

# **Bellarine Bayside Committee of Management Inc.**

## **Strategic Plan – Vision 2018**

### **Community Response**

# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Bellarine Bayside's Draft Strategic Plan – Vision 2018 was launched on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2009, at Parks Hall in Portarlinton. Following the public launch, the draft plan was available for viewing and copies made available to anyone wishing to take a copy. Bellarine Bayside hosted a number of information days at Portarlinton, Indented Head and St Leonards, where community comment was sought during a public exhibition period of eight weeks.

Comment was sought in two forms:

- response to a questionnaire (feedback form) with indication of support or opposition to an issue, and an opportunity for written comments
- written response

A Sub-committee of Bellarine Bayside Committee of Management (CoM) was charged with the responsibility of presenting this data in a form that allows the CoM to finalise its Strategic Plan 2009-2018.

The Sub-committee resolved that while the two sets of data have some synergy, it would be preferable to treat the data sets separately. The purpose of this approach is twofold; firstly data is not misinterpreted or intent lost, and secondly it is a true reflection of community response.

It is the intention of the CoM to produce a Strategic Plan that clearly demonstrates how community responses have influenced the final plan.

## **COMMENT OVERVIEW**

There was a total of 144 separate items of comment received. All comment received until June 15<sup>th</sup>, 12 days after the official eight weeks of public comment ended, were included in the data analysis.

Many of the comments received were focused on items that were of specific interest or localised to the township of the respondent. The majority of the respondents were supportive of the Draft Strategic Plan.

Of the 144 items of comment, there was a large response from the Indented Head community generating 40% of the comment. Analysis of that against the 2006 census highlighted the significance of this response:

<b>Township</b>	<b>% of Comment Received</b>	<b>Census 2006 Population</b>	<b>% of Population making Comment</b>
Portarlington	35%	3020	1.65%
Indented Head	40%	590	9.83%
St Leonards	6%	1627	0.55%
Other	19%	unknown	--

The 144 items of comment highlighted a continuing misunderstanding about Bellarine Bayside's role, CoM structure, areas of responsibility, and funding sources. The following is a list of the most common misunderstandings:

- **Municipal rates fund foreshore maintenance and operations**  
Bellarine Bayside receives no municipal rate revenue or any recurrent contribution from the local municipality. Bellarine Bayside receives 96% of its revenue from foreshore camping fees
- **CoM members are paid**  
CoM members are volunteers and receive no payment
- **User-Pay Fees on boat ramps and parking should not be charged as Bellarine Bayside receive funding for maintenance from licence fees and registrations**  
Bellarine Bayside receives no maintenance funding from boat or fishing licence fees and registrations
- **Bellarine Bayside should fix the stormwater drains**  
Bellarine Bayside is not the authority charged with managing stormwater. Stormwater management is the responsibility of the local municipality
- **Rate payers should have more of a say as to how their rates are spent by Bellarine Bayside**  
Bellarine Bayside receives no municipal rate revenue or any recurrent contribution from the local municipality. Bellarine Bayside receives 96% of its revenue from foreshore camping fees

Contained within the 144 items of comment, there are a number of contradictions that appear. The most common are:

- In favour of reducing and repairing erosion, but against managed beach access points along the foreshore
- In favour of improved environmental management, but against the removal of vehicles from the foreshore
- In favour of improved facilities, public amenity and increased public services on the foreshore, but against advancing future camping
- In favour of improved boat launching facilities, but against User-Pay Fees

## FEEDBACK FORM ANALYSIS

Of the 144 items of separate comment received, some respondents completed every question on the feedback form, others completed only those questions that were of interest to the respondent. The highest number of respondents for a single question was 94, the lowest was 64. Attached is the Sample Feedback Form (Attachment 1) and the Feedback Form – Data Analysis (Attachment 2).

There were four general questions on Bellarine Bayside's established 'Mission' and 'Values' with opportunity for respondents to contribute additional comments. The results being:

- ❖ **The majority of respondents believed that Bellarine Bayside's Mission was appropriate and that the Draft Strategic Plan at least partly reflected the Mission.**
- ❖ **The majority of respondents believed that Bellarine Bayside's Values were appropriate and that the Draft Strategic Plan at least partly reflected the Values.**

There were 32 specific questions on elements of the Draft Strategic Plan. These questions covered all aspects of the plan and all geographic areas of the foreshore, including:

- Environmental protection
- Public amenity & infrastructure
- Built structures
- Boat ramps - inc. user pay tolls
- Indigenous species revegetation
- Camping
- Recreational facilities
- Vehicle management
- Beach access
- Cultural heritage

- ❖ **In every case, respondents were in favour of the elements of the Draft Strategic Plan.**

## WRITTEN RESPONSE ANALYSIS

Of the 144 items of separate comment received, 130 provided some form of written response offering an opinion on one or multiple items of the Draft Strategic Plan. The Draft Strategic Plan Sub-committee read all written responses and recorded the 14 most common elements. The highest number of respondents for a single opinion was 106 (including a petition with 76 names, addresses and signatures), the lowest recorded single opinion was eight. A copy of the Written Feedback – Data Analysis is attached (Attachment 3).

- ❖ **Elements of the Draft Strategic Plan that respondents were in favour of, were:**
  - **Public Toilets** – The proposed increase in the number and design of public toilets, *note:* that the proposal to locate a new toilet in an existing boat shed on the foreshore at Indented Head was not supported – instead a new replacement building is proposed

- **Foreshore Amenity** – The proposed increase in foreshore amenity, items such as playgrounds, tables and chairs, bench seats, drinking fountains etc
  - **Walking & Cycling Trails** – The proposed improvement in the continuous foreshore walking and cycle trails
  - **Pt Richards Flora & Fauna Reserve** – The proposed improvements to walking trails, amenity and a new public toilet at the Pt Richards Flora & Fauna Reserve at Portarlington
  - **Vehicle Movement Management** – The proposal to better manage and in most cases remove vehicle movement on the foreshore
  - **Indigenous Species Revegetation** – The proposal to increase the revegetation of the foreshore with local indigenous vegetation
  - **Cultural Heritage** – The proposal to appropriately and responsibly manage Cultural Heritage
- ❖ **Element of the Draft Strategic Plan that respondents were against were:**
- **Beach Access / Coastal Trampling Management** – The proposed beach access / coastal trampling management by the installation of bollards and fencing
  - **Dog Play Park (off leash)** – The proposal to provide a dedicated area for a dog play park on the Portarlington foreshore
  - **User Pays Tolling** – The proposal to install user pays tolling at boat ramps
  - **Car Parks** – The proposal to locate designated parking bays at points along The Esplanade / Bluff Road
- ❖ **Elements of the Draft Strategic Plan that respondents were balanced / exactly split – in favour or against were:**
- **Boat Trailer Parking and Land Based Infrastructure Upgrade** – The proposal to improve boat trailer parking and land based infrastructure upgrades at the three most popular ramps; Pt Richards, Wrathall Reserve and St Leonards
- ❖ **The written response feedback, in addition to the above, highlighted a number of specific elements that respondents believed were missed by the of the Draft Strategic Plan. These were:**
- **Rubbish Bins** – More rubbish bins need to be provided along the foreshore
  - **Erosion Management** – Erosion needs to be better managed and work needs to be commenced to protect the foreshore from further erosion