

A photograph of a coastal landscape. In the foreground, there is a dense thicket of green coastal vegetation. In the background, the ocean is visible with white-capped waves breaking. The sky is a clear, deep blue.

*Bells Beach*

**SURFING RECREATION RESERVE  
COASTAL IMPLEMENTATION  
PLAN 2015-18**

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**SURF COAST SHIRE COUNCIL ACKNOWLEDGES THE  
WADAWURRUNG PEOPLE AS THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS  
OF THE BELLS BEACH SURFING RECREATION RESERVE.**

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

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|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>1. About this document</b>  | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>2. Vision and goals</b>   | <b>3</b>  |
| 2.1 Management goals   | 3         |
| 2.2 Enacting the vision  | 4         |
| <b>3. Management actions</b>   | <b>5</b>  |
| 3.1 Protecting and respecting the natural environment  | 5         |
| 3.2 Protecting and respecting indigenous heritage and surfing culture  | 6         |
| 3.3 Addressing economic values   | 6         |
| 3.4 Management and Governance  | 7         |
| 3.5 Events management  | 8         |
| 3.6 Infrastructure management  | 9         |
| 3.7 Traffic management   | 12        |
| 3.8 Onsite enforcement and behaviour   | 12        |
| <b>4. Reporting and auditing process</b>   | <b>13</b> |
| Attachment 1: Bells Beach Committee Terms of Reference   | 14        |
| Attachment 2: Events Policy for the Bells Beach Surfing Recreation Reserve                                     | 18        |
| Attachment 3: Bells Beach Surfing Recreation Reserve Sign Audit and Style Guide 2015                           | 25        |
| Attachment 4: Bells Beach Surfing Recreation Reserve Fencing and Park Furniture Audit and Style Guide          | 34        |
| Attachment 5: Bells Beach Surfing Recreation Reserve Traffic Management Plan 2015 including current conditions | 42        |




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## 1. ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

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The *Bells Beach Surfing Recreation Reserve Implementation Plan 2015-18* accompanies the *Bells Beach Surfing Recreation Reserve Coastal Management Plan 2015-25*. While the latter is a high-level strategic document outlining the reserve's values and providing a vision for its future management, this document details actions to be taken over the next three years to realise this vision. For background information about these actions, please refer to the Coastal Management Plan (CMP).

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## 2. VISION AND GOALS

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Extensive community engagement guided the development of a vision and a series of management goals to underpin the land use policies and on-ground management actions pertaining to the reserve. Council adopted the following vision on 23 September 2014:

**TO RESPECT AND PROTECT THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT, INDIGENOUS HERITAGE AND SURFING CULTURE OF BELLS BEACH.**

As the plan must align with the *Victorian Coastal Strategy 2014*, it also incorporates a series of outcomes related to the strategy's vision of:

**A HEALTHY COAST, APPRECIATED BY ALL, NOW AND IN THE FUTURE.**

### 2.1 MANAGEMENT GOALS





The plan articulates the following goals for the Bells Beach reserve:

1. Protect and enhance ecological and geophysical values
2. Protect and promote indigenous archaeological, social, cultural and historic values
3. Recognise the Wadawurrung people's long association with the reserve, including the interconnections between land, people and biodiversity
4. Recognise the unique surfing heritage and the importance of surfing, and continue to cater for surfing and surfing events, including the Rip Curl Pro
5. Continue to cater for activities consistent with the vision
6. Ensure risks are minimised, recognising that the reserve is a natural place and risk cannot be eliminated
7. Minimise buildings and infrastructure
8. Protect existing waterways and minimise the site impacts of stormwater runoff, and
9. Acknowledge the importance of the setting within a rural hinterland landscape.

## 1.3 ENACTING THE VISION

The following provides an overview of the plan's guiding principles, values and outcomes, including how these respond to the range of issues raised via the community engagement process.

**Table 1: Principles, values and outcomes.**

|  | <b>RESPECT</b>  | <b>PROTECT</b>   |
|--|---|--|
|  <p><b>Natural environment</b></p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reserve retains its unique natural character through effective infrastructure management (eg minimal car parks, signs, buildings, fences)</li> <li>Visitors are informed about the reserve's environmental values without additional onsite interpretation</li> <li>Infrastructure fits its purpose, has a consistent look and feel, and is visually sensitive to its location</li> <li>Reserve retains its rural hinterland landscape setting</li> <li>Strong relationships are maintained with community environment groups</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Erosion is effectively managed through the application of best practice erosion protection principles and practices, noting erosion will occur as part of an ever changing coastal landscape</li> <li>Stormwater management is improved when consistent with other values such as aboriginal heritage protection</li> <li>Events are managed in a way that prevents negative impacts on the reserve's natural and built assets</li> <li>Remnant vegetation is protected, restored and improved via effective vegetation management</li> </ul> |
|  <p><b>Indigenous heritage</b></p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing cooperation and collaboration with the Wathaurung Aboriginal Corporation (the Registered Aboriginal Party)</li> <li>Visitors are informed about the reserve's indigenous heritage values without additional onsite interpretation activities</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reserve's indigenous values, including significant sites, are protected through effective cultural heritage management practices (eg heritage approvals obtained, toilet wall mural maintained)</li> </ul>  |
|  <p><b>Surfing culture</b></p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reserve recognised for its significance in Australia's surfing history and culture</li> <li>Visitors are informed about the reserve's cultural values in relation to surfing</li> <li>Young surfers have access to opportunities to develop their skills</li> <li>Surfers are aware of surfing etiquette and 'Spirit of Surfing' principles</li> <li>Strong relationships are maintained with the surfing community in reserve management</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reserve's cultural values related to surfing, including artefacts such as the wave sculpture and 'Spirit of Surfing' plaque, are protected in line with Victorian Heritage Register requirements</li> <li>Surfing and other events are managed in a consistent way that minimises their impacts on the reserve's values and reserve users</li> <li>Revenue raised through licensing, event fees and other means is re-invested into protecting the reserve's values</li> </ul>  |
|  <p><b>A healthy coast, appreciated by all, now and in the future</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The community understands the Coastal Management Plan's vision for the reserve and is actively involved in its realisation</li> <li>Infrastructure management enables people to safely use the reserve without damaging its natural and cultural assets</li> <li>Traffic management facilitates safe movement within the reserve's car parks and roads</li> <li>Event management focuses on activities appropriate to the reserve's core values (refer to Event Management Policy)</li> <li>Sensitive interpretation educates people about the reserve's history and values without additional impacts on the reserve itself</li> <li>Local law enforcement protects the reserve's core values without detracting from people's enjoyment</li> </ul> |  |






















### 3. MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

The tables in this section detail management actions by value or management area along with proposed timeframes and indicative costs. While each action has been assigned to the most relevant heading, it should be noted that many have beneficial outcomes across multiple areas. For an overview of the proposed actions please refer to Attachment 6.

#### 3.1 PROTECTING AND RESPECTING THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

The reserve's natural environment, including its wild heathland vegetation and the limestone cliffs, are highly valued. Although past grazing, uncontrolled recreational activities and other human impacts led to some degradation, extensive restoration works from the early 1970s onwards have contributed to improved vegetation cover, reduced erosion, fewer weeds and increased habitat values. The following actions are intended to support ongoing protection and restoration efforts.

















**Table 2: Actions related to natural environment values**

| Management action   | Projected timeframe   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
|   | 2015-16   | 2016-17   | 2017-18   |
| 1. Enhance weed control in line with the <i>Integrated Vegetation Management Plan</i> .   |  |  |  |
| 2. Revegetate and/or brush-mat eroded areas, such as opposite the entrance to the Winki Pop car park, near the Winki Pop lookout and on the western side of the Bells car park. |  |  |  |
| 3. Support SANE, Planet Days, Surf Rider and other community groups in undertaking environmental initiatives consistent with the Coastal Management Plan.                       |  |  |  |
| 4. Employ a contractor to undertake quarterly rubbish collection in the reserve beyond the main car park area.  |  |  |  |
| 5. Undertake a fauna survey every three years.  |  |  |  |
| 6. Undertake a geotechnical inspection before the Rip Curl Pro each year or at other times if considered necessary (eg after major storm events).                               |  |  |  |
| 7. Provide information on terrestrial and marine ecosystems through technologies such as phone apps and QR scanning.  |  |   |   |
| <b>Budget estimate</b>  | <b>\$15,000</b>   | <b>\$15,000</b>   | <b>\$15,000</b>   |

### 3.2 PROTECTING AND RESPECTING INDIGENOUS HERITAGE AND SURFING CULTURE

The reserve has a rich indigenous history and more recently has evolved as a significant surfing cultural site. Various legislation and government policies guide the protection of these values. The following actions are intended to engender ongoing cooperation with the traditional owners through the Wathaurung Aboriginal Corporation, as the Registered Aboriginal Party, to ensure protection of significant sites and values. In addition, the reserve’s surfing culture and other related values (eg hang gliding, pastoral heritage) are addressed by actions intended to improve visitor knowledge without onsite interpretation.

