farming land including dwelling and associated outbuildings.

☒ Provide a plan of the existing conditions. Photos are also helpful.

Title Information

Encumbrances on title *

Does the proposal breach, in any way, an encumbrance on title such as a restrictive covenant, section 173 agreement or other obligation such as an easement or building envelope?

☐ Yes (if 'yes' contact Council for advice on how to proceed before continuing with this application.)

☐ No

☒ Not applicable (no such encumbrance applies).

☒ Provide a full, current copy of the title for each individual parcel of land forming the subject site. The title includes: the covering 'register search statement', the title diagram and the associated title documents, known as 'instruments', for example, restrictive covenants.

Applicant and Owner Details

Provide details of the applicant and the owner of the land.

Applicant *

The person who wants the permit.

Please provide at least one contact phone number *

Where the preferred contact person for the application is different from the applicant, provide the details of that person.

Owner *

The person or organisation who owns the land

Where the owner is different from the applicant, provide the details of that person or organisation.

Name:
Title: Mr First Name: Chris Surname: Marshall
Organisation (if applicable): TGM Group Pty Ltd
Postal Address: If it is a P.O. Box, enter the details here:
Unit No.: St No.: St Name: P.O. Box 1137
Suburb/Locality: Geelong State: Postcode: 3220

Contact information for applicant OR contact person below

Business phone: 5202 4600 Email: chrism@tgmgroup.com
Mobile phone: 0447 445 559 Fax: 5202 4691

Contact person's details* Same as applicant ☒
Name:
Title: First Name: Surname:
Organisation (if applicable):
Postal Address: If it is a P.O. Box, enter the details here:
Unit No.: St No.: St Name:
Suburb/Locality: State: Postcode:

Name: Same as applicant ☐
Title: First Name: T & K Surname: Metcalf
Organisation (if applicable):
Postal Address: If it is a P.O. Box, enter the details here:
Unit No.: 3 St No.: 40 St Name: The Esplanade
Suburb/Locality: Torquay State: SURF SHIRE Postcode:
Owner's Signature (Optional): Date: day / month / year


tim@metcalf.com.au

The information contained in this online registry is provided for the
purpose of the planning process as set out in the Planning and
Environment Act 1987. The information must not be used for any
other purpose.

Declaration ⓘ

This form must be signed by the applicant. I declare that I am the applicant, and that all the information in this application is true and correct, and the owner (if not myself) has been notified of the permit application.

Remember it is against the law to provide false or misleading information, which could result in a heavy fine and cancellation of the permit.

Signature: 

Date: 9th October, 2017
day / month / year

Need help with the Application? ⓘ


General information about the planning process is available at planning.vic.gov.au
Contact Council's planning department to discuss the specific requirements for this application and obtain a planning permit checklist.
Insufficient or unclear information may delay your application.

Has there been a pre-application meeting with a council planning officer?

☐ No ☐ Yes If 'Yes', with whom?:
Date: day / month / year

Checklist ⓘ

Have you:

- ☐ Filled in the form completely?
- ☐ Paid or included the application fee?  Most applications require a fee to be paid. Contact Council to determine the appropriate fee.
- ☒ Provided all necessary supporting information and documents?
 - ☐ A full, current copy of title information for each individual parcel of land forming the subject site.
 - ☐ A plan of existing conditions.
 - ☐ Plans showing the layout and details of the proposal.
 - ☐ Any information required by the planning scheme, requested by council or outlined in a council planning permit checklist.
 - ☐ If required, a description of the likely effect of the proposal (for example, traffic, noise, environmental impacts).
- ☐ Completed the relevant council planning permit checklist?
- ☐ Signed the declaration above?

Lodgement ⓘ

Lodge the completed and signed form, the fee and all documents with:

Surf Coast Shire Council
PO Box 350
Torquay VIC 3228
1 Merrig Drive
Torquay VIC 3228

Contact information:
Email: info@surfcoast.vic.gov.au
Translation: 13 1202

Deliver application in person, by post or by electronic lodgement.

Delivered by LANDATA®: Land Victoria timestamp 09/10/2017 12:54 Page 1 of 2

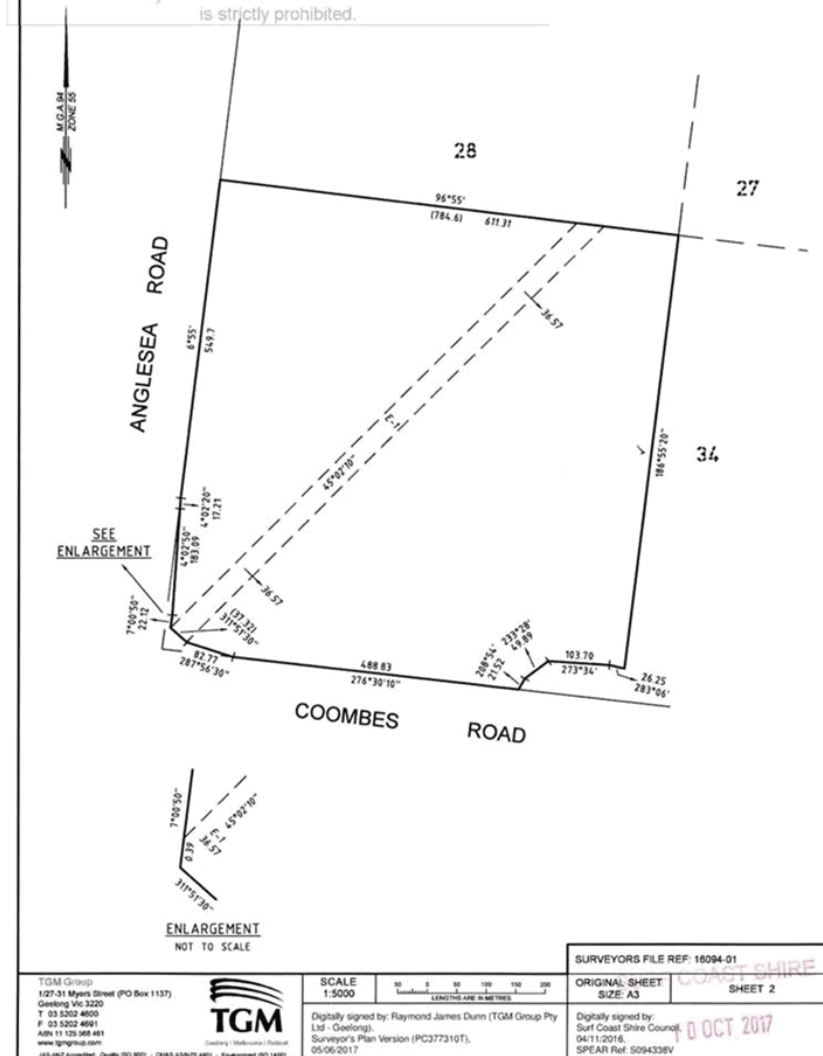
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PLAN OF CONSOLIDATION		EDITION 1	PLAN NUMBER PC377310T	
LOCATION OF LAND PARISH: PUEBLA TOWNSHIP: - SECTION: - CROWN ALLOTMENT: - CROWN PORTION: 33 (PART) TITLE REFERENCE: VOL 10282 FOL 931 VOL 11470 FOL 986 LAST PLAN REFERENCE: LOT 1 ON PS321896J LOT 2 ON PS723423P POSTAL ADDRESS: 420 COOMBS ROAD (at time of subdivision) FRESHWATER CREEK, 3217 MGA94 CO-ORDINATES: E: 281 340 ZONE: 55 (of approx centre of land in plan) N: 5 756 750 GDA 94		Council Name: Surf Coast Shire Council Council Reference Number: S4413 Planning Permit Reference: planning permit not required SPEAR Reference Number: S094338V Certification This plan is certified under section 6 of the Subdivision Act 1988 Statement of Compliance This is a statement of compliance issued under section 21 of the Subdivision Act 1988 Public Open Space A requirement for public open space under section 18 of the Subdivision Act 1988 Has not been made at Certification Digitally signed by: Michelle Watt for Surf Coast Shire Council on 04/11/2016		
VESTING OF ROADS AND/OR RESERVES		NOTATIONS		
IDENTIFIER	COUNCIL/BODY/PERSON			
NIL	NIL			
NOTATIONS				
DEPTH LIMITATION: DOES NOT APPLY				
SURVEY: This plan is not based on survey. STAGING: This is not a staged subdivision. Planning Permit No. This survey has been connected to permanent marks No(s). In Proclaimed Survey Area No.				
EASEMENT INFORMATION				
LEGEND: A - Appurtenant Easement E - Encumbering Easement R - Encumbering Easement (Road)				
EASEMENTS AND RIGHTS IMPLIED BY SECTION 12 (2) OF THE SUBDIVISION ACT 1988 APPLY TO ALL THE LAND IN THIS PLAN				
Easement Reference	Purpose	Width (Metres)	Origin	Land Benefitted/In Favour Of
E-1	TRANSMISSION OF ELECTRICITY	36.57	BK 715 MEM 770	SEE BK 715 MEM 770
100% TGM				
TGM Group 1/27-31 Myers Street (PO Box 1137) Geelong VIC 3220 T: 03 5202 4600 F: 03 5202 4691 ABN 11 125 565 481 www.tgmgroup.com JAS-492 Accredited Quality ISO 9001 - (SAS) 45429 4801 - Environment ISO 14001		SURVEYORS FILE REF: 16094-01 Digitally signed by: Raymond James Dunn (TGM Group Pty Ltd - Geelong), Surveyor's Plan Version (PC377310T), 05/06/2017		ORIGINAL SHEET SIZE: A3 SHEET 1 OF 2 SHEETS PLAN REGISTERED TIME: 2:10PM DATE: 6/6/17 E.Thai Assistant Registrar of Titles

Delivered by LANDATA®. Land Victoria timestamp 09/10/2017 12:54 Page 2 of 2

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PLAN NUMBER
PC377310T



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**Planning Permit Application
for the Use of a Helicopter
Landing Site**

**420 Coombes Road, Freshwater
Creek**

**Reference : 16094-02
October, 2017**

TGM Group Geelong
1/27-31 Myers Street (PO Box 1137)
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Prepared for:

Tim Metcalf

Prepared by:

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Quality Information

Document:	Planning Application
Reference No.	16639-02
Date	9 th October, 2017
Revision No.	1
Prepared by	Chris Marshall
Reviewed by	Joanne Preece

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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1.....	Copy of Title
Attachment 2.....	Site Plan
Attachment 3.....	Acoustic Report

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TGM Group Pty. Ltd. has been engaged by Tim Metcalf to submit a Planning Permit Application on his behalf for use of a Helicopter Landing Site at 420 Coombes Road, Freshwater Creek.

2. PERMIT TRIGGERS

A Planning Permit is required for the above proposal under the following provisions of the Planning Scheme:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------|----------------------------------|
| • Farming Zone | 35.07-1 | Use of a Helicopter Landing Site |
| • Particular Provisions | | |
| Helipoint and Helicopter Landing Site | 52.15 | Use of a Helicopter Landing Site |

3. SUBJECT SITE AND SITE CONTEXT

The subject site is located in rural land at 420 Coombes Road, Freshwater Creek on the north-east corner of Coombes Road and Anglesea Road. The site adjoins other rural land to the north and east, with Coombes Road adjoining the site to the south and the Anglesea Road to the west. The land is developed with a dwelling and a large attached shed which form one grey colourbond building. The land also has car parking and landscaping in the form of planted trees surrounding the built area and driveway access from Coombes Road.

The subject site is located in the broader context of farming land to the south of the Freshwater Creek township and is characterised by predominantly cleared broad acre farms and shelter belts used historically for grazing and cropping. More recently some farms in this district have diversified to other forms of agriculture including goats, planted olive groves and vineyards.

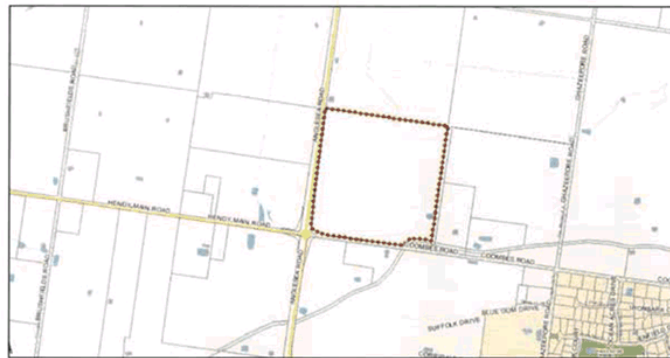
As the surrounding context retains a broad acre landscape, the area is interspersed with scattered dwellings and sheds established to manage each farm. As such, the nearest dwelling to the subject site is located south of Coombes Road, approximately 331 metres from the proposed helicopter landing and departure site. The next nearby dwelling is approximately 530 metres to the west.

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Access to the site is via a constructed crossover from Coombes Road which is a bitumen road with unmade shoulders.

The subject site and surrounding land are located within the Farming Zone. There are no overlays that affect the site. The Anglesea Road to the west is zoned as Road Zone Category 1 road.



4. PROPOSAL

The proposal is to use the existing site at 420 Coombes Road, Freshwater Creek as a helicopter landing and departure site to accommodate a maximum of three helicopters. The site is well located in a cleared area at the rear of the large shed/hanger where the helicopters are proposed to be stored.

The helicopters will be used for a range of activities including rural land management uses, emergency and fire management uses and private use generally constituting commuter trips to Melbourne where the client business operates.

There are no buildings and works proposed, as essentially the helicopters are able to operate from the existing cleared rural land adjoining the existing shed, and the land will be maintained consistent with its existing state. Other than the shed/hanger, the site has sufficient parking areas to facilitate the parking demands for the use of the helicopters.

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The use entails a maximum of nine (9) helicopter movements occurring between 7 am and 8 pm daily. These operating hours will be regulated by the owner and registered in log books as required by the Civil Aviation Regulations 1988. These log books can be made available to Council to monitor the use of the site on a regular basis. These proposed maximum movements excludes those that may be required in response to emergency situations provided on an as needs basis.

The proposed access to and from the site will be managed by an approach and departure flight path plan which directs pilots to enter and exit the site from either the south-west or north-east. This is considered the logical flight path having regard to the likely direction of the use, the site and surrounding land characteristics, and the location of dwellings to the south and south-east. To ensure that the dwelling nearest to the operation is not adversely impacted, land directly south of the property has been designated a no flight zone, even though this dwelling is approximately 331 metres from the site.

The proposed use of the land and consideration of the local amenity are those matters to be determined by the Responsible Authority having regard to the application requirements of Clause 52.15 Heliport and Helicopter Landing site. When airborne, the helicopter activity is regulated by the Civil Aviation Authority and Air Services Australia and is outside the jurisdiction of the Surf Coast Shire. The helicopters operating from this location will be stored in the existing hanger/shed with a dwelling and large attached shed which form one building. The land also has car parking and landscaping in the form of planted trees surrounding the built area and driveway access from Coombes Road. The surrounding area of the site is described as cleared rural land used historically for cropping and grazing land.

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5. PLANNING CONTROLS

5.1 ZONING

The subject site is situated within the Farming Zone.



The purpose of the Farming Zone is:

- To implement the State Planning Policy Framework and the Local Planning Policy Framework, including the Municipal Strategic Statement and local planning policies.
- To provide for the use of land for agriculture.
- To encourage the retention of productive agricultural land.
- To ensure that non-agricultural uses, including dwellings, do not adversely affect the use of land for agriculture.
- To encourage the retention of employment and population to support rural communities.
- To encourage use and development of land based on comprehensive and sustainable land management practices and infrastructure provision.

Comment : The proposal is consistent with the purpose of the Farming Zone as the land will continue to be used for agricultural purposes and there will be no loss of arable farming land as a consequence of the proposed helicopter use. Helicopters are more frequently used in farm management due to their reliability and operational versatility and ease of access to difficult sites.

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At this location the helicopters will be used for aerial spraying to provide improved pastoral solutions, including the distribution of granulated fertilisers and seed as well as weed suppression activities. Thus the proposed use will result in improved agricultural outcomes for this land and the broader farming district.

The site is also an important strategic location to provide helicopter support for wildfire and control burn monitoring, in addition to aerial fire suppression both for grassland and forest fires in the Surf Coast and the Otway's. Thus the use will play a vital role in early detection and suppression of fires that may impact farming land. Therefore the proposed use will play a vital role in the improvement and sustainable use of farming land in the surrounding district.

5.2 USE

The use is categorised as a 'Helicopter Landing Site' which is defined as "land used for the take-off and landing of a helicopter, with or without a permanent landing pad, but without permanent facilities for the assembly and distribution of goods or passengers".

The use is not listed in Section 1 or 3 of Clause 35.07-1, table of uses, therefore is a Section 2, permit required use under the provisions of the Farming Zone.

5.3 DECISION GUIDELINES

Before deciding on an application to use land, in addition to the decision guidelines in Clause 65, the Responsible Authority must consider, as appropriate:

General Issues

- The State Planning Policy Framework and the Local Planning Policy Framework, including the Municipal Strategic Statement and local planning policies.
- Any Regional Catchment Strategy and associated plan applying to the land.
- The capability of the land to accommodate the proposed use or development, including the disposal of effluent.
- How the use or development relates to sustainable land management.

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- Whether the site is suitable for the use or development and whether the proposal is compatible with adjoining and nearby land uses.
- How the use and development makes use of existing infrastructure and services.

Comment: Refer to Section 9 of this report for details of the proposal's compliance with relevant State and Local policies. Rural activities in the form of cropping and grazing have been established on the site and this proposal will facilitate the continuation of the use and further improvement and intensification. The inclusion of this use will not impact on the agricultural sustainability of the land as the area proposed to be used is substantially clear and does not form part of the arable area of this farm. The use will likely result in an increase agricultural capacity for this land and the surrounding farming district as the helicopters will be used for aerial spraying to provide improved pastoral solutions, including the distribution of granulated fertilisers and seed as well as weed suppression activities. Thus the use will result in the sustainable management of agricultural land.

The use is also suitable having regard to the adjoining and surrounding nearby uses. The landing site is in excess of 290 metres from the nearest dwelling which is located in a no fly zone outside of the proposed flight paths. The use has been assessed by Marshall Day Acoustics who has assessed that:

"The proposed hours of operation comply with the guidelines detailed in Section 16 of EPA Publication 1254. The calculated day time equivalent and maximum noise levels also achieve the recommended noise levels detailed in EPA Publication 1254."

Agricultural Issues

- Whether the use and development will support and enhance agricultural production.
- Whether the use or development will adversely affect soil quality or permanently remove land from agricultural production.
- The potential for the use or development to limit the operation and expansion of adjoining and nearby agricultural uses.
- The capacity of the site to sustain the agricultural use.
- The agricultural qualities of the land, such as soil quality, access to water and access to rural infrastructure.
- Any integrated land management plan prepared for the site.

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Comment : As advised the proposed use of the site is limited to a small area at the rear of the existing dwelling/shed on the subject site and therefore will have no adverse impact on the agricultural capability of the land. The use will ultimately support and enhance agricultural productivity on this site and the wider rural district, as the helicopters will be used to provide aerial spraying of herbicides and fertilisers to assist in the management of rural land. The helicopters can also be used to seed paddocks if required. The use of helicopters will not impact on any adjoining uses as the site is a considerable distance from other properties and be restricted to the agreed flight paths which are well clear of nearby dwellings.

Dwelling Issues

- Whether the dwelling will result in the loss or fragmentation of productive agricultural land.
- Whether the dwelling will be adversely affected by agricultural activities on adjacent and nearby land due to dust, noise, odour, use of chemicals and farm machinery, traffic and hours of operation.
- Whether the dwelling will adversely affect the operation and expansion of adjoining and nearby agricultural uses.
- The potential for the proposal to lead to a concentration or proliferation of dwellings in the area and the impact of this on the use of the land for agriculture.

Comment : Dwelling issues are not relevant to this application.

Environmental Issues

- The impact of the proposal on the natural physical features and resources of the area, in particular on soil and water quality.
- The impact of the use and development on the flora and fauna on the site and its surrounds.
- The need to protect and enhance biodiversity of the area, including the retention of vegetation and faunal habitat and the need to revegetate land including riparian buffers along waterways, gullies, ridgelines, property boundaries and saline discharge and recharge areas.
- The location of on-site effluent disposal areas to minimize the impact of nutrient loads on waterways and native vegetation.

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Comment : As there are no buildings and works proposed as part of this application, there will be no impact to the natural features and water quality of the land. Also as the land is cleared and not in close proximity to reserves or national parks, the proposal will have no impacts on flora and fauna.

As advised, the land is cleared and a considerable distance from any sensitive uses and thus there will be no impacts from the use of helicopters at this location.

Design and Siting Issues

- The need to locate buildings in one area to avoid any adverse impacts on surrounding agricultural uses and to minimize the loss of productive agricultural land.
- The impact of the siting, design, height, bulk, colours and materials to be used on the natural environment, major roads, vistas and water features and the measures to be undertaken to minimize any adverse impacts.
- The impact of the character and appearance of the area or features of architectural, historic or scientific significance or of natural scenic beauty or importance.
- The location and design of existing and proposed infrastructure including roads, gas, water, drainage, telecommunications and sewerage facilities.
- Whether the use and development will require traffic management measures.

