



South Gippsland
Shire Council

Come for the beauty, Stay for the lifestyle

COUNCIL AGENDA PAPERS

18 September 2013

**SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, LEONGATHA
COMMENCING AT 12.45PM**

MISSION

To effectively plan and provide for the social, built, economic and natural environments that ensure the future wellbeing of South Gippsland Communities.

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE COUNCIL

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT SPECIAL MEETING OF
COUNCIL OF THE SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE COUNCIL WILL BE
HELD ON 18 SEPTEMBER 2013 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS,
LEONGATHA COMMENCING AT 12.45PM**

INDEX

SECTION A - PRELIMINARY MATTERS	1
A.1 WELCOME.....	1
A.2 OPENING PRAYER.....	1
A.3 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS	1
A.4 APOLOGIES	1
A.5 REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE	1
A.6 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST FOR COUNCILLORS..	2
A.7 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST FOR STAFF	4
SECTION B - COUNCIL REPORTS.....	5
B.1 SECTION 223 SUBMISSIONS - PROPOSED SALE OF LAND	5
CLOSED SESSION	107
SECTION H - MEETING CLOSED.....	108

Tim Tamlin
Chief Executive Officer

SECTION A - PRELIMINARY MATTERS

A.1 WELCOME

Please ensure Mobile phones remain 'off' during the Council Meeting.

A.2 OPENING PRAYER

We pray to God to guide us so that the thoughts we have and the decisions made this day, are in the best interests of the people of the South Gippsland Shire.

Amen

A.3 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS

The South Gippsland Shire Council respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of this Land, Elders past and present, their Spirits and Ancestors.

A.4 APOLOGIES

A.5 REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

A.6 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST FOR COUNCILLORS

Any interest that a Councillor or staff member has deemed to be significant and has disclosed as either a direct or an indirect interest is now considered to be a conflict of interest. Conflict of interest legislation is in sections 77A, 77B, 78, 78A-D and 79 of the Local Government Act 1989. This legislation can be obtained by contacting the Council's Organisational Development Department (Governance) or by accessing the Victorian Legislation and Parliamentary Documents website at www.legislation.vic.gov.au. An interest may be by close association, financial, conflicting duties or receipt of gifts.

If a Councillor or staff member discloses any interest in an item discussed at any Council Meeting (whether they attend or not) they must:

- Complete a disclosure of interest form prior to the Meeting (forms are available from the Organisational Development Department – Governance).
- Advise the Chair of the interest immediately before the particular item is considered (if attending the Meeting).
- Leave the Council Chamber or Meeting room while the item is being discussed and during any vote taken (if attending the Meeting).

The Councillor or staff member will be advised to return to the Council Chamber or Meeting room immediately after the item has been considered and the vote is complete.

Councillors should check the Minutes of the Council Meeting to ensure their disclosure is recorded accurately.

Councillors are not required to disclose conflict of interest in relation to matters only considered at Meetings they do not attend.

Detailed information is available in Conflict of Interest in Local Government – A Provisional Guide with amendments to 1 October 2010.

Type of Interest		Example of Circumstance
Direct Interest		Reasonably likely that your benefits, obligations, opportunities or circumstances will be directly altered. Reasonably likely to receive a direct benefit or loss measurable in money. Reasonably likely that your residential amenity will be directly affected.
Indirect Interest	Close Association	A member of your family has a direct interest or an indirect interest. A relative has a direct interest. A member of your household has a direct interest.
	Indirect financial Interest	Likely to receive a benefit or loss, measurable in money, resulting from a change to another person's interest. Holding shares in a company or body that has a direct interest (subject to threshold) When a person with a direct interest owes money to you.
	Conflict of Duty	Manager or member of the governing body of an organisation with a direct interest. Trustee for a person with a direct interest. Past dealings in relation to the matter as duty to another person or body.
	Applicable Gift	Gifts valued at \$500 in previous 5 years. Election donations valued at or above \$500 in previous 5 years. Gifts other than election campaign donations that were received more than 12 months before a person became a Councillor are exempt.
	Party to the Matter	Initiated or became party to civil proceedings in relation to the matter.

Privacy

Council is required to keep minutes of each Council meeting. The minutes contain details of proceedings which may include personal information about community members disclosed as part of presentations, submissions and questions. The minutes of Council meetings are a public record and can be inspected by members of the public.

Council undertakes audio recordings of Council Meetings as a contribution to good governance and accuracy of minutes. An audio recording of this meeting is being made for the purpose of verifying the accuracy of minutes of the meeting. In some circumstances the recording may be disclosed, such as where Council is compelled to do so by court order, warrant, and subpoena or by any other law such as the Freedom of Information Act 1982. It should be noted that other people present at the meeting may be recording the meeting and Council has limited power to regulate this. Council has developed a policy to regulate recordings, "Sound Recording of Council Meetings". A copy of this policy is located on Council's website www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au. Further information or a copy of the policy or can be obtained by contacting Council's Organisational Development Department (Governance).

A.7 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST FOR STAFF

Sections 80B and 80C of the Local Government Act 1989 require members of Council staff who have delegated functions and /or provide advice to Council or a Special Committee to disclose conflicts of interest. If Council staff have written, provided information/advice or approved a Council Report and have a conflict of interest it is the responsibility of that staff member to disclose the interest. Guidance to identifying and disclosing a conflict of interest is contained in Department of Planning and Community Development in '*Conflict of Interest A Guide for Council staff*', October 2011.

SECTION B - COUNCIL REPORTS

B.1 SECTION 223 SUBMISSIONS - PROPOSED SALE OF LAND

Engineering Services Directorate

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At its Ordinary Meeting held on 24 April 2013, Council considered the Strategic Land Review Project and resolved to commence the statutory procedures to sell 17 council properties and to also commence a community consultation plan.

A further report to Council, at its Ordinary Meeting on 26 June 2013, provided additional information and presented the dates for advertising of the public notices pursuant to Sections 189 and 223 of the Local Government Act, 1989 for 14 of the Council properties. Council resolved to set the date, time and place to consider any submissions received to these public notices. Accordingly, the primary purpose of this report is to consider the submissions received during the public notification period for seven (7) properties located in the Second Estate in Venus Bay.

This report also presents two documents received post public notification period. They are not submissions in accordance with the Section 223 process and therefore are not administered in accordance with the Section 223 process. They are provided for information purposes only and demonstrate differing opinions of the community of Venus Bay regarding the sale of Council land.

Document/s pertaining to this Council Report

- **Attachment 1** – Public Notices.
- **Attachment 2** – Submission 1.
- **Attachment 3** – Submission 2.
- **Attachment 4** – Submission 3.
- **Attachment 5** – Submission 4.
- **Attachment 6** – Submission 5.
- **Attachment 7** – Submission 6.
- **Attachment 8** – Submission 7.
- **Attachment 9** – Submission 8.
- **Attachment 10** – Submission 9.

- **Attachment 11** – Submission 10.
- **Attachment 12** – Submission 11.
- **Attachment 13** – Submission 12.
- **Attachment 14** – Submission 13.
- **Attachment 15** – Submission 14.
- **Attachment 16** – Submission 15.
- **Attachment 17** – Submission 16.
- **Attachment 18** – Submission 17.
- **Attachment 19** – Submission 18.
- **Attachment 20** – Native Vegetation Assessment.
- **Attachment 21** – Venus Bay Village Streetscape Redevelopment Proposal.
- **Attachment 22** – Recent Public Open Space History in Venus Bay prepared by Councillor Kieran Kennedy.
- **Confidential Appendix 1** – Legal Opinion.
- **Confidential Appendix 2** – Sworn Valuations.

A copy of **Confidential Appendix 1 & 2** has been distributed separately to Councillors and the Executive Leadership Team.

LEGISLATIVE / ACTION PLANS / STRATEGIES / POLICIES

Section 189 and 223 of the Local Government Act 1989

INTERNAL POLICIES / STRATEGIES / DOCUMENTS

Land Ownership Policy.

COUNCIL PLAN

Strategic Goal:	4.0	A Leading Organisation
Outcome:	4.1	Improve the financial sustainability of Council, including diversifying revenue streams.
Strategy No:	4.1.1	We will explore innovative ways of increasing revenue and reducing expenditure where appropriate.

CONSULTATION

Consultation since the last report of 26 June 2013 has included:

1. Correspondence to surrounding landowners and presiding Progress Associations to inform them of Council's intention and the submission process.
2. Correspondence to submitters acknowledging receipt of their submission and where necessary, informing them of the date, time and place for their submission to be heard.
3. Advertising the public notices in the local papers.
4. Publication of information in "Matter of Fact".
5. Posting information on Council's website.
6. Attending a meeting of Beach and River Business Association of Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower.
7. Attending a public meeting at the Venus Bay Community Hall.
8. Attending individual meetings (enquiries at reception).
9. Discussions with Council's Biodiversity Officer who conducted a site native vegetation inspection (see Attachment 20).
10. Comments from officers who completed work on Council's Open Space Strategy are as follows:

"The recreation plan 2007 provides more details on the issues than the OSS. Page 51 – 57 deal specifically with Venus Bay.

Retaining the TZ on some areas allows flexibility to take advantage of future opportunities to develop larger / higher quality Public Open Space areas rather than numerous small areas of Public Open Space".

REPORT

Background

Table 1: Advertised Properties (Public Notices)

Notice date	Submission Closing date	Consider submissions	Property	Area (m2)	Zone
25/6/13	23/7/13	18/9/13	1 Neil Street, Venus Bay	877.6m2	Township
			1A Noble Street, Venus Bay	640m2	Township
			3 McMillan Avenue, Venus Bay	613m2	Township
25/6/13	23/7/13	18/9/13	8 Gary Court, Venus Bay	846m2	Township

Notice date	Submission Closing date	Consider submissions	Property	Area (m2)	Zone
			8 June Court, Venus Bay	820m2	Township
			8A Margaret Avenue, Venus Bay	659.6	Township
			22-24 Fishermans Road, Venus Bay	1153m2	Township

These advertised properties are located throughout the Second Estate in Venus Bay and are shown coloured white on the map below:



The properties belong to a group of 16 Council reserves in the Second Estate. The individual areas of these lots is shown in Table 1 above and are consistent with the areas per m2 of adjoining residential properties.

Public notification

The public notices as referred to in Table 1 above were advertised in the following newspapers:

Table 2: Newspaper advertisements

Date	Newspaper	Properties
25/06/13	The Star The Sentinel Times The Mirror The Mirboo North Times	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Neil Street, Venus Bay • 1A Noble Street, Venus Bay • 3 McMillan Avenue, Venus Bay • 8 Gary Court, Venus Bay • 8 June Court, Venus Bay • 8A Margaret Avenue, Venus Bay • 22-24 Fishermans Road, Venus Bay

Submissions were received to the public notices and the number of submissions received for each property is listed in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Number of submissions received to public notices

Property	Number of submissions	Attachment No.
1 Neil Street, Venus Bay	2	2 & 3
1A Noble Street, Venus Bay	0	Not applicable
3 McMillan Avenue, Venus Bay	0	Not applicable
8 Gary Court, Venus Bay	0	Not applicable
8 June Court, Venus Bay	0	Not applicable
8A Margaret Avenue, Venus Bay	0	Not applicable
22-24 Fishermans Road, Venus Bay	0	Not applicable
All Council land proposed for sale in Venus Bay	17	4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 & 19.

The only property that can be dealt with individually is 1 Neil Street, Venus Bay. Table 2 clearly shows that the majority of submissions received are generalised and focused on Council’s proposal to sell identified land in Venus Bay.

1 NEIL STREET, VENUS BAY

Two submissions were received from abutting landowners. One of the abutting land owners will speak in support of their submission (**Attachment 3.**) **It is important that each submission is read for full content.** The content of each submission has been summarised in Table 4 below:

Table 4: Summary of submissions – 1 Neil Street, Venus Bay

Attachment No.	Submissions summarised	Comments
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submitter purchased their property because it abuts a reserve and the house was designed to look over the reserve and any sale and development will affect the value of their property and will affect the privacy and outlook. • The submitter states that public land is at a minimum in the Second Estate and the reserve is home to native wildlife and significant flora. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a preference and therefore a subjective comment. • Council’s valuer’s comments are that the sale and development of the reserve would not impact on the valuation of adjoining land.
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submitter purchased their property because of the distance from other neighbours due to the reserve. It was advertised by the real estate agent as “right next door to the reserve ensuring no-one builds next door to you”. • Submitter enclosed the South Gippsland Planning Scheme, highlighting Schedule 3 to The Environmental Significance Overlay to state that Council is not abiding by their own plans as the sale of the sites would be detrimental to the protection of the area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further investigations would also have revealed that the land is contained within a Township Zone and reserve status can be amended. • It is the South Gippsland Planning Scheme that will govern any development of the sites.

Generalised Comments - Proposed Sale of Council Land in Venus Bay

17 Submissions were received and 2 submitters have elected to speak in support of their submission (**Attachment 4 & 5**). **It is important that each submission is read for full content.** Generally, the submissions had the same common points which are summarised in Table 5 below:

Table 5 – Summary of generalised submissions

Attachment No.	Submissions Summarised	Comments
4,5,6,7,8,9, 10,11,12, 13,14,15, 16,17,18,19 & 20.	<p style="text-align: center;">Public Open Space</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of Public Open Space when Venus Bay has under 2% which is less than the requirement of 5%. • Unfair that Venus Bay lose more Public Open Space than other Towns. • Value is placed on Public Open Space not just for recreational purposes. • Requirements for more passive Public Open Space for bushland, wildlife protection and for community and visitors to enjoy. • Venus Bay should not have been subdivided originally into the small sized allotments and Council should be keeping its Reserves and purchasing more to stop over development and preserve the unique environment. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Public Open Space</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The land proposed for sale are contained within a Township zone and not a Public Park and Recreation Zone or Public Conservation and Resource Zone. • An open space requirement of 5% applies at the time of subdivision. When Venus Bay was subdivided this 5% open space requirement did not apply. It is not a retrospective requirement. • Except in large new green field sites Council generally negotiates a cash contribution from developers in lieu of a 5% open space. • Cape Liptrap Coastal Park is public open space and has an approximate area of 4,175 ha. • The South Gippsland Planning Scheme governs development and environmental factors.

Attachment No.	Submissions Summarised	Comments
	<p style="text-align: center;">Juno Road Allotments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council decided to sell Lot 4, 5 & 6 PS312565 at its meeting of 26 June 2013 without public consultation. • Report prepared by Dr Mary Ellis in 2008 assessing Juno Road Restructure area as Public Open Space sent to Council by Friends of Venus Bay Peninsula. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Juno Road Allotments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Juno Road allotments are affected by a Restructure Overlay. This has existed since the late 1980's. It was part of the previous planning scheme and carried forward in the current Planning Scheme. • Council has completed its statutory procedures and resolved to sell the land prior to 26 June 2013. • The Restructure Overlay covers privately owned and Council owned land that required consolidation to develop and provide legal access to the privately owned allotments. • Response was sent by the Chief Executive Officer to Friends of Venus Bay Peninsula with respect to Dr Mary Ellis report 7 March 2008. • The land has never been set aside for public use
	<p style="text-align: center;">Flora and Fauna</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The reserves proposed for sale contain significant indigenous vegetation, native grasses and habitat for native birds and wildlife including the endangered Swamp Antechinus • Some blocks are sites of Aboriginal cultural significance. • The blocks are too small for development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flora and Fauna • There are parts of land on some of the parcels that contain native grasses, indigenous vegetation and signs of wildlife. While other areas contain exotic vegetation and are mown by adjoining landowners. • The Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI) has mapped the strategic biodiversity values of native

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It is requested that Council retain all Council owned reserves and allotments as public open space, education and environmental areas and should rezoned to Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ) or Public Conservation and Resource Zone (PCRZ)	<p>vegetation throughout Victoria. There is no DEPI mapping for the Venus Bay 2nd Estate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Planning Scheme deals with appropriate development, environmental and cultural factors.• In the Second Estate there are 5 Council owned reserves Zoned Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ) totalling 5.4269Ha. The abutting Cap Liptrap Coastal Park is zoned Public Conservation and Resource Zone (PCRZ) totalling 4,175.Ha.
--	--	--

PROPOSAL

It is proposed that Council consider the submissions.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

1. The Strategic Land Review and sale of land will realise the 2013/2014 budget.
2. Expenses incurred in the sale of land (Surveying, marketing, Conveyancing) will be offset from the proceeds of sale.
3. The sworn valuations for each property are presented in **Confidential Appendix 2**.

RISK

Council's legal risks are mitigated as it is conducting its activities within the legislative framework provided by Sections 189 and 223 of the Local Government Act 1989.

Reputational risks can be impacted by working with the community of Venus Bay to investigate development of new projects such as the Venus Bay Village Streetscape Redevelopment Proposal.

DOCUMENTS RECEIVED POST PUBLIC NOTIFICATION PERIOD

As mentioned in the executive summary, two documents were received post public notification period that have a connection to the land sales in Venus Bay. These documents are:

1. Project proposal received from The Beach and River Business Association of Venus Bay (refer Attachment 21).
2. Recent public open space history in Venus Bay prepared by our current Mayor, Councillor Kieran Kennedy (refer Attachment 22).

CONCLUSION

Council is well aware that Council land (public open space and otherwise) are a tremendous asset to all communities. This is recognised in the purposes of the Land Ownership Policy by creating better open spaces and facilitating investment opportunities and economic growth.

Council land sales are difficult projects requiring Council to make decisions that can be considered controversial by part of its community. However, it is important that these difficult decisions are made to progress opportunities for improved facilities and services and assist with project opportunities for the Shire as a whole.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council after consideration of submissions:

- 1. Proceed with the removal of the reservations and vesting in accordance with Section 24A of the Subdivision Act 1988 over:**
 - a. 1 Neil Street, Venus Bay being Reserve 3 PS056448**
 - b. 22-24 Fishermans Road, Venus Bay being Reserve 2 LP56447**
 - c. 8A Margaret Avenue, Venus Bay being Reserve 2 LP54650**
 - d. 8 June Court, Venus Bay being Reserve 3 LP56447**
 - e. 8 Gary Court, Venus Bay being Reserve 2 LP056451**
 - f. 3 McMillan Drive, Venus Bay being Reserve 2 LP056449**

- 2. Sell the following land known as:**
 - a. 1 Neil Street, Venus Bay**
 - b. 22-24 Fishermans Road,**
 - c. 8A Margaret Avenue, Venus Bay**
 - d. 8 June Court, Venus Bay**
 - e. 8 Gary Court, Venus Bay**
 - f. 3 McMillan Drive, Venus Bay**
 - g. 1A Noble Street, Venus Bay**

by way of Public Auction in the first instance then by private treaty and/ or Real Estate Agent for not less than valuation in accordance with Section 189 of the Local Government Act 1989.

- 3. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer or his delegate to sign all documentation in relation to the contracts of sale and applications pursuant to Section 24A of the Subdivision Act, 1988.**

- 4. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer or his delegate, to affix Council's common seal to the Transfers of Land in respect of the sale of the properties described in 1 and 2 (a)-(f) inclusive and any other document that requires the seal of Council to affect the sale.**

STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Nil

**Attachment 1
 Public Notices**

PAGE 8 - THE STAR - Tuesday, 16/09/2013



Come for the beauty - Stay for the lifestyle

Noticeboard

COUNCIL PUBLIC SESSIONS
 Council Chambers, Leongatha
 Public attendance welcome

Wed, 26 June 2013 - ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - 2pm
 10.00am - Public Presentations - Ph: 5662 9200 to book a speaking slot

1. Notice of Resolution - Differential Rates 2014/2015
2. Notice of Motion - Responding to the ministerial guidelines on affordable care
3. Report on Assembly of Councilors - May 2013
4. Councilor Discretionary Allocation Report
5. Documents Award and contracts awarded under Chief Executive Officer delegation - May 2013
6. Mares North and Koorumburra Pool Master Plans
7. Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013-2017
8. 2013-2017 Council Plan and 2013-2014 Annual Plan
9. Adoption of 2013/14 Annual Council Budget
10. Financial Performance Report
11. 2013/2014 Community Grant Program
12. Application to the Putting Loxton First Program - TP Taylor Reserve Open Space Enhancement Project
13. Special election 881 Committee Review
14. Strategic Risk Register and Risk Management Framework
15. Policy Reviews
16. Public Presentation Session schedule
17. Arts and Culture Policy
18. Youth Policy
19. Review Panels - Road naming, Road opening and Erection sign and traffic law control by Council property
20. Adoption of the Road Management Plan 2013
21. Strategic and Review - Update on communication plan and amendment to list of projects
22. Formulate the road opening of Epiphany Road, Pass
23. Formulate the new road name in the township of Venus Bay on Challenge Coast
24. Proposed new road name for road off Hilda's Road, Ainslie and Park of Koorumburra
25. Domestic Animal Management Plan - 2013-2017
26. Adoption of Amendment C72 - Loch, Nares, Invergard and Naresville Structural Plan Implementation
27. Koorumburra Planning Scheme Amendment C76
28. Leongatha and Foster Hospital Hospital Project Amendment C67
29. Planning Scheme Amendment C54 SP Aspect relating to Special Use Zone 5 with associated incorporated documents
30. Council Item - 2013/2013 Community Grants Round 2 allocation
31. Council Item - Matter which the Council considers should be referred to Council or any other

DRAFT HOUSING AND SETTLEMENT STRATEGY (HSS) PUBLIC CONSULTATION
 The draft HSS addresses the strategy for South Gippsland Shire. It is for public consultation until 28 August 2013.

The draft Housing and Settlement Strategy (HSS) comprises three key products:
 Part A: Housing and Settlement Strategy (HSS)
 Part B: Urban Design Framework (UDF) for 17 of the Shire's settlements
 Part C: Review of Rural Living Zone Areas and Restructure Overlay

The Strategy has the following key directions:
 - Prioritise development according to service or environmental constraints
 - Deliver key settlements by their functions and regional role
 - Prioritise planning for growth in Leongatha, Koorumburra, Foster, Mares North, Wood and settlements that have retained character
 - Recognise existing Strategic plans regarding treatments for desired planning
 - Investigate new zoning of land to the Rural Living Zones in exceptional circumstances
 - Support existing dwelling opportunities in the Rural Zone and explore increased Low Density Residential Zone (LDRZ) density where supporting infrastructure is present
 - Develop new development in unutilised Crown land

You will find more detail and the latest revision details in the draft HSS, available at local council offices or at Leongatha and our Council website at <http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au> Page 9 and Page 301-320

HARD WASTE COLLECTION BOONHOS OPEN BOON
 Council's residential waste collection service is starting again this year. Collections can be made during Gay and August. Residents who have booked a service will be collected by Council's contractor to arrange collection during September and October. All residents are invited to arrange collection during September and October, including those in rural areas. Commercial and industrial collections are not available to this time of year.
 This year's fee is \$8 per property. A reduced rate of \$27 applies for collection over holders.