**Table 3: Actions related to indigenous heritage and surfing culture values**

| Management action  | Projected timeframe   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
|  | 2015-16   | 2016-17   | 2017-18   |
| 1. Meet at least once a year with the Wathaurung Aboriginal Corporation on planning and management directions for the reserve.   |    |    |    |
| 2. Work with the Wathaurung Aboriginal Corporation on cultural heritage approvals for all activities above routine reserve maintenance, including preparation of cultural heritage management plans and supervision of works, and ensure public access to aboriginal places is controlled. |    |    |    |
| 3. Obtain Heritage Victoria permits as required for works above routine maintenance to ensure the full consideration of indigenous and surfing cultural matters.   |  |  |  |
| 4. Investigate opportunities to promote the reserve’s heritage and cultural values at the Australian National Surfing Museum.  |  |  |  |
| 5. Provide information on the reserve’s indigenous heritage and surfing culture, and other values through new technologies, such as QR scanning and phone apps.  |  |   |   |
| 6. With the Bells Beach Committee investigate how current and future events can further protect and respect indigenous heritage and surfing culture.   |  |  |  |
| <b>Budget estimate</b>   | <b>\$10,000</b>   | <b>\$10,000</b>   | <b>\$10,000</b>   |

### 3.3 ADDRESSING ECONOMIC VALUES

The surf industry and associated tourism underpin a significant proportion of Surf Coast Shire’s economy, with Bells Beach being central to the image and branding driving this.

It is beyond the scope of this Implementation Plan, and associated Coastal Management Plan, to make recommendations about the surf industry, although many actions support the protection of the reserve’s key values and the sustainable management of events (refer to sections 3.5 – *Events* and 3.6 – *Infrastructure*). In maintaining the iconic status of Bells Beach into the future, the plan therefore indirectly supports economic values.






















Council will continue to work to support the surf industry generally, including through the current development of the Australian National Surfing Museum (formerly Surf World) and by strengthening the links between Bells Beach, Torquay and the surfing industry.

### 3.4 MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE

The community has formally advised Council on management of the reserve since Council's predecessor, the Shire of Barrabool, was appointed Committee of Management of the reserve in 1971. This tradition will continue with the appointment of the new Bells Beach Committee (BBC). The role of the BBC is detailed in the Bells Beach Committee Terms of Reference (Attachment 1).

The following actions aim to support the operations of the new BBC.

**Table 4: Actions related to governance issues**

| Management action   | Projected timeframe   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
|   | 2015-16   | 2016-17   | 2017-18   |
| 1. Appoint members of the Bells Beach Committee with an Impartial chair.  |    |    |    |
| 2. Support the committee's operations in line with its endorsed Terms of Reference.   |    |    |    |
| 3. Provide resources to manage the reserve and support the BBC.   |   |   |   |
| 4. Coordinate CMP implementation, including budgeting, monitoring and evaluation and all relevant stakeholder engagement and statutory approvals. |  |  |  |
| 5. Obtain the necessary statutory approvals for all works.  |  |  |  |
| 6. Undertake community engagement as needed to ensure reserve users understand implementation works and disruptions to use are minimised.         |  |  |  |
| 7. Collate data on the volumes and characteristics of visitors to Bell Beach and their purpose for visiting.                                      |  |  |  |
| <b>Budget estimate</b>  | <b>\$40,000</b>   | <b>\$40,000</b>   | <b>\$40,000</b>   |



### 3.5 EVENTS MANAGEMENT

The *Event Policy for the Bells Beach Surfing Recreation Reserve* (Attachment 2) has been developed through extensive community consultation as part of the development of the Coastal Management Plan. This policy will only be able to be varied through consultation with the Bells Beach Committee prior to submission to Council for approval. The policy supports the staging of the Rip Curl Pro, Australia's most significant surfing event. The policy also directs that all events are consistently managed in a way that limits their impacts on users and the reserve's natural, cultural and surfing values.

Council has committed, through a licence agreement endorsed by the Victorian Government, to support the Rip Curl Pro through in-kind assistance and the commitment of other resources to an estimated value of \$80,000. This is matched by the return from the licence fee and the benefits to the Surf Coast Shire of the marketing sponsorship agreement. Council's resource commitment for all other events held at the reserve is in-kind staff resources accounted for in the Governance section.

**Table 5: Actions related to events management issues**



















| Management action   | Projected timeframe |                 |                 |
|---|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|   | 2015-16             | 2016-17         | 2017-18         |
| 1. Manage all events and event applications in accordance with the CMP and the endorsed <i>Events Policy for the Bells Beach Surfing Recreation Reserve 2015</i> .  |                     |                 |                 |
| 2. Set all event dates for the coming year at a November meeting between Council, Surfing Victoria and Torquay Boardriders Club, with dates to be published on Council's website and on Surfing Victoria and Torquay Boardriders Club websites. |                     |                 |                 |
| 3. Provide an opportunity for Bells Beach Committee members to participate in reserve condition inspections before and after the staging of the Rip Curl Pro.   |                     |                 |                 |
| 4. Ensure event organisers implement a Council-authorized event management plan for the Rip Curl Pro.   |                     |                 |                 |
| 5. Undertake an independent audit of the bump in and bump out for the Rip Curl Pro to assist with identifying potential improvements.   |                     |                 |                 |
| <b>Budget estimate</b>  | <b>\$90,000</b>     | <b>\$80,000</b> | <b>\$80,000</b> |




















### 3.6 INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT

Depending on surf conditions, the number of people visiting the reserve each day regularly exceeds 1,000 (based on traffic count data for cars, following the introduction of the bus licensing system). Without any supporting infrastructure, this level of visitation would lead to the site's degradation, as occurred when it first became popular in the 1960s. The following actions have therefore been designed to keep the reserve similar to its current state, in terms of infrastructure, while ensuring onsite infrastructure fits its purpose and meets safety requirements. Management actions also support infrastructure maintenance and replacement sensitive to the coastal environment through the use of appropriate design, materials and colours. In this way, these actions protect the reserve's natural, cultural, surfing and other values.
















**Table 6: Actions related to infrastructure management issues**

| Management action  | Projected timeframe   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
|  | 2015-16   | 2016-17   | 2017-18   |
| <b>General infrastructure maintenance</b>  |   |   |   |
| 1. Reserve maintenance to comprise: Council infrastructure officers and nature reserve crew, tools, vehicles and other equipment, stormwater, sewer, water supply (other than toilet cleaning – see section below). Actions include weed management, native vegetation management, pathway and fence maintenance, repair and/or replacement of minor infrastructure as required. |    |    |    |
| 2. Undertake engineering safety inspection of beach access stairs, lookouts or other relevant infrastructure at least every three years (or sooner if extreme weather or other events are likely to have potential impacts).   |  |  |  |
| <b>Budget estimate</b>   | <b>\$35,000</b>   | <b>\$35,000</b>   | <b>\$35,000</b>   |
| <b>General signs (other than traffic)</b>  |   |   |   |
| 3. Remove all old non-traffic signage and replace with updated and amalgamated signage in accordance with the designs in the new style guide.  |  |   |   |
| 4. Install signage compliant with the new guide at the hang gliding set-up and launch areas detailing their conditions of use.   |  |   |   |
| <b>Budget estimate</b>   | <b>\$15,000</b>   | <b>\$0</b>  | <b>\$0</b>  |
| <b>Fencing and park furniture projects</b>   |   |   |   |
| 5. Remove obsolete infrastructure including: old gates from Winki Pop car park entrance; and old fencing around established plantings along Bells Beach Road.  |  |  |  |
| 6. Replace ageing or damaged infrastructure including: the gate to the hang glider launch site; picnic tables in the Bells Beach car park; old treated pine and wire style fencing with new fencing; and old electricity poles and treated pine style bollards with new hardwood bollards.   |  |  |  |
| 7. Fence the western side of the back track beach access to properly define the track boundary and restrict public access.   |  |   |   |
| 8. Install additional bins in Winki Pop and Bells car parks.   |   |   |  |
| 9. Reduce overnight camping and uncontrolled vehicle access in the overflow car park (west of Bells Beach Road) by installing gates at the access points and fencing along the southern boundary.  |  |   |   |
| 10. Install bicycle racks in the Winki Pop car park area.  |  |   |   |
| <b>Budget estimate</b>   | <b>\$21,000</b>   | <b>\$6,000</b>  | <b>\$11,000</b>   |

**Table 6: Actions related to infrastructure management issues (cont)**

| Management action   | Projected timeframe   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
|   | 2015-16   | 2016-17   | 2017-18   |
| <b>Memorial plaques</b>   |   |   |   |
| 11. Publicise the 'no memorial plaques' policy on Council's website.  |    |    |    |
| 12. Remove all new memorial plaques as they appear in the reserve and attempt to return them to family members.   |    |    |    |
| <b>Viewing areas</b>  |   |   |   |
| 13. Stabilise erosion around the edges of the former helicopter pad and formalise its use as a low key viewing area using natural materials in line with the new style guide.                                   |    |   |   |
| 14. Maintain views from existing viewing platforms to encourage visitors to stay out of fenced areas. This may involve minor vegetation trimming.   |    |    |    |
| <b>Budget estimate</b>  | <b>\$50,000</b>   | <b>\$0</b>  | <b>\$0</b>  |
| <b>Pathways projects</b>  |   |   |   |
| 15. Undertake modifications to Winki Pop car park to allow the existing pathway to be widened to allow for safe pedestrian movements.   |   |  |   |
| 16. Stabilise the loose gravel edges along the steep concrete Winki Pop pathway through either the use of geofabric and native coastal tussock grasses or a gravel cellular grid system as per the style guide. |  |   |   |
| 17. Replace sloping sections of gravel pathways (eg on the east side of the Hammerhead car park) with a gravel cellular grid system or exposed aggregate concrete, as per the style guide.                      |  |  |   |
| 18. Maintain pathways to ensure they provide safe public access.  |  |  |  |
| <b>Budget estimate</b>  | <b>\$10,000</b>   | <b>\$20,000</b>   | <b>\$10,000</b>   |






