



Point Lonsdale Civic Association Inc.

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Representing Point Lonsdale Residents since 1910

2/10/2021

To: BoQ Mayor – Cr. Ross Ebbels;
BoQ Councillors - Cr. Fleur Hewitt, Cr. Susan Salter, Cr. Donnie Grigau, Cr. Michael Grout.

CC. Mr. Martin Gill - CEO BoQ;
CC. Johann Rajaratnam - General Manager Planning & Infrastructure;

Dear Mayor, Councillors, & Officers;

COUNCIL PLAN – CONSULTATION DRAFT (2021 - 2025)

The Association believes that this is a large, and very informative document but suggest some of the latter parts of it could be pruned down.

The Association suggests also the Plan could include a simple Schedule of the projects and actions outlined in the various Priorities including (1) more precise timelines (at least the year in which the project/program is projected to take place), (2) Schedule could detail the project funding sources i.e. whether they are dependent on Queenscliffe Borough Council obtaining Government grants or not and (3) who is responsible for delivering the projects - including other government agencies (e.g. the Hub and Boat Ramp).

The Draft Council Plan recommends the adoption of many plans however local citizens need to see and be involved in these key documents including the long awaited Queenscliffe Coastal and Marine Management Plan (CMMP), the Heritage Review (and Urban Character Study update). The local community also need to sight the Caravan Parks Review (Tourist Parks Operational Review) currently being considered by Council.

There is no mention in the 4 year Council Plan of updating the Point Lonsdale Structure Plan, which is long overdue. Given the changes proposed in the Bellarine Distinctive Areas and Landscape Declaration (and SPP) it seems this would be an ideal time to undertake this work jointly with City of Greater Geelong.

There is also no mention of “one 3225 boundary issue” initiated by the Local Government Minister some years ago. The Association’s position is that the Borough should explore this option further.

The Association suggests the Plan requires more precise details of coastal remedial actions/works needed in response to changing weather patterns, sea and wind erosion. In particular what actions are being proposed for the Narrows and Lonsdale Bay where the sand dune cliffs are eroding and trees from the woodland are collapsing on to the beach.

The Association suggests references to various supporting documents listed in the Plan need a web site link so people can quickly go straight to these documents and see what is contained in them, for relevance.

The Association believes the proposed projects are manageable and achievable although some are vague. Also Councils’ inevitably face totally unforeseen events which they have to deal with – Covid 19 and its far reaching effects on the Borough and the globe is an example.

Specific Comments

Page 2 para 1 – interesting “Bellawiyn” is the Wadawurrung name for the lands where the Borough of Queenscliffe is located. Perhaps this could be incorporated into the document title to read. Council Plan - Borough of Queenscliffe “Bellawiyn” 2021-2025.

The Association is pleased to see the photograph of the inside of the recently restored historic waiting shed on South Pier.

- Page 3 A Message from the Mayor reads well.
- Page 4 – Our values is a welcome inclusion to the document – the way Councillors and Council work and serve the Queenscliffe community is guided by the following – Integrity, Respect, Community Focus, Sustainability, Openness.
- Item 4 Sustainability - seems to be broken into references to climate change risks and protection of natural environmental and safeguarding Council’s financial stability. The latter reference to financial stability seems to be an add on.

Page 6 Portfolio 1: Health and Wellbeing

Priority 1 Promote healthy and active lifestyles

- Indicators - suggest “the percentage of Borough adults who are classified as Lifetime Risk in Victorian population health data has decreased.”
- Intended actions – suggest “Promote awareness of the importance of responsible alcohol consumption and gambling. Also discourage smoking and drug use amongst our young people.”

Priority 3 Promote diversity and gender equality

- Intended actions – suggest provide a web link to Respect 2040 reference.

Page 7 Priority 5 Increase access to service and support for young people and their families

- Intended actions – suggest what would be useful for young families in “one 3225” is somewhere for young children to learn to swim - there are a number of private pools in the Borough and Council might facilitate an annual learn to swim program for a fee.

Page 8 Portfolio 2: Environment

- Priority 1 Align Council policies and plans with the Wadawurrung Healthy Country Plan
 - Intended actions – suggest web link to Wadawurrung Country Plan.
 - Priority 3 Protect our coastal and public areas including their ecosystems and biodiversity
 - Indicators – suggest “Coastal areas are protected and enhanced in line with the Victorian Coastal Strategy.”
 - Intended actions – community must see Borough of Queenscliff’s Coastal and Marine Management Plan to better understand “implementation of short- term actions”.
 - The Association suggests new actions – “Greening Queenscliffe” including more street and parkland plantings, more plantings on the former high school site and rehabilitation of Queenscliff’s Botanic Park and Shortland’s Bluff. Also plans to improve Murray Road land, Royal Park, and the
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Recreation Reserve. Greening Queenscliffe could also include a tree and vegetation register and tree policy.