To make a booking, complete and return the registration form along with payment. Registration forms can be downloaded from the Council website www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au or obtained in person at Council's Customer Service desk in Leongatha. Payment can be made by completing the credit card payment information on the booking form, or enclosing a cheque with the booking form when returning the form to the council by post in person.
 Once booked, Council's contractor will notify you of your scheduled collection date. Waste will need to be placed for collection within property boundaries (where possible) and the pile labelled in a manner that clearly identifies the waste to be collected by the hard waste collection contractor. Council's contractors will come on the specified day and remove the hard waste. A maximum of two public bins (1m wide x 1m high x 2m long) of waste will be collected from properties who have booked and paid for a collection. For further information or assistance, call Jan and Corrie on 5662 9200, www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au or phone 5662 9200.

JULY IMMUNISATION PROGRAM
FOSTER, WMA Centre, Main St - Tue July 2 10-10:30am
LEONGATHA, Uniting Church Hall, Pearl St - Tue July 2 12:30-1:30pm
WYNDOL NORTH, M & CH Centre, Berran St - Wed 3 July 9-9:30am
KOORUMBURRA, Community Room, Commercial St - Wed 3 July 11:30-12pm
NYORA, Community Hall, Herby St - Wed July 3 1-1:30pm
 Enquiries: Ph 5662 9200

COUNCIL WORKS THIS WEEK

Area	Works
Ainslie Rd, W&J Dog Row	Landscape repair
Carmichael's Rd, Storey Creek	Landscape repairs
Leongatha to Leongatha St area	Road maintenance
Mardon Rd, Leongatha	Bridge repairs
Waldspeak Valley to Birnieburn area	Road maintenance

ROAD CLOSURE - CARMICHAEL'S ROAD, STONY CREEK
 In order to carry out road works following a landslip, Carmichael's Road, Stony Creek is to be closed to through traffic from South Gippsland Highway to approx. 750 metres from the South Gippsland Highway. The expected dates of the closure are from 24 June 2013 for approximately 3 weeks with works continuing for approximately another 3 weeks weather permitting. If works are completed sooner the road will be reopened and posted advised accordingly. Residents being asked this road will have access for the first 2 weeks from the road will be completely closed for a minimum 3 weeks and are requested to adhere to all traffic control, signage and advisory signs.
 Any queries relating to this matter should be directed to Council on 5662 9200.

PROPOSED SALE OF LAND
 Councils notice gives notice pursuant to section 141 (1) and 223 of the Local Government Act 1989 that it stands to sell the following land:



1A Noble Street, Venus Bay, Reserve LP54450/500 being approximately 640sqm.



24 Fishermans Road, Venus Bay, Reserve LP56447 being approximately 1162sqm.



1 Nell Street, Venus Bay, Reserve LP56448 being approximately 877sqm.



9 Gary Court, Venus Bay, Reserve LP54451 being approximately 620sqm.



9 June Court, Venus Bay Reserve LP54447 being approximately 620sqm.



3 McMillan Avenue, Venus Bay, Reserve LP54449 being approximately 613sqm.



84 Margaret Avenue, Venus Bay, Reserve LP54450 being approximately 656sqm.

Any person may make a submission relating to the proposed sale of land. Submissions must be in writing, and received no later than 10 days from the date of this notice. If your submission, please clearly indicate you wish to be heard by Council.
 Submissions will be considered and opportunities for submissions heard, in accordance with Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989 at a Special Meeting of Council held 19 September 2013 commencing at 12.00pm at the Council Chambers, Michael Park, Leongatha. Submissions will be held open to the CEO and lodged at the Council office 9 Smith Street, Leongatha or posted to Private Bag 4, Leongatha, on 20th September. Enquiries should be directed to Chris Van Der Ark on 5662 9200.
 Any comments on this notice will be made public in accordance with section 11A of the Local Government Regulations 2004. Copies will form part of the report to a Council or Citizens meeting and will be kept with the records of the meeting. This is particularly important if you think you might place official information in the document.

9 Smith St., Leongatha 3953 (Private Bag 4) Ph: 5662 9200 Fax: 5662 3754 council@southgippsland.vic.gov.au www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au

**Attachment 2
Submission 1**

**SOUTH GIPPSLAND
SHIRE COUNCIL**
27 JUN 2013

ATTENTION: THE CEO
South Gippsland Shire Council
9 Smith Street
Private Bag 4
Leongatha VIC 3953

Dear Sir/Madam,

26th June 2013


RE: Strategic Land Review Submission
Proposed Sale of 1 Neil Street Venus Bay 2nd Estate

We wish to submit our objection to the proposed sale of the Neil Street 'Reserve'.

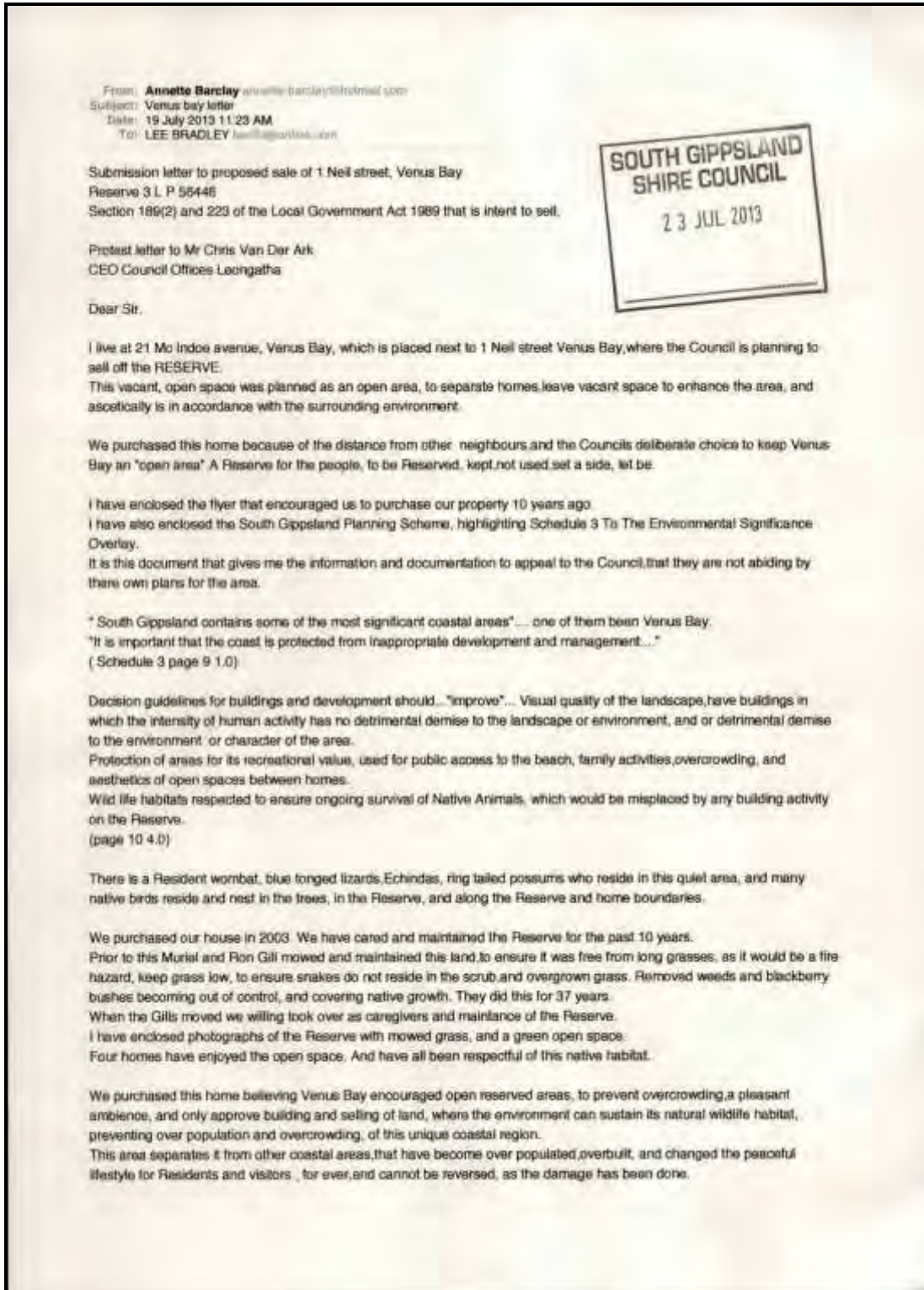
Our reasons against the sale are as follow-

1. We purchased 54 Atherton Drive because it backed onto the 'Reserve'
2. Our house was specifically designed to overlook this 'Reserve'
3. When we purchased 54 Atherton, the land in question was documented as a 'Reserve' on the land title and not as '1 Neil Street'
4. The sale and development of this land will ultimately affect the value of our property.
5. The sale will affect our privacy, our outlook and therefore the quality and enjoyment of our land- the reasons we purchased 54 Atherton in the first place
6. It is one of a few 'Reserves' existing in 2nd Estate where public land is minimum
7. The 'Reserve' is home to native wildlife and significant flora worth protecting and preserving- a group of established Drooping She Oaks and a longtime wombat habitat
8. For many years a public sign was erected on this land indicating the 'Reserve' harboured wild life- it still does today

The Council's sincere consideration of our submission would be most appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

George & Vasy Petros
(Owners of 54 Atherton Drive Venus Bay)
PO Box 585, Elsternwick 3185
P/F: 03 9596 9941

Attachment 3 Submission 2



**Attachment 3
Submission 2**

The Reserves that are splattered throughout Venus Bay are seen as "Breathing Spaces" for homeowners, street movement of people walking, cars and native animals.

We encourage the Council to permanently leave this Reserve as a Reserve, as it was planned and intended to be.
RESERVED

I would like to be heard to present my appeal to the Council on the 18th September 2013

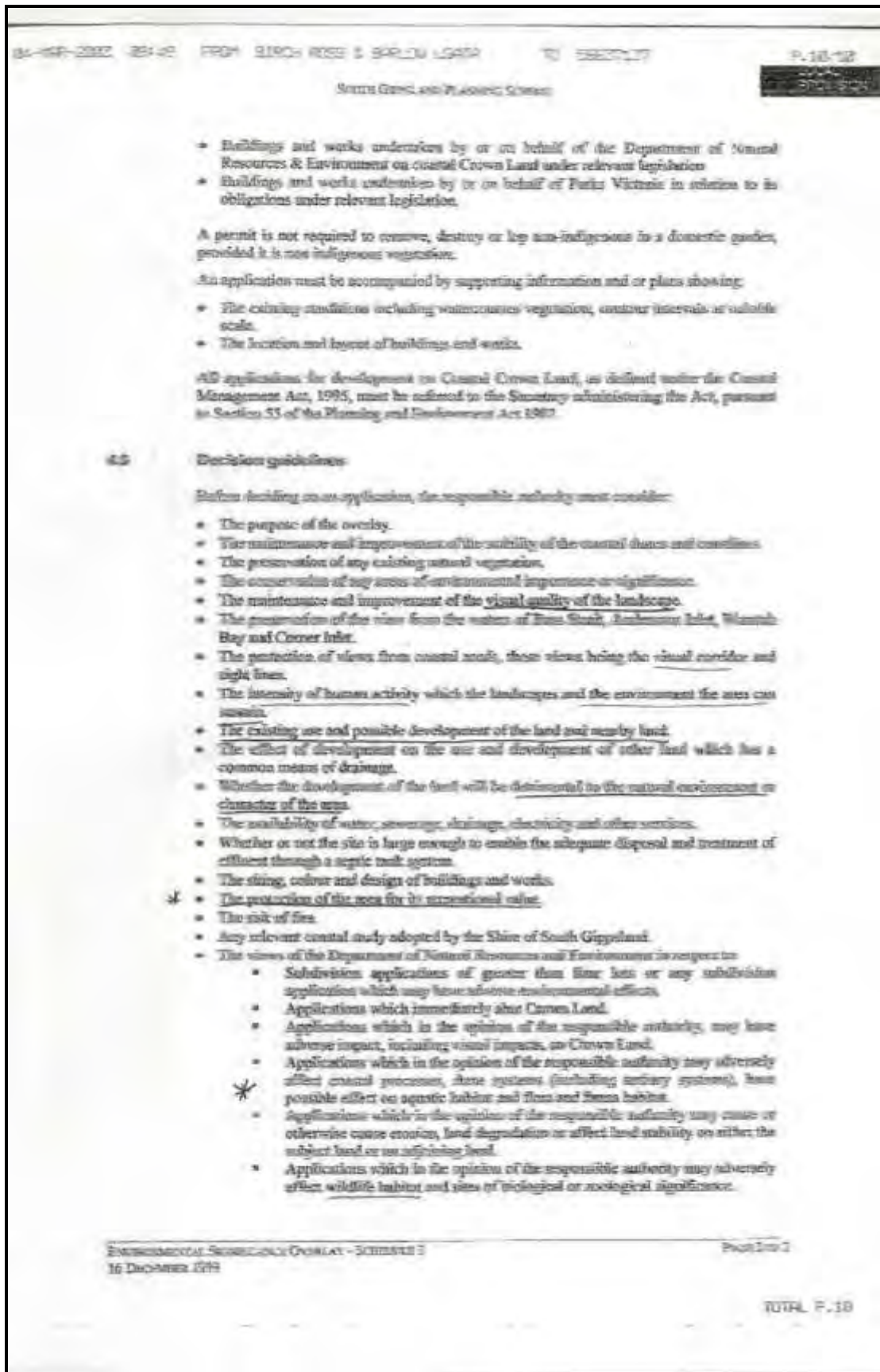
Yours sincerely

Annette Barclay
21 McIndoe Avenue
Venus Bay

Sent from my iPad

Annette M. Barclay 19/7/2013.

**Attachment 3
 Submission 2**



**Attachment 3
Submission 2**

SA-444-2008 20-15 FROM BIRCH ROSS & SHILTON LEGAL TO DEEPTON PLAN-10
SOUTH GIPPSLAND PLANNING SCHEME PROVIDED

SCHEDULE 3 TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE OVERLAY
Shown on the planning scheme map as ESO3

COASTAL AREAS

1.0 Statement of environmental significance

South Gippsland contains some of Victoria's most significant coastal areas. Wilsons Promontory, Clatter Inlet, Waratah Bay, Shallow Inlet, Walkerville, Cape Lysterup, Venus Bay and Andersons Inlet are all important coastal areas. They are important for their scenic landscapes and rugged appeal. They are also important for their environmental, economic, recreational, cultural and heritage values. While obviously of immense interest, it is important that the coast is protected from irresponsible development and mismanagement of both coastal and inland areas.

2.0 Environmental objective to be achieved

- * To protect and enhance the natural beauty of the coastal area.
To protect and enhance the environmental quality of the coastal area.
- * To minimise the risk of erosion, pollution and destruction of the environment through poorly managed development.
- * To ensure that development adjacent to coastal areas is compatible with the environment and does not result in adverse impacts on coastal processes.

3.0 Permit requirement

A permit is not required to construct the following buildings or to construct or carry out the following works:

Agricultural activities

- Agricultural activities including ploughing, staking and the construction of a dam with a capacity of less than 2000 cubic metres.
- Buildings or works specifically identified in a white firm plan prepared to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

Infrastructure

The lay out of underground sewerage, water and gas mains, oil pipelines, underground telephone lines and underground power lines provided they do not alter the topography of the land.

Power lines

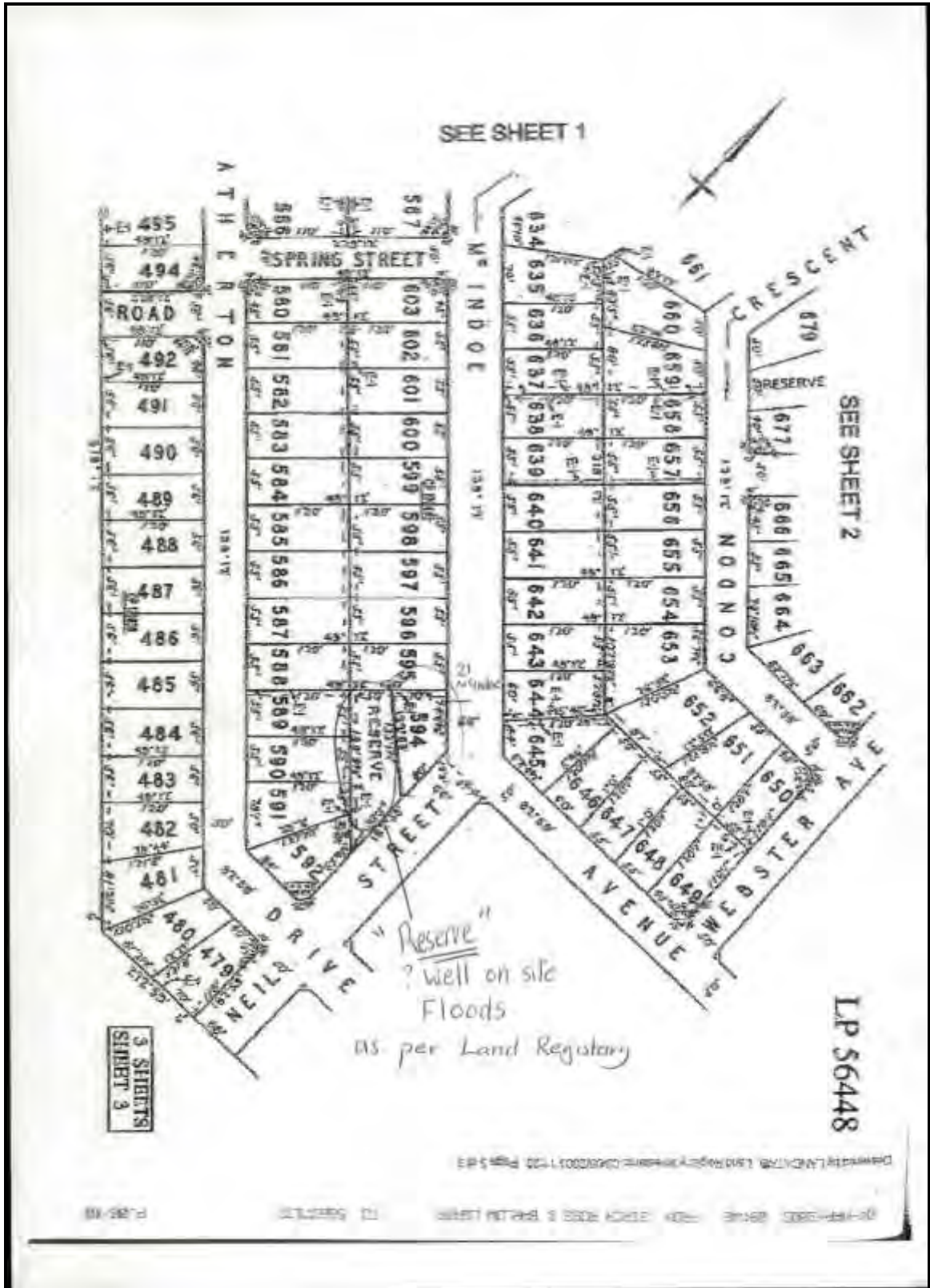
- Telephone or power lines provided they do not involve the construction of towers.

Buildings and works:

- A building, which is ancillary to a dwelling, has a floor area of less than 100 square metres and is not used for accommodation, provided all external cladding materials are finished and maintained in muted, non reflective tones.
- Extension to an existing dwelling provided the additional floor area is less than 100 square metres, provided all external cladding materials are finished and maintained in muted, non reflective tones.

Environmental Significance Overlay - Schedule 3
16 December 1995 Page 1 of 2


**Attachment 3
Submission 2**



**Attachment 3
Submission 2**

Page 1 of 2

FOR SALE





HOME BY THE SEA

**21 McIndoe Avenue VENUS BAY
3956**

Alex Scott & Staff Phone: 5663 7111

You can't get much closer to the beach than this! This 3 bedroom house has a large living area plus dining, large bedrooms, a sunroom at back, enclosed verandah at front and two gas heaters. Bathroom has a bath for the kids and is separate from the laundry and toilet. Many outdoor features including amazing established gardens that brighten up the whole street. Keep the garden as is or turn into lawn for the kids to play on. Large water tank, 2 bores, lock-up garage and right next door to the reserve ensuring no-one builds next door to you! Very close to Beach Five entrance...
no need for the car, just stroll up the road.
Beach photo included is not a view shot.



<http://www.realestate.com.au/cgi-bin/rsearch?a=pf&id=1609533&cu=&ag=&s=vic&t=res> 5/03/03

**Attachment 3
Submission 2**



**Attachment 3
Submission 2**

01-111-2883 00-47 FROM BIRCH ROSS & SPALDM L988A TID 56637137 P.05/13

LAWPOINT TITLE SEARCH 03/03/2003 11:15 Page 1
8400 428

Copyright State of Victoria. This publication is copyright.
No part may be reproduced by any process except in accordance with
the provisions of the Copyright Act or pursuant to a written
agreement. The information from the Register of Land is only valid at
the time and in the form obtained from the LAWPOINT REGD TM System.
The State of Victoria accepts no responsibility for any subsequent
release, publication or reproduction of the information.

REGISTER SEARCH STATEMENT Land Victoria

Security no : 1240050004088 Volume 08400 Folio 428
Produced 03/03/2003 11:15 am

LAND DESCRIPTION

Lot 890 on Plan of Subdivision 050448.
PRESENT TITLES :
Volume 05793 Folio 451 Volume 08375 Folio 509
Created by Instrument 2393645 31/03/1963

REGISTERED PROPRIETOR

Estate Fee Simple
Joint Proprietors
RONALD CLIFFORD GILL
HELEN VERONICA GILL both of 14 BLESSINGTON STREET SPYGLASS
C319453 21/06/1966

ENCUMBRANCES, COVENANTS AND NOTICES

Any encumbrances created by Section 98 Transfer of Land Act 1958 or Section
34 Subdivision Act 1988 and any other encumbrances shown or entered on the
plan or imaged folio set out under DIAGRAM LOCATION below.