Comment : The proposed use will have no adverse impacts on the surrounding agricultural uses and thus will not cause any loss of agricultural productivity. On the contrary, the availability of helicopters is likely to improve farming practises and farming productivity in the surrounding district, particularly in hilly and challenging terrain where it is difficult to improve pasture. The application does not propose any buildings and works as the helicopters will be stored in the existing shed. There will be no traffic management issues generated as a consequence of this proposal.

6. OVERLAYS

There are no overlays affecting this land.

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52.15 – HELIPORT AND HELICOPTER LANDING SITE – The purpose of which is to ensure the amenity impacts of a heliport and a helicopter landing site on surrounding areas is considered.

Under the provisions of Clause 52.15-1, a permit is required to use or develop any land for a heliport or a helicopter landing site even if it is ancillary to another use on the land, unless the table to this Clause specifically states that a permit is not required. The table of exemptions state that no permit is required to use land for a helicopter landing site if any of the following apply :

- **Emergency services** – the helicopter landing site is used by a helicopter engaged in the provision of emergency service operations.
- **Agriculture** – The helicopter landing site is used by a helicopter engaged in agricultural activity in conjunction with the use of any land for agriculture.

An application to use or develop land for a heliport or a helicopter landing site must be accompanied, as appropriate, by a site plan, including :

- Site boundaries and dimensions.
- The current land use.
- The existing siting and layout of buildings and works.
- The proposed siting and layout of buildings and works.
- Existing vegetation and proposed vegetation removal.
- Vehicle and pedestrian access.

An application to use land for a heliport or a helicopter landing site must be accompanied by the following information :

- A location plan, including:
 - The siting and use of buildings on adjacent properties.
 - The direction and distance to any building used for a sensitive use (accommodation, child care centre, education centre and hospital) that is not associated with the helicopter operation and is located within 500 metres of the proposed heliport or helicopter landing site.

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- A written report which:
 - Demonstrates a suitable separation distance between the landing point of a heliport or helicopter landing site and any building used for a sensitive use that is not associated with the helicopter operation by either:
 - Locating the proposed heliport or helicopter landing site at least 150 metres for helicopters of less than 2 tonnes all-up weight, or 250 metres for helicopters of less than 15 tonnes all-up weight, or
 - Providing an acoustic report by a suitably qualified consultant.
 - Includes details of the proposed frequency of flight movements.
 - Includes the proposed hours of operation.

Before deciding on an application to use land for a heliport or a helicopter landing site, in addition to the decision guidelines in Clause 65, the responsible authority must consider, as appropriate :

- Whether the proposal achieves a suitable separation distance from a nearby sensitive use, having regard to the Noise Control Guidelines (Environment Protection Authority, 2008).
- The effect of the proposal on nearby sensitive uses in terms of the proposed frequency of flight movements and hours of operation.

Comment : The proposed helicopter site will be used for agricultural purposes, emergency purposes and for commuting. A Planning Permit is not required to use a landing site for agricultural purposes. Similarly a Planning Permit is not required to use a helicopter for emergency purposes which will be undertaken on an as needs basis as determined by emergency services. However, as the proposed flight movements per day exceeds the number of as-of-right flight movements of 8 in a 30 day period as contained in the table for exemptions to this clause, a Planning Permit is required.

Attached to this report is a site plan that shows the existing conditions and the distance to the nearest dwelling. It also shows existing buildings and access points to the site. The application also includes an acoustic report by Marshall Day Acoustics that demonstrates there is an appropriate separation distance between the landing site and the nearest dwelling. The report also details the proposed flight frequency, proposed flight paths and an assessment of the potential noise impacts of the operation as required under the provisions of this clause.

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8. GENERAL PROVISIONS

8.1 DECISION GUIDELINES

Under the provisions of Clause 65.01, before deciding on an application or approval of a plan, the responsible authority must also consider the following relevant decision guidelines:

- The matters set out in Section 60 of the Act.
- The State Planning Policy Framework and the Local Planning Policy Framework, including the Municipal Strategic Statement and local planning policies.
- The purpose of the zone, overlay or other provision.
- Any matter required to be considered in the zone, overlay or other provision.
- The orderly planning of the area.
- The effect on the amenity of the area.
- The proximity of the land to any public land.
- Factors likely to cause or contribute to land degradation, salinity or reduce water quality.
- Whether the proposed development is designed to maintain or improve the quality of stormwater within and exiting the site.
- The extent and character of native vegetation and the likelihood of its destruction.
- Whether native vegetation is to be or can be protected, planted or allowed to regenerate.
- The degree of flood, erosion or fire hazard associated with the location of the land and the use, development or management of the land so as to minimise any such hazard.

Comment : In addition to the comments contained elsewhere in this report, the following points are provided to demonstrate compliance with above relevant decision guidelines:

- The proposal is consistent with relevant State and Local policy as outlined in Section 9 below.
- The site is currently used, and will continue to be used for agricultural purposes, which is a rural outcome that is entirely consistent with the purpose of the Farming Zone.
- The operation of a helicopter landing site as proposed will have no adverse impact on the use or amenity of surrounding sites or features.

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- *The proposal is considered to be compatible with this rural area as the operation will add value to the surrounding farming district and will also provide support for emergency services particularly during the bush fire season.*
- *There will be no change to the natural features of the site or any adverse environmental impact.*

9. POLICY CONTEXT

It is considered the proposal is consistent with the relevant State and Local Planning Policies as outlined below:-

9.1 SPPF

11.01-1 – SETTLEMENT NETWORKS – The objective of which is to promote the sustainable growth and development of Victoria and deliver choice and opportunity for all Victorians through a network of settlements.

11.07 – REGIONAL VICTORIA – Contains policies relating to regional planning and peri-urban areas. Objectives of which include developing regions and settlements which have a strong identity, are prosperous and are environmentally sustainable and to manage growth in peri-urban areas to protect and enhance their identified valued attributes through the use of regional growth plans.

11.09 – GEELONG (G21) REGIONAL GROWTH – Contains policies relating to planning for growth, knowledge and innovation, connected communities, environmental assets, agricultural productivity, sustainable communities, diversified economy and transport. Relevant objectives of these policies are to:

- Optimize infrastructure and consolidate growth.
- Build and support diversity, knowledge and innovation.
- Create unique and connected communities
- Protect, restore and enhance the region's unique environment.
- Secure food, water and energy resources.
- Allow communities to live, work and participate locally.

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- Build the region's economy.
- Provide a range of accessible transport choices.

14.01 – AGRICULTURE – Contains policies relating to the protection of agricultural land and sustainable agricultural land use. Relevant objectives of these policies are:

- To protect productive farmland which is of strategic significance in the local or regional context.
- To encourage sustainable agricultural land use.

Comment : The proposal is considered to be consistent with the above policies for the following reasons:

- The helicopter operation will not impact on the continued agriculture and rural production on this land.
- The proposed use will result in improved agricultural management, by having a local operator support the rural community to improve their farm management practises. Thus it will lead to sustainable agricultural management of land.
- The proposed use will also support the rural community during grass and bush fire season.

9.2 LPPF

9.2.1 MSS

21.03-2 – ENVIRONMENTAL ASSETS – This policy aims to protect and enhance the Shire's diverse natural resources in an ecologically sustainable manner for present and future generations.

21.03-3 – ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS – The objective of which is to manage the risks of environmental hazards, including wildfire, salinity and flooding, to avoid adverse consequences on the natural and man-made environment. A strategy relevant in this instance is to discourage buildings, works, land use and subdivision that would be detrimental to the maintenance of the natural systems of land affected by flooding and inundation.

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Comment: The siting of this operation will assist in enhancing the Shire natural resources and manage natural disasters such as wildfire.

21.05 – AGRICULTURE – Aims to encourage sustainable agricultural activities, to grow and maintain prosperous and sustainable rural communities, protect the ability of future generations to productively farm the land and avoid the loss of agricultural productivity associated with land use conflicts, particularly between farming activities and non-farm related residential development. Strategies relevant to this application include:

- Support agricultural activities and associated rural industries that will maintain and build on the economic base of the Shire.
- Supporting infrastructure and resources that will enhance productive agriculture.
- Strongly discouraging the fragmentation and non-productive use of agricultural land.
- Discouraging the proliferation of housing on small lots and additional houses unrelated to the rural use of the land.

21.06 – RURAL LANDSCAPE – The subject site is located within the 'Mixed Farming' landscape units as detailed in Map 1 to Clause 21.06.

Comment : The site is currently used for agricultural purposes and the proposed helicopter operation will not prevent this from continuing to occur. This proposal will enable continued and improved agricultural activities to occur on this site and the surrounding rural district by providing an aerial service to apply farming products to improve rural pastures particularly in isolated or challenging terrain that is difficult to access.

10. CONCLUSION

The proposal is consistent with the State and Local Planning Policy context in relation to the continuation and improvement of agricultural management in the Farming Zone and will support the broader farming community by providing a convenient local service.

SURF COAST SHIRE

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Revision No. 1
9th October, 2017
PLANNING
DEPARTMENT

The information contained in this online registry is provided for the purpose of a Helicopter Landing Site Use of a Helicopter Landing Site process as set out in the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The information must not be used for any other purpose. By entering this website you acknowledge and agree that you will only use the information for the purpose specified above and that any dissemination or distribution of this information is strictly prohibited.



The proposal is considered to be consistent with the purpose of the Farming Zone and satisfies all the relevant application requirements and decision guidelines. The landing site is also a considerable distance from sensitive uses and will be managed via an agreed flight path plan to avoid any impacts on local dwellings.

For the reasons outlined in this report, it is considered that the proposed operation of a helicopter landing site at this location should therefore be supported by Council.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris Marshall'.

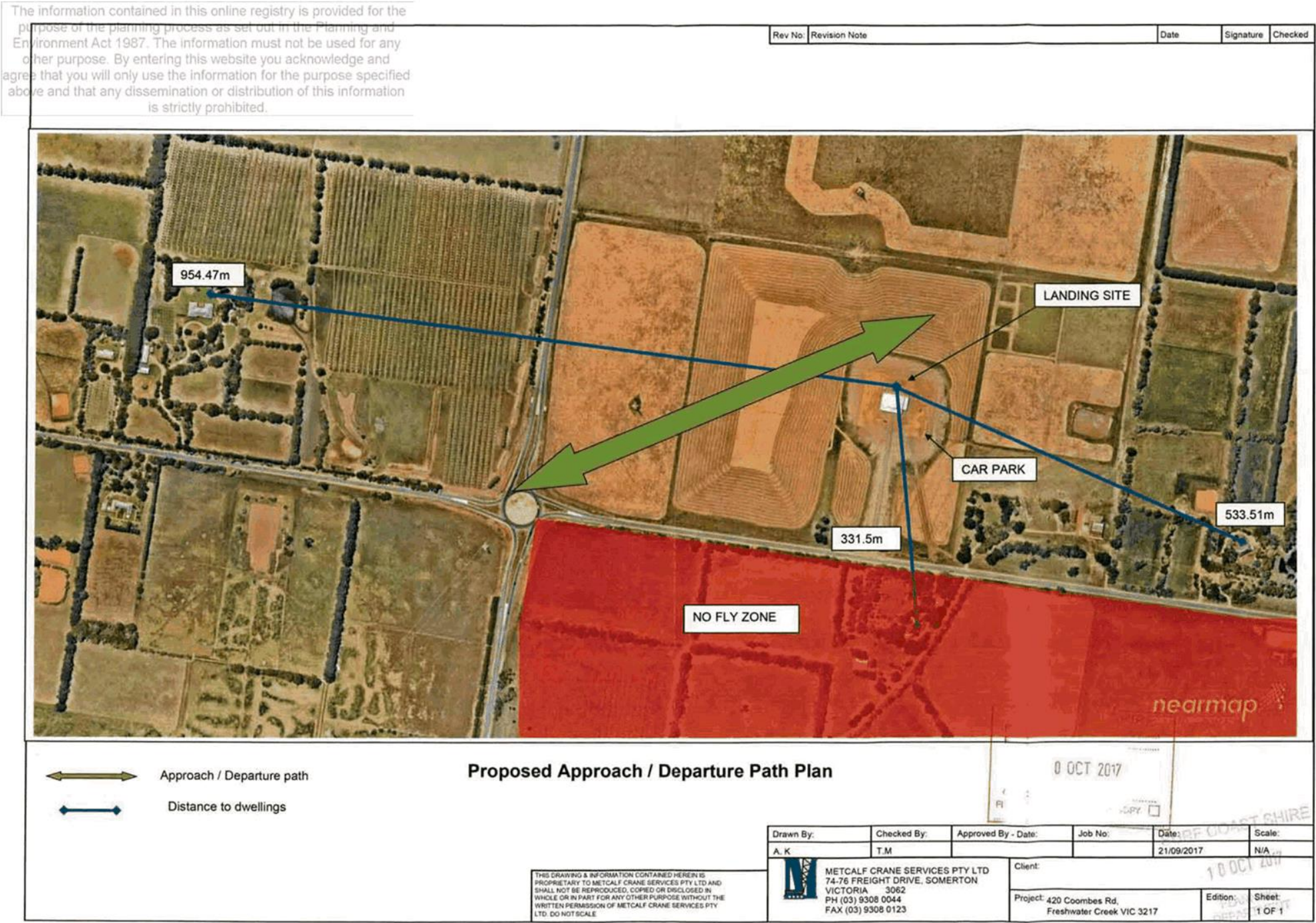
Chris Marshall
Manager - Town Planning

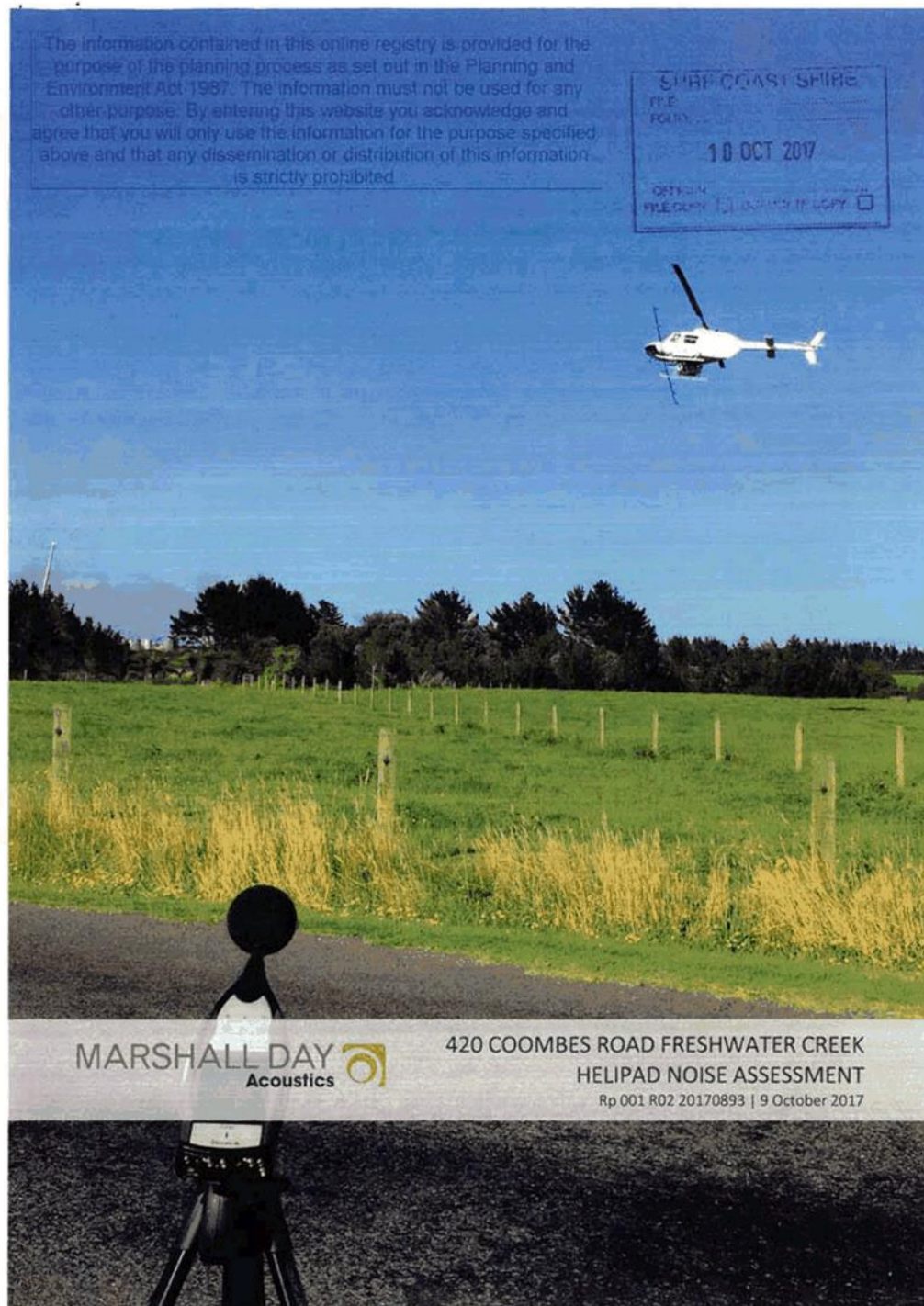
SURF COAST SHIRE

10 OCT 2017

PLANNING
DEPARTMENT

Revision No. 1
9th October, 2017





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MARSHALL DAY
Acoustics

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Adelaide SA 5000
Australia
T: +618 6189 1400
ABN: 53 470 077 191
www.marshallday.com

Project: 420 COOMBES ROAD, FRESHWATER CREEK

Prepared for: Mr Tim Metcalf
C/-
TGM Group Pty Ltd
PO Box 1137
Geelong VIC 3220
Australia

Attention: Mr Chris Marshall

Report No.: Rp 001 R02 20170893

Disclaimer

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Document Control

Status:	Rev:	Comments	Date:	Author:	Reviewer:
final	-	Issued	25/09/2017	A. Morabito	J. Adcock
final	R01	Additional helicopter type	4/10/2017	A. Morabito	J. Adcock
final	R02	Updated site map	9/10/2017	A. Morabito	-

10 OCT 2017

FL
DEFINITION



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APPENDIX B INDICATIVE FLIGHT PATH PROVIDED BY PROPONENT

APPENDIX C MODEL GEOMETRY DATA

SURF COAST SHIRE

10 OCT 2017

PLANNING
AND
COUNCIL

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

TGM Group Pty Ltd, on behalf of their client, Tim Metcalf, has commissioned Marshall Day Acoustics to undertake a noise assessment of a proposed helipad on land at 420 Coombes Road, Freshwater Creek.

This report details the site, surrounds, and an assessment of noise associated with the proposed helipad operations.

Acoustic terminology used through the report is provided in Appendix A.

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Location

The proposed site is located on on land at 420 Coombes Road, Freshwater Creek, Victoria, shown in Figure 1. The helipad is located at the rear of the existing shed (i.e. on the north side of the shed).

The nearest residences surrounding the site are located at:

- 415 Coombes Road, approximately 330 m south of the helipad; and
- 380 Coombes Road, approximately 530 m east of the helipad.

Figure 1: Site location



SURF COAST SHIRE

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PLANNING
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The site owner (the proponent) currently owns a Bell 206 JetRanger helicopter. This helicopter has a maximum take off weight of 1,480 kg (1.48 t) and is understood to be representative of the type of helicopter which would utilise the helipad most frequently. In addition, it is understood that a Eurocopter AS350 helicopter may also utilise the helipad.

We understand the helipad is proposed to be used by up to two (2) to three (3) helicopters per day accessing the site, and each helicopter could make two (2) to three (3) movements per day. A maximum of nine (9) helicopter movements could therefore occur on a given day.

Helicopter operations are proposed to occur between 7 am and 8 pm during summer months. During the winter months, operations are proposed to cease earlier than 8 pm.

We have been advised by the proponent that the flight path to and from the helipad will be in a northeast-southwest direction, as detailed in Appendix B. The proponent also proposes a 'no fly zone' in areas south of Coombes Road.

The above operational characteristics form the basis of the assessment presented herein.

3.0 ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Victorian guidance relevant to the assessment of noise from helicopter operations is provided in EPA Noise Control Guidelines (EPA Publication 1254).

Section 16 of EPA Publication 1254 details the following with respect to noise from helicopters:

- The measured $L_{Aeq,T}$ (measured over the entire daily operating time of the helipad) shall not exceed 55dB(A) for a residence.
- The measured maximum noise level L_{Amax} shall not exceed 82 dB(A) at the nearest residential premises
- Operation outside the hours between 7 am and 10 pm shall not be permitted except for emergency flights.

For this assessment, noise levels associated with proposed helipad operations are calculated in terms of both the equivalent noise level from all operations (L_{Aeq}) and the maximum noise level (L_{Amax}) from an individual operation.