Page 9 Priority 4 Protect and manage our wetlands and waterways

- Indicators – suggest rather than “The nutrient levels of stormwater entering waterways has decreased” it should read; “The level of pollutants, including the amount of nutrients, in stormwater entering surrounding waterways has decreased.”
- Intended actions – We suggest a new action – “Continue to encourage the expansion of the Port Phillip Marine National Park and Swan Bay RAMSAR area by including Lakers Cutting.”

Priority 5 - Regenerate and revegetate open spaces with indigenous plants and increase tree canopy coverage.

- Indicators – suggest rather than “The percentage of tree canopy has increased from 2021 canopy coverage” it read “The percentage of tree canopy has increased by 10% from the 2021 canopy coverage”
- Also suggest another indicator “There is a plan to rehabilitate environmentally degraded areas of Bunny Wood, Rip View Woodland and Point Lonsdale Maritime and Defence Precinct”
- Rather than “Prepare vegetation management policy” it read “Prepare a vegetation management policy and complete Council’s tree and vegetation register.”
- Suggest another action – “Apply for Government environmental grants to assist community groups with vegetation programs”

Page 10 Portfolio 3: Local Economy

- Priority 1 Support existing businesses by including recovery from the economic impacts of Covid-19
- Indicators – suggest a new indicator “Provision of 24 hour access public toilets in or adjacent to the Hesse Street’s Central Activities Area.”
- Intended actions - suggest another new action “Provide a Borough Tourist Strategy including an improved Borough tourism brochure to attract weekend visitors.”
- Priority 2 - Improve the management of Council operated tourist parks for the benefit of the whole of the community.
- Indicators – Golightly Caravan Park and the Queenscliff Recreation Reserve may lend themselves to extended season (permanent) camping and caravanning and possibly cabins – subject to agreement of the loyal users groups. However we do not agree with extended season operations in Victoria Park (Botanic Gardens Precinct) and Royal Park (Conservation Zoned), which are crown land parklands where camping and caravanning have traditionally been seasonal uses only.

Recent Master Plan proposals for these parks include boom gates, high-end cabins, sale of coastal land for residential uses, new asphalt roads, communications tower, upgraded electrical supply, permanent trailer park operations (annualised sites), loss of many park trees, caravan waste dump facilities and new football change rooms and other facilities. Essentially in these public parks we are seeing increasing commercialisation, which is contrary to the Environment priorities and zoning purposes. In the case of the Recreation Reserve, the industrialisation of a coastal reserve (i.e. leasing of sites for huge communication towers). What is being proposed is not what residents wanted in the Coastal and Marine Management Plan public engagement process.

Note photographs on page 10 and 11 appear to show alcohol consumption in Hesse Street, which is not consistent with Health and Wellbeing actions to reduce alcohol consumption or consistent with our local laws.

- Intended actions – It is difficult to support the intended action “complete, adopt, and implement the recommendations of the Tourist Park Operational Review if the document has not been seen by the community or no public engagement process has been entered into.
- Page 11 – comment - should the Borough Local Economy priority also be focussed on attracting a permanent knowledge based/education activity back to our region after the loss of our secondary school and army staff college. Queenscliff Fort lends itself to an adaptive re-use as a University education or research facility should the Department of Defence vacate at some point.

Page 12 Portfolio 4: Heritage, planning and infrastructure

- Priority 1 Enhance planning controls to protect neighbourhood character and promote environmentally sustainable design
- Intended actions – Add “Complete review of Point Lonsdale Structure Plan”, Also add “Complete Heritage Review”
- Priority 4 Maintain and improve community infrastructure within the Borough
- Page 13 Intended actions - provide a 24-hour access toilet in Hesse Street (see comment on Local Economy indicator above).

Page 14 Portfolio 5: Governance and finance

Page 15 Priority 3 Accountable and transparent governance

- Actions – Suggest new action “Continue to have a community based Governance and Finance Portfolio Reference Group”

Page 16 Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan

- Suggest rather than a picture of an empty historic pier, which has no relevance to our Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan, a photograph of the new Bellarine Community Health Centre, which has helped us so greatly during the recent Covid-19 vaccination program be included instead.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Consultation Draft.

Yours Sincerely,

David Kenwood – President PLCA. Ref:02102021CPLAN