DIAGRAM LOCATION

SEE DIAGRAM ON IMAGED FOLIO VOLUME 8400 FOLIO 428 FOR FURTHER DETAILS AND
SCHEMATIC

DEALING ACTIVITY IN THE LAST 105 DAYS

NIL

STATEMENT END

*** END OF REPORT ***

PRINTED BY LAWPOINT ON 03 MAR 2003 AT 11:15am FOR MWM REF GILL - 230221

**Attachment 3
Submission 2**

Dear South Gippsland Shire Council Members 21/05/2013

Dear Sir/Madam,

In relation to the Land Review Letter we received on the 16th May 2013, I would like to respond to the suggestion of the Council selling off blocks of land that divide properties, and gives Venus Bay the open feeling, and the ambience that we were first attracted to, when we purchased our home in 2005. ³ We have maintained 1 Neil Street, on the 2nd Estate for the past 8 years. Cutting the grass, removing weeds, and dead fallen branches. The previous owners of 21 Mc Indoe also did the same for more than 20 years.

We were told that there is a Well in the Reserve, and it has a low water table, which we have observed, floods frequently and remains wet for many months over the year.

This therefore would not be suitable for a home builder, or suitable to be built on under any circumstances.

The entry to the Reserve is also on a bend, and this would cause a hazardous entry area for a home owner.

The homes that that surround the land have all contributed to its maintenance over the many years.

Our neighbours have also purchased and built their homes so they may enjoy this open space.

Why does it have to be that any space between properties has to be built on?

Melbourne was designed with parks and open spaces between its homes and suburbs. This is the one thing that distinguishes areas from another.

Venus Bay is a special area, with a certain character that separates it from other Coastal areas. This is why so many have moved to the area over the past 10 years.

We would not support any development on this Reserve and believe it should stay as a Reserve for the Echinda, the Wombat and other wild life that presently reside in the area; and especially for the home owners surrounding the Reserve.

We would like to be informed of any meetings ahead of time, to discuss the above matter. Or Community meetings to discuss the use of land on the 2nd Estate


Yours Sincerely

Annette M. Barclay Lee D. Bradley of 21 Mc Indoe avenue Venus Bay

**Attachment 3
Submission 2**

Our ref: EF/13/300

18 May 2013



L D Bradley and A M Barclay
46 O'Keefe Street
Preston VIC 3072

Dear L D Bradley and A M Barclay

**South Gippsland Shire Council Strategic Land Review
Notification of proposed sale of land and submission process**

Council considered a report at its ordinary meeting held 24 April 2013 which considered a review of its land holdings. The Strategic Land Review has identified properties that are surplus to Council's needs. The sale of surplus properties will assist Council in funding and planning for other community projects.

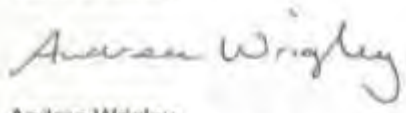
One of the properties is **1 Neil Street (see attached plan)** which is within the vicinity of your property. Council has resolved to commence statutory procedures, which includes advertising its intention for the public to make a submission within 28 days of the notice. This process will commence shortly.

Before Council advertises the calling of submissions, your comments or interest in the proposal would be appreciated.

Please forward your comments within 14 days of this letter, in the reply paid envelope enclosed.

If you have any queries please call me on 03 5662 9244 or Chris Van Der Ark, Manager Property on 03 5662 9391.

Yours sincerely

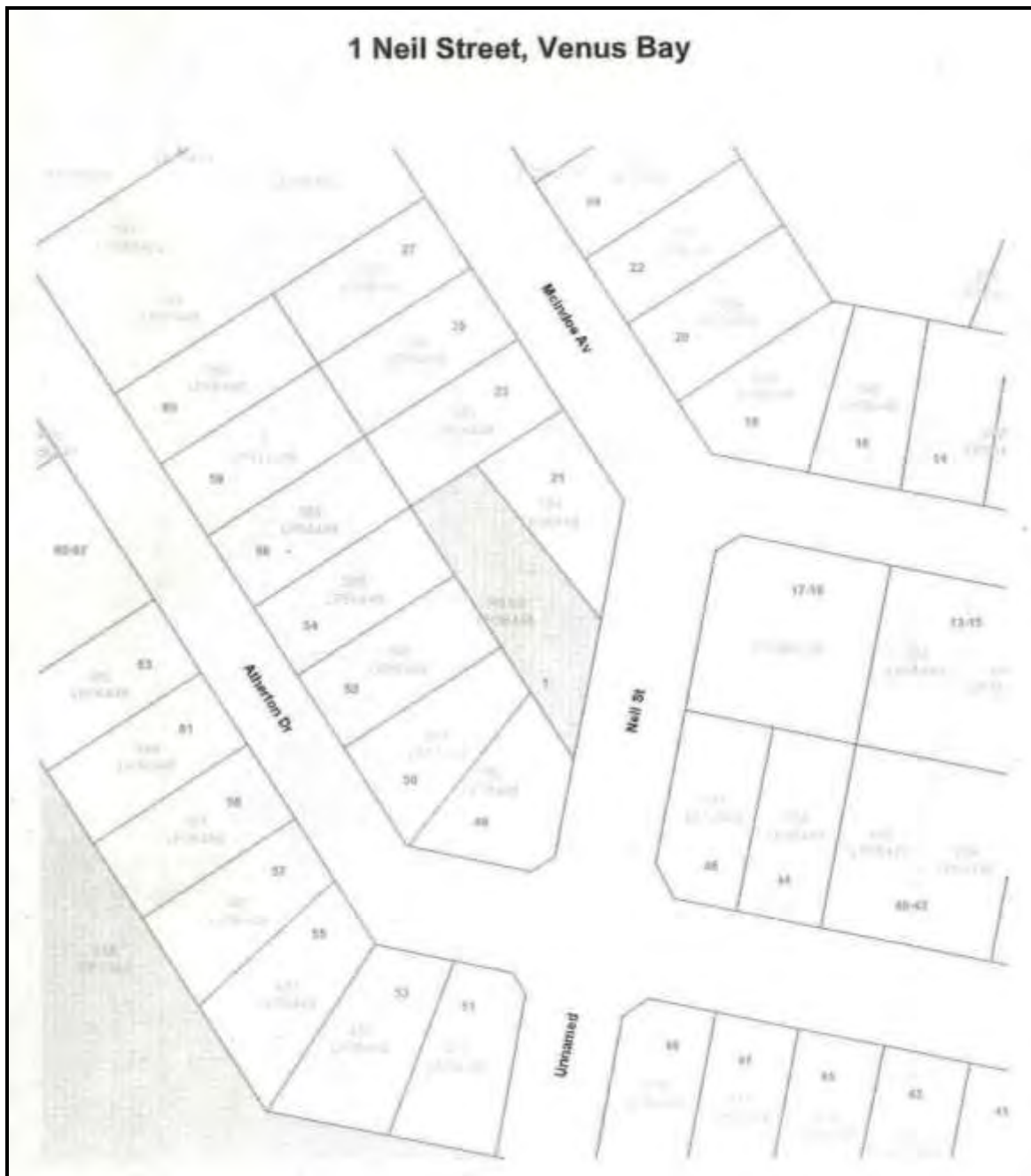


Andrea Wrigley
Property Projects Officer

Comments
This property has been maintained by ourselves for the past 9-10 yrs, and prior to this time the previous owners mowed, lawn/gas, remove dead tree branches, removed blueberry shrubs + other obnoxious weeds to maintain a snake free area for north There is a 'Well' on this land and floods in wet weather. We feel/believe this lot is co-owned by 21 Melinda Avenue V.B.

11 Street Street (Preston) May 13 Leongatha, 3930 - PO Box 1000 Leongatha
Telephone: (03) 5662 9200 Fax: (03) 5662 3100
Email: council@sgpsc.vic.gov.au Website: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au

**Attachment 3
Submission 2**



**Attachment 3
Submission 2**

Matter of Fact

JULY 2013

A free monthly community newspaper for Venus Bay, Tarwin Lower and district.
Published by Venus Bay Community Centre. Vol 6, Issue No 7

VENUS BAY - NOT FOR SALE!

Five years after fighting the 2008 SAVE our RESERVES campaign to oppose the South Gippsland Shire's plan to sell a number of Venus Bay's reserves and 'open spaces', the Venus Bay community has rallied once again to let the council know that their latest move to sell around 7 council owned vacant lots is 'not on'.

Never a community to hold back when their local environment is under threat, a particularly well attended community meeting last Sunday was jointly convened by the Tarwin Lower Venus Bay Association, the Friends of Venus Bay Peninsula and the Venus Bay Community Centre. Local representative Councillor Kieran Kennedy was unable to attend due to illness and sent an apology.

The first part of the meeting was attended by several shire officers led by Chris Van Der Ark, Property Officer, who outlined to the meeting the shire's rationale for the proposed sale under the terms of their Strategic Land Review. This was followed by an extensive question and answer session in which residents were also able to make clear their concerns.

Following the departure of the shire officers the meeting moved to a discussion phase to consider the community's future actions.

The overwhelming majority view was that the Venus Bay community oppose the shire's plans outright and request that council adopt the 5 points outlined on the community's 2008 petition which contains 951 signatures.

They are:

- 1. Formally undertake not to sell any of Venus Bay's Public Open Spaces or Road Reserves or any other Council owned land.*
- 2. Undertake a full cultural heritage and environmental assessment of all Public Open Spaces and council reserve land in Venus Bay. This to be done in consultation with the community and in accordance with the relevant Aboriginal Cultural Heritage legislation. Any costs associated with these assessments to be borne by Council.*

**Attachment 3
Submission 2**

3. Based on the reports and recommendations produced as a result of point 2 above, rezone ALL Public Open Spaces and council reserve land to Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ) or Public Conservation and Resource Zone (PCRZ). Further, with regard to any council owned land zoned Business 1 (BIZ) the Venus Bay community is to be consulted in an open and transparent manner as to its use.

4. Set an initial target of 5% Public Open Space for Venus Bay and allocate funds from its annual budgets to acquire this land by a pre-determined date negotiated with the Venus Bay community.

5. Consult the Venus Bay community in an open and transparent manner regarding any proposal to re-develop the existing business area in Jupiter Boulevard.

Colin Suggett, President of the Tarwin Lower Venus Bay Association expresses the exasperation of his community. "We have been through it all before. The Land Review appears to basing its recommendation on how 'useful' the land is to the community. We have documentation resulting from extensive surveys of all the council owned open spaces in Venus Bay carried out in 2007 which includes an audit of indigenous flora and an assessment of some blocks in terms of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage".



"We have less than 2% of the usual 5% open spaces recommended by planning authorities for urban developments. The original 1960's subdivision unfortunately provided for tiny house lots which are having to accommodate increasingly large houses. These remnant spaces under the shire's hammer provide some relief from the increasing urban density Venus Bay is and will experience in the future" Mr. Suggett says.

The Tarwin Lower Venus Bay Association and the Friends of Venus Bay Peninsula intend to put forward a joint submission to Council by the due date of 23rd July and encourage other groups and individuals to do the same.

They will also relaunch their petition. "We have a huge amount of documentation including the results of the community survey 'StratPlan 2005' and the Venus Bay Urban Design Framework (UDF) to support our case. I can't believe we have to go through all this again" Mr Suggett said.

ACT NOW

COMMUNITY MEMBERS HAVE UNTIL **23 JULY** TO WRITE TO COUNCIL
WITH CONCERNS/OPINIONS ABOUT THE PROPOSED LAND SALE

THE ISSUE WILL BE DEBATED BY COUNCILLORS ON
18 SEPTEMBER

So that we have a record of responses, please send a copy to:

PO BOX 786, Venus Bay, 3956

Email: vbcc@bigpond.com

Drop in a hard copy to VBCC 27 Canterbury Road, Venus Bay

Attachment 3 Submission 2

A SELECTION OF NOTES AND COMMENTS FROM THE MEETING:

Question. You spoke of 'benefits'. These blocks are small and not suitable for housing. What's the benefit to Venus Bay community?

Answer. I (Chris) can't identify a particular benefit to VB.

Question. Is the money going to be held in a fund to benefit VB?

Chris: It will go into general revenue. I should ask *you*, what do you want?

Comment Doesn't she know? It's well documented.

Comment: More open space, not less.

Comment: A lot of projects are identified. We could nominate any of them.

Chris: Council will decide how proceeds are spent. I have no influence on that.

Ned: My responsibility is community strengthening. The proceeds of sales should strengthen infrastructure.

Comment: people use some of this land when they walk from one place to another. If houses are built this will be stopped. There should be no loss of land. Income from sales should be used to consolidate these paths of choice.

Question: How does council define 'useful to the community'?

Chris. We have done a physical inspection and would relocate wildlife if necessary.

Question. So habitat corridors are not considered a 'community benefit'?

Comment: We picked our block for privacy. We are nature lovers like the ordinary person who chooses to buy in Venus Bay. Animals and kids use the block identified for sale that adjoins ours. No way can you put a house on it without (damage to them).

Comment. Are you aware that Council has a poor record when it comes to fair allocation of community infrastructure and community strengthening in Venus Bay?

Chris. These allocations are not a staff responsibility. I've heard the claim.

Comment. It's not a claim. It's backed by data.

Comment on health benefits. I have a health background. Passive blocks have community health benefits. The vegetation growing on them benefits us all.

Question. Might some not get a planning permit?

Chris. All would get permits.

Comment: The house blocks in Venus Bay are all too small, and the houses built on them are getting bigger. The density of construction is shocking. Sale of small parcels of land will make that worse.

Comment. There are restrictions on having bores close to septic tanks on small blocks.

Comment We live close to a block nominated for sale. Lots stay on the market for a long time. The one next to us has 4-5 wombat holes. A shame to lose that and you wouldn't get much of a price. I'm curious about what short term benefits you have in mind.

Comment. Council land here was sold for \$86k five years ago. It went on the market shortly after for \$126k.

Attachment 3 Submission 2

Comment. The block on Juno Rd isn't on your current list but of the website. Is it for sale or not?

Chris. It's still on the list but potentially on hold.

Proportion of public land in VB is low

Question. Are you aware that normally developers are required to set aside 5% but we have less than 2%?

Chris. When VB was subdivided those planning controls weren't in place. They applied after 1986.

Question. Why not protect the little we have?

Who made this decision?

Question. You seem to have had only council staff involved in the decision, Where was the community? How were we represented?

Chris. This meeting today is where you are represented. This is the process. Council initiated the process.

2.7 Comment on a more strategic approach to land sales by Council.

Comment The density is too great. In 10-15 years Venus Bay will be fully developed. Council land needs a strategy in the light of that. Any land sold should be replaced with new council purchases of undeveloped land that improve the interface with and access to the national park.

Chris. Council has a record of buying land to improve services such as the Korumburra Integrated Children's Services facility. More playground equipment is a possibility for you.

Comment. That reflects the views of a lot of people here this morning. Council is unaware of or ignores the views of local people. There's a petition here from 5 years ago when sale of land was proposed by council, with 950 signatures on it, that says, *Don't sell publicly owned land in Venus Bay.*

Comment.. It's odd that the petition and the supporting documents didn't inform this proposal.

Chris: I know the community doesn't want to sell the land.

Question Can you publish the criterion you used for assessment? Your generic values might not apply in this community.

Comment There might be no economic benefit from the sale. How much will be raised?

Comment. Colin Suggett. Explained the research done and campaign run against the sale, by community volunteers, five years ago.

Comment. Janet Carey. Marion Kavanagh has surveyed and identified all the plants found on the peninsula. *Coast Banksia Woodland* found here is classified as threatened. A botanist, Mary Ellis, assessed the ecological value of these publicly owned properties and made strong recommendations about them. We have her report. Community management of them, in partnership with council was proposed in our submission.

Comment.. We have other detailed plans generated by the community. These should be included in any plans about land use in Venus Bay.

Attachment 3 Submission 2

The fire brigade planning issue, criterion for council's assessment, and council's general approach to strategic planning in VB which ignores the well documented views of residents

Two members of the CFA attended in uniform, they said that planning for a new fire brigade building in Venus Bay next to the Men's Shed is needed. The Tarwin Lower building has to relocate too. Planning for these matters is poor.

Process

Question.. If we don't want this sale, what can we do?

Chris. There's a formal process required by the Local Government Act. Written submissions must be with council within 28 days of 25 June ie by 23 July.

Comment. Plants, birds, animals and insects have to be the number one issue to take to council in written submissions.

Chris. The issue will be debated by council on Wednesday 18 September. You can come and have your say.

Ned. You don't have to speak to your submission if you don't want to.

Question: How can we put an end to this pressure on our public land? How do we end this process once and for all?

Chris. Ask for that in your written submissions. Use them as your catalyst.

Question. Have you talked to others in this community?

Chris. I spoke to the business association and they had largely the same views as you. They have concerns about the look of the shops area.

Question. If they sell this 8 what's to stop them selling the lot?

Ned. The process must be open. In your submissions list your reasons and ask to speak to council. If you can keep them short well and good. Councillors have to read stacks of papers. Spare them a thought. Three paragraphs is enough if that's all you need to get your points across.


was pleased to attend the meeting (Sunday). I specifically wanted to hear both sides. With councils presentation I felt it was poorly delivered and designed, simply put forward their determined intent. The council reps were merely sent to sell that intent.

I took it that they expected more support and was not prepared for the level of objections, at time becoming quite impatient, like when she stated, 'If you don't get it, then you don't get it.' What she failed to recognize is that we got it, but didn't agree. Also by her own admission, submitted surveys, studies and information tabled to council by TLVBA group, she stated she was not familiar with it. This suggests that she was ill-prepared and had not fully done her homework on this community's views. At the same time, those in the community who specifically addressed animal welfare and environmental aspects, she appeared not to empathize or understand where they were coming from.

It's clear that they used nothing of previous or current strategic planning re VB in the decision to list VB properties for sale. Did they know and didn't care? Why didn't Kieran insist that our previous work be taken into account? This makes a nonsense of all the planning with communities they say they do. It makes them look contemptuous of us, the people they are supposed to be serving. It makes them seem arrogant.

**Attachment 3
Submission 2**


SCHOOL HOLIDAY FUN FOR KIDS



**Wednesday 3 July:
Movie Matinee
RANGO**

11am to 1pm.


Popcorn provided



**Wednesday 10 July
Movie Matinee THE
INDIAN IN THE
CUPBOARD**

11AM TO 1PM

POPCORN PROVIDED



Sessions run from 11 am to 1 pm and cost \$5 for each child.

Parents & carers are welcome to stay and participate, or just have a couple of hours to yourself!


Winter Warmers

Winter is coming; it's time to get indoors and share a hearty bowl of soup, some crusty bread and an old movie in the warmth of the Venus Bay Community Centre.

Last Wednesday of the month from 12 noon.

July 31: *SOME LIKE IT HOT*

Cost \$5. Everyone welcome



Attachment 4 Submission 3

Helen Macrae, 86/80 Trenerry Crescent, Abbotsford 3067, 0401 901 558

Submission re South Gippsland Shire Council's 2013 Strategic Land Review

I submit that:

- South Gippsland Shire Council sells no land in the town of Venus Bay as a result of the 2013 *Strategic Land Review*;
- Council moves immediately to zone all publicly owned land as public open space; and
- assures residents of Venus Bay that publicly owned land in their town will be safeguarded.

My reasons are:

1. **Publicly owned land in Venus Bay is highly valued by residents for its ecological value.** The community has undertaken research on the conservation value of the land proposed for sale and has concluded that all publicly owned parcels of land are critical to the future health and well-being of the community. Documents outlining this research will be re-submitted to council by community organisations.
2. **Venus Bay has less than 2% of publicly owned land in the various subdivisions.** The goal should be 5% as required of subdivisions since 1986.
3. **Publicly owned land is a precious asset.** Once it's sold it can never be regained, or only at great cost to ratepayers of their time, effort and money.
4. **In the future, parcels of land, currently passive, will be needed for as yet unknown community purposes,** e.g. the proposal to develop a community garden on two of the blocks wasn't thought of 5 years ago when council proposed to sell blocks here. This community is young. In the next 50-100 years, community owned and managed enterprises, and scientific research not yet clearly identified, will emerge. Public land, already too limited, will be needed.
5. **Venus Bay should never have been subdivided for development.** Most of the blocks are too small. Houses built on them are getting bigger and bigger, crowding neighbours and creating ugly over-density. To increase development by a further 8 houses is reprehensible. Council should move to purchase undeveloped blocks up to 5% of the developed area and build nothing on them. Council should also ensure that planning requirements to protect vegetation are enforced. We are let down by many council decisions and its failure to impose legal penalties.
6. **Council can manage all publicly owned land in Venus Bay in partnership with the community.** The community made this offer five years ago in a submission and received no reply from council.
7. **Council has planning reports about Venus Bay on the table that all explicitly or intrinsically oppose the sale of public land.** If council and its staff make decisions contrary to these documents they will be in contempt of the expressed wishes of the community and their own repeated commitment to consultation.

**Attachment 4
 Submission 3**

- 8. **Council has a history of unfair treatment of the Venus Bay community.** For example, see the attachment which sets out data showing that Venus Bay is discriminated against in the allocation of community strengthening funding. Selling our assets against our will seems like another example of this unfair treatment.
- 9. **Five years ago around 950 people signed a petition asking that publicly owned land in Venus Bay not be sold.** Council should respect the wishes of such a large majority of ratepayers.

I request an opportunity to address council on 18 September 2013.

Helen Macrae
 President, Venus Bay Community Centre
 1 July 2013

Attachment.

Our district - Venus Bay, Tarwin Lower and Walkerville – is missing out on a fair share of South Gippsland Shire Council community grants. We have the second highest number of rateable properties in South Gippsland Shire. We're almost as big as Leongatha.

Leongatha	3205 rateable properties	16.9%
Venus Bay, Tarwin Lower, Walkerville	3087 rateable properties	16.3%
Korumburra	2269 rateable properties	11.9%
Foster	1289 rateable properties	6.8%
Mirboo North	1069 rateable properties	5.6%
Meeniyan	389 rateable properties	2.0%
Total	18956	

But this is what our district got for community development over recent years:

Year	Total community grants	Total to our district	%
2009 – 2010	\$278,974	\$7,420	2.66%
2010-2011	\$329,963.80	\$13,000	3.94%
2011-2012	\$346,000	\$21,637	7.48%

We should be getting a total of grants of around \$40,000 each year. I understand that resource allocation is complex and I'm not suggesting that we should get \$40,000 every year. However, our ratepayers need, and are entitled to, a fairer share of the funding that's allocated for community strengthening. It will be a great day for this district when our turn comes around for a higher than pro rata allocation of community grants funding.