**Table 6: Actions related to infrastructure management issues (cont)**

| Management action  | Projected timeframe   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
|  | 2015-16   | 2016-17   | 2017-18   |
| <b>Toilets and showers</b>   |   |   |   |
| 19. Refurbish the internal fittings of the existing toilet block to improve functioning and water use efficiency.  |   |    |   |
| 20. Obtain specialist advice on actions to conserve the mural on the toilet block wall.  |    |   |   |
| 21. Implement approved actions for conserving the mural.   |    |   |   |
| 22. Upgrade the one existing shower on the outside of the toilet block to ensure pressure is adequate and there are no drainage issues or impacts on the mural.                                  |    |   |   |
| 23. Deter toileting in the Winki Pop car park island through the use of signs and brush matting and sections of 'plant friendly' fencing.  |    |   |   |
| 24. Review the toilet cleaning contract and review the daily cleanliness of the facility.  |  |   |   |
| 25. Clean toilet block daily.  |  |  |  |
| <b>Budget estimate</b>   | <b>\$40,000</b>   | <b>\$50,000</b>   | <b>\$30,000</b>   |
| <b>Stormwater, kerb and channel, and car parks</b>   |   |   |   |
| 26. Undertake a review of the current stormwater system and previous stormwater studies, and prepare options for water-sensitive urban design within the current built infrastructure footprint. |  |   |   |
| 27. Implement preferred water-sensitive urban design options.  |   |   |  |
| 28. Work with VicRoads to stabilise drainage alongside Bells Beach Road.   |   |  |   |
| 29. Renew existing kerb and channel assets within the main car parks to ensure effective stormwater management. Repair or replace as required.   |   |  |  |
| 30. Undertake a detailed car park surface condition report to determine appropriate 15-20 year renewal program.  |   |   |  |
| <b>Budget estimate</b>   | <b>\$5,000</b>  | <b>\$10,000</b>   | <b>\$100,000</b>  |

### 3.7 TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

The following actions should be read in conjunction with the *Bells Beach Surfing Recreation Reserve Traffic Management Plan 2015* (Attachment 5). They aim to address a range of traffic management issues, including parking availability and restrictions, enforcement of licensing requirements for commercial passenger vehicles. Other outcomes include compliance with the *Road Safety Act 1986* and minimising signage while meeting safety and enforcement requirements.







**Table 7: Actions related to traffic management issues**

| Management action   | Projected timeframe   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
|   | 2015-16   | 2016-17   | 2017-18   |
| 1. Use the <i>Road Safety Act 1986</i> to enforce parking permit and licence requirements.  |    |  |  |
| 2. Update the licence and permit conditions to reflect the changes to the car parking space layout and allocation.  |   |   |   |
| 3. Implement the recommendations of the updated <i>Bells Beach Surfing Recreation Reserve Traffic Management Plan 2015</i> (refer Attachment 5), specifically: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>install new traffic signs</li> <li>remove obsolete signs, and</li> <li>update line marking of car parking spaces to reflect reduced coach parking and angled parking for 22-seaters.</li> </ul> |   |   |   |
| 4. Undertake a review of the <i>Public Land and Tour Operator</i> licences (8) when they expire in October 2016.  |  |   |   |
| <b>Budget estimate</b>  | <b>\$10,000</b>   | <b>\$0</b>  | <b>\$0</b>  |

### 3.8 ONSITE ENFORCEMENT AND BEHAVIOUR

Not all users respect the site's significance, with a small number behaving in a manner impacting on the reserve's values and others' experiences. The following actions relate to providing a regular staff presence onsite to minimise such impacts.

**Table 8: Actions related to enforcement issues**

| Management action  | Projected timeframe   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
|  | 2015-16   | 2016-17   | 2017-18   |
| 1. Ensure Council's local laws staff undertake regular patrols to enforce regulations relating to bus licensing and parking, off-lead dogs, litter and sleeping in vehicles. |  |  |  |
| 2. Communicate reserve regulations to all users to assist with compliance.   |  |  |  |
| <b>Budget estimate</b>   | <b>\$5,000</b>  | <b>\$5,000</b>  | <b>\$5,000</b>  |

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## 4. REPORTING AND AUDITING PROCESS

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Council will assess the Implementation Plan each February to determine progress towards successfully implementing recommended actions. This assessment will take into account the Bells Beach Committee's feedback as reported to Council in December.

The annual assessment will consider and report on:

- recommended actions in a timely manner
- funds expended on works within the reserve
- Council staff time and activities undertaken, and
- the effectiveness of the actions undertaken in meeting the strategic actions and outcomes identified in the Coastal Management Plan.



**ATTACHMENT 1: BELLS BEACH COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE****Bells Beach Committee Terms of Reference****(Endorsed by Council 27 October 2015)****1. Background**

Surf Coast Shire is committed to ensuring the Bells Beach Surfing Recreation Reserve remains a special place for the community. Bells Beach is famous for its natural beauty, heritage, surf breaks and high profile surfing events. For many users, the place is 'spiritual', with multiple Aboriginal and surfing cultural sites of significance.

Located near the Great Ocean Road, Bells Beach also attracts a variety of tourists. Each group interacts with the land in different ways, but they are all drawn to the reserve's natural wonders and sense of history.

The Coastal Management Plan (CMP) provides a strategic vision for the reserve. It seeks to retain the existing attributes as well as address current and future user needs and management issues.

The Bells Beach Committee (the Committee) is appointed to assist Surf Coast Shire Council (as land manager) with the implementation of the *Bells Beach Surfing Recreation Reserve Coastal Management Plan 2015-25* and the *Bells Beach Surfing Recreation Reserve Coastal Implementation Plan 2015-18* referred to as 'the Plan's' in these Terms of Reference.

**2. Responsibilities****i. Advice and recommendations**

The Committee may:

- a) Provide advice or make recommendations to Council on any aspect relating to the implementation of the Plans, including detailed designs for replacement or new infrastructure.
- b) Make recommendations about the timing and prioritisation of works.
- c) Advise Council on the need for and nature of broader community consultation on the implementation of any of the recommendations of the Plans.
- d) Provide advice on the implementation of the Events Policy.
- e) Advise on any other relevant matters relating to the reserve, subject to the matters and advice being consistent with the Plans.

**ii. Monitoring**

The Committee will monitor:

- a) Progress towards implementation of the Plans.
- b) Effectiveness of any works or management changes undertaken during implementation of the Plans.
- c) The Committee may request an onsite inspection with Council staff to further investigate any recommendations of the Plans.

**iii. Reporting**

The minutes of each Committee meeting will be tabled at the next Council meeting.

The Chair of the Committee will annually provide a written report or a briefing to Council at the December Ordinary Council Meeting.

Reports will be made available to interested community members via Council.

If a report is tabled, it will be made available to interested community members via Council's website.

**iv. Out of scope**

The Committee is appointed to undertake the roles described above. Direct management and budgetary decisions are beyond the scope of the Committee.

**3. Objectives**

The objective of the Bells Beach Committee is to provide appropriate advice and recommendations to Council relating to:

- i. Implementation of the *Bells Beach Surfing Recreation Reserve Coastal Management Plan 2015-25* and the *Bells Beach Surfing Recreation Reserve Implementation Plan 2015-18*.
- ii. Feedback on any detailed plan designs relating to implementation actions.
- iii. Consultation and engagement to collect the views of reserve users on implementation of the Plans.

The work of the Committee will be guided by the vision, guiding principles, core values and goals outlined in the CMP. Its vision for the reserve is:

***To respect and protect the natural environment, indigenous heritage and surfing culture of Bells Beach.***

This vision aligns with the vision contained in the *Victorian Coastal Strategy 2014* of:

***A healthy coast, appreciated by all, now and in the future.***

Two **guiding principles** – respect and protect – and three **core values** – natural environment, indigenous heritage and surfing culture – underpin the plan’s vision, goals, actions and outcomes.

The following overarching management goals provide a clear direction in relation to the reserve’s future management:

1. Protect and enhance ecological and geophysical values
2. Protect and promote indigenous archaeological, social, cultural and historic values
3. Recognise the Wadawurrung people’s long association with the reserve, including the interconnections between land, people and biodiversity
4. Recognise the unique surfing heritage and the importance of surfing, and continue to cater for surfing and surfing events, including the Rip Curl Pro
5. Continue to cater for activities consistent with the vision
6. Ensure risks are minimised, recognising that the reserve is a natural place and risk cannot be eliminated
7. Minimise buildings and infrastructure
8. Protect existing waterways and minimise the site impacts of stormwater runoff, and
9. Acknowledge the importance of the setting within a rural hinterland landscape.

