



AIREYS INLET AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION INC

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<http://www.aireys-inlet.org>

(Reg. No. A000710V)

12 February 2015

Alex Sedger
Environmental Projects
GORCC
TORQUAY. VIC

Dear Ms. Sedger,

AIDA Comments – Fairhaven to Eastern View Master Plan Draft.

AIDA is pleased to be able to comment on the proposed Aireys Inlet to Eastern View Master Plan and sees some positive aspects to the draft proposal. It is pleasing for instance to note that one of the assumptions on which the Masterplan is based is that “preserving the area’s naturalness and relatively undeveloped character are essential goals in the face of increasing population and visitation.” We also note GORCC’s progress in the battle to eliminate environmental weeds and their continuing monitoring and restoration of native vegetation cover.

We would like to make the following comments:

- It is noted that one determinate of visitor numbers is access to parking and that this should be managed to maintain the natural character of the area: nowhere in the document is the limitation to existing parking areas noted as an objective.
- In the move to eradicate environmental weeds GORCC is able to do this on land controlled by them. AIDA is concerned that any land outside their control (eg VicRoads) may not be subject to the same strict controls. The Masterplan should acknowledge where the line of responsibility begins and ends to ensure proper oversight.
- AIDA agrees that some rationalisation of visitor signage needs to happen and that excess and out of date signage removed on a regular basis. This is especially true where the natural environment is to be protected or when areas such as the Arch appear cluttered. The installation of toilets in this heritage area is contentious amongst the local population and we agree that monitoring of the situation would assist argument either for or against. Perhaps the smaller buslines could be encouraged to call into the Aireys Pub as do the larger buslines for their toilet stop.
- Apropos this, the recently built Life Saving Club has toilet facilities which we understood were to be signed appropriately and visibly and to remain open throughout the year. As the SLSC appears to be under GORCC’s land tenure, would opening and maintenance of these facilities relieve the pressure of poor hygiene practices at the Arch?

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- There is nothing in the Masterplan to indicate appropriate and inappropriate opening of the Inlet when there is threat of flooding. Acknowledgement of the conditions where this action should be undertaken and reference to appropriate measures should be included.
- We acknowledge the retreat strategy in relation to the erosion of existing dunes and car parking areas, however would question the rationale behind not upgrading the informal ramp at the western end of the Eastern View beach. This is not only the only launching ramp before Lorne and is therefore used extensively by locals, but is also used by the Fairhaven Life Saving Club as a launching ramp in emergency situations. To not professionally maintain it courts local upgrade and subsequent degrading of the ramp itself, damage to the dunes and beach, and perhaps injury to those who seek to still use it.
- Identifying and formal naming of the numerous tracks to the beach along this area would formally recognise those names now colloquially used. We would not wish for new signage to indicate these names, but acknowledgement on maps of the area and those in the Masterplan.
- The fencing Objectives and Actions appear to be sufficient to restrict roadside parking and limit beach and dune access, however it has been suggested that some form of fencing should be installed at the toe of the dune on the Fairhaven side of the Inlet to alleviate visitor pressure and that its location should be further up the dune to prevent loss and damage when the Inlet is opened. AIDA supports this measure and would wish to see it included in the Masterplan.

Overall this Plan addresses the major environmental, tourist and heritage concerns which make this stretch of coastline so unique and special and in doing so, seeks to maintain these qualities.

Yours sincerely,

Barbara Fletcher

President

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