(Extract from a letter to Matter of Fact, Helen Macrae, 2012)

**Attachment 5
Submission 4**



Tarwin Lower Venus Bay Association Inc.



Mr. Tim Tamlin
CEO
South Gippsland Shire Council
9 Smith Street, Leongatha 3953

10 July 2013

Dear Mr Tamlin,

Re: The 'Strategic Review of Land Holdings'. Proposed Sale of Council Reserves and Lots at Venus Bay.

Joint submission by the Tarwin Lower Venus Bay Association (TLVBA), Friends of Venus Bay Peninsula (FVBP) and the Venus Bay Community Centre (VBCC).

This submission opposes the sale of the eight council reserves and lots in Venus Bay, proposed for sale as part of the current 'Strategic Review of Land Holdings':

- 1A Noble Street, 640m² Lot 1 on Plan of Subdivision PS4390595
- 24 Fishermans Road, 1153 m² RESERVE on Plan of Subdivision 56447
- 1 Neil Street, 877.60 m² RESERVE on Plan of Subdivision 56448
- 8 Gary Court, 846 m² RESERVE on Plan of Subdivision 56451
- 8 June Court, 820 m² RESERVE on Plan of Subdivision 56447
- 3 McMillan Avenue 613 m² RESERVE on Plan of Subdivision 56449
- 8A Margaret Avenue 659.6 m² RESERVE on Plan of Subdivision 56450

These seven properties were advertised in The Star June 25 2013.

We note that an eighth lot, Juno Road 1513 m² Lot 4 on Plan of Subdivision 312565K in the first estate, was not advertised but as of July 10 was still on the 'List of Proposed Properties for Sale' on the SGSC website.

http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/Page/page.asp?Page_id=305&h=0

At its meeting of 26 June, Council voted to sell off Lot 4 and two further lots, Lots 5 & 6 from the Juno Road Restructure allotment, as reported in The Star July 2. This was done despite the fact that according to Council we are in the **consultation phase** of the proposed sell off.

Attachment 5 Submission 4

Lots 5 and 6 Juno Road are **not** on the list of lots proposed for sale on the SGSC website nor were they advertised in The Star June 25 as intended for sale.

The Juno Road Restructure lot contains an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage site and important remnant indigenous vegetation including grasses. It was assessed by botanist Dr Mary Ellis in 2008 who recommended every effort should be made to retain the whole Juno Road Restructure area as Public Open Space. Her report is attached at [Appendix 1](#).

Majority of the Venus Bay Community strongly opposes the Sale

At the Community Meeting on 30 June, sponsored by the TLVBA, FVBP and VBCC, the overwhelming majority view was that the Venus Bay community oppose the Shire's planned sale of Reserves and lots at Venus Bay. See report on the meeting in July edition of Matter of Fact at [Appendix 2](#).

Council's rationale for sale not applicable

SGSC states that the Strategic Land Review will reduce risk to the Council in the following areas:

1. **Public liability** – this is not an issue for the proposed vacant blocks
2. **Ongoing and increased maintenance costs for surplus assets** – this is limited to annual slashing. A number of the proposed reserves listed for sale are being maintained by neighbouring property owners.
3. **Unnecessary capital renewals** – not relevant
4. **Poor planning** – is not remedied by further reducing the currently limited amount of open space
5. **Financial return** – minimal compared to loss of public amenity and wildlife habitat.

Community criteria for assessing value and quality of blocks

Following is a small selection of the criteria identified by the community in the FVBP Submission to the Shire's 2007 Open Spaces Study:

- Relief that open spaces give within the high density of residential occupation once all existing blocks (mostly small) are developed
- Protection of Indigenous Cultural Heritage sites
- Habitat for native fauna and wildlife corridors
- Presence of rare and endangered flora, including some very old trees and rare grasses
- Tourism potential e.g. bush tucker trail, night walks to spot animals

See [Appendix 3](#) for the full submission.

Attachment 5 Submission 4

Natural Environment

We highly value our natural environment

- Our community has published a kit for residents and visitors describing our environment and how we can all work to protect and enhance it. See [Appendix 4](#) 'Our place, our environment'

Reserves proposed for sale contain significant indigenous vegetation as per recent audit conducted by FVBP – see [Appendix 5](#)

- The main Ecological Vegetation Classes on the Peninsula are Coast Dune Scrub Mosaic and Coast Banksia Woodland; the latter is classified as threatened by DEPI. This vegetation defines Venus Bay and with increasing development is rapidly decreasing.
- Some reserves contain areas of native grassland, of which less than 1% of the original amount remains in Victoria. These grassland areas are critical for small native animals.

Land contains valuable habitat – see [Appendix 5](#)

- Many native birds and animals, including the endangered Swamp Antechinus (*Antechinus minimus maritimus*) listed under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act, use the local vegetation for food, shelter and protection.
- Residents and holiday makers value the close interaction with native wildlife possible at Venus Bay and want to see it continue for future generations.

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

- There are over 60 registered sites, including middens and mounds with more recently discovered.

Fragile ecosystem

- The township of Venus Bay is built on sensitive sand spit between Cape Liptrap Coastal Park and Anderson Inlet. The township area of the peninsula is covered by Environmental Significance Planning overlays ESO7 and RCZ.
- It is the responsibility of stakeholders to manage the land in an appropriate and sustainable manner, into the future. This means increasing, consolidating and linking existing open space, not reducing it.

Attachment 5 Submission 4

Passive open space

- Passive open space is a legitimate use of land that has significant ecological value.

Incremental degradation

- These reserves (together with the other 25 in Venus Bay estates), though 'pockets', are important refuges and corridors for native flora and fauna. Sale and development of this land will result in loss of biodiversity that cannot easily be reversed.

Friends of Venus Bay Peninsula projects

- FVBP is actively involved in environmental projects at Venus Bay such as the successful restoration of Coast Banksia Woodland on Council Reserve land.
- Other projects encourage local residents to protect and enhance indigenous vegetation on their properties and to create habitat corridors for native fauna.

For details on FVBP projects go to our website friendsofvenusbaypeninsula.org.au

Reserves can be regenerated with proper management.

- Some residents voluntarily maintain nearby Council reserves to conserve indigenous vegetation and provide habitat for local fauna.
- The soil contains a natural seedbank. Through weed control, appropriate mowing and pruning regimes and protection of remnants, local native plant communities will regenerate.
- Rare and threatened plants; Rare Bitter-bush, *Adriana quadripartita* s.s (glabrous form) and Coast Bitter-bush, *Adriana quadripartita* (pubescent form) have regenerated on one reserve managed by neighbouring residents (FVBP members).

Built Environment

Venus Bay - less than 2% open space

- Planners recommend between 5% to 10% open space within urban subdivision. Venus Bay's existing open spaces and reserves represent less than 2% of the subdivided area.
- Council should be aiming to increase the percentage of open space to comply with current planning guidelines.

Attachment 5 Submission 4

Urban density

- It is generally agreed that the original subdivision of Venus Bay in the late 50s was inappropriate and would not be approved under current planning provisions. Very small house lots are being subjected to increasingly large houses.
- The remnant blocks scattered throughout the 1st and 2nd Estates provide some relief from what in the future will be a very dense urban environment.

Unsuitable for development

- Six of the seven blocks on the 2nd estate being considered for sale, were clearly excised from the original subdivision as entirely unsuitable for development. Each block sits in a major depression several metres below street level, with neighbouring houses towering above. Each block would require major earth works and landfill just to provide vehicle access.
- Given the large number of superior house lots available for purchase currently and well into the future, we consider these inferior lots will be very difficult to sell.

Venus Bay Unfairly Targeted

- Of the 17 council owned allotments currently identified by the Shire's Strategic Land Review for sale, eight are in Venus Bay. Conversely, only **one** lot is proposed for sale in Leongatha. This appears to us to be inequitable.
- We feel that this community has been unfairly targeted in being asked to sacrifice valued open spaces and reserves with scant information as to the rationale for this decision.
- We ask: which of the relevant documents listed in the Appendices to this submission were referenced by shire officers in formulation of their decision?

The Venus Bay Community: Dedicated to its unique peninsula environment

StratPlan 2005

- In 1993 pressure from the Tarwin Lower Venus Bay Association brought about the first Tarwin Lower Venus Bay Strategy Plan. In 2005 the Association, in association

Attachment 5 Submission 4

with Try Consulting, instigated and conducted a second community survey - StratPlan 2005. (See [Appendix 6](#))

- From a total of 2240 questionnaires sent out, a remarkable 1016 responses were returned. The clear message from the community was that the natural environment was highly valued.
- To the specific question 'How important is the natural environment to you and your household? 83% responded 'extremely'.

The Fedele proposal

- In 2003 a community meeting attracting around 600 full time and part time residents vowed to stop a massive 2000 house development planned for 'Evergreen', the farmland between the 1st and 2nd Estates, Venus Bay.
- After 3 years of intense community campaigning, this proposal was eventually defeated.

Urban Design Framework

- In 2006 the Tarwin Lower Venus Bay Association worked closely with consultants Connell Wagner in the development of the Venus Bay Urban Design Framework (UDF) to ensure that the environmental values of the community were fully recognised in the final report.

Friends of Venus Bay Peninsula

- Since its inception in 2006 the volunteer community group Friends of Venus Bay Peninsula has worked assiduously on indigenous planting and revegetation projects around the Venus Bay Peninsula.
- This important work has been informed by a number of extensive audits done by the group of indigenous flora both on Council owned 'open spaces' and more generally.

'Save our Reserves' Petition = 950 Signatures

- Our 'Save our Reserves' petition containing 950 signatures provides ample evidence of the broad community concern at the loss of any council owned lots and reserves.

**Attachment 5
Submission 4**

- The petition reads as follows:

Petition to the South Gippsland Shire Council

Re: Preservation of Public Open Spaces in Venus Bay.

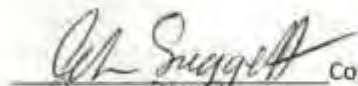
We the undersigned residents, landowners, community group members and concerned citizens do not support the restructure and sale by Council of existing Public Open Spaces and Council owned land in Venus Bay.

We request that Council:

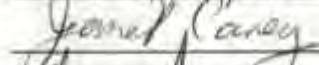
1. Formally undertake not to sell any of Venus Bay's Public Open Spaces or Road Reserves or any other Council owned land.
2. Undertake a full cultural heritage and environmental assessment of all Public Open Spaces and council owned land in Venus Bay. This to be done in consultation with the community, and in accordance with the relevant Aboriginal Cultural Heritage legislation. Any costs associated with these assessments to be borne by Council.
3. Based on the reports and recommendations produced as a result of point two above, rezone ALL Public Open Spaces and council reserve land to Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ) or Public Conservation and Resource Zone (PCRZ). Further, with regard to any council owned land zoned Business 1 (BIZ), the Venus Bay community is to be consulted in an open and transparent manner, as to its use.
4. Set an initial target of 5% Public Open Space for Venus Bay and allocate funds from its annual budgets to acquire this land by a pre-determined date negotiated with the Venus Bay community.
5. Consult the Venus Bay Community, in an open and transparent manner, regarding any proposal to re-develop the existing central business area in Jupiter Boulevard.

We request to be heard by Council at its Special Meeting on 18th September 2013.

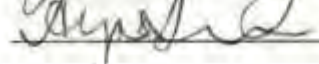
Yours sincerely,



Colin Suggett, President, Tarwin Lower Venus Bay Association



Janet Carey, Co-convenor, Friends of Venus Bay Peninsula Inc



Alyson Skinner, Manager, Venus Bay Community Centre Inc

Attachment 5 Submission 4

Appendices:

Appendix 1. Ellis, W.M. 2008, 'Report to Friends of Venus Bay Peninsula Inc Mercury Drive/Juno Road Restructure Area'.

Appendix 2. Venus Bay Community Centre. 2013, *Matter of Fact*, Vol.6, Issue No 7, July 2013.

Appendix 3. Friends of Venus Bay Peninsula Inc. 2007, 'Submission to Open Space Study by South Gippsland Shire Council'.

Appendix 4. Tarwin Lower Venus Bay Association Inc. and Friends of Venus Bay Peninsula Inc. 2007, *Our place, our environment*, Leongatha.

Appendix 5. Friends of Venus Bay Peninsula Inc. 2013, 'Audit Indigenous Flora Venus Bay SGSC open space'.

Appendix 6. Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay Community Questionnaire – 'StratPlan Report' 2005 Prepared by Ian Try - The Try Consulting Group

Attachment 5 Submission 4

Joint LEPPA, PVEP, VBCS Submission to Council – Strategic Review of Land Holdings
30 July 2013

Report to Friends of Venus Bay Peninsula Inc Mercury Drive/Juno Road Restructure Area

Dr W M Ellis

Introduction

Public Open Space (POS) is of significant benefit to communities for recreation, conservation and cultural reasons. In his report, *Natural Reserve Strategy* (1996), Paget recognised that natural reserves were an under-utilized resource, valuable community assets and major natural attractions for visitors to this region. POS has a similar value. The recommended proportion of open space to residential and commercial allotments is at least five to ten per cent of land within a subdivision or township. Venus Bay has less than two per cent POS.

One area that is under imminent threat of disposal after rezoning from commercial to residential is the Mercury Drive/Juno Road Restructure area. One lot, Lot 2 (33-38 Mercury Drive) was sold at auction for \$122,000 in January 2008, but the sale has been held up because part of that lot is zoned unused road reserve. Sale of any of this land would reduce the POS of Venus Bay even further.

Although, in the Final Report on Public Open Space in Venus Bay (2001) it was noted that 'whilst these parcels of POS are substantially vegetated, they are too small and irregularly shaped to have any significant recreational or conservation value', the actual conservation and cultural value of the site has not been properly assessed. The diminishing area of land available to Public Open Space in Venus Bay is of concern and this particular land would provide a significant contribution to the conservation and cultural benefits of POS.

Description of the land

The land rises gently from a flat area adjacent to Mercury Drive to a sand dune ridge about two-thirds of the way to the back and then slopes steeply down to Saturn Road. About one third is covered in Coast Tea-tree thickets, mostly on the sand dune ridge, and the rest is grassland.

The recognised Ecological Vegetation Class (Davies, et al 2002) for this area is Coast Dune Scrub Mosaic (EVC 1). Dominant shrubs include Coast Tea-tree, Coast Wattle and Common Beard-heath. The ground cover species include Long-hair Plume-grass, Coast Sword-sedge, Small-leaved Clematis and Knobby Club-sedge.

However, it is likely that the grassland in the northern section was once Coast Banksia Woodland (EVC 2). The dominant tree is Coast Banksia, a good indicator species for this EVC. Here other shrubs can be found, such as Seaberry Saltbush and Bower Spinach. Ground cover species include Kidneyweed and Jagged Fireweed. The presence of Blady Grass is intriguing because it is an indicator species of Grassy Woodland (EVC 175), an EVC threatened by Coast Tea-tree invasion under poor management.

There are several weed species growing over the site, but they do not occur in great numbers and most could be easily eradicated by hand pulling (*Common Weeds of Gippsland, 2002*).

Where the surface vegetation on the dune ridges has been excavated by poor slashing, many shells are visible, indicating that these were Aboriginal midden sites. Degradation by erosion and residential development are threats to the integrity of cultural sites. Sites require active management to ensure protection, in accordance with the provisions of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Heritage Protection Act* and the *Archaeological and Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act (Cape Liptrap Coastal Park Management Plan, 2003)*.

The land defined by the Mercury Drive/Juno Road Restructure area is adjacent to the Cape Liptrap Coastal Park conservation and recreation zone and forms part of a wildlife corridor, connecting other areas of native vegetation with the Park.

There was no evidence of rabbits, but fox scats were seen.

**Attachment 5
 Submission 4**

Botanical survey of the Mercury Drive/Juno Road Restructure area

The results of a field trip to the site on 16 February 2008 are shown in the table below. It should be noted that this survey was done in summer after two very dry months. This means that some seasonal species, for example lilies and orchids, were not present, but would be expected to be found in this habitat during wetter seasons of the year.

Life form	Common Name	Botanical Name
Trees	Coast Banksia	<i>Banksia integrifolia</i>
Shrubs	Coast Wattle	<i>Acacia sophorae</i>
	Coast Tea-tree	<i>Leptospermum laevigatum</i>
	Coast Beard-heath	<i>Leucopogon parviflorus</i>
	Seaberry Saltbush	<i>Rhagodia candolleana</i>
Climbing/trailing	Bidgee-widgee	<i>Acaena novae-zelandiae</i>
	Small-leaved Clematis	<i>Clematis microphylla</i>
	Kidneyweed	<i>Dichondra repens</i>
	Native Raspberry	<i>Rubus parvifolius</i>
	Bower Spinach	<i>Tetragonia implexicoma</i>
Herbs	Austral Hound's-tongue	<i>Austrocynoglossum australe</i>
	Austral Crane's-bill	<i>Geranium solanderi</i>
	Small St John's Wort	<i>Hypericum gramineum</i>
	Yam Daisy	<i>Microseris lanceolata</i>
	Oxalis	<i>Oxalis exilis</i>
	Jagged Fireweed	<i>Senecio biserratus</i>
Grasses	Common Wallaby Grass	<i>Austrodanthonia caespitosa</i>
	Reed Bent-grass	<i>Deyeuxia quadrifida</i>
	Long-hair Plume-grass	<i>Dichelachne crinita</i>
	Blady Grass	<i>Imperata cylindrica</i>
	Common Tussock Grass	<i>Poa labillardieri</i>
	Coast Spear-grass	<i>Stipa stipoides</i>
	Kangaroo Grass	<i>Themeda triandra</i>
Sedges/rushes	Knobby Club-sedge	<i>Ficinia nodosa</i>
	Coast Sword-sedge	<i>Lepidosperma gladiatum</i>
Ferns	Austral Bracken	<i>Pteridium esculentum</i>
Weeds	Sweet Vernal Grass	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>
	Large Quaking Grass	<i>Briza maxima</i>
	Hottentot	<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i>
	Common Centaury	<i>Centaureum minus</i>
	Mirror Bush	<i>Coprosma repens</i>
	Summer grass	<i>Digitaria sanguinalis</i>
	Yorkshire Fog Grass	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>
	Spotted Cat's-ear	<i>Hypochoeris maculata</i>
	Hare's-tail Grass	<i>Lagurus ovatus</i>
	Boxthorn	<i>Lycium ferocissimum</i>
	Pale Wood-sorrel	<i>Oxalis incarnata</i>
	Winter Grass	<i>Poa annua</i>
	Pine tree	<i>Pinus radiata</i>
	Indian Hawthorn	<i>Raphiolepis indica</i>
	Onion Grass	<i>Romulea longifolia</i>
	Blackberry	<i>Rubus fruticosus spp agg</i>
	Sow Thistle	<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>
	Great Mullein	<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>

Attachment 5 Submission 4

The Coast Banksia specimens were all slashed to ground level, but would no doubt recover to full sized trees under different management. All the species indicate that the vegetation on the dune ridge fits EVC 1 and in the grassy areas EVC 2.

The large area of Blady Grass is useful for protection from fire as this species stays green well into autumn, enhancing its fire retardant properties.

The value of retaining the area intact is enhancing the POS in Venus Bay, protecting Aboriginal cultural heritage and its potential as an indigenous vegetation interpretative site.

Recommendations

- Every effort should be made to retain the whole Restructure area as POS.
- The Aboriginal middens require protection under the Acts.
- Management of the vegetation should include slashing at appropriate times, i.e. early spring or late summer after the grasses have finished flowering.
- Allow the Coast Banksia trees to regrow by slashing around them.
- Weed control by hand pulling should eradicate the serious weeds, such as Blackberries, Boxthorn, Mirror Bush and Mullein.

References:

Cape Liptrap Coastal Park Management Plan, PV, 2003
Common Weeds of Gippsland, South Gippsland Shire, *Weed Identification*, 2002
Davies, J.B., Oates, A.M., and Trumbull-Ward, A.V. *Ecological Vegetation Class Mapping at 1:25,000 in Gippsland Final Report*, DNRE, 2002
Paget, Andrew. *Natural Reserve Strategy South Gippsland Shire Council*, 1996
Venus Bay Public Open Space Final Report, South Gippsland Shire Council, 2001

Dr W M Ellis
P O Box 67
Fish Creek 3959

18 February 2008

Disclaimer:

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this report is accurate. Dr W M Ellis does not guarantee that the report is without flaw of any kind and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from relying on any information in the report.

**Attachment 5
Submission 4**

Appendix 2

Matter of Fact

JULY 2013

A free monthly community newspaper for Venus Bay, Tarwin Lower and district.
Published by Venus Bay Community Centre. Vol 6, Issue No 7

VENUS BAY - NOT FOR SALE!

Five years after fighting the 2008 SAVE our RESERVES campaign to oppose the South Gippsland Shire's plan to sell a number of Venus Bay's reserves and 'open spaces', the Venus Bay community has rallied once again to let the council know that their latest move to sell around 7 council owned vacant lots is 'not on'.

Never a community to hold back when their local environment is under threat, a particularly well attended community meeting last Sunday was jointly convened by the Tarwin Lower Venus Bay Association, the Friends of Venus Bay Peninsula and the Venus Bay Community Centre. Local representative Councillor Kieran Kennedy was unable to attend due to illness and sent an apology.

The first part of the meeting was attended by several shire officers led by Chris Van Der Ark, Property Officer, who outlined to the meeting the shire's rationale for the proposed sale under the terms of their Strategic Land Review. This was followed by an extensive question and answer session in which residents were also able to make clear their concerns.

Following the departure of the shire officers the meeting moved to a discussion phase to consider the community's future actions.

The overwhelming majority view was that the Venus Bay community oppose the shire's plans outright and request that council adopt the 5 points outlined on the community's 2008 petition which contains 951 signatures.

They are:

- 1. Formally undertake not to sell any of Venus Bay's Public Open Spaces or Road Reserves or any other Council owned land.*
- 2. Undertake a full cultural heritage and environmental assessment of all Public Open Spaces and council reserve land in Venus Bay. This to be done in consultation with the community and in accordance with the relevant Aboriginal Cultural Heritage legislation. Any costs associated with these assessments to be borne by Council.*

Attachment 5 Submission 4

3. Based on the reports and recommendations produced as a result of point 2 above, rezone ALL Public Open Spaces and council reserve land to Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ) or Public Conservation and Resource Zone (PCRZ). Further, with regard to any council owned land zoned Business 1 (BIZ) the Venus Bay community is to be consulted in an open and transparent manner as to its use.