SURF COAST SHIRE

10 OCT 2017

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4.0 HELIPAD NOISE ASSESSMENT

4.1 Methodology

Noise levels from proposed operations associated with the helipad have been calculated at the nearest residential premises identified in Figure 1.

Calculations have been carried out using the Integrated Noise Model (INM) version 7.0d, developed by the United States Federal Aviation Authority (FAA). The INM is a computer model designed to predict long term noise levels in the areas surrounding an airport, however can also be configured to calculate maximum noise levels associated with individual aircraft operations.

The INM program contains a detailed database of aircraft, including a number of helicopter types, and their respective performance and noise emission characteristics, determined from actual measurements in situ.

The calculated noise levels in the following sections are based on the default INM database information for the Bell 206B-3 JetRanger and Aerospatiale SA-350D Astar¹ helicopters. These aircraft types were selected from the INM database as the best available representation of the type of helicopters proposed to utilise the helipad.

The INM default flight profiles have also been used; these include an allowance for ground idling of 30 seconds duration, and a further 30 seconds of flight idling time, prior to take off.

The model flight paths used for the assessment are provided in Appendix C.

4.2 Equivalent Noise Levels

The average equivalent A-weighted calculated noise levels at the nearest residences, over the entire daily operating time of the proposed helipad are detailed in Table 1. The noise levels are based on the INM database information for the Bell 206B-3 JetRanger (Bell 206B-3) and Aerospatiale SA-350D Astar (SA-350D) helicopters, the proposed flight paths and a total nine (9) movements over the proposed 13 hour (7 am – 8 pm) period.

Table 1: Calculated equivalent A-weighted noise levels, dB L_{Aeq,13hr}

Scenario	415 Coombes Road	380 Coombes Road
9 movements (Bell 206B-3), between 7 am and 8 pm	53	46
9 movements (SA-350D), between 7 am and 8 pm	46	38

The calculated noise levels meet the 55 dB L_{Aeq} criterion at the nearest residences for both helicopter types and a maximum nine (9) movements in the proposed 13 hour (7 am – 8 pm) period. Noise levels at residences further away would be lower than those in Table 1.

Note that if a combination of the two (2) helicopter types made up the total nine (9) movements per proposed 13 hour (7 am – 8 pm) period (e.g. five (5) Bell 206B-3 and four (4) SA-350D movements), then the calculated noise levels would be between the lower and upper bounds of the noise levels presented in Table 1 and therefore achieve the 55 dB L_{Aeq} criterion.

¹ Aerospatiale is the original designer/manufacturer of the Eurocopter AS350 helicopter. In North America, the AS350 is marketed as the AStar

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The maximum A-weighted noise levels have been calculated at the nearest residences for individual helicopter operations and are detailed in Table 2 and Table 3 for the Bell 206B-3 JetRanger and Aerospatiale SA-350D Astar helicopter types respectively.

Table 2: Calculated maximum A-weighted noise levels – Bell 206B-3, dB L_{Amax}

Operation	Direction	415 Coombes Road	380 Coombes Road
Approach	North east	72	65
Approach	South west	72	65
Depart	North east	72	65
Depart	South west	72	65

Table 3: Calculated maximum A-weighted noise levels – SA-350D, dB L_{Amax}

Operation	Direction	415 Coombes Road	380 Coombes Road
Approach	North east	64	60
Approach	South west	64	59
Depart	North east	66	58
Depart	South west	66	58

The calculated maximum noise levels from individual helicopter types achieve the 82 dB L_{Amax} criterion at the nearest residences.

5.0 SUMMARY

Marshall Day Acoustics has undertaken a noise assessment for a proposed helipad and operations, on land at 420 Coombes Road, Freshwater Creek.

The assessment of the proposed helipad operations has been based on:

- A maximum nine (9) helicopters movements per 13 hour (7 am – 8 pm) period, by a Bell 206 JetRanger, Eurocopter AS350 or a combination of the two;
- Movements only occurring between 7 am and 8 pm; and
- The proposed flight paths to the southwest and northeast of the helipad, and the nominated no-fly zone.

The proposed hours of operation comply with the guidelines detailed in Section 16 of EPA Publication 1254.

The calculated day time equivalent and maximum noise levels also achieve the recommended noise levels detailed in EPA Publication 1254.

The findings of the assessment therefore demonstrate compliance with applicable Victorian guidelines for the management of helicopter noise.

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APPENDIX A GLOSSARY OF TERMINOLOGY

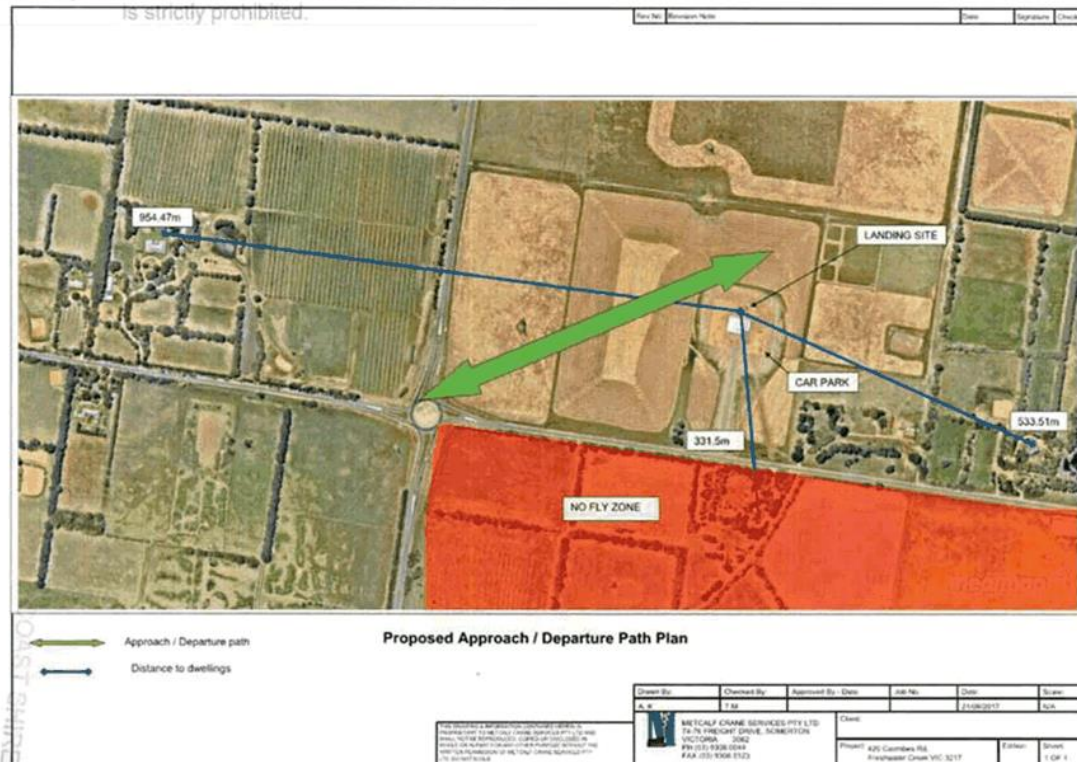
dB	<u>Decibel</u> The unit of sound level. Expressed as a logarithmic ratio of sound pressure P relative to a reference pressure of $P_r=20 \mu\text{Pa}$ i.e. $\text{dB} = 20 \times \log(P/P_r)$
A-weighting	The process by which noise levels are corrected to account for the non-linear frequency response of the human ear.
$L_{\text{Aeq,t}}$	The equivalent continuous (time-averaged) A-weighted sound level. This is commonly referred to as the average noise level. The suffix "t" represents the time period to which the noise level relates, e.g. 13 hr would represent a period of 13 hours, between 7 am and 8 pm.
L_{Amax}	The A-weighted maximum noise level. The highest noise level which occurs during the measurement period.

SURF COAST SHIRE
10 OCT 2017
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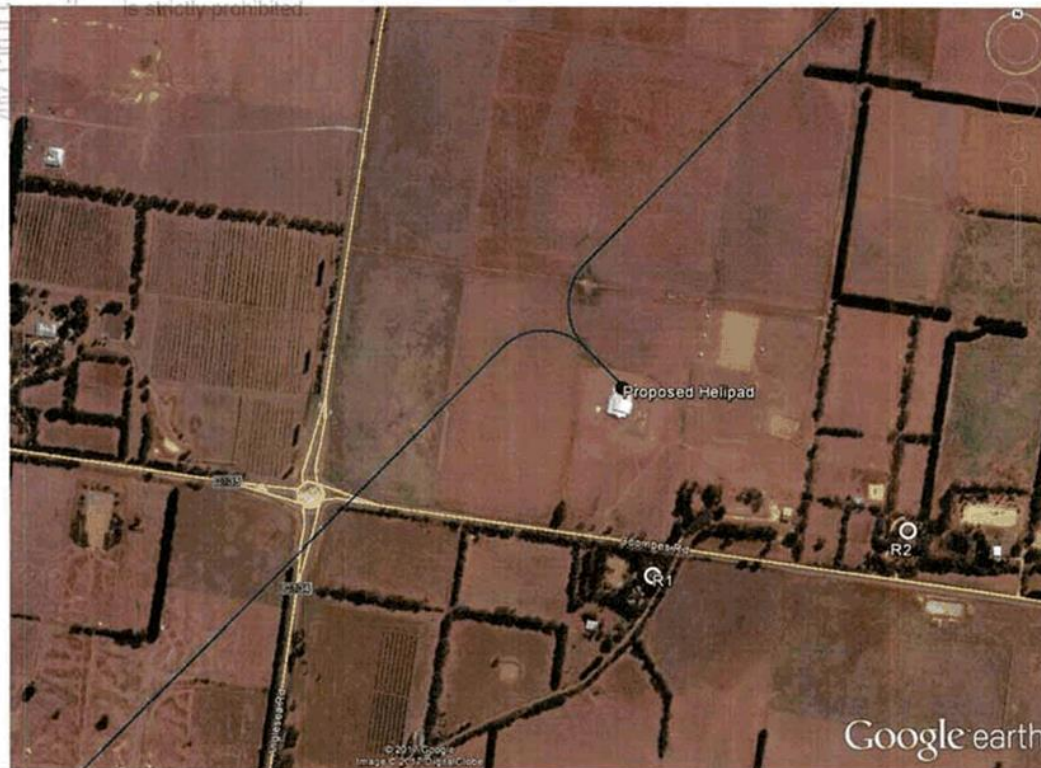
APPENDIX B - INDICATIVE FLIGHT PATH PROVIDED BY PROPONENT

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Surf Coast Shire Council
Minutes - Hearing of Submissions Meeting

20 March 2018
Page 43

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Our Ref: 16094-02
Your Ref: 17/0376

3rd November, 2017

Statutory Planning Unit
Surf Coast Shire
P.O. Box 350
TORQUAY 3228

Attention : Bianca Wilkin

Dear Bianca,

RE: PLANNING APPLICATION NO. 17/0376 – HELICOPTER LANDING SITE – 420 COOMBES ROAD, FRESHWATER CREEK

Thank you for your letter of 24 October 2017 regarding the abovementioned Planning Permit application.

We understand from your advice that the use of a helicopter for emergency and agricultural purposes does not require a Planning Permit. As we factored these uses into our proposed movements, we agree to reduce the proposed helicopter movements from nine (9) to four (4) per day.

In regard to the proposed four (4) movements per day request, my client is a helicopter enthusiast who uses helicopters for recreational as well as business pursuits, and as advised, will seek to use his helicopter to commute to his work place in Melbourne as well as regional Victoria where his business may operate from time to time. The helicopter will provide fast and reliable transport to Melbourne in particular, as the road network becomes more and more gridlocked on a daily basis. As advised, my client and his family also choose to use their helicopter for recreational purposes and thus it is important that they can operate from their own property. A Planning Permit is required to authorise this frequency of use as the exemptions in Clause 52.15-1 do not provide sufficient movements to meet their requirements.

In regard to your concerns of potential impact to a Low Density Residential development to the east of the subject land, this area is almost one kilometre from the subject land and is a further distance from the proposed helicopter flightpath. The proposed flightpath north/east in fact takes the helicopter further away from this land.

Therefore we query why Council would choose to provide notice so far away from the proposal as my client specifically purchased this property and positioned their house away from sensitive uses. If indeed Council determined that the noise impact would exceed acceptable levels and impact on these residences, we would understand that referral would be required. However, given noise levels are considered acceptable by Marshall Day for dwellings closer to this proposed operation, we believe that Council has no basis to extend advertising this far and are concerned that Council will unduly promote resident concern and objection and thus prejudicing this application. Therefore we respectfully request that Council follow accepted advertising protocols and advertise to those adjoining and adjacent areas within close proximity to the subject site.

Surf Coast Shire Council
Minutes - Hearing of Submissions Meeting

20 March 2018
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If you have any queries regarding this matter, please contact me on telephone 5202 4600 or e-mail chrism@tgmgroup.com.

Yours sincerely,

TGM GROUP PTY. LTD.



Chris Marshall
Manager – Town Planning

2. OTHER MATTERS

2.1 Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2017 - 2021

Author's Title: Coordinator Development Compliance & Local Laws **General Manager:** Ransce Salan

Department: Planning & Development

File No: F16/940

Division: Environment & Development

Trim No: IC18/246

Appendix:

1. Order of Speakers (D18/30632)
2. Summary of Submissions - DAMP (D18/29225)

Officer Direct or Indirect Conflict of Interest:

In accordance with Local Government Act 1989 – Section 80C:

☐ Yes

☒ No

Reason: Nil

Status:

Information classified confidential in accordance with Local Government Act 1989 – Section 77(2)(c):

☐ Yes

☒ No

Reason: Nil

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to hear submissions relating to the Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) 2017–2021.

Summary

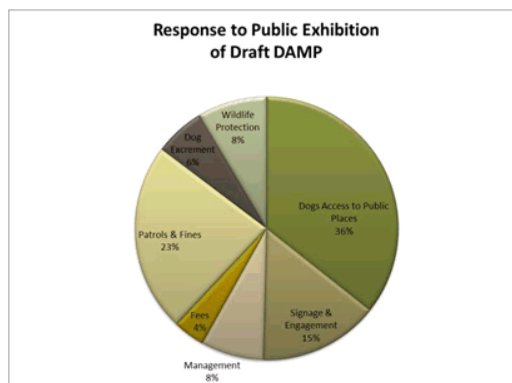
Under the *Domestic Animal Act 1994* Council must review the DAMP each year and undertake a full compressive review every four years. This plan has been prepared to meet the requirement of the Act and provides a new four year plan for Council's domestic animal services.

In February 2018 Council endorsed the DAMP for the purposes of a 28 day public exhibition process. Promotion of this exhibition period included advertisements in local newspapers and attendance at key public events. A total number of 61 submissions were received during the public exhibition of the Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) 2017–2021.

A summary of the submissions is included at attachment 1, including an officer's response to each submission. The key topics covered in these submissions are summarised below:

Topic	Percent of comments
Dogs Access to Public Places	36%
Patrols & Fines	23%
Signage & Engagement	15%
Wildlife Protection	9%
Management	8%
Dog Excrement	6%
Registration Fees	4%

2.1 Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2017 - 2021



It is noted that many of comments received relate to the issue of dog access to public areas including beaches. The plan does not specifically address the regulations governing access to public areas; however a review of this specific topic is included in the action plan and designated to commence in the next financial year.

The issues raised in the submissions will be considered in detail in a report to be presented to the 24 April 2018 Council meeting.

Recommendation

That the Hearing of Submissions Committee receive and note the submissions relating to Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) 2017–2021 and forward to for consideration at the 24 April 2018 Ordinary Council meeting.

Committee Resolution

MOVED Cr Clive Goldsworthy, Seconded Cr Margot Smith

That the Hearing of Submissions Committee receive and note the submissions relating to Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) 2017–2021 and forward to for consideration at the 24 April 2018 Ordinary Council meeting.

CARRIED 9:0

2.1 Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2017 - 2021

Report

Background

The plan has been prepared with extensive community engagement and addresses the hard questions that arise in the community in relation to the issues and tensions between those that enjoy and seek the company of dogs and cats as pets and those in our community that don't. The responsibilities of sharing our public spaces and obeying the rules that seek to achieve a balance have been a focus of the new plan.

Section 68 A of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* provides the frame work for the content of the plan, what it must address and contain. These are:

- A method of evaluating the Council's Service
- Training programs for Council's authorised staff
- Programs services and strategies to be pursued including, educational, compliance, minimising dog attacks, overpopulation and high euthanasia, registration, nuisance issues and dangerous dogs
- Review existing orders and local laws made under the Act
- Other matters related to managing of dogs and cats such as environmental impacts
- Periodic evaluation of the plan.

In February 2018 Council agreed to place the Draft DAMP on public exhibition for 28 days in accordance with section 223 of the *Local Government Act*. This period commenced on 1 February and concluded on 1 March 2018.

Discussion

The comments received during the public exhibition period more or less echoed the comments received during the initial public consultation period. A summary of the comments and officer responses are also attached to this report. Where the issues have been raised more than once the officer comment has been repeated for consistency.

The comments during the exhibition period showed support for the following specific activities:

- Improving clarity and frequency of signage in order to increase compliance with regulations relating to dogs
- Significantly increasing enforcement activities in order to discourage non-compliance with regulations
- Increasing other engagement and communication activities so that residents and visitors are more aware of regulations
- Increasing the cat curfew to further protect wildlife.

These comments will be considered in the preparation of the final plan. At this time the final DAMP is planned to be presented to Council at their April 2018 meeting.

There were also a large number of comments relating to timeshare arrangements and spaces that dogs may be able to access either on leash or off-leash. This specific issue is planned for review commencing next financial year.

Financial Implications

The plan provides direction for the delivery of animal management services over the next four years. The plan will need to be supported through the normal Council budget cycle.

Council Plan

Theme	3 Balancing Growth
Objective	3.2 Ensure infrastructure is in place to support existing communities and provide for growth
Strategy	3.2.4 Ensure appropriate funding mechanisms are in place to support future growth including developer contributions
Theme	5 High Performing Council
Objective	5.2 Ensure that Council decision-making is balanced and transparent and the community is involved and informed
Strategy	Nil

2.1 Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2017 - 2021

Theme	5 High Performing Council
Objective	5.4 Ensure the community has access to the services they need
Strategy	5.4.1 Review Council-delivered services to ensure they are of high quality and delivering best value

Policy/Legal Implications

The plan has been written to comply with the requirements of section 68 for the Domestic Animals Act 1994.

Officer Direct or Indirect Interest

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has any conflicts of interest.

Risk Assessment

Council has a statutory obligation to prepare then deliver a four year plan in response to its duties under the Act. The delivery of the service, amongst other matters, seeks to address the known risks to the community of dog attacks and dangerous dogs together with environmental impacts and nuisances with the interaction of domestic animals in our community.

Social Considerations

The role that pets (cats and dogs) play in our community socially as companions and also economically as working dogs is well recognised. There is a very high level of dog ownership amongst the permanent resident population in our municipality, much higher than other areas of the State. The comments received during the public exhibition period reflect the community's appreciation for the health and wellbeing benefits of pet ownership. The responsibility of sharing our public spaces requires a level of Council regulation, responsibility and cooperation by all in our community.

Community Engagement

The plan has been prepared with extensive community engagement and addresses issues that arise in the community in relation to the responsibilities of dog and cat owners and the wider interaction within our community in general.

The community response to the initial engagement strategy was high with 424 responses to the online survey. Community and Staff workshops were well attended.

61 public comments were received during the public exhibition period. The exhibition period was extensively promoted and included:

- advertisements which appeared weekly in the Surf Coast Times
- attendance at the Cowrie market including a performance to encourage people to "pick up the poo"
- advertisements in other local papers
- social media posts
- email posts.

Environmental Implications

Domestic dogs and cats are capable of having negative impacts on the natural environment, which was noted during the exhibition period. Dog waste in our parks, on beaches and along walking trails is an environmental issue. The impact on threatened species such as the hooded plover is also a concern that regulations and enforcement can assist in managing, when education and awareness of the issue in the community don't result in responsible pet ownership.

Communication

When finalised, the plan will be made available via the Council website and at VICs around the Shire.

Conclusion

The plan has been prepared with input of the community and Council staff. It seeks to address the current issues facing the animal management services delivered by Council and the duties and obligations placed on local government under *Domestic Animals Act 1994*. It is recommended that Council note the comments received during the public exhibition period. The final plan is planned to be brought to back Council for endorsement in April 2018.

