



Road sealing – AIDA’s position

AIDA is aware there is current discussion and community interest in the issue of unsealed roads in Aireys Inlet. AIDA’s position on this is outlined below.

1. The Surf Coast Shire has repeatedly recognized the particular neighbourhood character of Aireys Inlet and its district, and the strong community desire for it to retain its rural village atmosphere and unsealed roads. This is well expressed in the Victorian Coastal Strategy, the Shire’s Neighbourhood Character Study, the Shire’s new Structure Plan for Aireys Inlet as well as the recent Citizens Jury process for Precinct 1 which voted strongly in favour of unsealed roads. Selective street sealing contradicts Council’s overarching policy.
2. The sealing of roads marks an irrevocable change in general neighbourhood character and roads are not the exclusive concern of those who reside along them. AIDA regards this as an important point for the wider community.
3. AIDA’s submission to the Shire’s new Structure Plan, reflecting the views of members, placed a high priority on Aireys Inlet and its districts as neighbourhoods which facilitate ‘walking communities’ and low traffic speeds and roads that are shared by cars, pedestrians and cyclists. Not only is traffic on sealed roads harder for pedestrians, cyclists and joggers to hear but road sealing encourages higher speeds and consequent risks to pedestrian safety and enjoyment. Unsealed roads encourage road sharing – sealed roads do not.
4. AIDA recognizes there are residents who dislike dust from unsealed roads - particularly in summer but there are practical, low-expense solutions which are commonly used. These include traffic ‘calming’ measures such as street plantings creating ‘chicanes’ (as currently used in parts of Fairhaven) and dust-reduction sprays (as used in Inlet Crescent, Aireys Inlet).

Please contact me if you wish to discuss this issue or require any more information about AIDA’s position.

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