4. Set an initial target of 5% Public Open Space for Venus Bay and allocate funds from its annual budgets to acquire this land by a pre-determined date negotiated with the Venus Bay community.

5. Consult the Venus Bay community in an open and transparent manner regarding any proposal to re-develop the existing business area in Jupiter Boulevard.

Colin Suggett, President of the Tarwin Lower Venus Bay Association expresses the exasperation of his community. "We have been through it all before. The Land Review appears to basing its recommendation on how 'useful' the land is to the community. We have documentation resulting from extensive surveys of all the council owned open spaces in Venus Bay carried out in 2007 which includes an audit of indigenous flora and an assessment of some blocks in terms of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage".



"We have less than 2% of the usual 5% open spaces recommended by planning authorities for urban developments. The original 1960's subdivision unfortunately provided for tiny house lots which are having to accommodate increasingly large houses. These remnant spaces under the shire's hammer provide some relief from the increasing urban density Venus Bay is and will experience in the future" Mr. Suggett says.

The Tarwin Lower Venus Bay Association and the Friends of Venus Bay Peninsula intend to put forward a joint submission to Council by the due date of 23rd July and encourage other groups and individuals to do the same.

They will also relaunch their petition. "We have a huge amount of documentation including the results of the community survey 'StratPlan 2005' and the Venus Bay Urban Design Framework (UDF) to support our case. I can't believe we have to go through all this again" Mr Suggett said.

ACT NOW

COMMUNITY MEMBERS HAVE UNTIL **23 JULY** TO WRITE TO COUNCIL
WITH CONCERNS/OPINIONS ABOUT THE PROPOSED LAND SALE

THE ISSUE WILL BE DEBATED BY COUNCILLORS ON
18 SEPTEMBER

So that we have a record of responses, please send a copy to:

PO BOX 786, Venus Bay, 3956

Email: vbcc@bigpond.com

Drop in a hard copy to VBCC 27 Canterbury Road, Venus Bay

Attachment 5 Submission 4

A SELECTION OF NOTES AND COMMENTS FROM THE MEETING:

Question. You spoke of 'benefits'. These blocks are small and not suitable for housing. What's the benefit to Venus Bay community?

Answer. I (Chris) can't identify a particular benefit to VB.

Question. Is the money going to be held in a fund to benefit VB?

Chris: It will go into general revenue. I should ask you, what do you want?

Comment Doesn't she know? It's well documented.

Comment: More open space, not less.

Comment: A lot of projects are identified. We could nominate any of them.

Chris: Council will decide how proceeds are spent. I have no influence on that.

Ned: My responsibility is community strengthening. The proceeds of sales should strengthen infrastructure.

Comment: people use some of this land when they walk from one place to another. If houses are built this will be stopped. There should be no loss of land. Income from sales should be used to consolidate these paths of choice.

Question: How does council define 'useful to the community'?

Chris. We have done a physical inspection and would relocate wildlife if necessary.

Question. So habitat corridors are not considered a 'community benefit'?

Comment: We picked our block for privacy. We are nature lovers like the ordinary person who chooses to buy in Venus Bay. Animals and kids use the block identified for sale that adjoins ours. No way can you put a house on it without (damage to them)

Comment. Are you aware that Council has a poor record when it comes to fair allocation of community infrastructure and community strengthening in Venus Bay?

Chris. These allocations are not a staff responsibility. I've heard the claim.

Comment. It's not a claim. It's backed by data.

Comment on health benefits...I have a health background. Passive blocks have community health benefits. The vegetation growing on them benefits us all.

Question. Might some not get a planning permit?

Chris. All would get permits.

Comment: The house blocks in Venus Bay are all too small, and the houses built on them are getting bigger. The density of construction is shocking. Sale of small parcels of land will make that worse.

Comment. There are restrictions on having bores close to septic tanks on small blocks.

Comment We live close to a block nominated for sale. Lots stay on the market for a long time. The one next to us has 4-5 wombat holes. A shame to lose that and you wouldn't get much of a price. I'm curious about what short term benefits you have in mind.

Comment. Council land here was sold for \$86k five years ago. It went on the market shortly after for \$126k.

Attachment 5 Submission 4

Comment. The block on Juno Rd isn't on your current list but of the website. Is it for sale or not?

Chris. It's still on the list but potentially on hold.

Proportion of public land in VB is low

Question. Are you aware that normally developers are required to set aside 5% but we have less than 2%?

Chris. When VB was subdivided those planning controls weren't in place. They applied after 1986.

Question. Why not protect the little we have?

Who made this decision?

Question. You seem to have had only council staff involved in the decision. Where was the community? How were we represented?

Chris. This meeting today is where you are represented. This is the process. Council initiated the process.

2.7 Comment on a more strategic approach to land sales by Council.

Comment The density is too great. In 10-15 years Venus Bay will be fully developed. Council land needs a strategy in the light of that. Any land sold should be replaced with new council purchases of undeveloped land that improve the interface with and access to the national park.

Chris. Council has a record of buying land to improve services such as the Korumburra Integrated Children's Services facility. More playground equipment is a possibility for you.

Comment. That reflects the views of a lot of people here this morning. Council is unaware of or ignores the views of local people. There's a petition here from 5 years ago when sale of land was proposed by council, with 950 signatures on it, that says, *Don't sell publicly owned land in Venus Bay*.

Comment.. It's odd that the petition and the supporting documents didn't inform this proposal.

Chris: I know the community doesn't want to sell the land.

Question Can you publish the criterion you used for assessment? Your generic values might not apply in this community.

Comment There might be no economic benefit from the sale. How much will be raised?

Comment. Colin Suggett. Explained the research done and campaign run against the sale, by community volunteers, five years ago.

Comment. Janet Carey. Marion Kavanagh has surveyed and identified all the plants found on the peninsula. *Coast Banksia Woodland* found here is classified as threatened. A botanist, Mary Ellis, assessed the ecological value of these publicly owned properties and made strong recommendations about them. We have her report. Community management of them, in partnership with council was proposed in our submission.

Comment.. We have other detailed plans generated by the community. These should be included in any plans about land use in Venus Bay.

Attachment 5 Submission 4

The fire brigade planning issue, criterion for council's assessment, and council's general approach to strategic planning in VB which ignores the well documented views of residents

Two members of the CFA attended in uniform, they said that planning for a new fire brigade building in Venus Bay next to the Men's Shed is needed. The Tarwin Lower building has to relocate too. Planning for these matters is poor.

Process

Question.. If we don't want this sale, what can we do?

Chris. There's a formal process required by the Local Government Act. Written submissions must be with council within 28 days of 25 June ie by 23 July.

Comment. Plants, birds, animals and insects have to be the number one issue to take to council in written submissions.

Chris. The issue will be debated by council on Wednesday 18 September. You can come and have your say.

Ned. You don't have to speak to your submission if you don't want to.

Question: How can we put an end to this pressure on our public land? How do we end this process once and for all?

Chris. Ask for that in your written submissions. Use them as your catalyst.

Question. Have you talked to others in this community?

Chris. I spoke to the business association and they had largely the same views as you. They have concerns about the look of the shops area.

Question. If they sell this 8 what's to stop them selling the lot?

Ned. The process must be open. In your submissions list your reasons and ask to speak to council. If you can keep them short well and good. Councillors have to read stacks of papers. Spare them a thought. Three paragraphs is enough if that's all you need to get your points across. *was pleased to attend the meeting (Sunday). I specifically wanted to hear both sides. With councils presentation I felt it was poorly delivered and designed, simply put forward their determined intent. The council reps were merely sent to sell that intent.*

I took it that they expected more support and was not prepared for the level of objections, at time becoming quite impatient, like when she stated, 'If you don't get it, then you don't get it.' What she failed to recognize is that we got it, but didn't agree. Also by her own admission, submitted surveys, studies and information tabled to council by TLVBA group, she stated she was not familiar with it. This suggests that she was ill-prepared and had not fully done her homework on this community's views. At the same time, those in the community who specifically addressed animal welfare and environmental aspects, she appeared not to empathize or understand where they were coming from.

It's clear that they used nothing of previous or current strategic planning re VB in the decision to list VB properties for sale. Did they know and didn't care? Why didn't Kieran insist that our previous work be taken into account?

This makes a nonsense of all the planning with communities they say they do. It makes them look contemptuous of us, the people they are supposed to be serving. It makes them seem arrogant.

**Attachment 5
Submission 4**

APPENDIX 3
Joint TLVBA, FVBP, VBCC submission to SGSC, "Strategic Review of Land Holdings,"
10 July 2013.



Friends of Venus Bay Peninsula Inc
Reg No: A0048013M
PO Box 244, Venus Bay, 3956

Final Submission
2007 Open Space Study

To: Sally Jeavons, Director, @ Leisure

Phone 03 9326 1662
Mobile 0418 360 124
Fax 03 9326 0991

From: Friends of Venus Bay Peninsula Inc

Date: 3 June 2007

Re: 2007 Open Space Study by South Gippsland Shire Council

Copies to:
Tarwin Lower Venus Bay Association
Members of Friends of Venus Bay Peninsula
Venus Bay Community Centre
Protect Anderson Inlet & Surrounding Environs
South Gippsland Conservation Society
Paul Bawden, CEO, South Gippsland Shire Council
Guy Wilson-Browne, Lew Wilson, Chris Rankin, Steve Missen,
South Gippsland Shire Council
Crs Kennedy, Bligh and Casbolt
Rob Douthat, Gippsland Cultural Heritage Unit

Further information:
For more information about Friends of Venus Bay Peninsula
and/or work undertaken by us in relation to public open spaces
in Venus Bay, contact Janet Carey, 5663 7374

1

Attachment 5 Submission 4

1. Background

1.1 General

South Gippsland Shire Council has commissioned an analysis of all open spaces (approx 300) in the shire as the basis for policy in relation to open space provision, relevant levies, and local area planning.

Council wants to increase the use of public open space, take account of environmental, cultural and heritage issues, and undertake planning in an integrated way.

The *settings* or types of public open spaces are classified by council as:

1. sporting facility;
2. open parkland;
3. waterway corridor;
4. coast/lake foreshore;
5. plaza;
6. vegetable garden or farm environment;
7. bushland/forest;
8. tree plantation;
9. ornamental/zoological or botanical garden;
10. native grassland/wetland.

The range of *purposes* for open spaces are:

1. Social/recreation/play
2. Off road trail
3. Conservation of biological and cultural heritage
4. Community horticulture
5. Lookout/ridgeline
6. Drainage/floodway
7. Buffer/environmental protection
8. Civic forecourt meeting place
9. Visual amenity
10. Cemetery
11. Sport
12. Relaxation/environmental appreciation/escape
13. Wayside stop

To do this they have commissioned @ *Leisure* to do a literature review, consultations, site inspections, analysis of distribution and quality of existing open spaces, and evaluation of each space against four criteria:

- current provision compared to demand;
- opportunities to enhance connectivity, sustainability, diversity and participation;
- distance to population served; and
- consistency with plans, policy, planning provisions and zones.

Attachment 5 Submission 4

Submissions have been received from community organisations in Leongatha, Kongwak, Korumburra, Loch, Walkerville, Foster, and Nyora. Some interviews with stakeholders have been held and the first community briefing is to take place on 20 May as part of a community engagement workshop being held in Leongatha. Janet Carey and Helen Macrae plan to attend. Notice of this short briefing is the first formal information our organisation has received about the review of public open spaces.

We are advised that the report is due to be presented to council in late June.

1.2 Venus Bay

SGSC owns approx 31 public open spaces in our town. The largest is *Van Cleef Reserve*. The others range from 6-8 standard subdivision blocks through to single subdivision blocks. Some are obviously reserves but many are probably only known to a handful of people who live nearby or who have a special interest in open spaces. They are variously zoned.

Classifications for all land in and surrounding Venus Bay as set out on the map *South Gippsland Planning Scheme – Local Provision*:

Type	Acronym & Name of Zone	Comments and examples
Business	BIZ Business 1 Zone	2 additional business zones need to be rezoned to PPRZ
Public land	PCRZ Public Conservation and Resource Zone	Cape Liptrap Coastal Park and Inlet foreshore
Public land	PPRZ Public Park and Recreation Zone	Van Cleef Reserve and 12 other designated public parks
Public land	PUZ1 Public use, service and utility	Crown land around transfer station is the only example. FoVBP have asked DSE to investigate returning this area to banksias woodland/grasslands
Public land	RDZ2 Road Zone Category 2	Applies to Lees Road only
Residential	LDRZ Low Density Residential Zone	Moncur estate is the only example
Residential	TZ Township Zone	Most of the subdivision. Includes approximately 16 public open spaces
Rural	ERZ Environmental Rural	Private land within boundary of Coastal Park at Pt Smythe
Rural	RUZ Rural Use	Evergreen, caravan park, dairy farm

The approx 31 open spaces were set aside as part of the original subdivision and constitute less than 1.5% of the total subdivision. Currently developers are required to reserve 5% of subdivisions for public open space.

At least two published documents contain data relevant to council's survey of public open spaces. They are:

1. *Venus Bay Public Open Space Final Report* (SGSC November 2001)

Attachment 5 Submission 4

This document identifies all open spaces – 31 – and recommends either retention, sale, consolidation, or purchase of adjoining land to extend. We don't know if its recommendations were implemented. We don't know the current status of its recommendations.

2. StratPlan (TLVBA 2005)

This document stresses the value residents place on retaining the status quo re development potential, given the general agreement that the peninsula should never have been subdivided.

Friends of Venus Bay Peninsula have undertaken an audit of the habitat and actual/potential purposes of each of the 31 public open spaces we believe to be the subject of SGSC's current survey and report. Details of this audit will be attached to our response to the draft report when it is made available for comment.

We are also undertaking the revegetation of two sites in association with SGSC, Venus Bay Community Centre and the Commonwealth government. The project, *Plant with Purpose – Restoring Indigenous Coastal Mosaic at Venus Bay*, includes one site at the junction of Centre and Louis Roads and is zoned TZ. The other involves the entire grounds of the Venus Bay Community Centre and is zoned PPRZ. In time this regeneration process should extend to all public open spaces. Any reduction in public open space will be counter-productive to the aims of our joint Envirofund project.

2. Issues

2.1 The magnitude of the task in our town

Each public open space is valued by at least some residents. Many are valued by many residents. Decisions about their future will be complex and need to be weighed carefully in the light of issues outlined below in sections 2.2-7.

2.2 Our criteria for assessing value and quality

Our criteria for assessing the value of public open space to us expresses much of our long term vision for our community life in Venus Bay:

1. Relief that all open spaces give within the high density of occupation once all existing blocks are developed. Currently only 51.5% of a total of 2,250 blocks are built on. When all blocks are developed each bit of open space will be even more valued.
2. Protection of Indigenous heritage including sites already registered.
3. Habitat for native birds, animals, reptiles, insects etc, some rare and endangered.
4. Wildlife corridors.
5. Presence of rare and endangered flora, including some very old trees and rare grasses.

Attachment 5 Submission 4

6. Wetland potential.
7. Educational potential via seed collection, plant propagation, nesting boxes, demonstration gardens etc.
8. Tourism potential e.g. bush tucker trail, night walks to spot animals.
9. Passive recreation potential.
10. Scientific study potential.

Our audit of the 31 public open spaces demonstrated that all met at least four of these criteria and many met several more.

2.3 Proportion of public and private space within town boundaries

Currently this is very low – less than 2%. 5% is now the benchmark and sets a target for council to purchase additional open space over time.

2.4 Management planning

Council's three broad goals in undertaking an analysis of public open spaces in our town exactly express our own goals:

Council wants to increase the use of public open space, take account of environmental, cultural and heritage issues, and undertake planning in an integrated way.

Management planning for our public open spaces would need to (inter alia):

1. agree on and document the purpose(s) of each open space;
2. name each one;
3. arrange signage, seating, pathways and picnic amenities;
4. identify groups willing to take responsibility for their protection, maintenance and development;
5. specify long term objectives;
6. explore and implement options to connect spaces via marked/mapped trails;
7. support passive recreation use by residents;
8. attract tourists;
9. ensure regeneration of indigenous flora for the purposes education, seed collection, enhancement of biodiversity;
10. undertake weed management;
11. identify land suitable for purchase to expand public open space; and so forth.

Some spaces – *Van Cleef Reserve* is a good example – need detailed work done to map native grasses and rare ground covers such as cranberry heath, to establish more defined pathways and to reduce current levels of mowing. Grasses and other plants in the reserve could then seed up to enhance regeneration and help stock community seed banks.

Attachment 5 Submission 4

Only 1% of Victoria's native grasslands remain. There is great potential to showcase native grasslands on public places in Venus Bay. So far our group has identified remnant patches of 12 native grasses in Venus Bay and we expect to find more since this survey work is very recent and grass identification takes patience and considerable botanical knowledge. The grasses are almost all on public open spaces, undeveloped blocks and roadside verges.

There are significant areas of Coast Banksia Woodland (EVC 2) on the Venus Bay Peninsula. The Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) has classified the conservation status of Coast Banksia Woodland as *vulnerable*. Many of the reserves we have surveyed contain important remnant stands of old growth banksias. We also found many areas naturally regenerating with healthy seedlings. Conserving Banksia Woodland on reserve areas also provides habitat for the native animals and birds who depend on it for food and shelter, as well as a refuge from human activities. It has high potential as habitat for nationally significant species such as the Southern Brown Bandicoot as well as other rare and threatened small mammals (DSE).

2.5 Maintenance costs

Currently Venus Bay's public open spaces have very low maintenance costs. Some appear to incur no cost. Others are partially mown once per annum. A couple are regularly mown and incur some rubbish collection costs. We estimate costs are no more than \$18,000 per annum. A good case can be made for ratepayers in Venus Bay to receive a bigger proportion of funds spent on public open spaces in the shire. This issue relates closely to the costs of management elaborated in 2.4. In time seed collection can become an income generating activity.

2.6 Consultation

Most Venus Bay ratepayers are unaware of this initiative of council to take a new policy approach to public open spaces. Council needs to make sure they are advised of the process and given a fair opportunity to make informed comment.

2.7 Encroachment and rezoning

A number of public open spaces may have been encroached upon by neighbouring properties. Those that are zoned BIZ or TZ need to be rezoned to PPRZ.

3. Recommendations

These recommendations indicate our thinking post publication of the draft Open Spaces report. They are designed to inform the framing of the final OS Report.

We recommend that Council:

Attachment 5 Submission 4

1. prepares a summary of the draft proposals for Venus Bay and uses this to arrange a well publicised Saturday morning public meeting at the Venus Bay Community Centre to brief rate payers and invite verbal and written responses to the draft report;
2. takes account of a more detailed set of locally developed criteria for valuing existing open spaces in Venus Bay;
3. moves to retain and protect all existing public spaces by surveying, reclaiming and where necessary rezoning from B1Z and TZ to PPRZ or PCRZ;
4. identifies current maintenance costs and puts a more equitable budget in place to assist with the revegetation and maintenance of Venus Bay open spaces;
5. creates a sound management structure for Venus Bay's open spaces via: an overall plan developed in consultation with community representatives; and a system of local committees;
6. over time invests in more public open space in Venus Bay, perhaps setting a target of 5% of the subdivision by 2020.
7. support our recommendation that the community be consulted as to the proposal that two of the public open spaces in Venus Bay, one each in the first and second estates, be set aside as off-leash domestic dog exercise areas. These two spaces would be fenced and signed. Parks Victoria has offered to fund fencing and signage. All other Open Space areas as well as roads and beaches would then be enforced as dog-on-leash or no dog areas in wildlife conservation zones. This would help protect endangered Hooded Plovers who nest on the beach as well as rare and threatened small native mammals at Venus Bay. Dogs are a significant predator of these species.

4. Additional Comment.

Re page 19, Anderson Inlet/Waratah Bay "Local groups have been set up to fight off development of housing..". We take exception to the implication that our group was set up to do this. We incorporated in April 2006 and our constitution states that our aim is to protect and enhance the biodiversity of the Venus Bay Peninsula. So far we have bought \$43,000 worth of funding into the area for community based projects in accordance with this aim.