2.1 Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2017 - 2021

APPENDIX 1 ORDER OF SPEAKERS



Hearing of Submissions
20 March 2018
5PM
Council Chambers
1 Merrijig Drive, Torquay

ORDER OF SPEAKERS

Other Matters

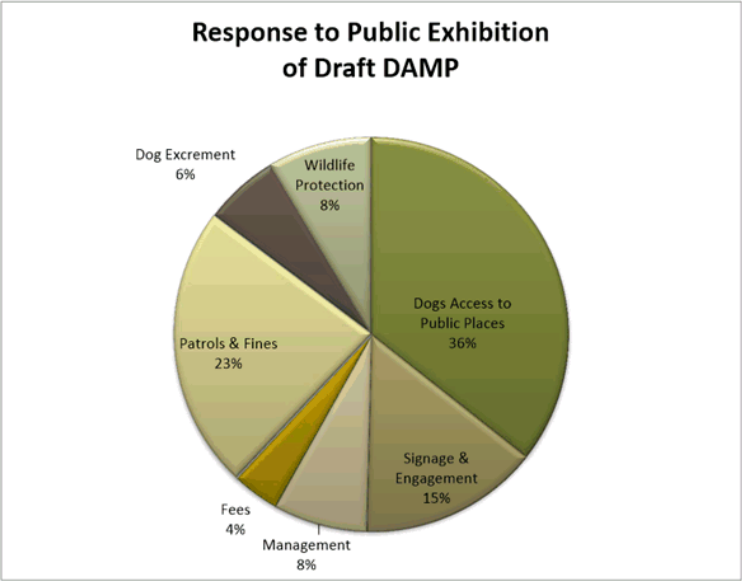
Environment and Development 2.1 Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2017 – 2021

	Submitter Name
1.	John Foss
2.	Tim Kottek and Yvonne Hunter
3.	Sandra Jennings
4.	Michael Shembrey

2.1 Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2017 - 2021

APPENDIX 2 SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS - DAMP

Categories	Counts	Percent
Dogs Access to Public Places	46	36%
Signage & Engagement	19	15%
Management	10	8%
Fees	5	4%
Patrols & Fines	30	23%
Dog Excrement	8	6%
Wildlife Protection	11	9%
	129	100%



Submission Reference	Primary Issue Addressed	Secondary Issue Addressed	Subsequent Issue Addressed	Subsequent Issue Addressed	Subsequent Issue Addressed	Summary of Submission	Officer Comment
A6	Dogs Access to Public Places	Signage & Engagement	Dog Excrement				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council is planning to review the regulations relating to access for dogs to public places as an action in the DAMP. All comments relating to the timing and extent of dog access will be considered at that time. - The DAMP acknowledges there is a need to increase patrols and enforcement activities, and will work with GORCC and other partners to co-ordinate this. Increased enforcement activities have been included in the plan. - The DAMP includes actions to improve signage as an ongoing requirement. Council will work with GORCC to co-ordinate improved and clear signage in key beach areas.
A7	Dogs Access to Public Places					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dogs can be dangerous to children in public places - Create fenced area for dogs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The DAMP includes a review of the regulations in year 2 to address access for dogs to public places. All comments relating to the timing and extent of dog access will be considered in the review.
A8	Patrols & Fines	Signage & Engagement				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve signage and enforcement activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council is planning to review the regulations relating to access for dogs to public places as an action in the DAMP. All comments relating to the timing and extent of dog access will be considered at that time. - The DAMP acknowledges there is a need increase patrols and enforcement activities, and will work with GORCC and other partners to co-ordinate this. Increased enforcement activities have been included in the plan.
A9	Dogs Access to Public Places	Patrols & Fines	Signage & Engagement			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dogs access to public areas should be maintained - Increase communication to ensure ongoing compliance - Improve signage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council is planning to review the regulations relating to access for dogs to public places as an action in the DAMP. All comments relating to the timing and extent of dog access will be considered at that time. - The DAMP acknowledges that signage could be improved in a number of areas. Council will work with GORCC to co-ordinate improved and clear signage in key beach areas.
A10	Wildlife Protection					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cats are dangerous to wildlife - Cat curfew should be increased 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As part of the DAMP, Council will increase its education for owners regarding appropriate cat control measures.
A12	Signage & Engagement	Patrols & Fines	Dog Excrement			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Signage needs to be improved - Enforcement needs to be improved - Dogs can be dangerous to children and wildlife - Excrement is a problem 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council is planning to review the regulations relating to access for dogs to public places as an action in the DAMP. All comments relating to the timing and extent of dog access will be considered at that time. - The DAMP acknowledges there is a need increase patrols and enforcement activities, and will work with GORCC and other partners to co-ordinate this. Increased enforcement activities have been included in the plan. - Council appreciates that signage could be improved in a number of areas. Council will work with GORCC to co-ordinate improved and clear signage in key beach areas.
A13	Dogs Access to Public Places	Patrols & Fines	Signage & Engagement			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Change timeshare start and finish times - Make area a no-dog zone - Increase enforcement and fines - Increase communication to ensure ongoing compliance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council is planning to review the regulations relating to access for dogs to public places as an action in the DAMP. All comments relating to the timing and extent of dog access will be considered at that time. - The DAMP acknowledges there is a need increase patrols and enforcement activities, and will work with GORCC and other partners to co-ordinate this. Increased enforcement activities have been included in the plan.
A14	Dogs Access to Public Places					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase timeshare access for dogs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The DAMP includes a review of the regulations in year 2 to address access for dogs to public places. All comments relating to the timing and extent of dog access will be considered in the review.
A15	Dogs Access to Public Places					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dogs should be able to continue to access beaches - Additional off-leash areas should be provided 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The DAMP includes a review of the regulations in year 2 to address access for dogs to public places. All comments relating to the timing and extent of dog access will be considered in the review.
A16	Dogs Access to Public Places					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dogs should be able to continue to access beaches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The DAMP includes a review of the regulations in year 2 to address access for dogs to public places. All comments relating to the timing and extent of dog access will be considered in the review.

Submission Reference	Primary Issue Addressed	Secondary Issue Addressed	Subsequent Issue Addressed	Subsequent Issue Addressed	Subsequent Issue Addressed	Summary of Submission	Officer Comment
A17	Management					- GORCC and Parks Vic have land management responsibilities	- Council notes the information relating to the management of land areas and will make suitable changes to the DAMP.
A18	Patrols & Fines					- Current regulations are adequate - Greater enforcement is needed	- Council understands that there may be opportunities to increase patrols and enforcement activities, and will work with GORCC and other partners to co-ordinate this. Increased enforcement activities have been included in the plan.
A19	Dogs Access to Public Places	Patrols & Fines	Signage & Engagement			- Towns should be provided with appropriate off lead areas - Enforcement needs to be increased	- Council is planning to review the regulations relating to access for dogs to public places. All comments relating to the timing and extent of dog access will be considered at that time. - The DAMP acknowledges there is a need to increase patrols and enforcement activities, and will work with GORCC and other partners to co-ordinate this. Increased enforcement activities have been included in the plan.
A20	Dogs Access to Public Places					- Dogs need to be better controlled - Enforcement needs to be increased	- The DAMP includes a review of the regulations in year 2 to address access for dogs to public places. All comments relating to the timing and extent of dog access will be considered in the review.
A21	Dogs Access to Public Places	Patrols & Fines	Signage & Engagement			- Term "Under Effective Control" is unclear - Dogs in public areas can be dangerous - Improve enforcement - Improve Signage - Dog Excrement is a problem - Dogs are a danger to wildlife	- Council is planning to review the regulations relating to access for dogs to public places. All comments relating to the timing and extent of dog access will be considered at that time. - Council understands that there may be opportunities to increase patrols and enforcement activities, and will work with GORCC and other partners to co-ordinate this. Increased enforcement activities have been included in the plan. - Council appreciates that signage could be improved in a number of areas. Council will work with GORCC to co-ordinate improved and clear signage in key beach areas.
A23	Patrols & Fines					- Current regulations are adequate - Greater enforcement is needed	- Council understands that there may be opportunities to increase patrols and enforcement activities, and will work with GORCC and other partners to co-ordinate this. Increased enforcement activities have been included in the plan.
A24	Dogs Access to Public Places					- Change timeshare start and finish times	- The DAMP includes a review of the regulations in year 2 to address access for dogs to public places. All comments relating to the timing and extent of dog access will be considered in the review.
A25	Dogs Access to Public Places	Patrols & Fines				- Dogs can be dangerous to children in public places - Creation of non-dog beach for families - Improve enforcement - Dog Excrement is a problem	- Council is planning to review the regulations relating to access for dogs to public places as an action in the DAMP. All comments relating to the timing and extent of dog access will be considered at that time. - The DAMP acknowledges there is a need to increase patrols and enforcement activities, and will work with GORCC and other partners to co-ordinate this. Increased enforcement activities have been included in the plan.
A28	Dogs Access to Public Places	Patrols & Fines	Management	Dog Excrement		- There are a small number of dogs which are not controlled and are a danger to pets and humans - There needs to be a quick response to any dog attacks - There are many dogs that are not kept on leash and are threatening - Dog poo is a health issue - Bylaws are not appropriately enforced	- Council is planning to review the regulations relating to access for dogs to public places. All comments relating to the timing and extent of dog access will be considered at that time. - The DAMP acknowledges there is a need to increase patrols and enforcement activities, and will work with GORCC and other partners to co-ordinate this. Increased enforcement activities have been included in the plan.
A29	Dogs Access to Public Places	Patrols & Fines				- Collection and evaluation of data - Increase enforcement activities - Provision of a dog park - The term "Under Effective Control" is unclear	- Council is planning to review the regulations relating to access for dogs to public places As an action in the DAMP. All comments relating to the timing and extent of dog access will be considered at that time. - The DAMP acknowledges there is a need to increase patrols and enforcement activities, and will work with GORCC and other partners to co-ordinate this. Increased enforcement activities have been included in the plan.

Submission Reference	Primary Issue Addressed	Secondary Issue Addressed	Subsequent Issue Addressed	Subsequent Issue Addressed	Subsequent Issue Addressed	Summary of Submission	Officer Comment
A30	Dogs Access to Public Places	Signage & Engagement				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create more non-beach dog areas - Improve signage to improve compliance and understanding in the community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council is planning to review the regulations relating to access for dogs to public places. All comments relating to the timing and extent of dog access will be considered at that time. - Council appreciates that signage could be improved in a number of areas. Council will work with GORCC to co-ordinate improved and clear signage in key beach areas.
A31	Dogs Access to Public Places					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dogs are dangerous in public places - Make one beach dog free 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The DAMP includes a review of the regulations in year 2 to address access for dogs to public places. All comments relating to the timing and extent of dog access will be considered in the review.
A32	Dogs Access to Public Places	Patrols & Fines				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The term "Under Effective Control" is unclear - Patrols need to be increased - Signage is unclear and needs to be improved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council understands that there may be opportunities to increase patrols and enforcement activities, and will work with GORCC and other partners to co-ordinate this. Increased enforcement activities have been included in the plan. - Council appreciates that signage could be improved in a number of areas. Council will work with GORCC to co-ordinate improved and clear signage in key beach areas.
A33	Dogs Access to Public Places					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduce the timeshare 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The DAMP includes a review of the regulations in year 2 to address access for dogs to public places. All comments relating to the timing and extent of dog access will be considered in the review.
A35	Signage & Engagement	Dogs Access to Public Places	Patrols & Fines	Wildlife Protection		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Most dogs are well behaved - Signage needs to be improved to improve compliance and understanding in the community - Signs need to be more clear - Access to parks and beaches needs to continue but access areas should be more clear - Enforcement needs to be increased - Domestic animals causing injury to wildlife is a problem - Poo bags and water fountains are good 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council is planning to review the regulations relating to access for dogs to public places. All comments relating to the timing and extent of dog access will be considered at that time. - The DAMP acknowledges there is a need to increase patrols and enforcement activities, and will work with GORCC and other partners to co-ordinate this. Increased enforcement activities have been included in the plan. - As part of the DAMP, Council will increase its education for owners regarding appropriate cat control measures. - Council appreciates that signage could be improved in a number of areas. Council will work with GORCC to co-ordinate improved and clear signage in key beach areas.
A37	Dogs Access to Public Places	Wildlife Protection	Dog Excrement			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rules are not being followed, so either enforcement or stricter rules are necessary - Dogs are a danger to wildlife and children - Excrement is a problem 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council understands that there may be opportunities to increase patrols and enforcement activities, and will work with GORCC and other partners to co-ordinate this. Increased enforcement activities have been included in the plan.
A38	Engagement	Dogs Access to Public Places				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More communication and engagement is needed from Council to ensure ongoing understanding - The proposed areas for dogs in Lorne are confusing and should be changed - Dogs are well behaved and should be able to continue to access beaches - Dogs are important for health and wellbeing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council has taken on board the need to change the way in which it communicates key issues with Lorne and will take these suggestions into account during its next engagement activity. - Council is planning to review the regulations relating to access for dogs to public places. All comments relating to the timing and extent of dog access will be considered at that time. - Council appreciates that signage could be improved in a number of areas. Council will work with GORCC to co-ordinate improved and clear signage in key beach areas.

Submission Reference	Primary Issue Addressed	Secondary Issue Addressed	Subsequent Issue Addressed	Subsequent Issue Addressed	Subsequent Issue Addressed	Summary of Submission	Officer Comment
A39	Dogs Access to Public Places	Management	Fees	Patrols & Fines	Dog Excrement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stop timeshare in key public parks and beaches (Creation of no dog areas) - Timeshare is confusing - Limit number of pets to 1 per family - Increase registration fees to allow for increased patrols and signage - Increase patrols and fines - Remove dogs for attacks - Too much dog excrement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council is planning to review the regulations relating to access for dogs to public places as an action in the DAMP. All comments relating to the timing and extent of dog access will be considered at that time. - Council is considering a review of the dog and cat registration fees. - Council will review the work instructions relating to dog attacks to determine if improvements in timeliness and response can be achieved. - There is no intent at this time to reduce the number of pets per family. - Council appreciates that signage could be improved in a number of areas. <p>Council will work with GORCC to co-ordinate improved and clear signage in key beach areas.</p>
A40	Dogs Access to Public Places	Signage & Engagement & Engagement				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Most dogs are well behaved - Dogs should be able to continue to access beaches - Signage needs to be improved to improve compliance and understanding in the community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council is planning to review the regulations relating to access for dogs to public places. All comments relating to the timing and extent of dog access will be considered at that time. - Council appreciates that signage could be improved in a number of areas. <p>Council will work with GORCC to co-ordinate improved and clear signage in key beach areas.</p>
A41	Dogs Access to Public Places					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - dog access to beaches should be maintained 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The DAMP includes a review of the regulations in year 2 to address access for dogs to public places. All comments relating to the timing and extent of dog access will be considered in the review.
A43	Dogs Access to Public Places	Patrols & Fines				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Keep regulations as they are. - No need to increase regulations - Increase patrols 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council is planning to review the regulations relating to access for dogs to public places. All comments relating to the timing and extent of dog access will be considered at that time. - Council understands that there may be opportunities to increase patrols and enforcement activities, and will work with GORCC and other partners to co-ordinate this. Increased enforcement activities have been included in the plan.
A44	Dogs Access to Public Places	Wildlife Protection				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase off leash areas - Increase enforcement activities against barking dogs - Improve wildlife protection from cats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council is planning to review the regulations relating to access for dogs to public places. All comments relating to the timing and extent of dog access will be considered at that time. - The DAMP acknowledges there is a need to increase patrols and enforcement activities, and will work with GORCC and other partners to co-ordinate this. Increased enforcement activities have been included in the plan.
A45	Dogs Access to Public Places	Signage & Engagement				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dogs on beaches are a problem - Improve signage to improve compliance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The DAMP includes a review of the regulations in year 2 to address access for dogs to public places. All comments relating to the timing and extent of dog access will be considered in the review.
A46	Patrols & Fines					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase enforcement activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The DAMP includes a review of the regulations in year 2 to address access for dogs to public places. All comments relating to the timing and extent of dog access will be considered in the review.
A47	Patrols & Fines	Signage & Engagement				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase enforcement activities - Improve signage to improve compliance - Improve signage - Letter drop to communicate restrictions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The DAMP acknowledges there is a need to increase patrols and enforcement activities, and will work with GORCC and other partners to co-ordinate this. Increased enforcement activities have been included in the plan.
A48	Dogs Access to Public Places	Patrols & Fines	Signage & Engagement			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - increase awareness of regulations - enforcement activities should be increased 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The DAMP acknowledges there is a need to increase patrols and enforcement activities, and will work with GORCC and other partners to co-ordinate this. Increased enforcement activities have been included in the plan.

Submission Reference	Primary Issue Addressed	Secondary Issue Addressed	Subsequent Issue Addressed	Subsequent Issue Addressed	Subsequent Issue Addressed	Summary of Submission	Officer Comment
A49	Dogs Access to Public Places	Dog Excrement	Patrols & Fines	Signage & Engagement		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - unleashed dogs cause problems for everyone - dog excrement is often left on paths and yards - Poo bags should be provided Shire Wide - Improve signage - improve access to public areas for leashed dogs - balance is necessary between privacy and reporting - Training should be provided to people adopting animals from shelters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council is planning to review the regulations relating to access for dogs to public places. All comments relating to the timing and extent of dog access will be considered at that time. - The comments relating to the pet watch program will be considered when developing the structure for that program.
A50	Dogs Access to Public Places	Patrols & Fines	Signage & Engagement			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are large numbers of unleashed dogs - Patrols are not frequent enough - Signage needs to be improved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The DAMP includes a review of the regulations in year 2 to address access for dogs to public places. All comments relating to the timing and extent of dog access will be considered in the review.
A51	Wildlife Protection	Dogs Access to Public Places	Signage & Engagement			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The cat curfew should be extended for 24 hours in built up areas - There are too many dog off-leash areas - Wildlife needs to be protected - Improve signage and education - Limit beach access for horses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council is planning to review the regulations relating to access for dogs to public places. All comments relating to the timing and extent of dog access will be considered at that time. - The DAMP acknowledges there is a need to increase patrols and enforcement activities, and will work with GORCC and other partners to co-ordinate this. Increased enforcement activities have been included in the plan. - Council appreciates that signage could be improved in a number of areas. Council will work with GORCC to co-ordinate improved and clear signage in key beach areas. - Horses are not considered to be domestic animals and are therefore not included in the DAMP.
A53	Dogs Access to Public Places	Patrols & Fines	Signage & Engagement			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review access for dogs to beaches and other public areas - Increase enforcement activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council is planning to review the regulations relating to access for dogs to public places. All comments relating to the timing and extent of dog access will be considered at that time. - Council understands that there may be opportunities to increase patrols and enforcement activities, and will work with GORCC and other partners to co-ordinate this. Increased enforcement activities have been included in the plan.
A55	Dogs Access to Public Places	Dog Excrement	Signage & Engagement	Patrols & Fines		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dogs are often not under effective control, particularly on beaches - Signage needs to be improved - Patrols and fines need to be increased - Dog poo is often not properly cleaned up and is a health concern 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council is planning to review the regulations relating to access for dogs to public places. All comments relating to the timing and extent of dog access will be considered at that time. - The DAMP acknowledges there is a need to increase patrols and enforcement activities, and will work with GORCC and other partners to co-ordinate this. Increased enforcement activities have been included in the plan.
A56	Dogs Access to Public Places	Patrols & Fines	Dog Excrement			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dogs are often off-leash in inappropriate areas - Dog excrement is frequently on walking tracks - Patrols and fines should be increased 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council understands the impacts that domestic animals can have on wildlife and appreciates the need to balance the needs of wildlife with that of residents. - Council is planning to review the regulations relating to access for dogs to public places. All comments relating to the timing and extent of dog access will be considered at that time. - The DAMP acknowledges there is a need to increase patrols and enforcement activities, and will work with GORCC and other partners to co-ordinate this. Increased enforcement activities have been included in the plan.
A57	Wildlife Protection	Management	Signage & Engagement	Fees		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Greater controls on cats in order to protect wildlife - Change arrangements for booking a cat cage - Provide training regarding privacy to Council officers and ratepayers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council is considering a review of the dog and cat registration fees and will consider the fees relating to cat enclosures at that time. - As part of the DAMP, Council will increase its education for owners regarding appropriate cat control measures.