## 4. Membership

The Bells Beach Committee will comprise:

- One Impartial Chair (publically advertised)
- Two Surf Coast Shire Councillors
- One Wathaurung Aboriginal Corporation (Registered Aboriginal Party) representative – subject to staff availability
- One Surfing Victoria representative, and
- Five independent community nominees.

Additional Council staff may attend meetings to support the operations of the Committee and in an advisory capacity.

## 5. Appointment of Members

### i. Impartial Chairperson

Appointment of the Impartial Chair will occur through a publically advertised Expression of Interest process.

The following key qualities are required when appointing the Impartial Chair:

- a) A high level of knowledge of the reserve and its users
- b) Demonstrated experience on public committees
- c) Strong communication, mediation, facilitation and negotiation skills, and
- d) Sufficient time available to devote to the responsibilities of Impartial Chair.

### Appointment process

Council will appoint the Impartial Chair after consideration of the applications received.

### ii. Nominated representatives

The Wathaurung Aboriginal Corporation and Surfing Victoria will provide Council with a written nomination of their organisations’ proposed representatives. Nominated representatives will represent the views of their organisations and will act in the best interests of the reserve.

Nominated representatives will:

- a) Have an intimate knowledge of the reserve and its various users
- b) Be able to communicate effectively with other committee members and with the wider community
- c) Be able to work constructively and collaboratively as a committee member and respect a range of views that might be provided by other members
- d) Comply with confidentiality and media protocols, and
- e) Be authorised to represent the views of their respective organisations.

### Appointment process

Council will appoint the nominated representatives after considering the nominations.

#### iii. Independent community nominees

Independent community nominees will be Surf Coast Shire residents with a sound knowledge of the reserve and its users. Key skills required relate to the management of the natural environment, indigenous heritage and surfing culture values. Independent members will be appointed for the attributes they hold and will perform their role independently.

Independent community nominees will:

- a) Be able to commit to at least four meetings each year
- b) Have an intimate knowledge of the reserve and its various users and user groups
- c) Be able to communicate effectively with other committee members and with the wider community
- d) Be able to work constructively and collaboratively as a committee member and respect a range of views that might be provided by other members, and
- e) Comply with confidentiality and media protocols.

**Collectively**, the independent nominees will hold the following knowledge, skills and experiences:

- a) An understanding of coastal environmental management
- b) Practical environmental management experience
- c) Knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal heritage
- d) Knowledge and understanding of surfing
- e) Knowledge and understanding of the key user groups
- f) Experience in understanding and interpreting documents and plans
- g) Events management knowledge, and
- h) Infrastructure management and maintenance experience.

There are a range of key user groups (eg local surfing and environmental groups) that contribute significantly to the ongoing management of the reserve. Council welcomes nominations for the independent community nominee positions from members of these key user groups in the reserve or people with a demonstrated interest in the natural environment, indigenous heritage and surfing culture of Bells Beach.

### Appointment process

Appointment of independent community nominees will be through a publically advertised Expression of Interest process. Applicants will need to demonstrate their relevant knowledge, skills and experience against the selection criteria outlined above.

The applications will be considered by a selection panel and then considered for endorsement by Council at an Ordinary Council Meeting.

Following adoption by Council, the Bells Beach Committee will be convened.

## 6. Term

The term of appointment is three years.

## 7. Proceedings

### i. Meetings

- The Committee will meet at least four times per year, with any other meetings as required.
- The duration of each meeting should not generally exceed two hours.
- Agendas will be prepared and distributed seven days in advance of the meeting, along with appropriate briefing material.
- In the absence of the Chair from the meeting, a Councillor will act as Chair. In the absence of a Councillor, the members present will agree on a Chair.
- Meetings will be minuted.
- Council shall provide secretarial and administration support.
- Meeting minutes will be noted at the next Ordinary Council Meeting. Should Council resolve on any recommendations or advice made by the Committee or on any other matter that relates to the reserve, the Committee will be advised of this resolution.

### ii. Proxies

No proxies can be nominated to attend in place of an appointed Committee member.

### iii. Quorum

Any five members of the Committee, three of which must be either nominated or independent representatives.



**iv. Voting**

The Committee will make every effort to arrive at its advice by consensus. If consensus is not possible, matters will be resolved by a majority of the votes of members present, and the Chair shall have the casting vote if the votes are equal. If the Committee is unable to agree on its advice, all views/ advice will be presented to Council for consideration.

**v. Vacancies**

In the case of a vacancy on the Committee, Council can appoint a new member for a term not exceeding the date set down for the expiry of the term of office of the retiring member.

Councillors will be appointed/reappointed as soon as practicable after Council elections.

**8. Remuneration**

The Chair will be offered an honorarium in acknowledgement of the responsibilities involved in assisting with preparation of the agenda, finalisation of the minutes and possibly communicating the activities of the Committee among the local community.

Other members will participate on the Committee as volunteers.

**9. Confidentiality**

Committee members shall not, directly or indirectly, release or make available to any person any information relating to the work or discussions of the Committee, of which he or she is a member, that is or was in his or her possession, except in accordance with such terms and in such a manner as stipulated by Surf Coast Shire Council.

**10. Removal of a member**

Membership of the Committee can be rescinded by a decision of Council on the recommendation of the General Manager, Environment and Development.

Members may be granted a leave of absence by the Chair. Missing three consecutive meetings without a leave of absence will mean that the person will no longer be a member of the Committee.

## ATTACHMENT 2: EVENTS POLICY FOR THE BELLS BEACH SURFING RECREATION RESERVE

### COUNCIL POLICY

|   |   |            |
|---|---|------------|
| Bells Beach Surfing Recreation Reserve – Event Approval & Management Policy | Document No:                              | DO NOT USE |
|   | Approval Date:                            |            |
|   | Approved By:                              |            |
|   | Review Date:                              |            |
| Responsible Officer:  | Manager Environment and Community Safety: |            |
| Authorising Officer:  | Chief Executive Officer                   |            |

This policy was developed in 2015 following extensive community engagement on the issues around event management. All events and event proposals will be assessed and managed in accordance with this policy.

#### 1. Purpose

The policy is designed to give clarity to event management in the Bells Beach Surfing Recreation Reserve (the Reserve) and to assist with the improved sustainability of events.

#### 2. Scope

The policy applies to the Council-owned and managed land in the Bells Beach Surfing Recreation Reserve as shown in Appendix 1. The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, and Parks Victoria manage the offshore waters, and the approval of these agencies is required for any event taking place in waters they manage.

The policy covers the approval and management of all events within the Reserve, both surfing and other non-surfing events.

#### 3. Application

The policy aims to guide the approval and management of all events within the Reserve. It directs Surf Coast Shire Council officers in approving and overseeing the management of events within the reserve, and it informs management advice by the Bells Beach Committee.

It is noted that, while the policy applies generally to the Rip Curl Pro Easter surfing competition, a separate, legally binding licence agreement for this event is already in place. In the case of any inconsistencies, the licence applies. Into the future, when either document is reviewed, amendments will be made to ensure their consistency.

#### 4. Definitions

##### a. The Reserve

Bells Beach Surfing Recreation Reserve

##### b. Competitive surfing event

Formal surfing competition run by Surfing Victoria or Torquay Boardriders Club

##### c. Council

Surf Coast Shire Council

##### d. Surfing Victoria sanctioned event

Surfing event at the Reserve run by Surfing Victoria or its delegate

#### 5. Purpose

To provide clear direction on the:

- Need to ensure events do not adversely impact upon the natural environmental, indigenous heritage and surfing cultural values of the Reserve.
- Involvement of community interest groups in the review and planning of events.
- Number and type of surfing events conducted in the Reserve each year including:
  - allocation of surfing events
  - timing of surfing events
  - types of events other than surfing that can occur in the Reserve, and appropriate approvals and management conditions
  - permit and licence requirements for each event, and
  - post-event inspection processes.

## 6. Policy

### 6.1 Objectives

- a) Ensure the natural environment, indigenous heritage and surfing values of the Reserve are respected and protected during events.
- b) Continually work towards improved event management, including reducing the impacts of event set up and pack up.
- c) Ensure the impacts of events on non-participating reserve users are minimised.
- d) Enable an agreed number of competitive surfing events to take place at Bells Beach.
- e) Provide opportunities for surfers with a range of abilities to compete.
- f) Provide opportunities for junior surfers to surf competitively at Bells Beach.
- g) Allow events through the Reserve that use the Surf Coast Walk, subject to appropriate management conditions.
- h) Enable community events with a connection to the Reserve, such as environmental working bees and cultural ceremonies.
- i) Publicise event dates well in advance.
- j) Recognise Torquay Boardriders Club as the 'home' competitive surfing club at Bells Beach.
- k) Direct all revenue raised from events to improvement works within the Reserve.
- l) Annually review events in regard to permits and event management plans.
- m) Clarify the types of events that are inappropriate within the Reserve.