**Attachment 5
 Submission 4**

Appendix 5



**Friends of Venus Bay Peninsula Inc.
 Audit of Indigenous Flora on Council Reserves at Venus Bay**

May 2007, Revised July 2013

Address	Zone	Life form	Audit	Botanical Name	Comments
Second Estate 22-24 Fishermans Road	Township	Trees/ Large shrubs	Coast Wattle	<i>Acacia longifolia</i> subsp. <i>sophoreae</i> <i>Acacia longifolia</i> subsp. <i>sophoreae</i>	Kangaroo scats
LP56447 1153m2	Reserve	Shrubs	Coast Banksia Coast Tea-tree Coast Beard-health Boobialla Seaberry saltbush	<i>Banksia integrifolia</i> <i>Leptospermum laevigatum</i> <i>Leucopogon parviflorus</i> <i>Mycoporum isulare</i> <i>Rhagodia candolleana</i> subsp. <i>candolleana</i> <i>Rhagodia candolleana</i> subsp. <i>candolleana</i> <i>Acacia novae-zelandiae</i> <i>Acacia ovina</i>	Site mowed by neighbour
		Herbs	Bidgee-widgee Australian Sheep's Burr Kidney-weed	<i>Dichondra repens</i> <i>Ficinia nodosa</i>	
		Sedges/Rushes Grasses	Knobby Club-rush Blady Grass Weeping Grass Kangaroo Grass	<i>Imperata cylindrica</i> <i>Microlaena stipoides</i> <i>Themeda triandra</i>	
		Climbers/ Twiners	Small-leaved Clematis	<i>Clematis microphylla</i>	
		Ferns	Bower Spinach Bracken	<i>Tetragonia implexicoma</i> <i>Pteridium esculentum</i>	
1A Noble Street	Township	Trees/ Large shrubs	Blackwood	<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i> (* many regenerating seedlings)	Non-indigenous Eucalypt and Wattle
Lot1 PS439059S 640m2		Shrubs	Coast Banksia Coast Beard-health Seaberry saltbush Native Raspberry	<i>Banksia integrifolia</i> <i>Leucopogon parviflorus</i> <i>Rhagodia candolleana</i> subsp. <i>candolleana</i> <i>Rubus parviflorus</i>	Fungi Kangaroo scats Wombat hole Thornbills x 2

**Attachment 5
 Submission 4**

**Friends of Venus Bay Peninsula Inc.
 Audit of Indigenous Flora on Council Reserves at Venus Bay
 May 2007, Revised July 2013**



Address	Zone	Life form	Audit	Botanical Name	Comments
8A Margaret Avenue LP56450 659.6m2	Township Reserve	Herbs	Australian Sheep's Burr Kidney-weed Native Geranium Blady Grass Small-leaved Clematis	<i>Acaena ovina</i> <i>Dichondra repens</i> <i>Geranium solanderi</i> <i>Imperata cylindrica</i> <i>Clematis microphylla</i>	Site mowed by neighbour
		Trees/ Large shrubs	Coast Banksia	<i>Banksia integrifolia</i>	Nankeen Night Herons x 20 roosting in Cypress
		Shrubs	Coast Tea-tree Coast Beard-heath Swamp Paperbark Seaberry saltbush	<i>Leptospermum laevigatum</i> <i>Leucopogon parviflorus</i> <i>Melaleuca ericifolia</i> <i>Rhagodia candolleana</i> subsp. <i>candolleana</i>	Scrubwren Ravens Kangaroo scats <i>Eucalyptus botryoides</i> Mahogany Gum
		Herbs	Australian Sheep's Burr Kidney-weed	<i>Acaena ovina</i> <i>Dichondra repens</i>	<i>Agonis flexuosa</i> (WA native) Large Cypress
		Climbers/ Twiners	Bower Spinach	<i>Tetragonia implexicoma</i>	Site mowed by neighbour
8 Gary Court LP56451 845.1m2	Township Reserve	Trees/ Large shrubs	Coast Wattle Coast Banksia Seaberry saltbush	<i>Acacia longifolia</i> subsp. <i>sophorea</i> <i>Banksia integrifolia</i> <i>Rhagodia candolleana</i> subsp. <i>candolleana</i>	Fungi 6+ large Wombat burrows Holes and evidence of animal movement through undergrowth Wombat scats
		Herbs	Bidgee-widgee Australian Sheep's Burr Kidney-weed	<i>Acaena novea-zelandiae</i> <i>Acaena ovina</i> <i>Dichondra repens</i>	Kangaroo scats Galahs
		Sedges/Rushes	Native Geranium Knobby Club-rush	<i>Geranium solanderi</i> <i>Ficinia nodosa</i>	<i>Agonis flexuosa</i> (WA native) Large Cypress
		Grasses	Weeping Grass	<i>Microlaena stipoides</i>	Non-indigenous Eucalypt & Wattle

**Attachment 5
 Submission 4**



**Friends of Venus Bay Peninsula Inc.
 Audit of Indigenous Flora on Council Reserves at Venus Bay**

May 2007, Revised July 2013

Address	Zone	Life form	Audit	Botanical Name	Comments	
8 June Court LP56447 820m2	Township Reserve	Climbers/ Twiners	Climbing Lignum Bower Spinach Bracken	<i>Muehlenbeckia adpressa</i> <i>Tetragonia implexicoma</i> <i>Pteridium esculentum</i>		
		Ferns				
		Trees/ Large shrubs	Blackwood Coast Banksia Coast Beard-heath Australian Sheep's Burr Kidney-weed	<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i> <i>Banksia integrifolia</i> <i>Leucopogon parviflorus</i> <i>Acaena ovina</i> <i>Dichondra repens</i>	Fungi Kangaroo scats Wattle Birds Magpie Non-indigenous Eucalypts <i>Corymbia ficifolia</i> & Wattle Cypress	
	Grasses	Weeping Grass	<i>Microlaena stipoides</i>	Site mowed by neighbour		
	3 McMillan Avenue LP56449 613m2	Township Reserve	Trees/ Large shrubs	Coast Wattle Coast Banksia Coast Manna Gum Coast Tea-tree	<i>Acacia longifolia</i> subsp. <i>sophorea</i> <i>Banksia integrifolia</i> (including regenerating seedlings) <i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i> subsp. <i>pyroriana</i> <i>Leptospermum laevigatum</i>	Fungi Wombat scats Kangaroo scats Possible Swamp Rat (evidence of movement through Blady Grass and soft underfoot) Rosellas dumped prunings exotic deciduous tree
			Shrubs	Seaberry saltbush	<i>Rhagodia candolleana</i> subsp. <i>candolleana</i>	
			Herbs	Australian Sheep's Burr Austral Hounds-tongue Native Geranium Knobby Club-rush Blady Grass	<i>Acaena ovina</i> <i>Austrocynoglossum australe</i> <i>Geranium solanderi</i> <i>Ficinia nodosa</i> <i>Imperata cylindrica</i>	
		Sedges/Rushes				
		Grasses				

**Attachment 5
 Submission 4**



**Friends of Venus Bay Peninsula Inc.
 Audit of Indigenous Flora on Council Reserves at Venus Bay**

May 2007, Revised July 2013

Address	Zone	Life form	Audit	Botanical Name	Comments
1 Neil Street LP56448 877.6m2	Township Reserve	Climbers/ Twiners Ferns	Weeping Grass	<i>Microlaena stipoides</i>	small bird habitat She-oaks provide food for Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos Rosella Non-indigenous Eucalypt Fig tree?
			Kangaroo Grass	<i>Themeda triandra</i>	
			Bower Spinach	<i>Tetragonia implexicooma</i>	
			Bracken	<i>Pteridium esculentum</i>	
		Trees/ Large shrubs	Coast Wattle	<i>Acacia longifolia</i> subsp. <i>sophorea</i>	
			Lovely grove of Drooping She-oak	<i>Allocasuarina verticillata</i>	
		Shrubs	Coast Tea-tree	<i>Leptospermum laevigatum</i>	
			Seaberry saltbush	<i>Rhagodia candolleana</i> subsp. <i>candolleana</i>	
		Herbs	Bidgee-widgee	<i>Acaena novae-zelandiae</i>	
			Australian Sheep's Burr	<i>Acaena ovina</i>	
			Karkalla	<i>Carpobrotus ruscifolius</i>	
		Sedges/Rushes Grasses	Native Geranium	<i>Geranium solanderi</i>	
			Knobby Club-rush	<i>Ficinia nodosa</i>	
		Climbers/ Twiners	Blady Grass	<i>Imperata cylindrica</i>	
Small-leaved Clematis	<i>Clematis microphylla</i>				
		Bower Spinach	<i>Tetragonia implexicooma</i>		

**Attachment 5
Submission 4**

Tarwin Lower & Venus Bay Community

StratPlan

2005

Appendix G

**Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay Community
Questionnaire - StratPlan Report 2005**

Report prepared by Ian Try, The Try Consulting Group,
for the Tarwin Lower Venus Bay Association.

October 2005

The StratPlan Process

The current community questionnaire was the second phase of a process that commenced with discussions in 2002 and an initial broad survey (Phase one) in early 2003. There was a report back to the community in March 2003.

The trigger for the process was the desire of the local community via the Tarwin Lower Venus Bay Association (TLVBA), to review and update the Strategy Plan (StratPlan) of 1993. The original plan, had been caught up in local government amalgamation, and given the considerable change in the two communities, there was a strong desire to resurvey residents and check the currency of the original 1993 views and recommendations. There was a recognition that the make up of the two communities had changed markedly over those 10 years.

Rather than simply reissue the original 1993 survey as a means of retesting community views, a more strategic approach was taken. The StratPlan Committee developed a broad survey that asked the following very open questions:

- What are the strengths (the things you like) about the Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay district?
- What would you like to see more of in the Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay district?
- What are the weaknesses (the things you don't like and would want to see changed) about the Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay district?
- What would you like to see less of in the Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay district?
- What opportunities can you see over the next 10 years or so for the Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay district?
- Are there any threats or significant challenges that the Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay district could face in the next ten years or so?

The stated purpose was to be able to identify the desires of the community for the future of their two towns and develop a broad direction or future "vision". That process was very successful and a report was developed, with a community feedback session, in March 2003.

Phase two of the process was planned to follow relatively soon afterwards. It was planned to be a questionnaire that would pick up on the broad themes and implied future direction from the initial early 2003 survey as well as re-canvassing a number of the key questions and recommendations from the 1993 process. The questionnaire aimed to check whether a

Tarwin Lower & Venus Bay StratPlan Report – October 2005 1

Attachment 5 Submission 4

number of the strong views from 1993 were still current and where community views and aspirations had changed.

At about this time, the TLVBA developed a submission for a community grant to assist in funding the process. They submitted a proposal to the State Government for a grant of \$10,000 from the Community Support fund and were successful. The Association aimed to involve the community in a process to identify their views and future aspirations for Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay.

The grant submission was submitted with the support of South Gippsland Shire Council who were interested in, and supportive of, the process. They also indicated that they were planning to conduct community processes for development of Structure Plans in a number of the local communities, including Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay. The Community Association decided to slow down phase two (the questionnaire) of their process to allow the Council's processes to run. There was a clear indication that the local association was supportive of, and would assist, that process.

Proposed developments in the area were also a topic of community interest and discussion, and the questionnaire was further delayed to ensure that the two issues were not confused.

It became clear that there was a community expectation of the more detailed questionnaire, and the proposal for government grant had identified this second step. In late 2004 the proposed phase two questionnaire process was reconstituted and the early drafts of that questionnaire were refined. This questionnaire was released in late February 2005, with a view that a community report would then be developed. This report and community feedback meeting is the culmination of that process.

The level of response (over 1000 questionnaires!) was outstanding but was clearly going to overwhelm the small committee. A number of dedicated local residents worked on collation of the results over a couple of weekends. Their dedication and effort is gratefully acknowledged. These results were then rechecked to ensure the highest levels of accuracy and collated into a complicated spreadsheet by Matt Cardy. Without his many hours of computer compilation, this report and summary would have been impossible. For these reasons, the feedback stage was delayed.

Questionnaire Methodology - Aims and Limitations

As stated above, the questionnaire's intention was to test the implied future direction and vision from the 2003 survey and very particularly to revisit and test the views and responses to a number of key recommendations from the 1993 questionnaire. A number of the questions, then, were couched in the terms of the original 1993 recommendations and the views that were expressed at that time. The objective was to test whether the views expressed in 1993 were similar, or had changed markedly with the passage of time and the growth in the two towns.

Some may view this methodology as not rigorously objective, however its aims were very deliberately to refer back to, and test, the 2003 survey themes and the 1993 StratPlan. In terms of the specific and limited objectives of the Strategy Plan process and this questionnaire, the process was quite appropriate. Respondents were also given opportunities to provide additional comments to ensure that the variety of differing views could be identified.

Given the above comments on methodology, it is important to note that the questionnaire results cannot be used as a plebiscite or vote on any specific development proposal or project in the district. It does, however, provide a legitimate indication of broad community thinking

Attachment 5 Submission 4

and attitudes on a range of issues, and particularly, provides continuity and links back to the 1993 StratPlan. For many of the questions, the strength of respondent views were clearly indicated by the overwhelming vote in one direction or the other.

This summary report is accompanied by a Questionnaire including the respondent data for each question in percentage form. A spreadsheet summary of all the data is also available for interested parties. The returned questionnaires will be retained by the Association and would be an invaluable source of data for future research.

Summary of Returns and Demographic Data

Questionnaires Sent out: 2240 Returned: 1016 Percentage return: 45.4%

Place of residence (Number of respondents):

Venus Bay Permanent 211 Part Time 718

Tarwin Lower Permanent and Part Time 27

Unspecified 60

A questionnaire return of over 45% was an excellent result and indicated a very high level of interest in the process and the issues canvassed, by local residents. A return of greater than 20% is generally considered a positive response for large scale community surveys.

As might be expected, the majority of questionnaires would have been sent to part time (holiday) residents and this is also evident from the returns. It would be an interesting research exercise to compare the full time and part time resident responses for all questions. This is beyond the scope of the report.

Overview of Questionnaire Results

The scope of the report will not allow all questions to be included in the discussion below, however the key issues or findings are covered. All question numbers below relate to the questionnaire.

1 Community Vision for Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay (Q.1 and 2)

The cautions outlined above in relation to interpretation of questionnaire data are particularly relevant to questions 1 and 2. The questions outline two opposite and possibly mutually exclusive future pictures for both towns, and pick up on the key themes identified in the responses to the broad survey of 2005. They were also forced choice questions in that they did not allow respondents to opt for a middle choice. The space for comments did allow for respondents to qualify or further explain their comments.

Attachment 5 Submission 4

Vision 1 in each question could be broadly designated as the 'lower growth' scenario, while Vision 2, by comparison, is the 'higher growth' or development option. The responses overwhelmingly favoured the lower growth future scenario; 57% for Tarwin Lower and 78% for Venus Bay. A high 'no response' (19%) for the Tarwin Lower question (Q.1) was possibly related to the fact that the vast majority of respondents indicated Venus Bay as their place of residence and may have been more equivocal about the possible future scenario for Tarwin Lower.

While there were only a small number of Tarwin Lower residents who responded, 56% favoured the higher growth (Vision 2) scenario, compared to 41% favouring Vision 1.

2 Built environment and Infrastructure

2.1 Development Between and Within the Two Towns (Q. 3 to 9)

There is a distinct picture emerging from these questions; a picture that confirmed the general findings of the 1993 questionnaire. A large majority of respondents (84%) agreed with the model of Tarwin Lower as the service centre for the region from Venus Bay to Walkerville and see a strong interrelationship between the two towns (Q. 3). Virtually the same percentage of respondents agreed with the 1993 findings that the freehold land between the two towns should be kept as a buffer area (Q. 4).

An overwhelming majority of respondents would not support township expansion of Venus Bay (Q. 7, 75%) and a lower majority for Tarwin Lower (Q.5, 58%). Again it should be pointed out that the vast majority of respondents were residents of Venus Bay. Respondents to Question 9 clearly indicated that they would not support new developments in designated floodplains (83%), with 6% undecided and 9% in favour. This was also a forced choice question and it could be argued that the results may have been a little different if a range of options were presented. As it stands, the strength of the response provided a very clear indication of the overall preference of those community members who completed the questionnaire.

2.2 Building Controls (Q. 10 to 15, and 16)

Over three quarters (77%) of those responding would not support high density developments in Tarwin Lower (Q. 10), and 83% would not support these developments in Venus Bay (Q. 11); even if waste water issues were resolved. The Tarwin Lower sample was very small, however 59% of those responding indicated their preference against high density development.

A majority of respondents (59%) believed the community should again (as in 1993) recommend to the Council to reconsider strategies and financial incentives to encourage block consolidation (Q. 12). It should be noted that 16% of people were undecided and 23% were against this proposal.

A large majority (89%) supported a height restriction of two stories for buildings ((Q. 13); a similar trend to the 1993 results. Respondents were evenly divided in their response to controls on residential buildings and fencing with 42% for controls and 44% against, with 13% undecided. The results for control of commercial buildings (Q. 15) were less equivocal, with 59% for controls, 29% against and 11% undecided.

2.3 Water and Waste Management (Q. 17 and 18)

Attachment 5 Submission 4

Question 17 and 18 focussed on the complex and somewhat contentious issue of provision of reticulated water and sewerage. A range of information was provided outlining two alternative approaches, making this a forced choice question between reticulated or alternative systems. A greater number (58%) favoured alternative systems, as defined in the questionnaire, with 21% of respondents favouring reticulated water and sewerage. Many found this difficult to respond to, and there was a relatively large number who were undecided (18%).

Of those who responded to question 18, a slight majority (34%) would accept reticulated systems if they believed the alternatives had been fully investigated and proved unsuitable; 38% would not accept them.

2.4 Infrastructure (Q. 19 to 24)

The sealing of private roads was a key issue in the 1993 survey and again the majority of respondents (64%) indicated they would not support sealing of private roads in Venus Bay, with 26% supporting and 9% undecided (Q. 19). Only a slight majority of those supporting sealing indicated that they would be prepared to make a financial contribution to road sealing (17% willing versus 15% unwilling).

Question 22 provided respondents with an opportunity to rate the current standard of maintenance for a range of local infrastructure. The rating options were *excellent*, *adequate* or *poor*. Experience shows that respondents to community surveys rarely give very high ratings to the maintenance of local infrastructure and assets, therefore the level of *excellent* and *adequate* responses provide an indication of those who were generally positive with the maintenance of those assets. They will generally have no hesitation giving a poor rating if they have any negative views of those community assets. For this reason, the level of negative or *poor* ratings is of most interest.

The areas of infrastructure with the lowest level of negative responses, that is, those with a much lower level of community concern, were:

- roundabouts (12%),
- local 'feeder' roads (17%), and
- signage (19%).

By definition, there is a higher level of community 'comfort' with those asset areas.

Those areas of infrastructure with the highest level of negative rating, that is, those with a higher level of community concern, were:

- rubbish bins/litter control (41%),
- tourist information (34%),
- transfer station/recycling (33%), and
- public toilets (32%).

An overwhelming level of respondents (90%) would like to see the introduction of free transfer station vouchers (Q. 23) – not an unexpected ratepayer response.

3 Natural Environment (Q. 25 to 30)

Question 25 asked respondents about the level of importance of the natural environment to their household, with 83% rating it as extremely important and 14% rating it as moderately important. This was also an expected result. Many respondents in the broad survey of 2003 identified the natural environment as one of the key attractions of Venus Bay and Tarwin

Attachment 5 Submission 4

Lower and a major reason they bought property in the area. Comments in this questionnaire also supported this view.

Respondents overwhelmingly viewed the surrounding environment as 'very important' to the future prosperity and sustainability of the two townships (Q. 28, 93%). They would also support community, local and state government initiatives to improve the environmental quality of the area (Q. 29, 85%).

A majority of respondents supported greater access to the coastal park (Q.26), but also indicated that the care and management was at best only adequate in a number of areas (Q. 25). The areas given the highest level of 'poor' ratings were:

- access, fences, steps, tracks (28%), and
- weed and pest control (28%).

4 Economy (Q. 31 to 36)

A majority of respondents supported the promotion of tourism in the two towns, with 53% supporting, 30% not supporting and 16% undecided (Q. 31). There was relatively equal support (Q. 32) for 'green' or eco tourism initiatives or options that blended eco tourism initiatives with more commercial options. Respondent choices for additional accommodation (Q. 33) were relatively equally spread across motels, caravan park/camping, cabins/units and bed & breakfast.

A large majority of respondents (78%) indicated they do not want a light industrial zone in Venus Bay (Q. 36). The results for question 35 were more equivocal with 38% responding that it was required in Tarwin Lower, with 29% undecided and 29% against a light industrial zone in Tarwin Lower. The 'yes' response for Tarwin Lower respondents was slightly higher for a light industrial zone in their town (48%), with 30% against.

5 Human Services (Welfare) (Q. 37 to 40)

Respondents were asked in Question 37 to rate a range of facilities and services that they had used. There was a high level of 'no response' to these options given that part time residents would not have utilised many of the welfare or community services. Child care, aged care and youth care had the highest level of 'no response' – again not surprising given the high percentage of part time respondents.

For reasons outlined earlier, the *excellent* and *adequate* ratings can be combined to indicate those with a generally positive view of the services. The highest 'positive' ratings were for the Venus Bay Community Centre (74%) and the Tarwin Lower Medical Centre (55%) while the largest *poor* ratings were for Youth Services (28%) and Aged Care (25%).

Almost half of the respondents to Question 40 believed there was a need for a part time local Range for By-laws enforcement with 23% indicating that a full time officer was required. It should be noted that 21% indicated they did not believe a local Ranger is required.

Summary and Key Themes from Respondent Comments

Attachment 5 Submission 4

The following comments attempt to sum up the key themes and trends from the large number of comments provided by respondents to the questions.

The vast majority of the comments were an affirmation of their 'ticked' responses. Comments such as "keep it as is"; "retain sleepy village atmosphere"; "we bought here for the beauty – the natural environment", and so on, sum up the predominant theme.

Many comments were used to qualify their ticked response - to place their position between two extremes or to add another aspect to the question. An example that is representative of many of the comments is "some new development should be encouraged but not to create a Surf Coast".

Those who had generally 'ticked' following a lower development, environmentally sensitive, or sustainable theme tended to be more prolific in affirming this with added comments. Those responding to the questions favouring a higher development scenario tended to comment less but the predominant theme of their comments could be summed up with "progress and development is inevitable – it should be properly managed".

While rates was not a theme of any question, comments related to the perception of high rates was mentioned many times, particularly in relation to road maintenance and tip charges (prompted by question 23 – tip vouchers). Most comments suggested part time respondents believed they do not receive real value from the 'high' rates when compared to their other place of residence.

The following is a list of the most common comments which identified new issues not particularly covered by survey questions. These are approximately in descending order of frequency.

- Retain natural beauty
- Limit commercial development (particularly Venus Bay)
- Extend walking/bike tracks
- Support for alternate waste systems
- Sewerage a decision already made for us
- Improve beach access/parking
- More sporting facilities
 - 18 hole golf course - Tarwin Lower
 - Tennis courts – Venus Bay
 - Basket ball court
 - Improved boating/fishing facilities/access
- More activities and entertainment (recreational and educational) for children/teenagers
- Public transport – between Tarwin Lower & Venus Bay and to major centres.
- Better medical support – visiting doctors, chemist etc
- Areas allocated (particularly beach) for leash free dog walking
- Better maintenance of public toilets
- Better signage (including beach safety signs)
- Extended tip times.
- Disabled access to beaches, parks etc
- Need for fire plan and safe areas
- Need for ranger – greater police presence
- Domestic animal control
- Broadband needed – better mobile coverage
- Local area bus service.

Attachment 5 Submission 4

Summary

Clearly, with over one thousand returns, there were a broad range of views and opinions expressed by those community members who responded to the questionnaire. The nature and make up of the two communities has changed over the twelve years since the 1993 StratPlan was presented. There were however, some remarkably consistent themes running through both set of survey findings.

The majority favour a lower development, environmentally sensitive and sustainable future for the two towns. Many realise that change is inevitable, however desire that the factors that brought them to the towns are not lost in the future, and that it does not become a 'Noosa' style region with future development. They do want the Shire and Government Departments and Authorities to maintain and improve the level of services and the pristine nature of the Coastal Park and surroundings of the towns.

This report and the Questionnaire summary will be presented to the South Gippsland Shire Council with the desire that it be tabled and ratified as an advisory document, in the same way as the 1993 StratPlan. It will also be sent to the Department of Sustainability and Environment, and other bodies such as Water Authorities, the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, and the appropriate Power Utility.