Submission Reference	Primary Issue Addressed	Secondary Issue Addressed	Subsequent Issue Addressed	Subsequent Issue Addressed	Subsequent Issue Addressed	Summary of Submission	Officer Comment
A58	Dogs Access to Public Places	Management				<div>- Dogs are often not-compliant with regulations</div> <div>- Horses should also be considered in the DAMP</div>	<div>- Council is planning to review the regulations relating to access for dogs to public places. All comments relating to the timing and extent of dog access will be considered at that time.</div> <div>- Horses are not included in the plan due the the requirements of the legislative framework and are therefore not addressed in this plan.</div>

Submission Reference	Primary Issue Addressed	Secondary Issue Addressed	Subsequent Issue Addressed	Subsequent Issue Addressed	Subsequent Issue Addressed	Summary of Submission	Officer Comment
A59						- No feedback provided	- No response required
A60	Dogs Access to Public Places	Signage & Engagement	Patrols & Fines	Management		- More needs to be done to manage dangerous dogs and dog attacks - The experience of a dog on dog attack calls for improvements and time frameds for action to be adopted	- Please note the significant redactions of this submission in order to ensure privacy protections. - The DAMP has acknowledged through the action that the process for dog attacks need to be reviewed including the work instructions relating to dog attacks. Including time frames would be a benefit.
A61	Dogs Access to Public Places					- Change timeshare restrictions	- The DAMP includes a review of the regulations in year 2 to address access for dogs to public places. All comments relating to the timing and extent of dog access will be considered in the review.
A62						- No feedback provided	- No response required
A63	Dogs Access to Public Places	Patrols & Fines	Fees	Signage & Engagement	Wildlife Protection	- Enforcement activities need to be increased - Consider increasing registration fees - Signage needs to be more clear - Clarity is required about where dogs can be on leash and off - Cats should be kept inside or in a cat run	- Council is planning to review the regulations relating to access for dogs to public places. All comments relating to the timing and extent of dog access will be considered at that time. - The DAMP includes actions to increase patrols and enforcement activities, and will work with GORCC and other partners to co-ordinate this. Increased enforcement activities have been included in the plan. - Council appreciates that signage could be improved in a number of areas. Council will work with GORCC to co-ordinate improved and clear signage in key beach areas.
A65	Management	Fees	Patrols & Fines			- Significant feedback provided via track changes - Focus on identification and confinement of animals - increase communication - increase accountability	- Council thanks the RSPCA for the time taken to review the DAMP. Council has incorporated many of the specific comments into the final draft of the plan.
A66	Patrols & Fines	Dogs Access to Public Places				- non-compliance with regulations is a serious problem - enforcement activities need to be increased	- Council is planning to review the regulations relating to access for dogs to public places. All comments relating to the timing and extent of dog access will be considered at that time. -The DAMP includes actions to increase patrols and enforcement activities, and will work with GORCC and other partners to co-ordinate this. Increased enforcement activities have been included in the plan.
A67	Management					- Council needs to take an active role in managing barking dogs	- Council understands that continually barking dogs can be a significant problem for neighbours and it can be difficult for neighbours to manage this issue alone. - As part of the DAMP Council plans to increase awareness of strategies to minimise barking and will also increase activities to assist neighbours to manage these issues.
B1	Wildlife Protection	Signage & Engagement	Patrols & Fines			- Essential to protect wildlife from cats - Increase fines relating to cats caught after curfew - Improve education for cat owners - Restrict cat ownership in new estates	- Council understands the impacts that domestic animals can have on wildlife and appreciates the need to balance the needs of wildlife with that of residents. - Council understands that there may be opportunities to increase patrols and enforcement activities, and will work with GORCC and other partners to co-ordinate this. Increased enforcement activities have been included in the plan. - As part of the DAMP, Council will increase its education for owners regarding appropriate cat control measures.
B2	Wildlife Protection	Dogs Access to Public Places	Fees	Management	Patrols & Fines	- Dogs are frequently in areas which are not appropriate and hurt wildlife - Barking dogs are a problem - Increase the dog registration rate - Ban dogs from conservation zones - Restrict dog ownership to two animals only - Adopt progressive cat policies	- Council is planning to review the regulations relating to access for dogs to public places. All comments relating to the timing and extent of dog access will be considered at that time. - The DAMP includes actions to increase patrols and enforcement activities, and will work with GORCC and other partners to co-ordinate this. Increased enforcement activities have been included in the plan. - Council is considering a review of the dog and cat registration fees. - As part of the DAMP, Council will increase its education for owners regarding appropriate cat control measures.

Submission Reference	Primary Issue Addressed	Secondary Issue Addressed	Subsequent Issue Addressed	Subsequent Issue Addressed	Subsequent Issue Addressed	Summary of Submission	Officer Comment
B3	Dogs Access to Public Places	Patrols & Fines	Wildlife Protection			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suggestions made regarding wording - Arrangements regarding compliance need to be clarified - Improve controls relating to cats in order to further protect wildlife 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council thanks the GORCC for the time taken to review the DAMP. Officers intend to incorporate many of the specific comments into the final draft of the plan.
B5	Dogs Access to Public Places	Wildlife Protection				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dogs on beaches and dogs that bark are a nuisance - Dogs are a danger to wildlife 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council is planning to review the regulations relating to access for dogs to public places as an action in the DAMP. All comments relating to the timing and extent of dog access will be considered at that time. - The DAMP acknowledges the need to increase patrols and enforcement activities, and will work with GORCC and other partners to co-ordinate this. Increased enforcement activities have been included in the plan. - Council appreciates that signage could be improved in a number of areas. Council will work with GORCC to co-ordinate improved and clear signage in key beach areas.
B6	Management					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dogs and cats are dangerous and a nuisance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council notes the comments on the DAMP
B7	Dogs Access to Public Places					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Current rules are working well and it is important to allow dogs' access to beaches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The DAMP includes a review of the regulations in year 2 to address access for dogs to public places. All comments relating to the timing and extent of dog access will be considered in the review.
C1	Dogs Access to Public Places					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - dogs are sometimes on beach without leads 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The DAMP includes a review of the regulations in year 2 to address access for dogs to public places. All comments relating to the timing and extent of dog access will be considered in the review.
C2						No comments provided	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No response required
C3	Dogs Access to Public Places					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - important to allow dog access to beaches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The DAMP includes a review of the regulations in year 2 to address access for dogs to public places. All comments relating to the timing and extent of dog access will be considered in the review.

Close: There being no further items of business the meeting closed at 5.48pm.

8.3 Advisory Committee Minutes

Author's Title: Administration Officer

General Manager: Chris Pike

Department: Governance

File No: F18/221

Division: Governance & Infrastructure

Trim No: IC18/549

Appendix:

1. All Abilities Advisory Committee (AAAC) Minutes - 5 April 2018 (D18/41093)

Officer Direct or Indirect Conflict of Interest:

Status:

In accordance with Local Government Act 1989 –
Section 80C:

Information classified confidential in accordance with
Local Government Act 1989 – Section 77(2)(c):

☐

Yes

☒

No

☐

Yes

☒

No

Reason: Nil

Reason: Nil

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to receive and note the minutes of the Advisory Committee meetings as appended.

Summary

The minutes provided in this report are draft unless otherwise identified. Committees do not re-issue minutes if any corrections are made at the time of adoption, rather note these corrections in the agenda item confirming adoption of the minutes at the following committee meeting.

Any corrections to draft minutes of material significance made by the committees will be provided to Council for noting in a subsequent report.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the minutes of the following Advisory Committee meetings:

1. All Abilities Advisory Committee (AAAC) Minutes - 5 April 2018.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Brian McKiterick, Seconded Cr Rose Hodge

That Council receive and note the minutes of the following Advisory Committee meetings:

1. All Abilities Advisory Committee (AAAC) Minutes - 5 April 2018.

CARRIED 9:0

8.3 Advisory Committee Minutes

APPENDIX 1 ALL ABILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AAAC) MINUTES - 5 APRIL 2018

<p style="text-align: center;">All Abilities Advisory Committee (AAAC) Minutes Thursday 5 April 2018, 11am – 1pm Surf Coast Shire Council, 1 Merrijig Drive Torquay</p>					
<p>Present: Caroline Maplesden (Chairperson), Cr Heather Wellington, Cr Rose Hodge, Leone Mervin, Janet Brown, Michael Chan, Richard Porter, Damian Waight (Surf Coast Shire), Kerri Deague (Surf Coast Shire)</p>					
<p>Apologies: Carol Okai, Lucile Marks, Manny Pimentel</p>					
Ag. No.	Issue Topic	Time	Points of Discussion Details/ Decision	Agreement/ Action/Timeframe	Responsible
1.1	Welcome, introductions and acknowledgements	5	Our meeting is being held on the traditional lands of the Wadawurrung people and we acknowledge them as Traditional Owners. We pay our respects to their Elders, past and present.		C. Maplesden
1.2	Minutes from previous meeting	2	The minutes from 1 February were submitted as final at the Council meeting on 27 February 2018.	Accepted: R Porter Seconded: C Maplesden Carried: All	C. Maplesden
1.3	Conflicts of Interest	2	Declaration of conflict of interest	Nil	C. Maplesden
2	Business Arising				
2.1	Standing item – noteworthy items or new resources in the space of access and inclusion	15	R Hodge: contacted The Age about a person with mental illness experiencing excessive force by police officers. M Chan: "Employable Me" series - good to watch R Porter: Asked about changes to Aged and Family services (in media) D Waight: Media release about new buses procured in Ballarat which are not accessible. K Deague: Some other council with calm, bay waters have purchased floating beach wheelchairs H Wellington: Discussed affirmative action regarding employment for people with a disability at Surf Coast Shire Council.		All members
2.2	Pedestrian safety on footpaths, nature strips and parks- First working group meeting summary	15	Working group is keen to pursue an education and awareness campaign on this issue. More information may be required for this and whether this can be progressed as an adopted advocacy priority for Council. Things we need to know Q: What are the stats in SCS? Complaints? Enforcement?	Action: K Deague to arrange next internal meeting to progress the issue.	C. Maplesden

2.3	AAAC vacancies and recruitment process	10	The updated Terms of Reference for AAA Committee were adopted at Council meeting Tuesday 27 February. Five Expressions of Interest have been submitted. Officers will assess applications and prepare a report with advice for Council to make a decision on appointments most likely at the May Council meeting		D Waight
2.4	Adult Changing Places Grant outcomes	10	We are likely to hear an announcement on these funding applications (Winchelsea and April) in May. In anticipation, a Project Charter is being prepared. Damian commended Kerri and other officers on their effort preparing the funding submissions.		D Waight and K Deague
2.5	Rural Access Program Review update	5	Trevor provided an update to the committee including a new Option 2 – maintain the service hour output (18.7hrs p.w.). Committee preferred option 1: Increase output – divert compliance hours to service delivery hours (18.7hrs service delivery p.w. increases to 22 hrs) Option 3: assumes that after 15 years progress has been made to integrate access and inclusion into everyday business, allowing for a saving in service hours. This means that a minor reduction from 22.5 hours per week to 14.7 hours per week could be possible. It is expected this will be considered at a Council meeting on 24 April.		D Waight Trevor Britton
3.	New Business				
3.1	Positive Ageing service review- Trevor Britten and Bronwyn Saffron (Surf Coast Shire Council)	20	Trevor provided a presentation on Council considering how to respond to the Australian government changing how aged and disability care services are funded and delivered. Council is investigating options for the future and is meeting with relevant community groups to hear what they think. Trevor provided a flyer and survey and explained the submission closing date is 9 April 2018		T Britton
3.2	Nomination process for existing members to apply for AAAC for next 3 years	20	K Deague has sent emails out to all members seeking intention to be re-appointed to AAAC for the next 3 years. All members have provided feedback. A council report will be prepared and submitted to council at the May meeting.		K Deague
3.3	General discussion	10	Kurambee Myaring Community Centre (KMCC) opening 17 April AAAC to be invited.		K Deague
4.	Next meeting	2	Thursday 7 June 2018 – at Kurambee Myaring Community Centre		K Deague

Ground Rules for our Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We start on time and finish on time• We all participate and contribute – everyone is given an opportunity to voice their opinions• We use improvement tools that enhance meeting efficiency and effectiveness• We actively listen to what others have to say, seeking first to understand then to be understood	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We follow-up actions for which we are assigned responsibility and complete them on time• We give and receive open and honest feedback in a constructive manner• We use data to make decisions (whenever possible)• We strive to continually improve our meeting process and build time into each agenda for reflection
2018 meeting times: 11am – 1pm first Thursday of every second month commencing February 2018. Thursday 1 Feb Thursday 5 April Thursday 7 June Thursday 2 August Thursday 4 October Thursday 6 December	

9. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Nil

10. CLOSED SECTION

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Margot Smith, Seconded Cr Martin Duke

That Council pursuant to section 89(2)(h) other matters of the Local Government Act 1989, close the meeting to members of the public to resolve on matters pertaining to the following items:

10.1 Confidential Assemblies of Councillors (section 89(2)(h) other matters).

CARRIED 9:0

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Brian McKiterick, Seconded Cr Margot Smith

That:

1. The resolution and report pertaining to Confidential item 10.1 remain Confidential.
2. Council open the meeting to the public at 8:39pm.

CARRIED 9:0

Close: There being no further items of business the meeting closed at 8:39pm.

Extract From Minutes - Ordinary Council Meeting 22 April 2009
(Refer Public Question 9 – page 5)

Surf Coast Shire Council
Minutes – Ordinary Meeting

22 April 2009

Page 5

1. Sustainable Communities

Planning & Development

1.1 Spring Creek Urban Growth Framework Plan

Authors Title:	Brydon King	Director:	Dennis Barker
Department:	Planning & Development	File Number:	35/04/055
Directorate:	Sustainable Communities	Folio Number:	
Appendix:	1. Draft Spring Creek Urban Growth Framework Plan 2. Historical structures plans relating to growth in Torquay/Jan Juc		

Purpose

To enable Council to form a position on the draft Spring Creek (Ck) Urban Growth Framework Plan.

Summary

- The Spring Ck Urban Growth Framework Plan (Plan) was undertaken to investigate options for growth in the Spring Ck valley in accordance with the direction provided by the Surf Coast Planning Scheme and Torquay/Jan Juc Structure Plan 2007.
- The Plan prepared provided an option for growth in the Spring Ck corridor of 12-14, 000 people over 30 years.
- The Plan was placed on public exhibition and has generated over 2800 submissions which are overwhelmingly against the level of development proposed in the valley.
- There is a strong strategic context in State and local policy for a level of development in the Spring Ck corridor however upon reviewing submissions it is considered the scale and extent of growth proposed by the Plan cannot be supported.
- In response to the issues raised in submissions, the regional context of growth and in light of current Council policy supporting a level of development in the corridor it is considered the growth setting of Torquay/Jan Juc needs to be independently reviewed.
- Such a review should occur through an independent, expert panel appointed by the Minister for Planning to provide advice on the growth expectations of Torquay/Jan Juc and its surrounds. This review would focus on what level of growth should be expected for Torquay/Jan Juc in the regional setting and where should such growth be located.
- The advice from the expert panel would then inform the community and Council for future processes and decisions to clarify the growth picture for Torquay/Jan Juc (eg: establish a clear urban growth boundary) and help inform broader projects such as investigating how to plan for lifestyle issues in coastal townships.

Officer Recommendation:

That Council:-

1. Not support the draft Spring Ck Urban Growth Framework Plan.
2. Note that current policy in the Surf Coast Planning Scheme and the Torquay/Jan Juc Structure Plan 2007, being implemented by Amendment C37, supports residential growth in the Spring Ck corridor on the land one km west of Duffields Road.
3. Invite the Minister for Planning to appoint an independent, expert panel to:
 - 3.1. Review the higher order principles within the draft Spring Creek Urban Growth Framework Plan and their relevance to informing development.
 - 3.2. Review Torquay/Jan Juc's role as a state nominated regional growth node and clarify what this means in this region in terms of its population size, function and services.
 - 3.3. Research the impacts of Armstrong Creek development (22,000 dwellings; 55,000 people) and Geelong Ring Road on Torquay/Jan Juc's growth.
 - 3.4. Review the Torquay/Jan Juc Structure Plan 2007 growth assumptions and growth directions to the north and west and comment on the appropriateness of these including:
 - 3.4.1. Clarification on how the township of Bellbrae should be recognized in this growth setting.
 - 3.4.2. How possible green break areas could be created in the Spring Ck corridor including the role of low density residential areas.
 - 3.5. Review the submission themes to the draft Spring Creek Urban Growth Framework Plan and advise on the further research required to balance community aspirations for quality of life with state and local policies for growth and development.

4. Investigate a possible joint strategic project between the State Government and local government (G21 or Surf Coast Shire) to develop a regional growth framework informing settlement strategies for Geelong/Armstrong Ck, Torquay/Jan Juc and the Bellarine Peninsula.

Cr Webster left the Council Meeting at 7:15pm

COUNCIL RESOLUTION:

MOVED Cr Hodge, seconded McKitterick:

That Council:

1. Abandon the draft Spring Creek Urban Growth Framework Plan;
2. States that it is in no way contracted, committed or obliged to proceed with development in the Spring Creek area;
3. Note that current policy in the Surf Coast Planning Scheme and Torquay/Jan Juc Structure Plan 2007, referred to in Amendment C37, considers residential growth in the Spring Creek corridor on land 1km west of Duffields Road;
4. May reconsider its stance on growth in the Spring Creek area if strategically justified. Council nominates Duffields Road as Torquay's western township boundary until investigations set out below are completed;
5. Initiate a research and community participation & engagement program called *Sustainable Futures – Torquay Jan Juc 2040*- which will:
 - 5.1 Review Torquay/Jan Juc's role as a settlement nominated as "high-growth capacity" (growth node), and clarifies what this means for this region in terms of ecologically sustainable development, optimal population capacity and the role and function of these settlements in the regional context;
 - 5.2 Analyse the implications for the Shire of the Armstrong Creek development and the Geelong Ring Road to identify and assess expected impacts on the social and economic conditions, environment and culture of Torquay, Jan Juc & Bellbrae;
 - 5.3 Reassess the Torquay/Jan Juc Structure Plan 2007 growth assumptions and directions for Torquay/Jan Juc and comment on the appropriateness of:
 - 5.3.1 The potential for residential development in growth corridors against or with agricultural/community/ recreational usage/habitat wildlife corridors;
 - 5.3.2 Possible green belts, including the role of low density, small acreage residential areas in growth corridors;
 - 5.3.3 Growth parameters to guide residential and commercial development in Torquay and Jan Juc.
 - 5.3.4 Themes in submissions on SCUGFP and advise on further research required to balance community aspirations with State and local policies for growth/environmental sustainability.
6. Complete the Bellbrae Structure Plan, ensuring non-urban green belts between Torquay/Jan Juc and Bellbrae to support community identity, sense of place and define its settlement boundary;
7. Commit to seeking funding for a joint strategic project between the Federal, State and G21 local governments, using Torquay as a "case study". The outcomes of this study would be to:
 - a. Develop a framework/principles to inform regional coastal settlement planning;
 - b. Identify mechanisms and strategies to strengthen community resilience and social cohesion; and
 - c. Preserve a sense of place in communities experiencing rapid change, especially related to the sea change phenomenon.

CARRIED 8:0

COUNCIL RESOLUTION:

MOVED Cr Hodge, seconded Cr Tutt:

That Council suspend standing orders at 8:19pm.

CARRIED 8:0

COUNCIL RESOLUTION:

MOVED Cr Schroeter, seconded Cr Coker:

That Council reinstate standing orders at 8:30pm.

CARRIED 8:0

Cr Webster returned to the Council Meeting at 8:30pm

Spring Creek Urban Growth Framework Plan

Report

Background

State Government coastal and regional policies highlight Torquay/Jan Juc as having a high capacity for growth and that such growth can be accommodated beyond current zoned areas subject to investigation by Council.

The Spring Ck Urban Growth Framework Plan was a project undertaken to clarify growth options outlined in the Torquay Jan Juc Structure Plan adopted by Council in 2007. It relates to the area bounded by Duffields Rd to the east, Anglesea Rd to the west, Grossmans Rd to the north and Great Ocean Road (GOR) to the south. The Spring Ck Urban Growth Framework Plan was undertaken as a consequence of the rapid growth that has impacted Torquay/Jan Juc and the need to maintain an adequate supply of zoned residential and commercial land to manage this growth. The project was undertaken to confirm the extent and level of growth in the corridor and to provide a more detailed structure plan for the land one km west of Duffields Rd.

The draft Spring Ck Urban Growth Framework Plan was placed on public exhibition in November 2008 for an original period of 6 weeks which later was extended to a period of 3.5 months. As a result of the exhibition process over 2800 submissions were received. These submissions are overwhelmingly against the proposed Framework Plan and raise key questions about the expectations of how Torquay/Jan Juc should grow and to what size and where growth if any should occur. Many of the submissions raise these higher order growth questions which go above and beyond the issues in the draft Spring Ck Urban Growth Framework Plan.

This report seeks to assess the merits of the Framework Plan in light of key themes raised in submissions.

Discussion

History and context for the Spring Ck Urban Growth Framework Plan

State Planning Policy context

In understanding the reason the Spring Creek Urban Growth Framework Plan was undertaken as a project it is important to review the context of State Government growth policies that relate to the region. The relevant State Government policies are summarised below:

Great Ocean Road Regional Strategy 2004

- Torquay is identified as a gateway to the GOR region with Warrnambool having the same role at the western end (pg 19).
- Reference is made to directing substantial new development to Torquay (pg 21).

Coastal Spaces 2006

- Torquay is noted as having high growth capacity within and beyond current zoned limits subject to strategic planning investigations by Council (pg 16).
- Torquay/Jan Juc is highlighted as a potential regional centre on the coast with a role to absorb population growth and provide some higher order services.

Victorian Coastal Strategy 2008

- References coastal spaces work to describe coastal hierarchy of towns (pg 54 and plan on pg 88).
- Provides a hierarchy of guiding principles around planning for growth along the coast including reference to maintaining urban breaks between coastal settlements (pg 60).

