

13 August 2019

South Gippsland Shire Council  
ATTN: Administrators  
Private Bag 4, Leongatha  
Victoria, 3953



Dear South Gippsland Shire Council Administrators,

**Re: Traffic Management and Bitumen Petitions of Residents involving Atherton Drive and Spring Street, Venus Bay, Vic.**

**Traffic Management and Dust Control is long overdue.**

Background:

To give some context to these issues, Beach 5 is an extremely popular beach with locals, holiday makers and day visitors alike. The beach provides uninterrupted views of Cape Liptrap, Point Smythe and Cape Paterson due to its elevation. This is a feature that is unique to Beach 5. Beach 5 is one end of the designated dog walking zone, is an ideal location for surfing and surf fishing and has the distinction of being the most popular beach for recreational pipi collection in the state. Beach 5 also has a westerly aspect which makes it ideal for watching the sunset over the ocean.

Subsequently, Beach 5 attracts an enormous amount of traffic. Everything from bikes, cars, trucks and buses use both Atherton Drive and Spring Street to access the road to Beach 5 and then come back down again when leaving.

Peak periods are inevitable but both Atherton Drive and Spring Street have heavy pedestrian and vehicular traffic from dawn until dusk most days of the year, almost completely independent of the weather.

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Atherton Drive and Spring Street are the **only** beach access roads which have neither a bitumen surface nor some form of traffic calming mechanism. Beach 1 through to Beach 3 are all bitumen, while Beach 4 has a barrier to stop the through traffic down Zenner Drive. These implementations at Beach 1 to Beach 4 have helped to aide in the traffic management (including parking, speed and dust) of their access roads.

**Atherton Drive and Spring Street are in drastic need of being afforded the same treatment as the other four beaches in Venus Bay.**

**Something needs to be done about Traffic Management and Dust on Atherton Drive and Spring Street, Venus Bay.**

**Traffic management** is long overdue on Atherton Drive approaching Beach 5 at Venus bay during peak periods (November to End of April). We, as residents, believe cars are travelling too fast when this area is high in family, pedestrian and bike activity.

**Traffic Management Suggestion:**

- at least 40 km signs (preferably lower) as it is already marked as a shared zone and one car at a time traffic islands on Atherton drive would keep car traffic at a safer speed.

**Parking** is also a real and significant problem for the residents at peak holiday season. The road turns into a very tight, single lane road with cars parked on both sides and in some cases over driveways. This makes it very difficult to get out of your home.

There have also been emergency vehicles having great difficulty getting through to Beach 5 to attend emergencies. There has been several this year already.

*This is not a new problem and it is known by council that it happens every year. It is becoming worse every year as the population increases.*

**Parking Suggestions:**

- No parking signs to be erected along one side of road with parking permits issued for affected residents. This would result in only a few cars on both sides of the road enabling vehicles to pull in and out to travel the road safely.

- This could also be rectified by council treating November through to Easter as an event / festival with all requirements that go with it. For example: Parking restrictions.

**Dust** is also a real and associated problem over the summer period.

Atherton Drive is bitumen until Neil Street and then 260m of gravel road to the Beach 5 road. Spring Street is also a gravel road. It is the dust that is generated by constant vehicular traffic that presents major concerns for the local population.

There is ongoing deterioration in the state of the road surface which has also made the dust much, much worse in recent years.

Dust Suggestion:

- To bitumen the road which would alleviate the problem.  
If it were solely local residents utilising the road, the problem would not be as severe. However, the problem of dust arises from all the beach goers accessing Beach 5 using Atherton Drive and Spring Street.

**Please note:**

- These petitions are from affected residents from Lees Road – down Atherton Drive to Spring Street and surrounding properties;
- We only attempted to contact affected residents of Atherton Drive and Spring Street;
- We were unable to contact vacant block owners; and
- Several houses were unable to be contacted as they are rented or do not attend their property.

We, as rate-payers, look forward to hearing and working with you to achieve a mutually satisfactory outcome.

Kind regards,

Mark and Barbara Henderson on behalf of residents.

**Attached is a Petition from Atherton Drive and Spring Street residents regarding Traffic Management and Bitumen.**

**Photos are also attached.**

Petition Organisers

*Names: Mark and Barbara Henderson*

*Postal Address: P.O. Box 136, Tarwin Lower, Vic 3956*

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*Email: [athertondrive@bigpond.com](mailto:athertondrive@bigpond.com)*

Encl:

1. Petition for Traffic Management on Atherton Drive and Spring Street (34 Properties);
2. Petition to Bitumen Atherton Drive and Spring Street (13 Properties); and
3. Photos to demonstrate Traffic Management problem and need to Bitumen both Atherton Drive and Spring Street.

Below: January 2019 – Congestion along Atherton Drive and Dust.



Below: January 2019 – Emergency Services needing to access Beach 5 through congested Atherton Drive.



Below: January 2019 – Congestion along Atherton Drive.



Below: January 2019 – Congestion along Atherton Drive. Vehicles having difficulty manoeuvring single lane road.





Below: January 2019 – Congestion along Atherton Drive. Vehicles having difficulty manoeuvring single lane road.



Below: January 2019 – Congestion along Atherton Drive. Creating a single lane road.



Below: January 2019 – Vehicle parked partly over driveway making it difficult for the home owner.



Below: January 2019 – Congestion along Atherton Drive AND Pedestrian use of Atherton Drive.



Below: January 2019 – Congestion along Spring Street.



Below: January 2019 – Dust generated from car travelling at approx. current speed limit (50kmph).