**Attachment 6
Submission 5**

Jason Ireland
90 George Street
Fitzroy Vic 3065
Mob 0413 487 241

28 June 2013

Chris Van Der Ark
Manager Property
South Gippsland Shire Council
Private Bag 4
Leongatha Vic 3953

Dear Ms Van Der Ark

Re: Proposed Sale of Reserves with Venus Bay - your ref EF/13/300

I write with reference to your letter dated 16 May 2013 and wish to voice my objection to the proposed sale of council owned reserves within Venus Bay.

As you would be aware, there is currently a large number of vacant blocks on the market within the first and second estates of Venus Bay. The vast majority of these blocks are suitable for building purposes. The basic economic principle of supply and demand should make it clear that the locality does not require further land to be released for building purposes.

It is my opinion and that of many others, that the original subdivisions of the first and second estates of Venus Bay into blocks averaging little more than 600m², was totally inappropriate given the area's natural environment and the lands proximity to the fragile wetland ecosystems of Anderson's Inlet and the Tarwin River. I strongly believe remaining vacant land such as council owned reserves within the area should remain clear from development.

If council does decide to move forward with this proposal, I suggest that the land is sold with covenants prohibiting both building and clearing.

Please feel free to call me if you wish to discuss the above.

Yours sincerely



Jason Ireland

**Attachment 7
Submission 6**

From: robert field [mailto:gorgon7@bigpond.com]
Sent: Tuesday, 2 July 2013 11:52 AM
To: Lauren Rundle
Subject: submission land review project

SUBMISSION TO THE LAND REVIEW PROJECT

Council sent two representatives to a meeting on this matter to the VBCC, Sunday 30th June, 2013. The Local councilor was to attend but it was announced he was to ill to do so.

Council briefed those present, it proposes to sell targeted vacant lots to fund community projects throughout the breadth of Sth. Gippsland Shire. Cited were two possible projects in another town, the possibility funding could be used for the Elderly Retirement Village envisaged for Tarwin Lower, but stated there were no guarantees. Council would not commit, that any money raised through these sales would be reinvested in our two local communities, it was a matter for the decision -makers, none of which were present at the meeting. I object to council not providing some sort of guarantee that a set percentage of any money raised in a given community is not put back into that community, than merely profit from such a communities.

There are many services and projects that have been tabled to council that have gone ignored on numerous occasions in the past.

Only the decision-makers, we were informed, can tell us what projects council intends to fund from the sales. No decision -makers were available and we don't know who they are.

The meeting did not occur within the one month deadline to be held. It was delayed almost a week and those present and other interested parties had the submission period cut should as a result.

We were informed that no valuations are available despite Councils are meant under the Act to have prospective properties valued 6 months before it concludes or announces its intent.

Council's representative (main speaker) when not able to answer questions referred, that it was not part of her portfolio, or when certain submissions previously presented to council on studies and surveys were brought to her attention, she said she was unaware of these and/or had not seen them. This indicates she was poorly prepared to brief us. At one stage she stated in frustration, 'If you don't get it,

**Attachment 7
Submission 6**

then you don't get it.' It was not a case of nobody getting her point, but simply a case of disagreeing with her argument. It is not the population of our two towns that don't get councils motivations but council that fails to recognize our reasons for opposing this initiative.

It is impossible to present a population based petition for consideration by the non-permanent sector of land owners disadvantaged in being approached on their views, is due to the Privacy Act prohibiting the provision of contact details to acknowledged community organizations that advocate on their behalf for the benefit of this community. This means that any objections to the existence of the present petition not having the numbers is because it cannot contact the non-permanent property owners to include them in the petition if they chose.

I object to Councils proposal to sell public land in Venus Bay due to its lack of proper budgeting practices to make up its shortfalls and inability to solicit funding it needs from Federal or State Governments and its inability to grasp the environmental ramifications on lifestyle.

I will not need to address my submission to council.

Robert Field
39 Alfred Crescent
Venus Bay

**Attachment 8
Submission 7**

E-mail Message

From: [Peter Prysten \[SMTP: peter.prysten@bigpond.com\]](mailto:Peter.Prysten@bigpond.com)
To: [Council \[EX/OU=FIRST_ORGANIZATION/OU=First Administrative Group/cn=Recipients/cn=Council\]](mailto:Council@FIRST.ORGANIZATION/OU=First Administrative Group/cn=Recipients/cn=Council)
Cc: [VBCC \[SMTP: vbcc@bigpond.com\]](mailto:VBCC@bigpond.com), [Kieran Kennedy \[EX/OU=FIRST_ORGANIZATION/OU=Administrative Group/cn=Recipients/cn=Kierank\]](mailto:Kieran.Kennedy@FIRST.ORGANIZATION/OU=Administrative Group/cn=Recipients/cn=Kierank)
Sent: 2/07/2013 at 4:27 PM
Received: 2/07/2013 at 4:27 PM
Subject: Proposed Reserve Land Sale Venus Bay

Dear Sirs,

I wish to object to the South Gippsland Shire's plan to sell a number of Venus Bay Reserves and open spaces.

1. We have less than 2% of the usual 5% open space recommended by planning authorities - we should be increasing our open space not reducing it.
2. I cannot see any benefit of this sale to any residents of Venus Bay.
3. The sale represents a significant loss of amenity to residents.
4. There would be a loss of fauna and flora as a result.
5. The Shire has not made any assessment of any Aboriginal Cultural Heritage that may be lost as a result of such sales.
6. Venus Bay attracts excessively high Shire Rates for which I, as a resident see very little returned to our community.
7. If that is not enough the Shire now wants to dispose of communal land and any income from such sale will not benefit our community.
8. I am totally disgusted with the Shire's plan and the lack of consultation and respect for our community.

Regards,

Peter Prysten & Sonia Zaincki
72 Inlet View Road,
Venus Bay 3956

**Attachment 9
Submission 8**

E-mail Message

From: VBCC [SMTP:vbcc@bigpond.com]
To: Council [EX/O=FIRST ORGANIZATION/OU=First Administrative Group/cn=Recipients/cn=Council]
Cc:
Sent: 3/07/2013 at 10:27 AM
Received: 3/07/2013 at 10:27 AM
Subject: FW: PROTEST NOTE Strategic Land Review

Please note email below re Strategic Land Review:

Alyson Skinner
Manager, Venus Bay Community Centre Inc
at vbcc@bigpond.com.au
pt 03 5663 7499
fr 03 5663 7499
Open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 9.30 - 3.30 pm

From: Louis Sagon [mailto:l.sagon@bigpond.net.au]
Sent: Wednesday, 3 July 2013 9:25 AM
To: vbcc@bigpond.com.au
Subject: PROTEST NOTE

Dear Alyson,

Please register our protest against proposed sales by Council of land/public open spaces at VB

Sincerely

M and L Sagon
35 Centre Road VB

VENUS BAY - NOT FOR SALE!

Alyson Skinner
Manager, Venus Bay Community Centre Inc
at vbcc@bigpond.com.au
pt 03 5663 7499

file:///T:/Andrea W/19 July/D2447713/Email_FW PROTEST NOTE Strategic Land Review.html[19/07/2013 4:13:12 PM]

Attachment 10
Submission 9 –

E-mail Message

From: [The Jones' \[SMTP:ian6036@bigpond.net.au\]](mailto:The.Jones'[SMTP:ian6036@bigpond.net.au])
To: [Council \[SMTP:Council@southgippsland.vic.gov.au\]](mailto:Council [SMTP:Council@southgippsland.vic.gov.au])
Cc: [ybcc@bigpond.com \[SMTP:ybcc@bigpond.com\]](mailto:ybcc@bigpond.com [SMTP:ybcc@bigpond.com])
Sent: 7/07/2013 at 9:18 PM
Received: 7/07/2013 at 9:18 PM
Subject: Sale of Venus Bay Reserves

Attachments: image001.jpg

Att: Mayor Kieran Kennedy,
Property Manager +Chris Van Der Ark

Good Morning,

I am writing to relay our concerns regarding the potential sale of Reserves in the Venus Bay township as per your notice in The Star, 25 June, 2013.

We purchased our property in Venus Bay over 10 years ago. In that time an increasing number of families have purchased properties there for the same reason we did. It was a quiet, family orientated area with open spaces for children to play in relative safety with a community spirit enveloping us.

To now hear that the SGCU has decided to sell off parcels of parkland is little more than a grab for cash. Open areas for recreation / child's play must be maintained and encouraged.

Reserves, whether or not of Cultural or Environmental significance provide exercise areas for young & old that do not wish to partake of beach activities. The South Gippsland Council does not reflect a caring attitude in sustaining or retaining places with pride nor does it appear to fulfill its obligations to provide such areas. Unless you can redeem Rates from a piece of land, you have no interest in it.

In light of your decision to increase our Municipal Rates, yet provide no services in return, and the excess of remaining building blocks yet to be developed by private owners, your decision seems little more than cash motivated.

You claim open areas such as the dunes and beaches as attractions to our area, yet they are not yours to promote as such. DSE actually manage our coast. So what exactly is your claim to Venus Bay if we are not just nuisance value? We do not wish for an increase in businesses if we have lost our identity for which we were known as a peaceful little hamlet, not inundated by homes.

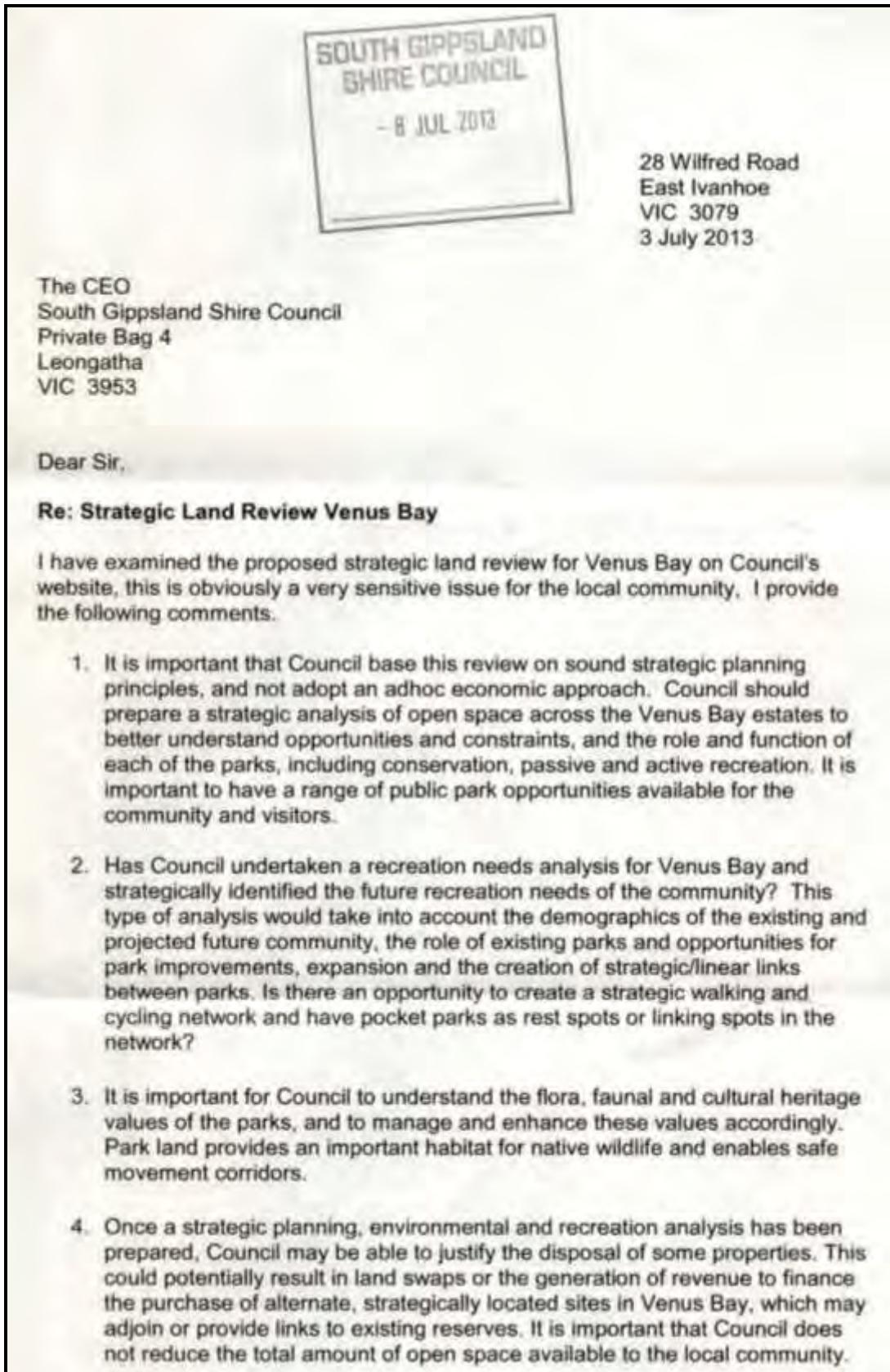
If you do choose to proceed with this sale, I would suggest we are granted the same status as Foster, Leongatha, Katumburra and Mirboo North which you gladly support and continue to develop with appropriate facilities for families to enjoy.

Please reconsider this dreadful decision.

Yours sincerely,

Ian & Rhonda Jones
17 Orion Road,
Venus Bay.

**Attachment 11
Submission 10**

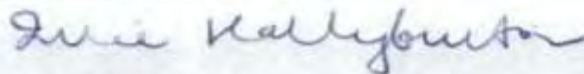


Attachment 11
Submission 10

Areas which have a low level of open space provision should be a priority for the strategic purchase of additional open space.

5. At present, Venus Bay has a high level of holiday home ownership, with a high number of absentee owners. In the future, should these properties become the primary place of residence, and vacant lots in the township estates are fully developed, there will be a greater demand on community facilities and services. The identification of future recreation and community facilities to meet future population growth and demand is extremely important.

Thank you for taking my submission into account



Julie Hallyburton

Attachment 12 Submission 11

1st July 2013

Tim Tamlin
CEO
South Gippsland Shire Council
9 Smith Street, Leongatha 3953



Dear Mr Tamlin

Re: The Strategic Land Review. Venus Bay – proposed sale of land

This submission is to express our concern regarding the proposed sale of seven blocks of land ("pocket parks") at Venus Bay.

We request that South Gippsland Shire Council (SGSC) do not sell any of Venus Bay's Council owned land, **Public Open Spaces** or **Road Reserves** for the following reasons:

Council rationale is not applicable

SGSC states that the Strategic Land Review will reduce risk to the Council in the following areas:

1. Public liability
2. Ongoing and increased maintenance costs for surplus assets
3. Unnecessary capital renewals
4. Poor planning

These reasons do not stand up to scrutiny in the case of the proposed blocks for sale at Venus Bay. Public liability is not an issue for these vacant blocks of land. Maintenance costs would currently be limited to slashing once a year in the normal Council program. Unnecessary capital renewals is not relevant and poor planning is not remedied by reducing the amount of Public Open Space (POS); rather it is by increasing the size and connectivity of these blocks that poor planning can be rectified.

SGSC also states that property sales can provide a financial return to Council and the community. The blocks under consideration have not yet had formal land valuations but were likely initially designated as 'pocket parks' because of their unsuitability for building. Most of them are in deep hollows in the sand dune and are not desirable for housing. The financial return from the sale that Council is likely to receive, should buyers be found, is minimal. The loss of public amenity is incalculable. Any revenue received will go into general revenue and is not guaranteed to be returned to, or benefit the Venus Bay Community.

Limited amount of open space in Venus Bay

The recommended proportion of open space to residential and commercial allotments is at least five to ten per cent of land within a subdivision or township. Venus Bay has less than two per cent Public Open Space

1

Attachment 12 Submission 11

and we consider that this leaves no room for disposal of land and sets a target for council to purchase additional open space over time. Council information states that community expectations have led the trend to larger, consolidated areas of public space. There is no such trade off suggested for the sale of blocks at Venus Bay, which will result in a net loss of open space for the community.

The initial subdivision of Venus Bay into very small blocks has had significant adverse ecological ramifications that would likely preclude any such development with today's guidelines. Venus Bay is set on a sensitive sand spit and is bordered by Cape Liptrap Coastal Park (CLCP) on one side and Anderson Inlet, classified by BirdLife International as an Important Bird Area for migratory wading birds, on the other. At the time of subdivision these 'pocket parks' were intended to provide areas of relief as the area developed. Passive open space is a legitimate use of land that has significant ecological value.

Current overdevelopment and loss of biodiversity

Today, with regulations regarding fire hazard reduction and drainage requirements for waste treatment plants, and as the size of housing increases to the extent that many houses require the block to be completely cleared, the open space value of these small pockets of undeveloped land is greatly enhanced. As development increases and more blocks are built on, the amount of indigenous vegetation cleared from the area is enormous and has resulted in a rapid loss of biodiversity. The blocks listed for sale contain significant indigenous plant species including areas of native grassland. Less than 1% of Victoria's original grassland remains and it forms critical habitat for small mammals. Residents of Venus Bay are fortunate to have kangaroos, wallabies, wombats, echidnas, many small mammals, birds and reptiles living alongside them and greatly value their interaction with this wildlife. Fauna is reliant on retention of native vegetation to provide refuge from human development. Rather than less open space we need larger, connected corridors to enable wildlife to move freely to and from CLCP.

Community wishes are not considered

The Venus Bay community has repeatedly asserted its preference for retaining all public open space and expanding and connecting areas where possible. This current proposal goes against all previously expressed opinions (see below) and is unlikely to bring any benefit to the community, rather it is to the detriment of the community to lose any open space when so little is present.

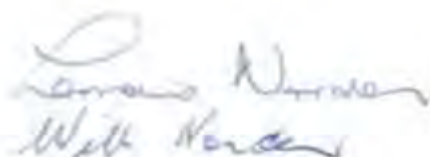
1. *Venus Bay Public Open Space Final Report* (SGSC 2007). This document identifies all open spaces – 31 – and recommends retention, sale, consolidation, or purchase of adjoining land to extend.
2. *StratPlan* (TLVBA 2005). This document stresses the value residents place on retaining the status quo re development potential, given the general agreement that the peninsula should never have been subdivided. The great majority of respondents (83%) rated the natural environment as important.
3. In 2008 600 people attended a community meeting to protest against a proposed housing estate at Venus Bay.
4. A petition opposed to the proposed sale of Council land in 2008 contains almost 1000 signatures.

Attachment 12
Submission 11

Summary

For the reasons listed above we request that Council rule out selling any further land in Venus Bay and rezone ALL Public Open Spaces and Council reserve land to **Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ)** or **Public Conservation and Resource Zone (PCRZ)**. Further, with regard to any council owned land zoned **Business 1 (BIZ)**, the Venus Bay community is to be consulted in an open and transparent manner, as to its use.

Yours sincerely



Lorraine Norden
Will Norden

Lorraine & Will Norden

10 George Street,

Venus Bay 3956

PO Box 366

Tarwin Lower 3956

**Attachment 13
Submission 12**

SUBMISSION IN RELATION TO SALE OF COUNCIL OWNED LOTS IN VENUS BAY

In relation to the sale of lots at Venus Bay it is likely that at the current rate of development of privately owned lots Venus Bay will be, effectively, fully developed in 10 to 15 years.

Given this the Council owned lots need to perform a clear and useful purpose. I am persuaded that some of the lots currently in Council ownership do not do this.

The historical subdivision layout of Venus Bay is poor, however, in many respects. In the second estate, which I know best, walking permeability and wildlife corridors are restricted especially at the edges of the subdivision where it interfaces with Anderson's Inlet and Cape Liptrap National Park. An example. Currently, many people cut through private land to access the fire trail that runs parallel to Atherton Road and the coast to walk to the beach off road. If all the lots are developed this (currently informal) permeability will be lost.

It is possible to improve this by the selective purchase of lots, by Council. The time to do this is now as it will be made impossible, over time, by the ongoing development of Venus Bay for residential development consistent with the Township Zone.

If this cost of this is the sale of other lots that are isolated and perform little function except as vacant lots this seems acceptable. I propose that if the lots are to be sold the modest proceeds should be used to purchase lots to provide enhancements to the physical permeability of the estate and rectifying problems stemming from the flawed historical subdivision. The aim should be to maintain the overall number of lots Council holds. The small business zone lots on Black Avenue could be consolidated and rezoned as part of this process as well.

To ameliorate concerns about the loss of habitat on these lots, particularly coastal banksias, I would encourage the use of restrictions on the titles of the lots (under Section 173 of the Planning and Environment Act say) to ensure development of the lots is done as sensitively as possible in terms of flora and fauna, especially threatened landscape classes.

I reiterate the opportunity for making improvements to the inappropriate subdivisional layout in Venus Bay is fast receding with (I estimate) around 100 lots being developed annually. As Venus Bay approaches full development the importance of Council owned land will become a premium. That it provide the best utility will be essential.

Regards,

Dale Constable

moosterau@yahoo.com

0421548152

Attachment 14
Submission 13

E-mail Message

From: [Jan Wallbridge \[SMTP:Jan.Wallbridge@vu.edu.au\]](mailto:Jan.Wallbridge@SMTP.Jan.Wallbridge@vu.edu.au)
To: [Council \[SMTP:Council@southgippsland.vic.gov.au\]](mailto:Council@SMTP.Council@southgippsland.vic.gov.au)
Cc:
Sent: 16/07/2013 at 8:54 AM
Received: 16/07/2013 at 8:54 AM
Subject: Strong objection to Sale of land at Venus Bay

Dear councillors

I currently have a property at 3 Grogan Court Venus Bay. I was not able to attend the meeting at the community Centre due to ill health.

I strongly object to the proposed sale of the land at Venus Bay and would prefer the land was use as conservation areas or recreational areas. It is ridiculous to be having more residential blocks at Venus Bay and is clearly a revenue raising exercise. The council must change its mind after such community resistance.

Jan Wallbridge

Venus Bay

This email, including any attachment, is intended solely for the use of the intended recipient. It is confidential and may contain personal information or be subject to legal professional privilege. If you are not the intended recipient any use, disclosure, reproduction or storage of it is unauthorized. If you have received this email in error, please advise the sender via return email and delete it from your system immediately. Victoria University does not warrant that this email is free from viruses or defects and accepts no liability for any damage caused by such viruses or defects.