The framework provided by the above is referenced broadly within the State Planning Policy Framework (SPPF) within all planning schemes. The above policies create a level of expectation of growth occurring within the townships however such growth will be subject of investigation and reviewed through various processes.

Spring Creek Urban Growth Framework Plan

Local Planning Policy context

The State Government policy setting has informed the development of Council policy in relation to the growth picture for Torquay/Jan Juc including the development of the Local Planning Policy Framework (LPPF) in the Surf Coast Planning Scheme.

It is important to note that there has been a number of strategic land use planning documents prepared for Torquay/Jan Juc over time. The Spring Ck corridor as a potential growth area has been highlighted in previous growth plan documents for Torquay/Jan Juc dating back to 1980 (see Appendix 2). The current Torquay/Jan Juc Strategy at Clause 21.10 of the Surf Coast Planning Scheme references the 1996 Torquay/Jan Juc Comprehensive Strategy Plan and notes the Spring Ck corridor for long term growth subject to investigation.

Torquay/Jan Juc Structure Plan 2007

The overall growth vision for Torquay/Jan Juc was revisited as part of the Torquay/Jan Juc Structure Plan 2007 which is summarised below.

- A review of the Structure Plan for Torquay/Jan Juc was started in 2006 and adopted by Council in 2007. This document confirmed growth areas in Torquay North and east of Duffields Rd and stated the need for investigations into growth options to begin within the Spring Ck corridor to accommodate long term growth (pg 53).
- The plan also described some principles for growth in Torquay/Jan Juc and the need to investigate development in Spring Ck and the confirmation of no development to the north of Torquay to maintain a non urban break from the southern growth of Geelong (pg 87).
- The document includes a plan which nominates the first km west of Duffields Rd as Future Urban Growth and the remaining portion of the Spring Ck corridor as a Potential Urban Growth Corridor (pg 91).

The Torquay/Jan Juc Structure Plan 2007 provided an updated growth plan for Torquay/Jan Juc to help manage short to medium term growth anticipated over the next 15 years in Torquay North and east of Duffields Rd and informed the creation of Development Contributions Plan (DCP) to help fund this growth. It also provided a catalyst to investigate longer term growth options in the Spring Ck corridor. The Structure Plan 2007 did not significantly alter the growth direction of the settlement from the 1996 version currently referenced in the Surf Coast Planning Scheme, however it did provide a more contemporary vision of the growth and detailed specific expectations to manage such growth.

Following the adoption of the Torquay/Jan Juc Structure Plan 2007 a DCP has been prepared and adopted by Council. The DCP includes as part of its catchment land one km west of Duffields Rd within the Spring Ck corridor. The DCP has not been implemented into the Surf Coast Planning Scheme as yet.

Amendment C37 has been prepared to implement the Torquay/Jan Juc Structure Plan 2007 (among other matters) into the Surf Coast Planning Scheme. This amendment involves updating Clause 21.10 of the Surf Coast Planning Scheme to reflect the updated growth options and reinforcing the Spring Ck corridor as an option for long term growth subject to investigation. This amendment has been exhibited with 52 submissions received. Council resolved on 25 March 2009 to refer the amendment to an independent Panel.

Spring Creek Urban Growth Framework Plan

Key elements of the exhibited Spring Ck Urban Growth Framework Plan

Hansen Partnership was the successful consultants engaged by Surf Coast Shire to under the Spring Ck Urban Growth Framework Plan. The brief for the project had the following objectives:

- To develop a vision for the Spring Creek Urban Growth Area that delivers a framework for healthy, connected and safe neighbourhoods that are affordable, renewable and sustainable.
- To formulate a framework plan which is based on sustainable principles addressing the economic, social, environmental and cultural needs of the future community.
- To confirm how the Spring Creek Urban Growth Area will relate to the township of Bellbrae, including the designation of a western settlement boundary.
- To identify strategies to ensure a supply of affordable housing which will contribute to the social and economic sustainability of both the growth area and the town of Torquay.
- Deliver a planning outcome which is proudly owned by the community and stakeholders via an inclusive, collaborative and creative process to establish Growth Area Framework Plan and Precinct Structure Plan for the land 1km west of Duffields Road.
- To develop a Precinct Structure Plan for the land within one km west of Duffields Rd to direct development for land supply in this.

The structure plan for land one km west of Duffields Rd has not formally been completed and in hindsight it would appear the Framework Plan prepared is a level of information between the detail of a precinct structure plan for the land one km west of Duffields Rd and the high level direction and concepts of a Framework Plan for the whole corridor.

The draft Spring Ck Urban Growth Framework Plan was informed by a Background Report consisting of 12 papers dealing with a range of issues including environmental aspects of the corridor, traffic and movement, social infrastructure etc.

In essence the exhibited plan proposed residential development at varying densities to the Anglesea Rd and suggested the Anglesea Rd become the western settlement boundary. The level of development proposed approximately 12-14,000 people in 5,500 to 6,400 dwellings over 30 years.

The draft Framework Plan is underpinned by the following principles:

- A more sustainable form of urban development
- An environmentally responsive plan
- A diverse community with housing choices that meet their needs
- Compact walkable neighbourhoods with access to community facilities and open space
- A full range of transport options, but with an emphasis on walking cycling and public transport
- An individual identity and character for Bellbrae
- A shared vision through stakeholder and community collaboration

Key aspects/elements of the exhibited Framework Plan that relate to the above principles are as follows:

- Provides for growth for 30 years with a possible population within the corridor of 12,000 -14,000. Development to occur in three stages.
- Proposes a density of development in main residential areas of 15 dwellings per hectare (compared with 10-12 that has occurred in the past) but allows for significant low density areas on steep slopes and to the western end, near Bellbrae.
- Promotes diversity in lots sizes to allow for traditional larger lots as well as smaller lots to help promote a diverse population and for greater choice to upsize or downsize within a neighbourhood. Suggests setting a target to ensure 20% of housing is priced 30% below the median Torquay/Jan Juc house price, to make it more affordable to first home buyer/renters.
- Uses Spring Ck as a spine for the development and recognises environmental corridors to link with the creek.
- Attempts to reduce the density of development approaching Bellbrae to respect the character and setting of Bellbrae.
- Provides for two retail activity areas, one south of the creek and one north of the creek in the later two stages of development. These are intended as strip shopping areas, not enclosed shopping complexes.
- Relies on a road network that links back to GOR to the south and Grossmans Rd to the north. Creates two east-west roads on the north and south of the creek parallel to the GOR and

Grossmans Rd and proposes one north-south road across the Creek designed for internal movements mainly.

- Suggests public transport should be provided for in these networks.
- Provides for 10% open space provision and combined with environmental corridors provides a total of 26% open space provision. This includes 18, 1ha parks in neighbourhoods and four larger district/regional sporting fields near schools or activity areas.
- Proposes three schools - two public schools (P-9) in the later stages and one private school (P-9) located within the first stage.
- Promotes consideration of innovative ways to promote sustainability through building designs, servicing etc.
- Barwon Water advice is that water can be supplied based on the strategic water plan for area which includes the Anglesea aquifer water and Melbourne inter connector.
- Sewage can be accommodated by existing sewer main for parts of the first stage, but balance of the corridor will need separate investigation – which Barwon Water has begun.
- Power services and gas can be supplied.

The plan seeks to promote a form of development that has not occurred in Torquay/Jan Juc in the past including a targeted mix of residential densities, promotion of a diverse community and diversity of housing form, a movement network that provides opportunity for access to areas without needing cars as much, extensive areas of open space for recreation and environmental reasons and the promotion of sustainable and energy efficient development.

Exhibition, submissions and key themes

The draft Spring Ck Urban Growth Framework Plan was placed on public exhibition in November 2008 for an original period of 6 weeks which later was extended to a period of 3.5 months. As a result of the exhibition process 2843 submissions were received. Overwhelmingly these submissions have not supported the draft Framework Plan with only 20 submissions supporting the Framework Plan.

The submissions received have consisted of a range of types including template based letters/emails, free form correspondence and DVD's. A break down on the numbers of submissions is as follows:

Format

- Pro-Formas from Xavier Rudd web site 1057
- Speak Up for Spring Creek Pro-Formas 679
- Free form submissions 1107

Origin

- Victorian 1786
- Interstate 169
- Overseas 248
- Unknown origin 640

Community information sessions were held toward the end of the exhibition period to allow for feedback from the broader community. Over 300 people attended four, one hour information sessions held on 9 February 2009 and provided feedback on issues with the Framework Plan and the broader growth setting of Torquay/Jan Juc.

The submissions received were intended to be available for public viewing however legal advice has confirmed that a risk exists under the Privacy Act if Council were to make the submissions public. To this end the individual submissions will not be published however the broad themes raised in the submissions will be responded to as part of this report along with some detail related to submissions from Council's advisory committees. Councillors have been provided access to the submissions and the opportunity has been provided for submitters to raise their issues directly with the Council through the Hearing of Submissions process.

Spring Creek Urban Growth Framework Plan

Key themes

Key themes have been summarised from the submissions received and it is considered these provide for appropriate discussion and comment on the overall issues. It is noted that there are detailed issues in some submissions however it is considered assessment of the merits of the Framework Plan is best undertaken at the broad principles initially to ascertain whether the growth flagged is reasonable to pursue.

The themes are outlined and commented upon below.

AGAINST Urban Growth Framework Plan

1. Scale of growth will significantly impact on the amenity of the environment and landscape values in and around Torquay/Jan Juc.

Comment

There is a concern that the level of growth proposed in the Framework Plan will result in a significant change to the amenity and landscape values of the area. This relates to the loss of the scenic visual features of the Spring Ck valley and the potential impact on flora and fauna values of the Spring Ck valley and surrounding area. Increased chances of pollution, erosion, loss of habitat, and the like have also been raised in relation to this issue.

A clear message has been received by the submissions that changing the Spring Ck valley to the level proposed significantly impacts on the broader identity of Torquay/Jan Juc and Bellbrae. The landscape and environmental features of the valley are argued by submissions to contribute to a sense of place, experience of the GOR and as an entry elements to Bells Beach.

It is acknowledged that the scale and extent of growth proposed has accentuated the above concerns due to the entire valley ending up with some form of development change under the draft Framework Plan. Although there will always be debate about the weight attributed to the landscape and environmental issues it is considered that the degree of change to these factors promoted in the draft Framework Plan and the concern about this change in the community is a relevant issue in assessing the merits of the plan.

It is considered that a degree of growth in the Spring Ck corridor could be pursued with respect to landscape and environmental issues however the context and form of this growth would need to be carefully considered.

2. Development of this scale should be directed to other areas such as Torquay North.

Comment

Torquay is acknowledged as an area that can accommodate future growth in the State Government policy, the current Surf Coast Planning Scheme and the Torquay/Jan Juc Structure Plan 2007. Currently 210ha of land is being rezoned in Torquay North (south of South Beach Rd on the east and west of Horseshoe Bend Rd) to Residential 1 to accommodate anticipated growth over the next 10 to 15 years.

Opportunity to extend growth further to the north, north east and north west is currently limited by the current settlement boundary which is predominantly located along the physical feature of a ridgeline. This settlement boundary is supported by current policy which promotes no development north of the ridgeline to maintain a rural break between southern growth of Geelong and Torquay/Jan Juc. It also seeks to protect the opportunity for alternative farming practises to be explored within the Thompsons Valley (including irrigated agriculture with recycled water from the Black Rock treatment plant).

A change to the northern settlement boundary would require analysis of the overall growth options for Torquay/Jan Juc to enable these options to be considered in light of other elements. The issues of the level of growth and where growth should be located in Torquay/Jan Juc are higher order issues beyond the draft Framework Plan. However it is considered an important factor to assessing the merits of the Framework Plan and the suggestion of an overall review of the Torquay/Jan Juc growth setting is noted.

Spring Creek Urban Growth Framework Plan

3. The upgrade of Grossmans Road to service proposed growth will be a significant problem and will add to traffic issues.

Comment

The Torquay Jan/Juc Structure Plan 2007 provides the most recent information about the anticipated road hierarchy for Torquay/Jan Juc in the next 10-15 years. The Torquay/Jan Juc Structure Plan describes Grossmans Rd as a collector road with a role to help connect traffic to the main routes out of Torquay/Jan Juc being Surf Coast Highway and/or Coombes Rd (via Messmate Rd). As such it is anticipated that Grossmans Rd, from Duffields Rd to the Surf Coast Highway, will carry significant levels of traffic over time (7800 vehicles per day) assuming a population of 20,000 to 25,000 over the next 15 years (without development in Spring Ck). This was noted as a potential issue within the Structure Plan to the extent that it was suggested means should be explored to manage these levels to 5000 vehicles per day in summer and 3000 vehicles per day in winter to ensure Grossmans Rd could function appropriately.

In this sense the draft Spring Ck Urban Growth Framework Plan further complicates this issue and creates an expectation of the full extent of Grossmans Rd from Anglesea Rd to Surf Coast Highway operating as a high traffic road and further adding to problems identified in the Torquay/Jan Juc Structure Plan at the eastern end. These issues are compounded by the narrow existing pavement of Grossmans Rd and the native vegetation that is present within the road reserve from Duffields Rd to Anglesea Rd which maybe impacted by any upgrades.

Detailed traffic modelling with updated assumptions related to growth in Torquay/Jan Juc, including that proposed under the Framework Plan for Spring Ck, can help find solutions to these issues. However it is considered the broader issues of how much and where such growth should occur should be explored before any further modelling is undertaken. It is anticipated that such work will then confirm what role Grossmans Rd needs to play and to what level.

It is acknowledged that the draft Spring Ck Urban Growth Framework Plan did create some significant issues for Grossmans Rd and a review of growth options for Torquay/Jan Juc will need to occur before the role of Grossmans Rd is clarified.

4. Development will decrease the quality of life for people in Torquay/Jan Juc and destroy its relaxed, surfing image becoming another form of suburbia.

Comment

The issues raised in the above theme, although captured in one line, are complex. The core issue raised by this theme relates to the threshold where growth changes the reason people came to Torquay/Jan Juc in the first place and how planning for "quality of life" in a coastal setting can occur.

The Torquay/Jan Juc Structure Plan 2007 established sustainable growth principles for Torquay/Jan Juc. However these were developed based on an assumption of Torquay/Jan Juc as a growth node on the coast and that such growth would be in Torquay North in the short to medium term and within the Spring Ck valley in the medium to long term. The extent and scale of the growth to the west in the Spring Ck corridor was not detailed but the document anticipated some higher order questions about Torquay/Jan Juc's scale and size would be resolved from growth investigations in Spring Ck. The issues around growth and what size and scale Torquay/Jan Juc should be have certainly been raised as part of the investigations into Spring Ck however they have not been resolved.

The Victorian Coastal Strategy (VCS) 2008 describes a sustainable coastal community under Section 4.2 and to paraphrase this section it suggests the following are attributes of sustainable communities:

- Communities that value lifestyle and have a clear sense of identity.
- A well informed and engaged community which participates in decisions.
- A healthy and diverse economy relaying on local business, tourism and rural economies.
- Consolidated urban development within the settlements that have capacity to grow and protection of non urban breaks.
- Building design and development that minimises impact on the environment and that is setback from the coast.
- Diversity of housing choice.

Spring Creek Urban Growth Framework Plan

The draft Spring Ck Urban Growth Framework Plan responds to some of the elements listed above (eg. diversity, economic development through activity centres, development located away from the coast). However the scale and extent of growth proposed within the corridor appears to have crossed the threshold about what makes Torquay/Jan Juc and Bellbrae what they are to their communities, arguably destroying the sense of place and identity for these areas. It also seems the environmental impacts of such growth have not been responded to a level to the satisfaction of the local communities. Criticisms that the starting point for the project should have been "what is the capacity both at a physical and social level for Torquay/Jan to grow" are acknowledged and in light of both the Torquay/Jan Juc Structure Plan 2007 and the VCS 2008 it is considered this question needs to be answered to help clarify the role of future growth areas in Torquay/Jan Juc.

This issue is considered of particular relevance to determining the merits of the draft Spring Ck Urban Growth Framework Plan and leads to the issue of understanding Torquay/Jan Juc's role in growth for the region whilst still understanding the reasons that people want to locate to such a place.

- 5.** Development will result in overcrowding of beaches and place unreasonable pressure on the coast (eg. access to parking, surf rage).

Comment

Coastal growth and the potential pressures this places on foreshores and broader coastal assets is a well recognised issue both in Victoria and across Australia.

The "sea change" phenomenon and the general connection the broader population has with the coast has accentuated the issue and elevated the importance of planning for coastal areas. The VCS 2008 helps guide consideration of these issues however in the local setting it is noted the draft Spring Ck Urban Growth Framework Plan has not provided information about how the proposed growth might impact on the coastal features of the area which are arguably the drivers for people wanting to live here in the first place.

Growth in the region is another element that can add to this issue. 55,000 people are planned for (over the next 20 years) in the Armstrong Ck growth area within Geelong which is 10-15mins away from the coast which will further pressure coastal assets.

The issue is further complicated by the context that tourism and visitors to Torquay/Jan Juc and the region are another force that places pressure on coastal assets. Therefore in the absence of any growth within Torquay/Jan Juc the issue of pressure on the coast will continue to exist. Many submissions acknowledge this and suggest that given this circumstance it is prudent for growth planning by Council to be conservative to avoid adding significantly to the existing problems.

In noting that this problem will exist, whether or not the draft Spring Ck Urban Growth Framework Plan is supported, it is considered that this theme can be an input into reviewing growth expectations within Torquay/Jan Juc in a regional context.

- 6.** Development of this scale should not go ahead when water is such an issue.

Comment

The servicing of future residential growth anticipated over a 30 year plus period is a difficult task particularly given some of the current issues related to water, carbon emissions and the like.

In relation to water it has been confirmed by Barwon Water that the growth anticipated within the Spring Ck corridor, per the draft Framework Plan, could be serviced with potable water. The potable water system for the region is planned to be augmented in coming years through sources from the Anglesea borefield and from an inter connector from Melbourne. Although arguments will continue about how sustainable these water options are it is clear that the servicing of the growth in the Framework Plan with water can be achieved by the relevant water authority.

Spring Creek Urban Growth Framework Plan

It should be noted that opportunities may exist in the near future for recycled water to be a more viable option for servicing growth areas within the region and this element may allow for more sustainable approaches to the management of the potable water resource in the longer term.

Although this issue is noted as a key theme it has not been a specific reason to recommend against support for the Framework Plan.

7. Development of this scale is not warranted given Armstrong Creek is 10 mins away.

Comment

As detailed above in Theme 5 the overall growth outcomes for the region are an important aspect that has driven community concern about growth in Spring Ck and Torquay/Jan Juc.

The argument that the draft Spring Ck Urban Growth Framework Plan has planned “too much, too soon” without detailed knowledge of what impacts the Armstrong Ck development will have in the region and on Torquay/Jan Juc specifically is noted. The issue of the regional growth context is considered a relevant influence on whether the Framework Plan should be supported.

In addition it is considered a better understanding of other key development issues such as the Geelong Ring Road should also be confirmed to help provide a stronger context for understanding Torquay/Jan Juc's role and function in relation to growth within the region.

On this basis it is considered a review of Torquay/Jan Juc's role in providing for growth in the region should be undertaken with particular focus on what impacts Armstrong Ck and the Geelong Ring Road may have on Torquay/Jan Juc. The process for such a review is described later in this report.

8. Affordable housing is not achievable within the steep land and should not be a basis for approval.

Comment

The draft Spring Ck Urban Growth Framework Plan did promote the concept of affordable housing but rather housing on a number of affordability levels namely:

- Providing land supply and competing growth fronts to other growth areas such as Torquay North.
- Diversity and choice in the range of lots and houses.
- Reduction in energy costs for running a house through higher levels of construction.
- Reduction in the need for multi car households.
- Designation of appropriate areas within the greater corridor for provision of affordable housing through Housing Associations and innovative means of providing different housing options.

There are a range of levels that housing affordability can be promoted and although the draft Framework Plan does not rely on affordable housing to promote its worth it was a principle that was considered worthy of underpinning the overall concept for growth.

It is noted that the provision of affordable housing on some steep parts of the corridor would be a challenging outcome however in light of the diversity of ways affordable housing is promoted within the Framework Plan and the complexity of how the concept of affordable housing can be actioned it is not considered that this aspect be a key driver for recommending against the draft Framework Plan.

Irrespective of development in Spring Ck the concept of achieving more affordable housing across the Shire, including townships such as Lorne, is a focus of Council and should be encouraged. As such it is argued that any growth options that are ultimately pursued within Torquay/Jan Juc at any level should consider the concept of affordable housing as part of the underlying values.

Spring Creek Urban Growth Framework Plan

9. The Spring Creek valley acts as a scenic backdrop to Torquay/Jan Juc and a gateway to Bells Beach and should be left as is.

Comment

The undulating aspect of the Spring Ck valley does provide for strong landscape values that have been emphasised within the submissions received as contributing to the greater character of Torquay/Jan Juc, the experience of the GOR and contributing to the entrance to the Bells Beach area.

