



## **AIREYS INLET AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION INC**

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

(Reg. No. A000710V)

15 October 2015

Ms Leanne Lucas  
Surf Coast Shire  
TORQUAY

Dear Ms Lucas,

### **Re: Submission on the draft *Open Space Strategy 2015***

Thank you for contacting AIDA requesting comment on the draft Open Space Strategy 2015 that was recently released for community comment.

AIDA has a strong interest in any planning matters that have the potential to impact the area between Urquhart Bluff to Eastern View and we reviewed the draft strategy with interest.

The strategy is welcomed by AIDA and we support its analysis that finds the Aireys Inlet area values its natural beauty and environment and walking more highly than developed facilities. We also support the conclusion that continued maintenance and facility upgrade should be the key open space direction for our area.

We are pleased that the draft strategy supports the conclusion that the development of a sports oval in the Aireys Inlet area is not warranted given the current and predicted population.

For several decades the lack of a sports oval in the Aireys Inlet area has been a contentious issue and the Shire has made numerous attempts to find a suitable site. Investigations and consultation for the new structure plan for Aireys Inlet, Fairhaven, Moggs Creek and Eastern View also reached the view that an oval is not needed.

We are puzzled that the tennis courts, which are next to the community hall in Aireys Inlet, are shown in blue and included as civic space on the map on page 42. They are not mentioned in the text on page 43 which says the 'pony club' is the only outdoor sports facility in Aireys Inlet. We are also interested to see Blazing Saddles, a commercial horse trekking and riding business, labelled as a pony club and included in the Shire's Open Space strategy.

We assume the skate park, like the two playground areas are included in the areas designated as parklands and gardens.

### **Action Plan comments**

**Action 2:** This relates to private use and works that encroach onto Council managed open space and the development of a management procedure to deal with existing encroachment.

For many years AIDA has been concerned about the use of public land behind 83-85 Great Ocean Road, Aireys Inlet for car parking and has frequently raised this with Shire officers and councillors. We request that this land be included in this program so this land can be returned to open space and appropriately fenced.

**Action 6:** The proposal to implement an MOU with external land management agencies and develop shared design guidelines are of concern to AIDA.

The Shire has previously acknowledged that a 'one size fits all' approach is not appropriate to protect the special characteristics of areas such as Aireys Inlet, Fairhaven and Moggs Creek and developed Neighbourhood Character Guidelines for the area.

For instance, if the design guidelines for pathways are those used by GORCC in Aireys Inlet and district, AIDA would be pleased as there would be fewer proposals for concrete paths. However, if the Surf Coast Shire approach was adopted by all external agencies such as GORCC this uniform adoption would be unacceptable to AIDA.

**Action 10:** This relates to establishing uniform policies and consistent approaches regarding facility maintenance and management opportunities.

AIDA has a similar comment for Action 6 and encourages the Shire to consult communities before adopting a 'one size suits all approach'. For instance, the regular use of grass killing spray may be suitable for some parklands and roadsides but not all.

**Action 22:** AIDA would be interested in being involved in any partnership projects that might be considered for our area.

**Action 29:** There is an area of unused road reserve at the end of River Road, Aireys Inlet that runs to the rear of 83-85 Great Ocean Road. (Transferring this to open space could be done in conjunction with our request under Action 2.)

**Desired Standards of Service:** The DSS proposed for Local Parks and Gardens specifies a mix of 1 to 3 activities. The DSS for District and Precinct Parks and Gardens gives a standard mix of 6 to 10 activities.

Depending on how “activity” is defined and interpreted, the standard number of activities might not be appropriate in each community in the Shire. AIDA encourages the Shire to communicate their plans/intentions to each community before instituting changes that might include additional activities.

Thank you for providing AIDA with the opportunity to be involved with the development of the Open Space strategy.

Regards

Charlotte Allen

*President*