

**MINUTES FOR THE BELLS BEACH COMMITTEE  
MEETING 17  
16 March 2020, Video meeting via Zoom  
5.45 PM – 6.38 PM**



**PRESENT:**

Committee members: Jane Currie (Chair), Andrew Cherubin, Cahill Bell-Warren, Graeme Stockton, James Deans, Cr David Bell, Cr Marin Duke; Dave Matthews

Supporting Officers: Rowan Mackenzie (Manager, Environment & Community Safety) and Gabrielle O'Shea (Environment Officer, SCS).

**APOLOGIES:** ,Corrina Eccles, Adam Robertson, Hugh Gorman, Leigh Irvine (Program Manager, SCS)

**NOTE:** Due to COVID-19 health recommendations, this meeting was held via video conferencing

**DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST:**

NA

**1. Acknowledgement of Country**

**2. Minutes of meeting of previous meeting**

Welcome by Jane. Minutes of the meeting of 28 October 2019 were approved.

**3. Great Ocean Road Coasts and Parks Authority (GORCAPA) update**

Jane advised that the Great Ocean Road and Environs Protection Bill 2019, which enables establishment of the new authority, had passed the lower house.

Rowan advised that the head office of the new authority would be in Torquay. Rowan also advised that Council officers had written to the DELWP project manager to advise of Council's desire to continue to manage Bells in the interim period while the authority is being established and that Council was keen to meet to further discuss management arrangements.

There were discussions around the Bells Beach Committee being keen to meet with GORCAPA staff, particularly the manager, Paul Jane, to discuss how the Bells committee is a good example of cooperative management.

***Council Action: Write to Paul Jane, Project Manager, Great Ocean Road Management and Reform, requesting a meeting with members of the Bells Beach Committee.***

**4. Rip Curl Pro 2020 update**

Adam Robertson was unable to attend the meeting due to Rip Curl Pro commitments but had briefed Cahill. Cahill passed on the news (to be treated confidentially) that:

- The WSL were meeting tomorrow, 17 March 2020 to further consider staging of the Rip Curl Pro given the COVID-19 outbreak.
- There was not yet a clear answer on what would happen with the event.
- It is likely the Pro will not run in its usual format
- There is going to be a press release tomorrow.
- The bump in is on hold
- Some competitors are in Australia, some are not

In summary, more will be known tomorrow.

## **5. Temporary elevated timber path (and associated consultation) at the 2020 Rip Curl Pro**

In Leigh's absence, Gabrielle and Rowan gave the update.

- If the Rip Curl Pro isn't staged then construction of the elevated temporary path and the associated consultation is not likely to go ahead at Easter
- A questionnaire had been drawn up to do the consultation. The consultation was planned to be onsite so people could fill in the questions having seen the temporary path, and would also be available online as we have been advised it would be unreasonable to only stage onsite. Council's Communications Team is intending to make a video of the path, once erected, which would be available online with the questionnaire. There will also be some general background information available with the questionnaire on site and online (eg why it's being proposed, use during staging of any future Rip Curl Pro (ie it will only be used by competition surfers and coaches when the competition is at Winki as is currently the case with the temporary structure etc).
- Graeme suggested the path consultation be halted as it could be divisive. Rowan advised that Council staff will follow the Council resolution if staging of the Pro changes in response to COVID-19. The resolution provides for construction of a temporary path in line with the concept design and for community consultation.
- The renewal of the concrete path to the Button lookout is to proceed shortly. However, timing is dependent on the successful contractor and whether or not the Pro is staged near Easter and if the bump out date changes. There will be communications around any timing or disruptions.

## **6. Other business**

### **a) Reported roadkill of wombat near Bells**

State politician, Andy Meddick, had posted about a wombat killed on a road near Bells. Graeme says there was a record of a wombat in the Bellbrae area in the 1880s. The recent roadkill report has not been able to be verified. Discussion moved to wildlife signage and underpasses.

### **b) Next meeting**

There was some discussion around whether a further meeting should be held shortly if the staging of the Rip Curl Pro is to be changed. Given the uncertainty it was not possible to determine a suitable date for a further meeting.

**Meeting close:** 6.38 pm.

**NEXT MEETING – TBC**