Some submissions have highlighted that the southern side of the Spring Ck corridor is included in a nomination to the National Heritage List under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act for the Great Ocean Road and Rural environs. This nomination looks at the GOR road reserve and selected areas of rural land adjacent or near the GOR being included on the National Heritage List for historic and landscape value reasons. The aspects underpinning the nomination centre around the landscape values of the GOR and its setting, the recognition of the public infrastructure works the GOR represents and the legislative framework of the original Ocean Road Planning Scheme of 1958 that sought to promote regional assessment of the GOR area. The nomination impacts on land within three municipalities being Surf Coast, Colac Otway and Corangamite Shires.

The process of assessment of the nomination will take some months yet to complete and it is not clear whether the nomination will be listed to the extent nominated or in a modified form or not at all.

The implications of listing will be that any change to the area that impacts on the reasons it was listed would require referral to the Federal Department of Environmental, Water, Heritage and the Arts for consent.

The above highlights the importance of the rural environs adjacent to the Great Ocean Road and emphasizes the issues raised in many submissions around this issue at a local level.

The above context is considered a relevant influence in assessing the merits of the Framework Plan. It is considered that options for growth within the corridor could possibly be targeted to respond to these issues in terms of scale and extent. Opportunities may exist in the future to undertake this with a clearer understanding of the outcomes of the nomination of the southern side of Spring Ck to the National Heritage list.

A review of the growth setting of Torquay/Jan Juc could reference this issue. It is hoped that further processing of the nomination will also provide clarity on the likely decision.

10. The Framework Plan has little substance or detail of how principles will be implemented and does not explain social, economic and environmental impacts well enough.

Comment

The above theme echoes other themes related to the lack of justification for the growth option in Spring Ck on a triple bottom line basis and also challenges how some of the principles will be implemented in reality.

The issues with the scale of growth exhibited in the draft Framework Plan are acknowledged and have been discussed within this report. The issue informs the need to establish more clarity about the growth role of Torquay /Jan Juc within the region and to establish a clearer context about expectations for growth, its scale and location.

In relation to the challenges around implementing the principles it is acknowledged that some aspects of the draft Framework Plan were relaying on significant variations to current legislative frameworks to support implementation. It is considered that testing legislative settings as part of an implementation strategy should not be a barrier to the overall concepts. However it is considered that clarification of the higher order growth picture might help focus how implementation is achieved. Implementation, although important, is a matter that will ultimately be finalised through more detailed processes such as the planning scheme amendments process should growth options be confirmed in the future.

Spring Creek Urban Growth Framework Plan

11. The proposed development will completely destroy the character of Bellbrae.

Comment

A core element of the project was to develop an overall Framework Plan for growth in the corridor that respected the character and individual identity of Bellbrae. The context of growth in the corridor and possible locations for western growth boundaries were important elements to determine the scale and form that occurred on the Spring Ck corridor.

At the initial stages of the project the Bellbrae Residents Association (BRA) was a key contact to providing important information about the aspects of Bellbrae that were valued by its community and emphasised that these values should not be prejudiced by possible future growth.

The exhibited draft Spring Ck Urban Growth Framework Plan described urban growth in the corridor extending to within 250metres of the northern and western boundaries of the Bellbrae township with the separation of these areas occurring with proposed Low Density Residential areas (lots ranging from 1 to 2ha) as a buffer. The extent of growth was justified by the western settlement boundary being Anglesea Rd which results in all development being within the settlement boundary, whether larger low density lots, the Bellbrae township or standard residential development.

This outcome has caused great frustration and angst with parts of the Bellbrae community which is emphasised through the successful campaign of the Speak Up For Spring Ck Group (SUFSG) which has a strong Bellbrae foundation.

The planning reasons for suggesting the western settlement boundary along the Anglesea Rd are acknowledged as such an outcome clearly identifies that all residential development within the corridor, whether standard residential, low density or Bellbrae township based, are all forms of development that should be within a township/settlement boundary. However it is recognised that this approach has been based on an assumption that development in the whole corridor is a reasonable outcome in light of current growth expectations at a State and local level for Torquay/Jan Juc and arguably has not considered the strong views of the Bellbrae community about the township of Bellbrae to the level expected by that community.

Bellbrae is recognised in the Surf Coast Planning Scheme (under Clause 21.16) as being one of the original small country townships in the area that has maintained a sense of identity and its scenic location and bushland feel has reinforced its character.

The Draft Framework Plan has attempted to provide buffers to the township through low density lots on the south and west of existing ridgelines, providing that the standard residential development is north and east of these ridgelines and therefore somewhat screened. However it is acknowledged that the level of buffer and extent of residential growth does pressure the features of Bellbrae as a stand alone township and allows for more of a sense of “engulfing” of the township then emphasising its unique attributes as an individual township.

There is also an argument as to how this approach responds to the principles of maintaining no urban breaks between townships outlined in the VCS 2008. The situation is unique in the sense of a growth corridor for one township, Torquay/Jan Juc, featuring another township, Bellbrae, at the western end. However this highlights the complexity of planning for growth in the corridor and the challenge is how these competing issues are balanced.

This issue is considered a significant influence on the merits of the Framework Plan as the current plan has not appeared to respond to the issue of Bellbrae in the community's view.

Spring Creek Urban Growth Framework Plan

12. The proposed plan will detract from the tourist values of Torquay/Jan Juc.

Comment

The tourist values of Torquay/Jan Juc are recognised in various Council strategic documents including the Surf Coast Planning Scheme.

The draft Spring Ck Urban Growth Framework Plan did include reference to the opportunities for further tourism development within the Spring Ck corridor as part of the growth proposed. It was acknowledged that some of the steeper land in the corridor may provide opportunity for eco village style accommodation and tourist facilities that may be able to take advantage of the scenic locations adjacent the Spring Ck and bio link areas and act as a base for visitors to explore attractions in the greater area.

It is considered the growth proposed would likely continue the shift of Torquay/Jan Juc from primarily a non-permanent tourist based town to a more permanent population based town which has been occurring over the last 20 years. Although this can be seen as a threat to tourism it is evidenced in the fact that the tourism industry in the area continues to grow and prosper even with the change to the majority of the Torquay/Jan Juc population now being permanent residents over the last 15-20 years. It is not considered growth per se will detract from tourism however it is acknowledged that the extent and scale of growth proposed in Spring Ck has raised tourism concerns as part of the experience of the GOR, the landscape values the current nature of the valley offers and the image of the township.

In this sense it is noted there are a range of views about how such growth does impact on the tourism values of a town. It is considered the tourism role of Torquay/Jan Juc will always remain as a core function (whether or not growth occurs) and as such this issue has not directly influenced the recommendations but is an aspect that links to broader issues about the sense of place for Torquay/Jan Juc.

13. Infrastructure to support the development has not occurred to an appropriate level now and the proposed development will emphasise this problem.

Comment

The above theme highlights the ongoing aspects of change that have occurred in Torquay/Jan Juc for a number of years and highlights the importance of infrastructure to support growth.

Torquay/Jan Juc has experienced growth at an average of 4.7% per annum from 1981 to 2006 and this level of change has resulted in problems in infrastructure provision. Initially the level of growth was not anticipated and this meant "catch up" problems have been experienced however in recent times more knowledge has been gained around growth issues and steps have been put in place to help manage growth more effectively. Examples of this range from increased capital work budgets and projects, strategies related to recreation provision and development of pathways, the development of the Torquay/Jan Juc Structure Plan 2007 and a Development Contributions Plan (DCP).

Although some additional infrastructure and facilities have been provided to support growth such as increased retail areas and additional recreation facilities, the Torquay/Jan Juc Structure Plan 2007 and the DCP allow for a more integrated and formal means to provide and fund appropriate infrastructure for the anticipated growth for the next 10 to 15 years even without Spring Ck.

On this basis it is considered that there are mechanisms to allow for managed growth to occur and for the appropriate infrastructure to support growth levels. However the proposed growth in the draft Spring Ck Framework Plan has raised a number of questions about the infrastructure needed to support such growth. Detailed answers to these issues were not available in the draft Spring Ck Urban Growth Framework Plan as it was focussed on the overall vision. The scale of growth proposed has raised concern that infrastructure provision will be a problem.

Spring Creek Urban Growth Framework Plan

The issue of infrastructure provision to help manage growth is a complex matter and the work done for the Armstrong Ck development in the City of Greater Geelong is a good example of the level of complexity and detail needed to manage significant growth. Surf Coast has undertaken planning work to help manage short to medium term growth however it is noted no detailed plans for infrastructure for the scale and extent of growth proposed in Spring Ck has been provided. This generally occurs once a confirmed position on a Framework Plan has been confirmed.

A review of the overall growth picture of Torquay/Jan Juc will help to understand the broader growth issues and focus more detailed planning to manage this growth.

14. Process and community consultation has been poor.

Comment

The Spring Ck Urban Growth Framework Plan was undertaken on an assumption that the Torquay/Jan Juc Structure Plan 2007 created an expectation for growth within the Spring Ck corridor. The focus of the Spring Ck project was “how should development occur” rather than “whether it should occur”. This focus has influenced the initial community consultation and resulted in different perceptions about the correct starting point for the project.

It is important to note that the Torquay/Jan Juc Structure Plan 2007, which looked to review the overall growth picture of Torquay/Jan Juc, flagged growth in the corridor particularly within the land one kilometre west of Duffields Rd. Community consultation on the TJJSP 2007 involved the following:

- Brochure mailed out to every ratepayer in Torquay/Jan Juc providing info on Structure Plan review and inviting feedback. Information in brochure clearly described growth proposed to west in Spring Ck and no growth beyond ridgeline to the north.
- Separate advertisements produced providing details on café conversations with Mayor, highlighted the opportunity to discuss how growth was going to occur and where it would occur in Torquay/Jan Juc.
- Media releases highlighting the need for the community to be involved in the project as it was an important project in setting growth directions.
- 92 submissions were received with only 2 opposing the growth directions and 4 supporting the direction (these were development interests in Spring Ck).

The above outlines the attempts made as part of the community consultation to the Torquay/Jan Juc Structure Plan to engage the community in the long term plan for growth in Torquay/Jan Juc. Arguably the impacts of this growth were hard to connect with and it has only been the detail of the draft Spring Ck Urban Growth Framework Plan and its extent and scale that have enabled the community to better understand the potential issue and consequences of growth.

The divergence of understanding of growth issues in Torquay/Jan Juc was further understood as part of the exhibition process for the draft Framework Plan and as a result of the concerns raised the exhibition time was extended from 6 weeks to 3.5 months. In addition four, one hour information and feedback sessions were held on the 9 February 2009 to enable broader input from the Torquay/Jan Juc community on the draft Spring Ck Urban Growth Framework Plan and the growth issues for Torquay/Jan Juc. The feedback from these sessions has also been used to inform the content of this report.

It is acknowledged that the initial process and community consultation on the Spring Ck project was not aligned to the understanding and expectations of the greater community however it is considered the later parts of the process have attempted to realign these issues and this has directly impacted on the recommendations in this report, particularly in relation to future work that needs to be done to help consolidate a shared view on growth in Torquay/Jan Juc.

Spring Creek Urban Growth Framework Plan

15. Development of Torquay/Jan Juc should be reduced and reviewed.

Comment

It is clear from the submissions received that the broader community wish for the growth context of Torquay/Jan Juc to be reviewed and for the level of growth as anticipated within the draft Spring Ck Urban Framework Plan not to be proceeded. This element has driven the need to consider a review of the growth options for Torquay/Jan Juc and test some of the assumptions that have supported the current growth options.

The issue of whether growth in Torquay/Jan Juc should be reduced is a more challenging issue to respond to. Growth will occur in Torquay North and east of Duffields Rd over the next 10 to 15 year and the framework for this growth to occur has been approved. It is likely growth in these areas will increase the population of Torquay/Jan Juc to approximately 20,000 people by 2024. The key issue relates to the extent of future growth beyond these areas and if there is to be growth where should it be located. These aspects are factors that are relevant to considering the merits of the Framework Plan and how growth options are progressed.

SUPPORT Urban Growth Framework Plan

- 16.** Torquay/Jan Juc should grow, Spring Ck corridor has been indicated for potential residential growth since the 1980's and the valley no longer supports viable agricultural pursuits.

Comment

The above theme highlights the history of growth in Spring Ck and challenges the use of Spring Ck for agriculture.

It cannot be argued, in planning terms, that the Spring Ck valley is unviable for agricultural pursuits as there are a number of factors that influence this view. Traditional broad acre farming is certainly the major focus of current land use within the valley however other forms of farming have established within the valley and offer alternative approaches to using the land resource.

The Rural Strategy Review (adopted by Council in December 2007) broadly identified the land in the Spring Valley as having an agricultural land capability between 3-4 in rating system where 1 is good and 5 is very poor. Although it is noted that consideration of the agricultural use of the land is relevant, the agricultural opportunities of the corridor are not rated as high class agricultural land at a broad scale. In a land use planning sense if development is to occur in rural areas, beyond current settlement boundaries, then one criterion in determining whether this should occur is the quality of the agricultural land. Generally poorer quality agricultural land offers a better opportunity for investigation than higher quality land.

Residential growth has been directed to the Spring Ck corridor as early as the Geelong Regional Commission Torquay/Jan Juc Structure Plan 1980. Subsequent Structure Plan documents including the 1992, 1996 and 2007 Torquay/Jan Juc Structure Plan documents have continued to reference potential growth within the Spring Ck corridor. The current Torquay/Jan Juc Strategy at Clause 21.10 of the Surf Coast Planning Scheme (which was informed by the 1996 Torquay/Jan Juc Comprehensive Strategy) references the opportunity for growth in the corridor.

The above history does not create a "development at all costs" mandate for the corridor. Issues raised in submissions have challenged some of the context for the growth direction for Torquay/Jan Juc including the changes in the region such as Armstrong Ck. The need to review the growth setting for Torquay/Jan Juc is noted. However it is considered that ignoring any opportunity for growth in the Spring Ck corridor is not an appropriate option and testing the opportunity for growth in the eastern end of the corridor seems a reasonable component of any overall growth review of Torquay/Jan Juc.

Appendix 2 highlights the 1980 Torquay/Jan Juc Structure Plan, 1992 Torquay/Jan Juc Structure Plan, 1996 Torquay/Jan Juc Comprehensive Strategy and the 2007 Torquay/Jan Juc Structure Plan.

- 17.** The draft Framework Plan confirms the need for growth in the land one km west of Duffields Rd which is supported and consistent with the Torquay/Jan Juc Structure Plan 2007.

Comment

The Torquay/Jan Juc Structure Plan 2007 detailed the following in relation to the overall growth of Torquay/Jan Juc:

- Residential growth will be accommodated within existing settlement boundaries to approximately 2024 through urban consolidation within the central Torquay area and through greenfield development in Torquay North to South Beach Rd and east of Duffields Rd.
- Urban development west of Duffields Rd should occur at the appropriate time to manage land supply and extent of growth in the overall corridor should be determined as part of a Framework Plan project.
- Map 5.1 of the Torquay/Jan Juc Structure Plan nominates land one km west of Duffields Rd as Future Urban Growth while the balance of the corridor is nominated as potential land for urban growth.
- In planning for the likely physical and community infrastructure needed to service such growth the catchments for the DCP included land one km west of Duffields Rd as contributing to these infrastructure requirements.

Spring Creek Urban Growth Framework Plan

The context of the Torquay/Jan Juc Structure Plan 2007 does provide strategic support for development occurring in the land one km west of Duffields and this has lead to developers investing in this land.

The Torquay/Jan Juc Structure Plan 2007 is not formally integrated into the Surf Coast Planning Scheme however Amendment C37 seeks to do this in addition to implementing other strategic documents related to Torquay/Jan Juc into the Scheme.

A request has been received by a group of land owners within the land one km west of Duffields Rd seeking Council to begin a process to rezone land in this area. Council has full discretion whether to proceed with this request. A process of prioritising this request against other private amendment request needs to occur however at this stage it is considered any processing should not occur until a broader review of the growth setting of Torquay/Jan Juc is undertaken.

In discussing this issue it should be noted that some submissions have suggested the draft Framework Plan is contrary to the policy setting with the Torquay Strategy at Clause 21.10 of the Surf Coast Planning Scheme. This policy outlines that the potential exists for some development in the Spring Ck valley but this would be incremental and subject to investigations. This position is further emphasised within the adopted Torquay/Jan Juc Structure Plan 2007. It has been argued the draft Framework Plan changes this by showing the extent of development proposed and therefore is driving policy rather than responding to it. This interpretation is recognised however the draft Framework Plan does not seek to change the established policy setting but rather seeks to show a possible integrated scale of development that could occur over 30 to 40 years in the valley.

The draft Spring Ck Urban Growth Framework Plan has provided one option for delivering growth outcomes in the corridor however this should not be seen as the only option. The abandonment of any growth option at any scale within the corridor would not be appropriate. However the issue of independently testing the existing growth options as part of a broader review of the regional growth role of Torquay/Jan Juc has merit and allows the opportunity for growth within the land one km west of Duffields Rd to be tested.

- 18.** Development in the land one 1km west land should be informed by a precinct structure plan which has not been prepared.

Comment

If a growth option is confirmed in the future for the land one km west of Duffields Rd such growth will need to be informed by the development of a precinct structure plan. A precinct structure plan provides a masterplan for the integrated development of the area considering key issues including environmental issues, transport, access to services and facilities and connections to the broader areas of Torquay/Jan Juc.

A precinct structure plan for the land one km west of Duffields Rd was an original component of the brief for the Spring Ck Urban Growth Framework Plan project. This element has not been completed. In light of the issues raised in submissions and recommendations in this report growth options for Torquay/Jan Juc will need to be reviewed prior to any precinct structure plan work occurring.

- 19.** Some low density development on the northern and western end of Bellbrae is supported which will allow for appropriate transition whilst still respecting Bellbrae's character.

Comment

There are a number of land owners that support the use of low density residential land to provide a buffer between standard residential growth and the western end of the corridor.

The attractiveness of this outcome is understood for those property owners who are affected by this potential change and by the broader community in a landscape/density sense. However there are challenges with this form of development in that it is arguably a less efficient way of developing land and it creates barriers for growth or change for long term options.

Spring Creek Urban Growth Framework Plan

The issue of low density residential development within the Spring Ck corridor is a relevant issue to consider as part of the assessment of the plan. Options for such development in isolation from the overall Framework Plan would raise concern. Review of the overall growth setting for Torquay/Jan Juc would help understand broader issues and where low density residential development sits in the growth context.

Specific comments from advisory committees of Council

Bells Beach Advisory Committee

- Highlights that the Vision statement for Bells Beach Reserve identifies the area as unique along the Australian coast and a special place for the surfing culture. Spring Ck Urban Growth Framework Plan puts a large population just north of this which will pressure an already stressed environment.
- Likely impacts summarised as follows:
 - Social impacts such as overcrowding of Bells Beach Reserve, safety issues, more conflict between user groups.
 - Economic impacts such as on the image of the surfing industry and its brand, pressure on car parking
 - Environmental impacts such as to wildlife stress, more weeds, feral animals, erosion, litter both on Bells Beach Reserve and the Spring Ck corridor
 - Cultural impacts are no clear as no cultural study has been done of the Spring Ck corridor. Population proposed in the corridor will add to possible vandalism, impacts on culturally sensitive sites within the reserve and in Spring Ck and fragment links between areas.
 - Supports the notion that if scale of development proposed is needed and if growth is needed it should be in the north.
 - The impacts of Armstrong Ck and the Geelong By pass are not known.
 - Raised that better landscape protection overlays should be provided for in the Surf Coast Planning Scheme for Bells Beach Reserve and its surrounding area up to the Great Ocean Rd and across to Jarosite Road.

Comment

The submission from the Bells Beach Advisory Committee highlights the concerns that the extent of growth in the Spring Ck Urban Growth Framework Plan will have on the image of the town and key points on the coast such as Bells Beach.

Population pressures seem to be a key concern on how the Bells Beach Reserve functions and how the environmental and cultural features of the reserve are impacted. In this sense it is acknowledged that the population proposed in the draft Spring Ck Urban Growth Framework Plan may add pressure in relation to the use and function of the reserve. However it is also noted that tourism growth and general population growth in the region (i.e. Armstrong Ck) may also create these pressures on the reserve.

The suggested impact to the image of Torquay/Jan Juc as a surfing area and the economic issues that may flow from this are acknowledged. It is considered that steps can be investigated to manage such change over periods of 30 years plus, which was the anticipated time for such growth, as proposed in the draft Spring Ck Framework Plan. However the issue links with the concept of planning for “quality of life” and determining thresholds that are seen to change Torquay/Jan Juc to an unreasonable level. Investigation of this issue and the overall growth setting of Torquay/Jan Juc needs to be done through further work as described in the recommendations of this report.