### 6.2 Surfing Events

#### a) Surfing event number and allocation

The maximum total number of competitive surfing events each year will be **nine**. These consist of:

- i) One Easter contest (currently known as the Rip Curl Pro, conducted in accordance with a separate licence)
- ii) Four Surfing Victoria sanctioned events
- iii) One additional Surfing Victoria sanctioned event, subject to consultation with the Bells Beach Committee, and
- iv) Three Torquay Boardriders Club events.

If the opportunity to host an additional World Surfing League event was to arise, an event proposal would be submitted to the Bells Beach Committee for consideration and advice, including on the event and its use of surf breaks.

#### b) Surfing event timing

The timing of events will be coordinated to:

- i) Not occur on any weekend or outside normal weekday business hours for a period of four weeks after the final of the Rip Curl Pro Easter contest, and
- ii) Ensure a minimum 10-day gap between each event.

#### c) Use of surf breaks

The following conditions apply:

- i) The Rip Curl Pro Easter contest can utilise one of either the Bells (the Bowl or Rincon) or Winkipop (Uppers and Lower) breaks.
- ii) Surfing Victoria sanctioned events are limited to the Bells breaks (the Bowl or Rincon).
- iii) Torquay Boardriders Club may hold one event on the Winkipop breaks (Uppers and Lower). The remaining two events must be on the Bells breaks (the Bowl or Rincon).
- iv) Surfers not participating in the event may use the surf breaks in the Reserve that are not in use for the event.

#### d) Setting of surfing event dates

In November each year, Council officers and representatives of Surfing Victoria and Torquay Boardriders Club will meet and draw up an events calendar for the coming year. Council will discuss the proposed events calendar with community interest groups to obtain feedback and seek input into opportunities to link community outcomes with events (eg cultural activities associated with the Indigenous Surfing Titles).

When finalised, the events calendar will be made easily accessible to the broader community to limit inconvenience to reserve users. As a minimum, the events calendar will be available on the Council, Surfing Victoria and Torquay Boardriders Club websites. Use of other sites such as SwellNet is also encouraged. The Bells Beach Committee will review the events calendar and its accessibility each year.

**e) Flexibility of surfing event dates**

While it is desirable to adhere to the events calendar, it is recognised there may be a need to have some ability to change event dates to fit in with other competitions or forecasted unfavourable conditions. Flexibility within the following guidelines will be allowed:

- i) Surfing Victoria sanctioned event dates will generally not be subject to change. If a change is required, a request to change the date must be made at least three months prior to the listed date in the annual events calendar.
- ii) Torquay Boardriders Club may nominate a contingency date for each of their three events, which will be included on the events calendar. Five days notice must be given if the contingency date is to be used as an alternative to the preferred date.
- iii) The Torquay Boardriders Club contingency date and the Surfing Victoria requested date change must adhere to the conditions set out in 6.2 (b).

**f) Encourage junior competition opportunities within approved surfing events**

Event organisers are encouraged to look for opportunities that allow juniors to surf at the Reserve during approved event days (eg as currently occurs at the Rip Curl Pro), and to encourage juniors to participate in events.

**6.3 Events Other Than Surfing**

A number of events have traditionally passed through the Reserve (eg Bells Bash clifftop run and other running events using the Surf Coast Walk) and there are occasionally requests for other events to pass through or to be staged in the Reserve.

For events other than surfing:

- a) Traditional events such as the Bells Bash cliff top run may continue, subject to the relevant approvals.
- b) Events that pass through the Reserve using the Surf Coast Walk may be permitted, subject to a permit being granted and an approved event management plan.
- c) New events that propose to start or finish in the Reserve are not likely to receive approval if they disrupt user activities (eg take up car parking spaces, create congestion). These event proposals can be considered by the Bells Beach Committee, which will evaluate factors such as the impacts on surfing, infrastructure required and number of participants.

- d) Small community events such as conservation or cultural activities (eg working bees, cultural ceremonies) are encouraged, with groups entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Surf Coast Shire Council.
- e) Only minimal infrastructure associated with each event will be permitted and it must be located so as not to interrupt the activities of other reserve users.
- f) Private functions such as weddings will not be permitted within the Reserve.
- g) Timing – three months prior to each proposed event, event organisers will submit to Council an event approval application form (including an event management plan), and any fee (if this applies). Council events officers will liaise directly with event organisers and, at least 30 days prior to the proposed event date, will make an in-principle decision on whether or not the event can take place. Council officers must make a final decision on the staging of the proposed event at least six days prior to the proposed event date.
- h) Council's events officers will ensure that the Council events calendar is adjusted if there is any change to the event date.

**6.4 Conduct of All Events**

Events in the reserve must comply with the following:

- a) Have an event management plan approved by Council in writing prior to the event proceeding (the one exception to this requirement is a minor community event undertaken in line with a Memorandum of Understanding).
- b) Have appropriate insurance—Event organisers must provide evidence of public liability insurance to a minimum value of \$10 million. Note that some community events may be exempt from this requirement, subject to the organising body having a memorandum of understanding with Surf Coast Shire Council and adhering to the conditions of the agreement (eg agreed occupational, health and safety procedures).
- c) Be subject to an environmental audit - As part of working towards improving event management, an environmental audit system will be developed and phased in for events between 2015 and 2018. The environmental audit will include consideration of factors such as transport to the Reserve, materials/products used by vendors during events, waste and litter management, and community education. The Bells Beach Committee will be involved in the development of the environmental audit.

- d) Be conducted in accordance with this policy.
- e) Be conducted in accordance with the Minister's approved Coastal Management Plan (CMP).
- f) Protect and respect the natural environment, indigenous heritage and surfing culture at all times.
- g) Be safe at all times for event participants and the general community.
- h) Not restrict public access to areas of the Reserve unless temporarily in accordance with an event management plan approved by Council.
- i) Not restrict reasonable public access using existing paths to all surf breaks in the Reserve.
- j) Seek to minimise the event set up and take down times, and be conducted over the minimum period required to run the event.

## 7. Permits, Event Management Plans and Licences

Management of the Rip Curl Pro is controlled by a *Crown Land (Reserves) Act* licence between Council and Surfing Victoria (current until February 2018). This licence sets out the requirements for the event management plan, which covers running of the event in detail. Council and Surfing Victoria will continue to work towards reducing the impacts of the staging of this event on other reserve users. An independent audit of the event bump in and bump out will be undertaken in 2016 to assist with this. When considering potential improvements, comparisons will be made with venues similar to the Reserve, such as Margaret River.

The Rip Curl Pro has a special site inspection prior to Surfing Victoria handing the site back to Council following the bump out. Members of the Bells Beach Committee will be invited to participate in this inspection.

Other surfing events require a Council permit, which will include the need for an event management plan to be prepared. The event management plan must demonstrate compliance with Section 6 of this policy.

For non-surfing events, a Council permit and associated event management plan will be required.

## 8. Event Management Plan Minimum Requirements

All event management plans must demonstrate compliance with Section 6 of this policy and cover all aspects of event management including but not limited to:

- a) Traffic management including measures to reduce private vehicle use
- b) Car parking arrangements
- c) Emergency plans and procedures
- d) Facility requirements and management
- e) Waste management, including sustainability provisions (follow-up through proposed environmental audit)
- f) Temporary structures
- g) Ancillary operations (eg barbecues, coffee vans or food vans), including sustainability measures
- h) Environmental and cultural management, and
- i) Parks Victoria or Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning approval for the offshore component of the event (if needed).

## 9 Records

Records shall be retained for at least the period shown below.

