

AIDA Submission Regarding Draft Budget

Aireys Inlet and District Association wishes to submit several projects to be considered for inclusion in the Surf Coast Shire budget for the 2016/17 financial year. We acknowledge that one or more of these projects might already be included in the draft budget but in a form that did not enable AIDA to identify them.

1. **Vegetation and silt management in the Allen Noble Sanctuary.** Long-term observers report that some parts of the sanctuary once had open water but now support extensive plant growth. In addition, silt has built up and can be readily seen now that the water level is quite low. The silt trap also appears to be full. With the water level presently so low, it would be the ideal time to remove the excess silt and plants. We request that there be consultation with the Friends of Allen Noble Reserve and with neighbours (such as the Bells at 20 Inlet Crescent) prior to some vegetation and silt being removed. Note that this request has the support of the Friends of Allen Noble Reserve.

2. **Retaining wall planting.** The 160m-long retaining wall on the north side of the GOR, running from the Painkalac Creek bridge to Lialeeta Rd, has attracted negative comments from AIDA members and committee. Sunil Bhalla was approached about planting drooping natives to soften the appearance of this wall. He asked AIDA to obtain a list of appropriate plants. The list was provided by Angair and Sunil obtained a SCS quote of \$25,000. However, this item has not yet appeared in the last two budgets. To minimise costs, AIDA is willing to help with the planting and has already planted a number of pigface (*Carpobrotus*) cuttings.

3. **Temporary base-station for telephony during bushfire season.** Residents depend entirely on mobile coverage to access the services recommended by the CFA, i.e. radio, phone, CFA app (internet), especially for the visitors who usually have no other access while on the coast. The number of residents in Lorne, Aireys Inlet and district and Anglesea during the peak summer period is almost 40,000 (figures from Enterprise Geelong 2012). This number does not include day-trippers or those passing through the towns. The only effective escape route for residents and visitors to the three towns is the Great Ocean Road. Without early warning via the FireReady app and other mobile communications, not all 40,000 will escape because the Great Ocean Road is so congested.

The mobile system more or less copes in winter, at least in the townships, but with the summer numbers it frequently fails totally or download speeds become pathetically slow. Without adequate warning, mostly via mobile services, not everyone will evacuate safely.

AIDA has applied to the Commonwealth Government for black spot funding for Aireys and district. We failed in the first round and have reapplied and are amongst the local member's three choices in the next round. Even if successful, it will be years before Aireys' services will be adequately upgraded. In the interim we need improved mobile service during bushfire season.

4. **Pathway along the eastern edge of the Painkalac Creek.** Request that the path be constructed in the coming budget period. According to Gabrielle Spiller, the

\$60,000 allocation is sitting in the Adopted Strategy Implementation Reserve of the draft budget.