The concern of the submission on impacts on culturally sensitive sites is noted. A broad cultural heritage analysis of the Spring Ck corridor was undertaken as part of the background work for the Spring Ck project by Tardis Enterprises. The cultural heritage study has mapped likely cultural heritage areas and other known sites and this work has informed the draft Spring Ck Urban Growth Framework Plan but was not seen as a factor that would prohibit development occurring. The report detailed ways and means of managing impacts on cultural heritage sites and many of the broad areas would be included within public land (eg: stream side reserves) per the draft plan. Current legislation requires that detailed studies (Cultural Heritage Plans) are undertaken as part of more detailed stages of development to ensure specific sites are recorded and managed. The issues of cultural heritage have been considered as part of the Spring Ck Framework Plan and further detailed work would occur as part of later stages of development if the growth did proceed. This issue has not been seen as a reason to not support the draft plan.

Spring Creek Urban Growth Framework Plan

The notion of better landscape overlays in the vicinity of Bells Beach is noted and can be investigated further as part of ongoing strategic work. Presently the Surf Coast Planning Scheme is clear on the need to significantly limit growth in the immediate area of Bells Beach and uses policy, vegetation and landscape overlays, and the Rural Conservation zone to achieve this objective.

Business Facilitation Group

- Acknowledge community concern in relation to the proposal however have focussed comments on impacts on economic growth on new and existing business in the area.
- Note restriction of growth may impact on business development and expectations.
- Growth options are needed to provide competition and tension for housing prices.
- Transport services should be provided early and efficiently as part of any growth.
- 5 key recommendations:
 - Any development of the Spring Creek corridor should commence at Duffield's Road and move to the West.
 - The Spring Creek Urban Growth Framework Plan as exhibited needs to be reviewed to ensure that the practical transport needs of the new community are addressed.
 - That a full economic impact study be completed before any significant changes are made to the Torquay Jan Juc Township in relation to future growth its location and size.
 - The Surf Coast Shire should investigate options to ensure that the State Government's identification of Torquay as a growth node can be achieved in a format meeting the desires of the local community rather than an imposed solution. With this in mind there would need to be a robust Community Consultation process to determine what the community's aspirations are for Torquay Jan Juc, size and design.
 - If not already completed the transport and retail aspects of the Torquay/Jan Juc Structure Plan should be revised to reflect the more substantial development in the North East quadrant of Torquay taking into consideration Geelong's Armstrong Creek proposal.

Comment

The above submission appears to acknowledge that some growth is necessary to support existing and new businesses and to create competition and choice in the housing market. However it notes that such growth should be underpinned by clear economic analysis of how the growth will achieve positive economic outcomes and is to a level that respects the setting of the place and the views of the community.

The Torquay/Jan Juc Structure Plan included analysis of what retail facilities would be needed to support growth in Torquay North and east of Duffields Rd. The focus is on maintaining the Torquay Town Centre as the primary retail centre with a smaller centre for everyday needs possible in Torquay North. It also outlined that significant development in Spring Ck may also need retail facilities to service that area.

In this sense context has been provided as to how integrated growth can be achieved in Torquay/Jan Juc however the scale and extent of growth beyond that already known has raised concerns about the degree of change that will result. In this sense it is considered that further work needs to be undertaken to review what should happen beyond the existing growth areas in Torquay North and east of Duffields Rd.

The submission also highlights the importance of growth being serviced by appropriate transport services. Transport issues are referenced in the draft Spring Ck Urban Growth Framework Plan and were a key influence in the layout of the plan. Decreased use of private vehicles and opportunities for public transport are strong principles within the plan however the proposed implementation of these outcomes in Spring Ck has raised a number of concerns.

It is important to note that growth in the Torquay North area will be influenced by the Torquay North Outline Development Plan which has referenced the importance of transport connections and flagged the opportunity for a transit corridor extending south from Armstrong Ck into Torquay North. This transit corridor could allow for dedicated bus services or a possible long term rail link, both of which are subject to further Government investigation.

Spring Creek Urban Growth Framework Plan

Transport issues are key elements in servicing short to medium term growth and will influence longer term growth options.

The recommendations of this report are considered to respond to the majority of the elements of this submission.

Environment Advisory Committee

- Provided advice on 25 September 2008 on the Framework Plan to Council. Suggestions related to width of the bio links, location of the activity centre on the Great Ocean Road and the how the proposed development links to Torquay/Jan Juc. Suggestions did not appear to influence the exhibited Framework Plan.
- Submission based on broad questions summarised as follows:
 - Why should growth occur – what is the strategic mandate?
 - How is existing growth being managed in a sustainable way?
 - If growth is to occur where should it be to have the least environmental impact?
 - If growth happens in Spring Ck what should it look like?
 - If no growth in Spring Ck why not?
- Notes that careful consideration of Spring Ck style developments along the coast needs to occur as they have consistently resulted in net negative impacts to the environment.
- Notes the Torquay Jan Juc Structure Plan 2007 expected an inclusive and creative process for developing a Framework Plan in spring Ck that was owned by the community. States the current community response to the Framework Plan supports this has not occurred and confirms the Framework Plan is seen as a threat to lifestyle and therefore should be abandoned on this point alone.
- The submission suggests a review of Torquay/Jan Juc's growth expectations should occur before any growth happens.
- Challenges whether the sustainable principles within the Plan can be achieved:
 - ENVAC advice to Council: Council should entirely abandon the proposed FRAMEWORK PLAN and not support any further urban development at Spring Creek until the extent, nature and timing of future urban development is owned by the community and is visionary in achieving ecologically sustainable development. Currently, the Framework Plan is not supported by the community and is not visionary in achieving ecologically sustainable development.
 - ENVAC advice to Council: As soon as possible, Council should take the lead on the current discussions in the community on the extent, nature and timing of future urban development in TJJ. This discussion should consider how large transformational forces such as the ring road, Armstrong Creek, existing growth, the worldwide economic downturn and climate change, will affect TJJ and surrounds. The discussion could also review alternative forms of urban development that are considered best practice and are being implemented in other places.
 - ENVAC advice to Council: ENVAC seeks a greater understanding from Council of the mechanisms that are available to ensure that the sustainability elements that are aspired to for residential development can be delivered in practice.
 - ENVAC advice to Council: Council should ensure that its discussions, strategies and decisions relating to future urban development are guided by the hierarchy of principles contained in the Victorian Coastal Strategy.
 - ENVAC advice to Council: Should Council proceed with any aspects of the FRAMEWORK PLAN, then ENVAC recommends that the FRAMEWORK PLAN be redrawn to address the unresolved environmental issues, particularly sustainable stormwater, biodiversity protection and roadside vegetation impact issues.
 - ENVAC advice to Council: Before any strategic decision to allow urban development at Spring Creek, there should be an Integrated urban stormwater management plan that considers the natural flow regime of Spring Creek and its tributaries; the likely effects of land use and development on water quality and quantity, riparian and in-stream habitat, flooding and estuary management.
 - ENVAC advice to Council: Before any strategic decision to allow urban development at Spring Creek, there should be much greater investment in studies to understand the environmental assets of the site and how these assets would be protected.
 - ENVAC advice to Council: Before any strategic decision to allow urban development at Spring Creek, there should be an investigation into how the design responds to the risks of wildfire.

Spring Creek Urban Growth Framework Plan

Comment

Key issues in the above submission focus on:

- The need to review the broader growth strategy for Torquay/Jan Juc,
- That such a review should involve strong community consultation and;
- That any growth options should clearly respond to the hierarchy of principles contained in the VCS 2008
- That further environmental assessment and assessment of potential impacts of wildfire in Spring Ck should occur prior to any development occurring in the corridor.

The matters above echo issues and themes raised earlier in this report and are direct influences on the recommendations in this report. It should be noted that a submission from the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) raised similar issues.

It is considered that a review and investigations of growth options for Torquay/Jan Juc should occur. It is emphasised that some development options within the land one km west of Duffields Rd should be tested further as part of that review process under the banner of what is the threshold of growth in Torquay/Jan Juc where change is too great.

It is agreed that further environmental work including flora and fauna studies and water quality issues in Spring Ck will be necessary should development be progressed in part of the Spring Ck corridor. However it should be noted that the draft Spring Ck Urban Growth Framework Plan was not prepared in the absence of environmental information.

Ecology Partners did undertake a broad environmental assessment of the Spring Ck corridor and provided a background report which helped inform the draft Framework Plan. There are criticisms that the environmental background report was not at a detail to be truly informative and that the draft Spring Ck Urban growth Framework Plan has not responded appropriately to the environmental issues raised (eg: width of bio links).

These criticisms are noted however it is argued that the Ecology Partners report notes there are important environmental assets within the corridor but suggests that there are opportunities to manage these in conjunction with development. In some instances it is suggested the environmental assets can be enhanced through inclusions in public land and strategically managed for the core environmental values. The report does not flag that no development should occur in the corridor but rather balances the issues and suggests that responsive ways of managing the issues will need to be undertaken. The report also identifies knowledge gaps and further work that should be done to help achieve this aim.

On this basis it is considered that environmental issues do not prevent growth outright in the corridor however further investigations and analysis needs to occur to ensure environmental impacts can be minimised and an appropriate balance reached.

The issue of analysis of wildfire issues in the corridor is a valuable reference and this element should be looked at as part of any further investigation for a level of development within the corridor.

Rural Development Committee

- Raises issues with rural land being used for urban growth.
- Suggest Torquay/Jan Juc is a tourist town and should not become a commuter suburb which would be result from planned growth in Spring Ck.
- In fill and high rise development should be considered as an alternative to suburban spread.
- Bellbrae Structure Plan should be completed prior to any further planning for Spring Ck occurs.
- Some development in Spring Ck is ok within land one km west of Duffields Rd – beyond that should be 1 to 2ha lots.
- A reduced scale of development would then help manage other impacts such as traffic on Grossmans Rd and environmental issues.
- Development opportunities should be further explored in Torquay North where land is flat and easier serviced.
- Further investigation of growth options and role of Torquay/Jan Juc in relation to growth should occur.

Spring Creek Urban Growth Framework Plan

Comment

Common elements discussed earlier in the report have been reiterated in the above submission. Essentially the recommendations in this report are responsive to the notion the current Framework Plan should not be proceeded with and review of growth options for Torquay/Jan Juc should occur. The land one km west of Duffields Rd should be analysed as part of this work and considered in light of other opportunities.

The issue of rural land for urban growth and the notion of low density development in the corridor has been discussed as part of the submission themes supporting development in the corridor. In summary the following points are relevant:

- Rural land is regularly looked at for urban growth options and the main focus should be on the quality of the rural land. In this circumstance the Rural Strategy Review 2007 has identified the land in the Spring Ck corridor as broadly being in the average to poorer quality agricultural land.
- The use of low density lots in the corridor is an aspect raised in the current draft Spring Ck Urban Growth Framework Plan however the degree this is used needs to be considered in the context of efficient use of land and its integration with an overall growth setting.

The reference to infill development in the submission is consistent with existing policy within the Surf Coast Planning Scheme and the Torquay/Jan Juc Structure Plan 2007. However the degree of infill promoted in the submission in relation to “high rise” development goes a significant degree beyond the current policy thinking.

Overall the issues raised in the submission have influenced the recommendations in this report consistent with the other advisory committees’ contributions and the submission themes.

Summary

Torquay/Jan Juc has experienced significant change over the last 20 years which has primarily related to the high growth that has occurred. This impact of change on coastal communities has been recognised and has resulted in groups to help analyse and manage the issues that go with this change such as the National Sea Change Taskforce.

The Surf Coast Shire Planning Scheme has provided for growth corridors. These have been located in Torquay North and east of Duffields Rd with the long term growth option being west of Duffields Rd in the Spring Ck corridor. Growth for the next 10 to 15 years can be accommodated within the Torquay North and east of Duffields Rd areas. However beyond this period it has been anticipated growth would be accommodated west of Duffields Rd.

The Spring Ck Urban Growth Framework Plan provided an option for growth within the corridor at a scale and extent that described some form of residential development within the whole corridor. The community of Torquay/Jan Juc and Bellbrae have responded to this proposal as a threshold level of growth that potentially changes the context of Torquay/Jan Juc and Bellbrae to a level beyond community expectation. This message has been delivered in the submissions to the plan, the community feedback sessions and the media that has emanated from this community concern.

It is considered there are some strong principles that support growth documented in the draft Spring Ck Urban Growth Framework Plan that are useful for guiding development outcomes. The plan has also outlined at a broad level that the potential does exist for growth to be accommodated within the Spring Ck corridor that could balance social, environmental and economic issues, respond to the identity of Bellbrae and integrate with balance of Torquay/Jan Juc.

However the draft Framework Plan has generated high level questions and of particular note is the question “is the growth role of Torquay/Jan Juc as highlighted in State Government policy and echoed in Surf Coast Policy still relevant in relation to regional growth issues and the expectations of the local community?”

Spring Creek Urban Growth Framework Plan

On balance it is considered that Council support of the draft Spring Ck Urban Growth Framework Plan is not appropriate for the following reasons:

- It is not clear whether the level of growth proposed is needed in the region and should it be Torquay/Jan Juc's role to accommodate such growth. Clarity around Torquay/Jan Juc's role in growth needs to be reviewed in light of the issues raised in the draft Spring Ck Urban Growth Framework Plan feedback.
- Options for growth in the Spring Ck corridor need to be tested against the current Surf Coast Shire policy of no growth beyond the northern ridgeline and other possible options.
- The impact of significant growth on the character, lifestyle and image of Torquay/Jan Juc has been clearly articulated by the community in relation to the scale of growth shown in the draft Framework Plan. These issues need further exploration.
- The Framework Plan has not responded to the issues of respecting the Bellbrae township and this issue needs to be reviewed in light of the overall growth setting.

The recommendation to not proceed with the Spring Ck Urban Growth Framework Plan is not a recommendation to prohibit any development in the Spring Ck corridor. It is acknowledged that the scale and extent of the proposed Plan has raised a number of issues however it is considered opportunities exist for these issues to be responded to through possible development within the land one km west of Duffields Rd.

However the issue of scale of growth within the Spring Ck corridor cannot be confirmed until such time that a broader review of the growth setting and options is undertaken. It is considered a review of Torquay/Jan Juc's growth should involve a number of inputs and processes but one important starting point would involve an independent review of the current policy setting against the regional growth scenario and in light of the issues raised in the submissions. An option to undertake such work is to engage an independent, expert panel through the Minister for Planning to develop a platform of advice on growth issues. The use of such independent panels in the Victorian planning systems is a core part of the system with a range of methods for establishing such panels available. The use of such panels to review issues is well respected within the system and such an approach provides for "arms length" advice, not decisions. The advice received can then be used by Council to help direct future processes and decisions.

Generally independent, expert panels operate on an enquiry based process to gather information from a range of sources. This process allows for a range of stakeholders to provide advice, including key submission groups. In this sense the use of an independent, expert panel offers an opportunity for independent review of all the issues and preparation of advice that may help Council and the community to work together to find solutions to the issues raised.

Establishing such a panel will provide a key opportunity to help review the boarder growth questions that have been raised and provide a source of direction on some of these issues. The key elements such a panel should focus on are listed below and these are also referenced in the report recommendations:

- Review the higher order principles within the draft Spring Creek Urban Growth Framework Plan and their relevance to informing development.
- Review Torquay/Jan Juc's role as a state nominated regional growth node and clarify what this means in this region in terms of its population size, function and services.
- Research the impacts of Armstrong Creek development (22,000 dwellings; 55,000 people) and Geelong Ring Road on Torquay/Jan Juc's growth.
- Review the Torquay/Jan Juc Structure Plan 2007 growth assumptions and growth directions to the north and west and comment on the appropriateness of these including:
 - Clarification on how the individual township of Bellbrae should be recognized in this growth setting.
 - How possible green break areas could be created in the Spring Ck corridor including the role of low density residential areas to provide this.
- Review the submission themes to the draft Spring Creek Urban Growth Framework Plan and advise on the further research required to balance community aspirations for quality of life with state and local policies for growth and development.

Spring Creek Urban Growth Framework Plan

The above process will help provide some clarity in the form of advice upon which levels of Government and the community can interact and be used as a platform for further work. It is also considered such a process may allow for a clear growth boundary for Torquay/Jan Juc to be established providing clarity and confidence to Council, the State Government, community and development industry.

The role of Bellbrae is an important issue that could be explored which will help inform how the scheduled Bellbrae Structure Plan should be undertaken and provide inputs from an independent source about the issues. It is considered that prior to any work occurring on the Bellbrae Structure Plan review the suggested independent panel should occur to help focus and direct further work.

A review of growth would also provide advice on the expansion of low density residential land at the western end of the Spring Ck corridor and how green breaks should be established as part of a bigger growth picture.

Such a process might be argued as shifting the problem to someone else to resolve. It is argued this is not the case as there is a current position stated on Torquay/Jan Juc's growth by the State Government and Council which can be pursued. The issue is more of having independent review of these policy settings in light of the strong community concern and the contemporary regional context which then can be used to inform future processes and decisions involving the State Government, Council and the community. Some of these issues are beyond Council's direct control, such as the regional focus, and to undertake such work Council would invariably need to engage consultants. In this context the use of an independent expert panel, established through the State Government, will ensure the broader issues are investigated and information from such a review is fed back into the State Government, which could influence future policy direction.

The draft Spring Ck Urban Growth Framework Plan has provided a catalyst for the review of the growth setting of Torquay/Jan Juc and engaged the community around issues of growth and development. In this sense the project has provided a clear indication, from the community's perspective, what is too much growth. The challenge will be to further explore the issues raised and work collaboratively with a range of stakeholders to find solutions to managing future growth.

Financial Implications

The Spring Creek Urban Growth Framework Plan had an overall budget of \$225,000. \$100,000 of this budget consisting of a grant from Regional Development Victoria to undertake the project.

The engagement of an independent panel does not involve any direct costs beyond officer time.

Council Plan/Policy/Legal Implications

Council Policy

The Spring Creek Urban Growth Framework Plan project was undertaken in light of the current Surf Coast Planning Scheme which designates the Spring Creek corridor as a potential long term growth corridor and the Torquay/Jan Juc Structure Plan 2007 which further emphasised the need to investigate growth options in the corridor.

Legal implications

The submissions received were intended to be available for public viewing however recent legal advice has confirmed that a risk exists under the Privacy Act if Council were to make the submissions public. To this end the individual submissions will not be published however the broad themes raised in the submissions are responded to in this report. Councillors have access to the submissions in the Council offices to read and review and the opportunity has been provided for submitters to raise their issues directly with the Council.

Legal advice on alleged expectations of developers who purchased land in the Spring Ck corridor has also been provided to Councillors.

Spring Creek Urban Growth Framework Plan

Risk Assessment

The Spring Creek Urban Growth Framework Plan provides an option for potential growth within the area however there are risks in terms of reputation and impacts on the townships/coast in confirming this option in light of the strong community concern. Likewise there are risks in ignoring options for growth in light of land supply and growth expectations for Torquay/Jan Juc as detailed in State and Local policy.

The Spring Creek Urban Growth Plan has raised broader issues about growth in the area and it is considered that dealing with the risk issues will be best done through more holistic planning work to review the role of Torquay/Jan Juc in accommodating growth in the region.

Social Considerations

The project has provided a threshold level of development that has “awakened” the community of Torquay/Jan Juc. To this end the project has provided a catalyst for the community to voice clear concerns about the level of growth proposed for Torquay/Jan Juc and what this will do to perceptions of quality of life and the image of the town. This has been discussed in more detail within the report.

Community Engagement

The development of the Framework Plan involved consultation with stakeholders and community through an Enquiry by Design process initially and through the governance structure for the project. The exhibition of the draft Spring Creek Urban Growth Framework Plan was originally planned for 6 weeks in November to December 2008 however this period was extended to 3.5 months.

Community information sessions were held toward the end of the exhibition period to allow for feedback from the broader community. Over 300 people attended 4 one hour information sessions and provided feedback on issues with the Framework Plan and the broader growth setting of Torquay/Jan Juc.

Submitters to the Spring Ck Urban Growth Framework Plan have also been provided an opportunity to speak directly to Council.

Environmental Implications

The Spring Creek Urban Growth Framework Plan has been developed with the environmental values and assets in the corridor being researched and referenced. A number of submissions have raised concern about the level of growth proposed and its location in the Spring Creek corridor and what impact this will have on the environmental values of the area. This has been discussed in more detail within the report.

Communication

Any decision on the Framework Plan will be conveyed to the submitters and the broader community following the Council decision.

Conclusion

The Spring Creek Urban Growth Framework Plan has generated much debate in terms of the growth expectation of Torquay/Jan Juc and has generated a large number of submissions opposing the significant growth outlined in the Plan.

In light of analysis of submissions and the complex growth questions raised it is considered the draft Spring Ck Urban Growth Framework Plan should not be supported. However growth options for the corridor at a different scale and context should not be abandoned. It is considered a review of growth expectations and options for Torquay/Jan Juc should be undertaken, initially through review by an independent expert panel, which will then inform further processes and options for exploring growth solutions that recognise the issues raised through the current project.