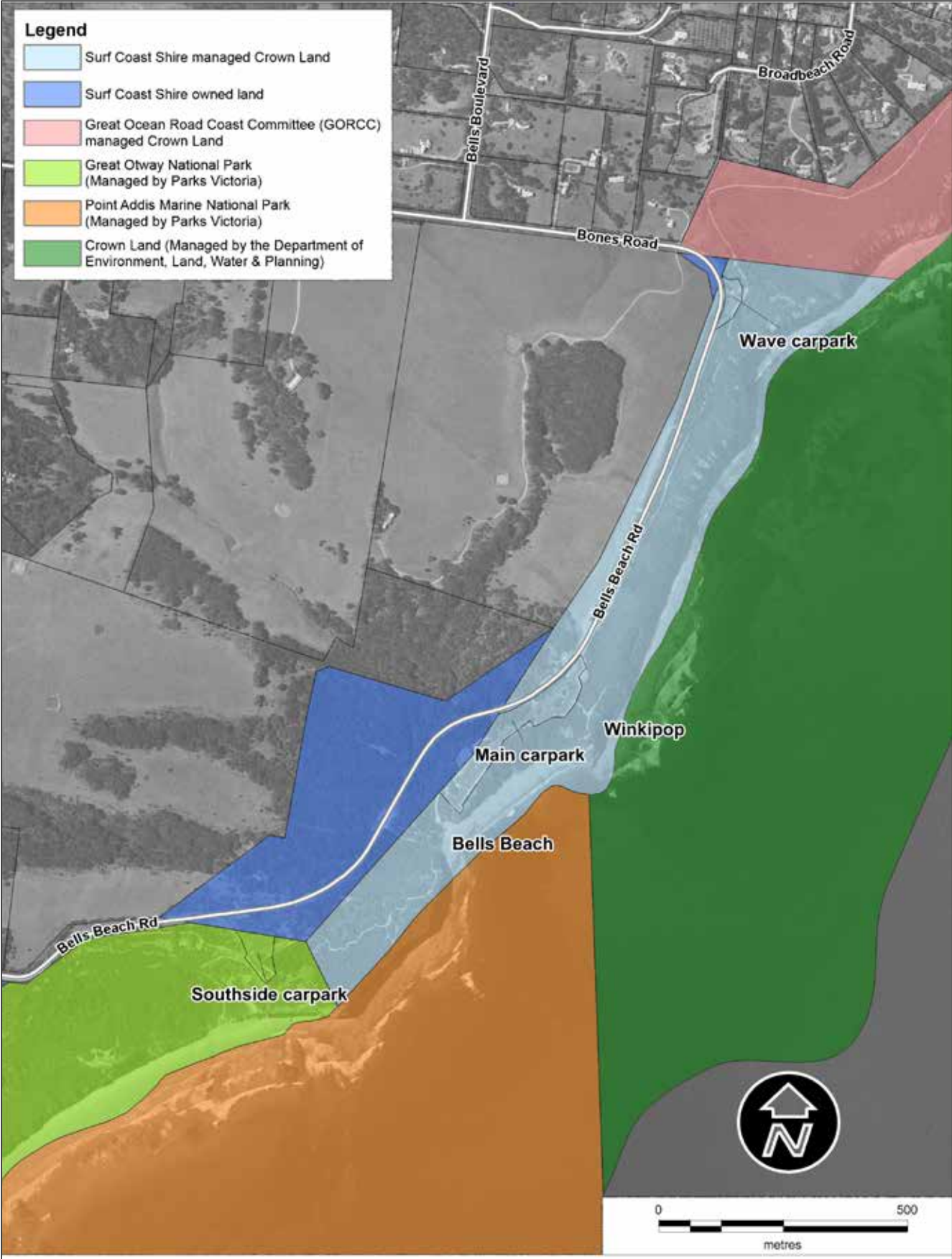
| Record  | Retention/Disposal Responsibility         | Retention Period                                      |
|---|---|---|
| Completed application form and event management plan for all proposed and approved events | Event Liaison Officer                     | Ongoing in accordance with Council Records Procedures |
| Community complaints, ideas for improvement or concerns                                   | Event Liaison Officer                     | Ongoing in accordance with Council Records Procedures |
| Any officially-recorded Council minutes relevant to events at the Reserve                 | Manager, Environment and Community Safety | Ongoing in accordance with Council Records Procedures |

## Attachments

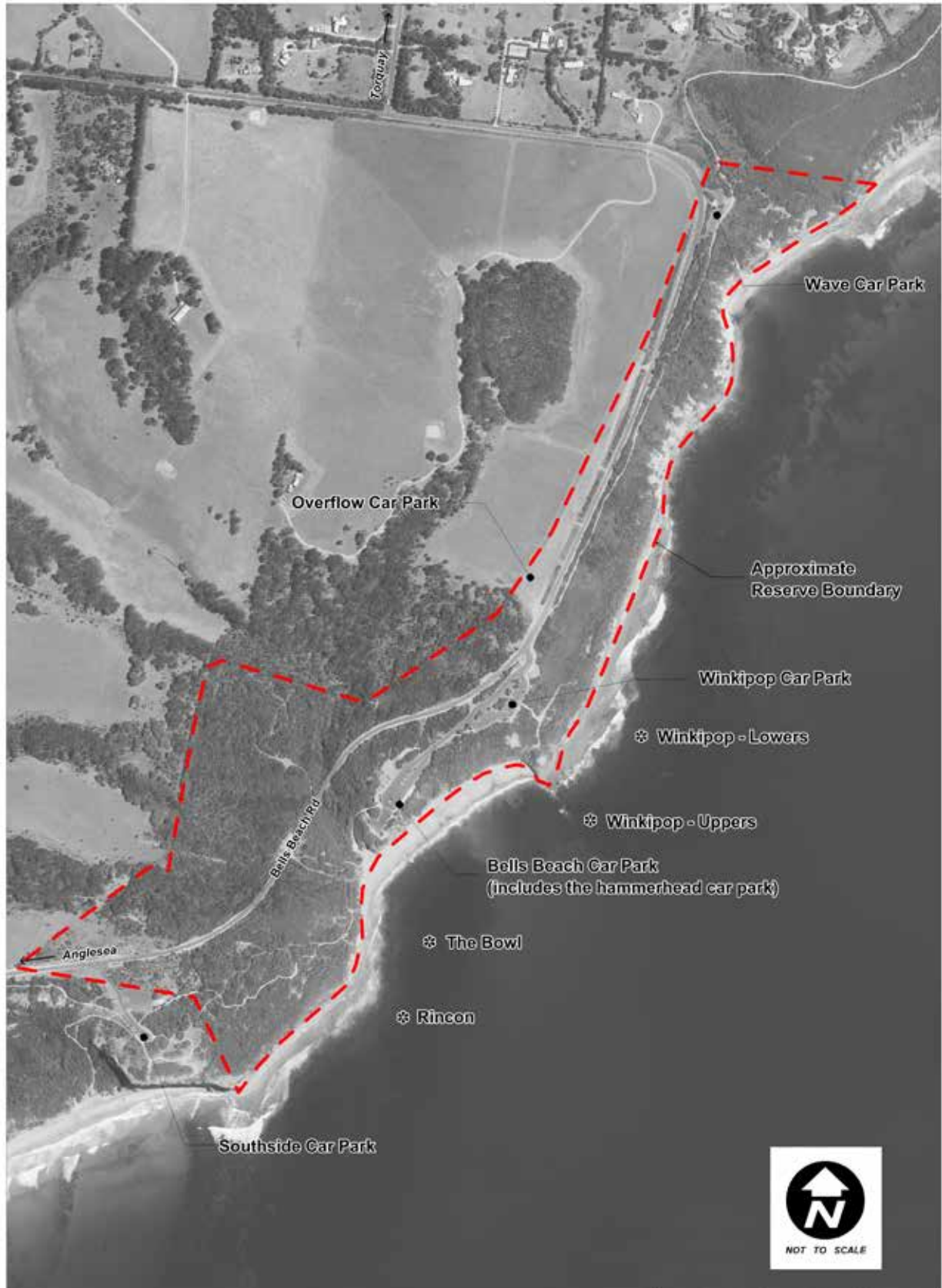
Boundaries of the Bells Beach Surfing Recreation Reserve

|                            |  |                     |  |
|----------------------------|--|---------------------|--|
| <b>Approval Date:</b>      |  | <b>Approved by:</b> |  |
| <b>Amendment/Review 1:</b> |  | <b>Approved by:</b> |  |
| <b>Amendment/Review 2:</b> |  | <b>Approved by:</b> |  |

APPENDIX 1: BOUNDARIES OF THE BELLS BEACH SURFING RECREATION RESERVE



## APPENDIX 2. SURF BREAKS AT BELLS BEACH SURFING RECREATION RESERVE REFERRED TO IN THE EVENTS POLICY

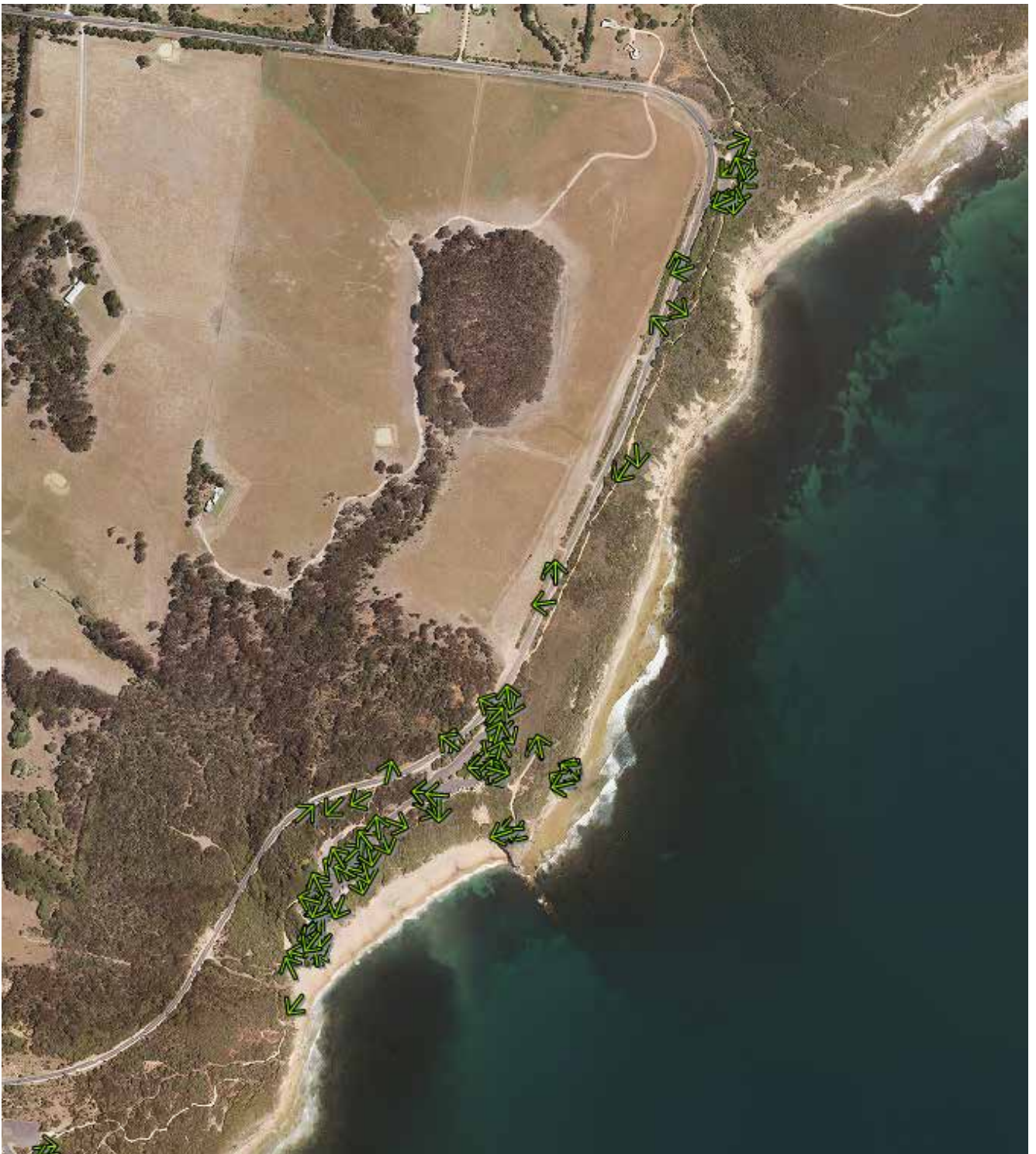




### APPENDIX 3: BELLS BEACH SURFING RECREATION RESERVE SIGN AUDIT AND STYLE GUIDE 2015

#### PART 1: SIGN AUDIT






Many signs are located within the reserve, as shown on the aerial below, with an audit of existing signs undertaken to inform recommendations about future signage use. The audit outcomes are summarised on the following pages.



| Comments on existing signage  | Examples  | Examples   | Recommendations   |
|---|---|--|---|
| <p>Entrance sign recently upgraded to sandstone. Original wave sign protected on the Victorian Heritage Register.</p>   |    |    | <p>Retain iconic entrance signage.</p>  |
| <p>Three 'Sprit of Surfing' stone signs installed to help foster improved surfing culture.</p>  |    |    | <p>Retain. Protected on Victorian Heritage Register.</p>  |
| <p>No information available in relation to this stone sign near the toilet block: Warnjaprah's Journey in memory of Evan Mckenzie.</p>  |   |  | <p>Continue investigations to establish provenance as the basis for recommended action.</p>   |
| <p>Just inside main entry: regulation and advisory signage tacked on giving cluttered appearance. Life saving advice is a duplication of other signage in the reserve.</p>  |  |  | <p>Remove and incorporate messages on upgraded signage as per the new <i>Sign Style Guide</i>.</p>  |
| <p>These car park signs comply with the <i>National Aquatic and Recreational Signage Style Manual</i>. Need additional warning symbols. Potential for regulatory symbols to go here rather than separate signs. Life saving service text could be improved.</p> |  |   | <p>Replace with new signs compliant with the <i>National Aquatic and Recreational Signage Style Manual</i>, but update warning, regulatory and life saving service information.</p> |
| <p>These smaller signs found on tracks to the beach are smaller replicas of car park signs.</p>   |  |  | <p>Replace with updated signs containing warning and regulatory information.</p>  |
| <p>Recently installed emergency marker signs.</p>   |  |  | <p>Retain but include emergency marker information on other updated signs in appropriate locations.</p>   |

| Comments on existing signage   | Examples   | Recommendations  |
|--|--|--|
| <p>Parks Victoria signs within the reserve: interpretation sign in poor condition and survey marker showing boundary of marine park.</p> |    | <p>Discuss removal of old interpretation sign with Parks Victoria, given current grant to use scanning technology for education on marine values. Retain land survey marker, used by people in offshore areas to determine whether or not they are within the waters of the marine park.</p> |
| <p>Parks Victoria regulatory signs applying to the marine park and Surf Coast Walk interpretive signs.</p>                               |    | <p>Retain, given these bollards were only installed last year and use of symbols is consistent with new <i>Sign Style Guide</i>.</p>   |
| <p>Steep cliff signs installed about 20 years ago: condition varies.</p>   |   | <p>Replace with updated signage promoting the same message. Where possible, incorporate warnings on new amalgamated signage and existing infrastructure, such as fence posts.</p>  |
| <p>Various old signage regarding revegetation and old restoration projects.</p>  |  | <p>Remove as generally no longer necessary or information can be incorporated onto new bollards.</p>   |
| <p>Surf Coast Walk signage.</p>  |  | <p>Retain and incorporate other information on the posts in line with new <i>Sign Style Guide</i> (rather than installing additional poles).</p>   |
| <p>Surf Coast Walk signage.</p>  |  | <p>Retain.</p>   |

| Comments on existing signage   | Examples   |  | Recommendations  |
|--|--|--|--|
| Surf Coast Walk interpretive sign in Wave car park.  |   |  | Retain while in good condition. Then replace with new technology markers (eg QR scanning on post). Bollard at Wave car park needs to advise people how to reach beach access point.  |
| Memorial plaques.  |       |  | Remove all memorial plaques as they appear. Return to families if possible or, if family members can't be contacted, store to return at a later date.  |
| Signage required under the <i>Road Safety Act 1988</i> to enable Council to enforce commercial bus licence parking restrictions. Needs updating to reflect recommended altered bus parking arrangements.                               |     |  | Only install the minimum number of signs required under the <i>Road Safety Act 1986</i> to enforce permit requirements for commercial passenger vehicles. Replace outdated signs in line with new bus parking arrangements contained within the Coastal Management Plan. |
| Speed signs.   |   |  | Retain. Since these signs were installed, traffic counts in the car parks have shown the average speed of cars has declined.   |
| Pedestrian crossing and associated signs. A pedestrian crossing was installed to cope with the number of pedestrians disembarking from large (50-seater plus) buses using the reserve prior to the introduction of the licence system. |   |  | Pedestrian crossing is to be retained as Council is committed to providing a safe location for reserve users of all abilities to cross to the toilets.   |
| Pavement used for some traffic messages.   |   |  | Retain if this keeps down the number of freestanding signs.  |

| Comments on existing signage  | Examples   | Recommendations  |
|---|--|--|
| Toilet signage.   |   | <p>Incorporate information (location and distance to toilets) on new signs installed in line with the new <i>Sign Style Guide</i>.</p>   |
| No Through Road signage currently located at end of Winki Pop car park heading down to the Hammerhead car park. |   |  <p>Retain but add Way Out information for international visitors. Possibly incorporate new No Through Road information on new signage in line with the new <i>Sign Style Guide</i>.</p> |
| Signage on Bells Beach Road. Relates to speed limits, pedestrians, curves, etc.                                 |  |  <p>Retain. Managed by Vic Roads.</p>   |

## **Part 2: Bells Beach Surfing Recreation Reserve Sign Style Guide**

The following design options for replacing and amalgamating signage within the reserve have been developed for Council's consideration.

The new signs aim to update and combine warning and regulatory signage (other than traffic signs, which will be dealt with separately) within the main use areas. For other locations within the reserve, they are intended to offer options for smaller signs (eg warning advice, way finding).

No new interpretative signs are proposed in line with community feedback. The new sign options include QR symbols as a first step in delivering interpretative information without additional signs.

Note the design of main car park signs are guided by the *National Aquatic Recreational Signage Style Manual* (Department of Justice, 2006). This is not a regulatory document but is generally adhered to throughout Australian coastal areas. It is based on research into the use of effective colours, sizes, symbols and the like in providing information and warnings in aquatic situations.

**Main car park signs**

The sizes, shapes, colours and locations of these signs are given in the *National Aquatic Recreational Signage Style Manual* (Department of Justice, 2006). Similar signs are currently onsite but outdated. There is not much scope to vary the design of these signs.

**Bells Beach Surfing Recreation Reserve  
Signage concepts**

**Sign 1 Main Car Park 1800mm x 900mm approx.**



Beyond the main car park, the *National Aquatic Recreational Signage Style Manual* (Department of Justice, 2006) recommends additional signage locations (eg tracks leading to the beach). The following two options show one using standard colours and the other Wathaurung Aboriginal Corporation colours as part of a move towards using more natural colours and promoting cultural values without installing new interpretative signs.

Bells Beach Surfing Recreation Reserve  
Signage concepts

Sign 2 Bollard 510mm x 1020mm approx.

Option 1 Colours as per style guide

Option 2 Incorporating Wadawurrung logo and colours





Design options for smaller signs required for wayfinding or warning advice are shown below.

Bells Beach Surfing Recreation Reserve  
Signage concepts

Sign 3 Small Directory signs 100mm x height to suit

site heading and symbol



site heading and symbol  
in Wadawurrung colours



no heading multiple symbols



no heading one symbol





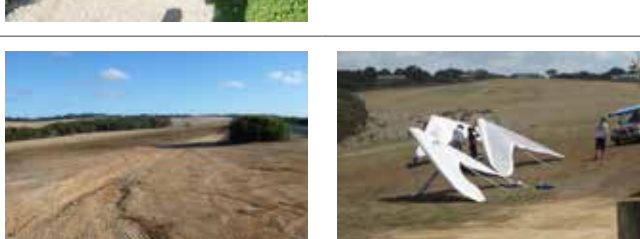



## ATTACHMENT 4: BELLS BEACH SURFING RECREATION RESERVE FENCING AND PARK FURNITURE AUDIT AND STYLE GUIDE




### PART 1: AUDIT

The outcomes of an audit of the reserve's fencing and park furniture are summarised below. These informed recommendations about future use, which assisted in developing the Park Furniture Style Guide in Part 2.

| Comments on existing park furniture   | Examples   | Recommendation (see new Style Guide in Part 2)  |
|---|--|---|
| Treated pine post and wire fences common to most pathways. Some with broken wire and/or rotting failing posts.                                  |    | If still required, replace with hardwood post and plain wire (netting will only be used if required for specific purpose such as exclusion of rabbits, protection of historic sites). Remove if not required. |
| Old star picket and wire fencing for protecting revegetation areas.   |   | Remove if no longer required.   |
| Hang glider 'mallee gate' access to launch site. Gate is in poor condition and creates a trip hazard if laid on the pathway to allow launching. |   | Replace with lift-out gate panels that can be temporarily stored upright, ready for immediate replacement after launching.  |
| Old style bollards in car park areas.   |  | Still required to control vehicle movements. Replace with new bollards as per Park Furniture Style Guide.   |
| Three sets of wooden stairs leading to the beach.   |  | Retain and maintain. Include in annual geotechnical inspections.  |

| Comments on existing park furniture  | Examples   | Recommendation (see new Style Guide in Part 2)  |
|--|--|---|
| <p>Concrete pathway leading from Winki Pop car park to lookout. Gravel sides regularly erode, leading to loose pebbles on the pathway and sediment flowing to the stormwater pit at the top of the stairs.</p> |     | <p>Retain concrete pathway and stabilise loose gravel edging using either geofabric and native coastal tussock grasses or a cellular grid system for the gravel.</p>                                  |
| <p>The Hammerhead car park has several steep sections of pathway where there are regular washouts of the Gherang gravel, contributing sediment to stormwater system and creating trip hazards.</p>             |    | <p>Replace unconsolidated gravel with either a gravel stabilisation system or exposed aggregate concrete as shown in the Park Furniture Style Guide.</p>  |
| <p>One narrow section of pathway in Winki Pop car park where there is inadequate separation between pedestrians and cars.</p>  |   | <p>Modify narrow sections of pathway in the Winki Pop car park to allow for safe pedestrian movement.</p>   |
| <p>Vehicle track to beach. Locked bollard prevents public access. Primarily used to assist with Rip Curl Pro set up, and for works vehicles (eg rock wall repair, drain upgrade).</p>                          |   | <p>Retain and maintain contoured surface to reduce erosion.</p>   |
| <p>Overflow car park west of Bells Beach Road. Unrestricted vehicle access leading to low quality surface and unauthorised camping.</p>  |  | <p>Retain for use during events and for hang gliding set-up. Leave southern section open but fence two-thirds of northern section to restrict vehicles (other than hang glider support vehicles).</p> |
| <p>Gaps in overflow car park fence, with some providing for vehicle access.</p>  |  | <p>As above, restrict vehicle entry other than hang gliding vehicles (except when required for events).</p>   |





| Comments on existing park furniture   | Examples   |  | Recommendation (see new Style Guide in Part 2)   |
|---|--|--|--|
| Existing kerb and channel with multiple failures.   |    |  | Monitor and, if necessary, repair or replace. Consider stormwater improvement opportunities at the same time.  |
| Stormwater system was upgraded in 2011 but needs maintenance and could be further improved. |    |  | Maintain existing stormwater infrastructure, install additional litter baskets and look for ways to incorporate improvements when maintaining or upgrading other infrastructure. |
| Formalised lookouts.  |   |  | Retain, maintain and include in geotechnical inspections to ensure safety. Continue minor trimming of planted vegetation to maintain views.                                      |
| The helicopter landing area has an eroding face and an uneven surface.                      |  |  | Stabilise the eroding face of the landing area and use natural materials (timber, gravel and plantings) to create a low-key viewing area.  |
| The toilet in the Hammerhead car park. Regular complaints with standard of facility.        |  |  | Retain and upgrade internal fittings. Conserve mural.  |
| There is one outdoor shower that does not always function well.                             |   |  | Replace with single shower head that does not cause drainage issues and does not adversely impact upon mural maintenance.  |





| Comments on existing park furniture  | Examples  | Recommendation (see new Style Guide in Part 2)  |
|--|---|---|
| <p>Winki Pop car park island is regularly being used as a toilet since fencing was removed about four years ago.</p>                   |    | <p>Signage and brush matting have been trialled with limited success. Planting and sections of fencing to be installed.</p>   |
| <p>Picnic tables in Hammerhead car park. These are lifted out each year to allow Rip Curl Pro infrastructure to be installed.</p>      |    | <p>Replace with similar design installed in permanent in-ground metal sleeves to reduce ground disturbance related to annual removal.</p>   |
| <p>Bins: cigarette butts are one of the main items of rubbish within the reserve. Main rubbish bins are often full to overflowing.</p> |  | <p>Locate butt bins on existing posts in strategic locations and install extra waste bins in the Winki Pop and Hammerhead car parks. Commission Wathaurung artist to paint the bin surrounds to blend in with the location.</p> |

**Part 2: Park Furniture Style Guide Specifications**

Renewal or maintenance of park furniture within the reserve will be undertaken as required, in line with the *Bells Beach Surfing Recreation Reserve Implementation Plan* and Council's *Parks and Open Space Asset Management Plan*, and will conform with the following specifications.

| Item                    | Recommendation   |   |
|-------------------------|--|---|
| Fence posts             | New fence posts in the reserve to use sustainably harvested hardwood.  |    |
| In-ground metal sleeves | Any movable posts or bollards to be installed with in-ground metal sleeves to reduce ground disturbance over the long-term.                              |   |
| Preferred wire fencing  | Plain wire is preferred although there may be situations where a different wire is required (eg mesh for rabbit control or Aboriginal place protection). |  |
| Fencing wire option     | Netting or ringlock can be used if required for protection of a significant asset, such as a recorded Aboriginal place.                                  |  |
| Bollard                 | Cypress or hardwood bollards to be used instead of treated pine.   |  |

| Item   | Recommendation  |  |
|--|---|--|
| <p>Overflow car park access point gates</p>  | <p>The overflow car park adjoins private farmland where traditional farm gates are used. Farm gates are recommended to control vehicle entry to northern area of overflow car park.</p> |   |
| <p>Pathway surface</p>   | <p>The preferred surface for pathways within the reserve is compacted gravel.</p>   |    |
| <p>Pathway surface for steeply sloping areas subject to erosion</p> <p>Option 1: Gravel path stabilisation</p> | <p>Pathways in the Hammerhead car park that are sloping and regularly experience erosion should be replaced with either Option 1 or Option 2.</p>                                       |  <p>Use: Commercial paths and high impact traffic ways<br/> Gravel size: 7 - 15 mm<br/> Cell Size: 50mm wide x 35mm deep<br/> Cell Wall Thickness: 2.0 mm<br/> Sheet Size: 1175 x 720<br/> Cell Colour: Grey<br/> Geotextile Fabric: Yes<br/> Compressive Strength: 150 t/m<sup>2</sup><br/> Suitable for vehicles: Yes<br/> Glowing COREmarkers: Yes</p> <p><small>www.shoort-flat-minimal-wheel-erosion</small></p> |
| <p>Option 2: Exposed aggregate concrete</p>  |   |   |

| Item          | Recommendation   |   |
|---------------|--|---|
| Picnic tables | Construct from timber and use in-ground metal sleeves if required to be lifted in and out.   |    |
| Waste bin     | Continued use of standard stainless steel design, but commission Wathaurung artist to paint the surrounds so it blends in (similar to the artwork on electricity street boxes in many cities). |   |
| Butt bins     | Continue to use existing design.   |  |
| Bicycle rack  | Example design only. Must be removable for the Rip Curl Pro set up.  |  |



# Bells Beach

Surfing  
recreation  
reserve



## ATTACHMENT 5: BELLS BEACH SURFING RECREATION RESERVE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN 2015 INCLUDING CURRENT CONDITIONS

The proposed line marking and traffic signage changes shown on the following plans will:

- enable enforcement of the requirement for commercial passenger vehicles to have a licence
- reduce the area available for bus parking and thereby increase the number of spaces available for non-commercial vehicles
- reduce the amount of parking spaces dedicated to long vehicles, thereby increasing availability to everyday users, and
- be simpler and easier to understand.





END  
  
AREA

Bells Beach Road

20  
km/h

  
AREA  
COMMERCIAL  
BUSES  
PERMIT EXCEPTED

 Sign removed

Yellow No Parking lines  
required for road safety  
will be maintained



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