Attachment 15
Submission 14

GILLIAN UPTON
109 Atherton Drive
Venus Bay 3569
0408 229 447

Sunday 21 July 2013

Mr Tim Tamlin,
CEO,
South Gippsland Shire Council



Dear Mr Tamlin,

The community of Venus Bay is loud and clear that it opposes the opportunistic sale of 8 reserves for what can only be understood as a revenue grab by the Council.

It is well known that Venus Bay was a poor exercise in town planning in its establishment. Part of this deficiency was the creation of small blocks and setting aside less than 2% to remain undeveloped in the future. The Council now proposes selling off a proportion of this already meagre area! When most of the blocks in Venus Bay are built upon, especially with the clearing, boundary to boundary, to build the huge houses that are currently occurring, Venus Bay's ecology will crash and much of it might blow away.

Venus Bay is an extremely fragile sandspit with an extraordinary and rare range of indigenous flora and fauna. Council should be protecting these assets, not threatening them further.

From 2003 till 2006, the Venus Bay community demonstrated its enduring tenacity, media muscle and political savvy to campaign and eventually defeat Fedele's inappropriate development proposal. The South Gippsland Council listened to us then. We hope it does so now.

Yours truly,

Gillian Upton

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gillian Upton". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light grey background.

**Attachment 16
Submission 15**

20 July 2013

Mr. Tim ^{Tamlin} ~~Tambling~~, CEO
South Gippsland Shire Council
9 Smith Street
Leongatha VIC

Re: Proposed sale of public reserves at Venus Bay, Vic.

Please reconsider the sale of public reserves at Venus Bay as these reserves are an important asset for Venus Bay residents, and they will be even more important in future years when more of the currently vacant housing allotments have been built on.

Poorly planned, densely subdivided housing allotments impact on an area of natural biodiversity and passive recreational use at Venus Bay. There is less than the recommended 5% of public open space, and being close to Cape Liptrap Coastal Park does not compensate for the loss of recreational space in housing estates.

Planning for the future must include recreation in nature and quality of life for residents including young, elderly and mobility restricted people, and alternative transport such as bicycle tracks, walking trails and bus stops. It is well known that public open spaces facilitate community connectivity and improve both the physical and mental health of residents.

Public reserves are also refuges for wildlife under increasing pressure from development, habitat degradation and habitat loss.

What kind of future does SGSC envisage for Venus Bay? The community has made it clear that what they want are passive recreational infrastructures appropriate for a bush land area, wildlife protection, and opportunities for community and visitors to responsibly enjoy this beautiful and biologically diverse area. We don't want poorly planned, ecologically irresponsible suburban development that will lead to dysfunctional communities.

Please work with the Venus Bay community to increase the amount of public open space at Venus Bay, and help us build a brighter future for this beautiful area and its residents.

Yours sincerely,



Mae Adams

PO Box 207, Venus Bay, Vic 3956

**Attachment 17
Submission 16**

E-mail Message

From: [Gus Geuna \[SMTP: ggeuna@kane.com.au\]](mailto:Gus.Geuna@kane.com.au)
To: [Council \[SMTP: Council@southgippsland.vic.gov.au\]](mailto:Council@southgippsland.vic.gov.au)
Cc: [VBCC \[SMTP: vbcc@bigpond.com\]](mailto:VBCC@bigpond.com)
Sent: 23/07/2013 at 10:40 AM
Received: 23/07/2013 at 10:41 AM
Subject: Venus Bay Land Sale

To whom it may concern,

I was concerned and saddened to hear of South Gippsland Shire Council's plan to sell off public reserves and vacant lots in Venus Bay.

I am a property owner in Venus Bay and our family uses the house at least a couple of weekends a month and right over the summer period. The whole reason for buying in Venus Bay, and the reason why we love coming down so much is the diversity of wildlife in the area and the availability of land for our young family to play on and explore.

Planning authorities recommend 5% of land to be available as vacant land for community use and Venus Bay has less than 2%. Yes when Venus Bay was subdivided this was not a planning requirement but why exacerbate the land shortage now by selling off more public land. The blocks being sold off are generally of a small nature and are either not suitable for residential blocks or it will encourage people to build right up to the permissible building envelope boundaries and create a feeling of living on top of each other. This will really impact the current feel and charm that Venus Bay possesses for its residents and visitors. These blocks of land would be better utilised by leaving them with native vegetation which will encourage more wildlife to inhabit these areas and bring more joy to both residents and visitors. I acknowledge that there is a cost to Council to maintain these blocks but perhaps a small amount of funding could create community projects where the residents of Venus Bay could come together and plant and maintain these blocks.

There are currently privately held blocks which could be considered vacant land but these could be built on any time and then the public reserves and vacant land lots would be greatly diminished. Council currently has the power to control the future of this land and this should not be relinquished.

It is very concerning that Council is prepared to sell off these blocks and talk about 'relocating wildlife' (Chris Van Der Ark) without any kind of formal environmental impact study being carried out. I would urge council to reconsider this proposal and rethink the sale of land at the very least until proper studies have been carried out and further community consultation takes place but really Council should commit to keeping as much vacant land and public reserves (given that Venus Bay is already so

Attachment 17
Submission 16

far below the recommended 5%) and thus not sell off these small but very well used and appreciated blocks of land.

Gus Geuta

**Attachment 18
Submission 17**

Mr Tim Tamlin
CEO
South Gippsland Shire Council
Smith Street
Leongatha 3953,

22nd July 2013

Dear Mr Tamlin

RE: SALE OF PUBLIC OPEN SPACE, COUNCIL RESERVES AND COUNCIL LAND AT VENUS BAY:

I wish to make a submission to Council to the 'proposal' to sell council reserves (POS) and vacant blocks in Venus Bay.

Public Open Space:

The long term strategy of setting aside a percentage of subdivisions as public open space has been of immense importance for the well being of communities. It is vital that this continues as urban areas become more concentrated. The provision of public open spaces is not just for today, it is also for the enjoyment of future generations. The decisions of today must not be made for short term financial gain but must be made with foresight. We must not allow these areas to be eroded through the disposal of existing reserves because they are small or do not conform to a narrow set of criteria.

With the current proposals before Council, Venus Bay is set to lose the most public open space of any town in the South Gippsland Shire. The proposal is to consider the sale of 8 parcels of land in Venus Bay yet other towns of the Shire will lose only 1 or 2 public spaces. This is an unfair burden on a town which already has a lower percentage of Public Open Space set aside for community use (under 2%) compared with other towns and new subdivisions, (varied from 3% - 5%). This proposal is in addition to Council having sold Venus Bay public land in the past –without adequate public consultation.

Public Open Space (POS) set aside in the past was for the benefit of all past, present and future residents and ratepayers. To sell any publicly owned land puts the community at a disadvantage in the amenity they can and will be able to enjoy.

Citing the proximity of other different types of public land (i.e. in Venus Bay the Cape Liptrap Coastal Park -CLCP), as has been done in newspaper reports of comments from Council , as a reason to sell parcels of land is misleading and misunderstands the different purposes that public lands have. They clearly are reserved for different reasons. If proximity to any open space were a legitimate position all subdivisions near Coastal Parks would not be required to set aside any land for POS. The reality is it is a planning requirement that developers do have to provide POS regardless of what public land is in the surrounding area. These spaces are provide for neighbourhood use. Public reserves as set aside in the CLCP are set aside for a different reason. Because Venus Bay has a lesser percentage of POS than is required, Council should be looking to increase the area of POS instead of attempting to decrease it.

1

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE COUNCIL
23 JUL 2013
Copy sent to all Councillors
Mayor & CEO

Attachment 18 Submission 17

Community consultation:

Adequate community consultation makes for good governance. I would like to comment on some aspects of community consultation involved in this process.

The initial advertising and follow up information inviting public involvement in this process seems to have been limited and the time frame for involvement short. Many Venus Bay ratepayers are absentee owners who visit irregularly. I understand that many members of the community are not aware that Council is attempting to sell Venus Bay POS and council/ratepayer land.

Notification of adjoining owners assumes that it is only they who will be impacted on by the sale of adjoining open space. This is not so. These blocks are part of a neighbourhood and all ratepayers and residents of that neighbourhood have a legitimate interest and may have a view of the disposal of land in their area. The land is a community asset not just a council one.

At the 'information' public meeting held in Venus Bay in June 2013 those present were told that we were at the start of the consultation process yet according to reports in The Star newspaper, Council had already voted to sell lots in Juno Road. That is not consultation.

Past consultations with the Venus Bay community have shown strong support for the protection of the natural features of the area. The community has made significant contributions to the Venus Bay Strat Plan (2005), the Venus Bay Urban Design Framework (2006) and The Public Open Space Strategy (2007). These documents repeatedly maintain that protection of the natural environment is a most valued goal in planning for the development of Venus Bay. They also strongly indicate the desire of the community to be able to continue to enjoy the pleasure that wildlife brings to their lives. The Save Our Reserves Petition, originating from earlier Council reserve sales, specifically rejects the sale of **any** public open space and asks Council to protect the remaining reserves. The petition is still active.

It would be understandable if those people who put considerable effort into content of the above documents, considered that consultation with the Shire of South Gippsland is a waste of time and effort. There is ample information in the above documents as to the values that Venus Bay residents and ratepayers hold. Councillors and Council officers should be well aware of the content of these documents and through them of the wishes of the Venus Bay community. Having these same proposals presented yet again could indicate to some that the Shire is not listening.

To be of value in planning and decision making community consultation must be open and representative and to be of any use it must be valued and inclusive.

Uses and functions of public open spaces:

Identifying the function of a public open space is important in assessing its value.

Focusing on only active (i.e. sporting) recreational interests does not reflect the diversity of uses a public open space can provide, and does not represent the wider range of passive recreational activities that a whole community can be involved in.

Attachment 18 Submission 17

Passive recreation is as valuable to members of a community as is active recreation. Passive recreation opportunities are particularly valuable to older members of the community and to those who have restricted mobility.

Venus Bay is very fortunate to still have a variety of remnant vegetation on most public open spaces. These important patches of vegetation are oases of habitat for fauna. Existing private vacant blocks with similar attributes are being diminished by housing development and will continue to be lost as Venus Bay becomes fully developed. This makes the attributes of these public open spaces even more valuable. Having public open spaces scattered throughout the 1st and 2nd Estates contributes greatly to making varied recreational opportunities available to the people of Venus Bay. Identification of the attributes of each space and recognition of informal recreational activities would give them accepted functions. Some of these spaces are ideally suited to passive recreational activities; i.e. walking, formal and informal education, plant, bird and animal observations and just sitting to enjoy the natural environment.

A number of the POS habitat blocks contain wombat warrens, (often not tolerated on private land), possum dreys and possibly antechinus nests.

Venus Bay public blocks also contain significant indigenous grasses and vegetation, the last remaining patches of what once covered the whole peninsula. They are somewhat protected from local extinction on these public open spaces.

Some blocks are sites of Aboriginal cultural significance and are offered some degree of protection by being on public land. It is probable, with the areas strong history of Aboriginal occupation, that there are sites yet to be found.

Public open spaces that have areas of remnant indigenous vegetation invite people to experience alternative recreational activities. Enjoying the flora and fauna these spaces support is of immense value to a community. The existing public open spaces of Venus Bay with natural values and assets should not be sold.

It should be recognised that a significant number of residents, ratepayers and visitors are involved in casual and informal recreational activities in Venus Bay. Councillors and Council employees need to keep an open mind as to the variety of experiences that are of benefit and are available in our public open spaces.

Venus Bay: an important different Shire asset.

Venus Bay is a tourist village, the beaches being the obvious attraction. It has different assets, attributes and values that are important to the South Gippsland Shire. There are areas of relatively intact habitat supporting a huge variety of wildlife. Residents and visitors can easily observe kangaroos, wallabies, wombats, possums, and koalas. Less obvious are the smaller nocturnal marsupials and other mammals - native rodents and 3 species of antechinus. Venus Bay has recent recorded finds of the endangered Swamp Antechinus. There a wide variety of coastal and bush birds found here. The place that wildlife plays in attracting people to the area should not be underestimated. People travel here to view the kangaroos in particular. International visitors to the area can be guaranteed to see kangaroos by a visit to Venus Bay (rarely seen in the more populated tourist areas at Inverloch and Phillip Island). We should be valuing the contribution kangaroos make to the tourism of the area and protecting where we can the natural features that support them.

Attachment 18 Submission 17

Kangaroos depend on grassland areas on vacant blocks, existing house yards and public spaces. The disappearing vacant blocks of Venus Bay will mean that the kangaroos will depend even more on the Council owned blocks as more and more private blocks are built on. The vacant public blocks should be valued as a tourism asset.

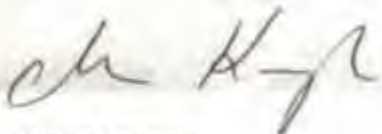
We should be celebrating the uniqueness of Venus Bay and working to protect and enhance that uniqueness, not giving in to short term economic pressures and destroying it. Our public open spaces should shine a light on that difference rather than having to be sold because they do not conform to a pre-conceived narrow opinion of what the purpose of a public open space is.

As part of that celebration Venus Bay open spaces need to have a community driven management plan formed with the long term goal of; consolidating connective wildlife corridors to enable animals to move freely and safely through housing areas between grassland areas and reserves, managing weeds and protecting important remnant vegetation habitats and wildlife. As most of the public open space in Venus Bay is not formally identified there is a need for these spaces have small signs erected. The provision of seating in appropriate areas would also improve the experience for the young, the elderly and those with mobility constraints. The purchase of strategically located wildlife corridor blocks would enable a connection to be made between habitat areas along Anderson Inlet and the Cape Liptrap Coastal Park

Retaining these blocks as natural habitat and public spaces for passive recreation is supported by State and Local Planning Provisions. The protection of natural vegetation, habitat and bio-diversity are key aims and strategies of South Gippsland Shire Council and Victorian State Government Planning documents.

I ask that Council recognise the different requirements of POS in Venus Bay and decide not to sell any POS in Venus Bay.

Yours faithfully



Marion Kavanagh
PO Box 232
Venus Bay 3956

C/C Councillors: Brunt, Davies, Fawcett, Harding, Hill, Hutchinson-Brooks, Kennedy, McEwen, Newton.

**Attachment 19
Submission 18**

Mr Tim Tamlin
CEO
South Gippsland Shire Council
9 Smith Street, Leongatha 3953

10 July 2013

SOUTH GIPPSLAND
SHIRE COUNCIL
24 JUL 2013

Dear Mr Tamlin,

Re: The "Strategic Review of Land Holdings". Proposed Sale of Council Reserves and lots at Venus Bay.
Submission by Janet and Michael Carey, 828 Lees Road, Venus Bay.

We are writing to express our strong opposition to Council's plan to sell 8 Reserves and lots at Venus Bay as part of the current "Strategic Review of Land Holdings".

We fully endorse the Venus Bay Community's submission to the Review, lodged by the Tarwin Lower Venus Bay Association, Friends of Venus Bay Peninsula and The Venus Bay Community Centre. The submission opposes the proposed sale and details a convincing case for retaining this land regarded by the community as a valuable community asset.

Further, we request that Council heed the requests of the community's petition **Re: Preservation of Public Open Spaces in Venus Bay** which already has 951 signatures.

It is the strong desire of the Venus Bay community that these 8 Reserves and lots not be sold but retained as public open space, education and environment areas.

On the basis of this we recommend that the 8 reserves and lots to be rezoned from Township Zone (TZ) to Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ) or Public Conservation and Resource Zone (PCRZ). All other remaining Council owned reserves and lots in Venus Bay currently zoned TZ should also be rezoned to PPRZ and PCRZ.

On a personal note. We have been ratepayers at Venus Bay for 13 years and permanent residents for 11 years. The reason we chose to live here was the beautiful and unique natural environment. We wanted to be part of a community that cared passionately about our environment and were committed to conserving it. Together with 30 landowners in the Rural Conservation Zone of the 3rd estate, we manage our small acreage to conserve remnant and threatened Coast Banksia Woodland as habitat for native wildlife, including threatened species.

As founding members of Friends of Venus Bay Peninsula (FVBP), we have contributed hundreds of hours of voluntary labour to conservation projects on the peninsula, including Council reserve land. Janet has served on the FVBP management committee for 7 years. Though our experience working on local conservation projects we know the importance of remnant native vegetation on the 30+ Council Reserves in Venus Bay to our native wildlife as habitat, refuges and corridors. As members of FVBP, we look forward to continuing to work co-operatively with the Shire to manage our reserves sustainably as part of the significant but fragile ecosystem of our peninsula.

Yours sincerely,
Janet Carey *M. Carey*
Janet and Michael Carey
828 Lees Road, Venus Bay.

**Attachment 20
Native Vegetation Assessment.**

Native Vegetation Assessment – 7 SGSC Blocks Venus Bay 2nd Estate

Site Inspection Date: Friday - 26/07/2013

SGSC Officers: Chris Rankin (Biodiversity Officer)

Background Information

Environmental Planning Controls

Environment Significance Overlay – Schedule 7, Coastal Settlements (ES07)

Schedule 7, Coastal Settlements Objectives

- To protect and enhance the natural beauty of the coastal townships.
- To protect and enhance the environmental quality of the townships.
- To minimise the risk of erosion, and destruction of the environment through poorly managed development.
- To ensure that development adjacent to coastal areas is compatible with the environment and does not result in adverse impacts on coastal processes.

Decision guidelines include:

- The environmental objectives of this schedule.
- Whether the proposal will assist in achieving the Vision, Objectives and Strategies for Venus Bay.....contained in Clause 21.04.
- Whether the proposal will assist in the maintenance and improvement of the stability of coastal dunes and coastlines.
- The impact of the proposal on the extent of natural vegetation retained on the site.
- The impact of the proposal on the conservation of any areas of environmental importance or significance.
- Whether opportunities exist to avoid excavation by the use of alternative building designs, including split level and staggered building forms that follow the natural slope of the land.
- Whether the development of the land will be detrimental to the natural environment.
- Any relevant coastal study adopted by the Shire of South Gippsland.

DSE Biodiversity Mapping (EVC's)

Native vegetation mapped at the 7 sites and adjacent areas

- Native vegetation at the site has not been mapped by DSE
- Adjacent Areas have the following Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVC's)
 - Coastal Dune Scrub/Coastal Dune Grassland Mosaic
 - Coast Banksia Woodland

(DSE Biodiversity Interactive Mapping)

Bioregional Conservation Status (Gippsland Plain)

- Coastal Dune Scrub/Coastal Dune Grassland Mosaic = Depleted
- Coast Banksia Woodland = Vulnerable

Depleted = > 30% and up to 50% of pre-European extent remains (or a combination of depletion, loss of quality, current threats and rarity that gives a comparable status)

Vulnerable = 10 - 30% of pre-European extent remains (or a combination of depletion, loss of quality, current threats and rarity that gives a comparable status)

Attachment 20 Native Vegetation Assessment

Conservation Significance

The DSE, Default Conservation Significance rating for a:

Depleted EVC is e.g. Coastal Dune Scrub/Coastal Dune Grassland Mosaic:

- area of vegetation = High
- scattered trees = Low

Vulnerable EVC e.g. Coast Banksia Woodland:

- area of vegetation = Very High
- scattered trees = Medium

Native Vegetation Present at the Sites

The 7 sites contain a range of indigenous overstorey, midstorey and understorey plant species (Refer to the attached Flora Inspection Lists for the Seven Sites).

The Fishermans Road site had the highest recorded number of individual species (16), while the Margaret Avenue site had the lowest (8).

(Based on the site assessments undertaken by SGSC's Biodiversity Officer and Environmental Projects Officer on Friday, 26/07/2013 and the findings contained in the FVBP, Rev July 2013- Audit of Indigenous Flora on Council Reserves at Venus Bay)

The Fishermans Road site also had the highest number of indigenous plant species that are frequent and important (9 out of a possible total of 17), based on the DSE, Coast Banksia Woodland EVC Description, Species List. Two sites (McMillan Avenue and Neal Street) contained 4 plant species, while the remaining sites contained between 5-6 species of importance and having a high frequency (Refer to the attached SGSC 7 Sites Venus Bay 2nd - Estate Life Forms Present Table).

Attachment 20 Native Vegetation Assessment



SGSC 22-24 Fishermans Road – Section of Site with Overstorey and Midstorey Present

Native grass species were also found at 6 of the 7 sites. Native Grass species were not found at Margaret Avenue, while 3 species were identified at McMillan Avenue. Grasslands are regarded as the most endangered natural ecosystems in Australia "In all the temperate lowland regions of south-eastern Australia the natural grassy ecosystems have either been eliminated or reduced to small remnants" (Ross, James, WWF Australia 1999, Guide to Best Practice Conservation of Native Grasslands). The main threats to the conservation of remaining grasslands include urban expansion, invasion by exotic plants and poor management of remnants.

A stand of Drooping Sheoak, *Allocasuarina, verticillata* was observed at the Neil Street site. The FOVP Audit also noted the stand and commented that it provides food for Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos.

Please Note: The survey conducted by the SGSC officers was not a detailed or targeted flora survey of the 7 sites. Some flora species e.g. orchids and native grasses can be difficult to find/identify unless a survey is carried out during flowering.

Weeds Present at the Sites

The sites also contained a range of environmental weed species. A number of the weed species are considered invasive e.g. Kikuyu, Blue Periwinkle and Cape Ivy (Refer to the attached SGSC 7 Sites Venus Bay 2nd - Estate Life Forms Present Table).

Attachment 20 Native Vegetation Assessment



SGSC 22-24 Fishermans Road – Invasive Weed Species – Blue Periwinkle

Fauna Present at the Sites

A wombat burrow was observed at 8 Gary Court. The burrow had evidence of recent digging indicating it was being used. The Friends of Venus Bay Peninsula (FVBP) Audit of Indigenous Flora of the sites also includes comments on native fauna observed or evidence of fauna. A range of bird species were identified and mammal scats observed e.g. kangaroo and wombat scats (Refer to FVBP, Rev July 2013- Audit of Indigenous Flora on Council Reserves at Venus Bay).

Comments

While a number of the sites have areas containing indigenous overstorey, midstorey and understorey flora species including native grasses e.g. 22-24 Fishermans Road. A number of the sites have been significantly modified with the overstorey, midstorey and understorey altered or absent e.g. the Margaret Avenue and Noble Avenue sites. A number of the sites are routinely mowed presumably by adjacent landowners. This has resulted in the effective removal of the midstorey and understorey and prevented any regeneration of indigenous flora.

At some sites the overstorey is present while the midstorey and understorey are effectively absent e.g. 8 June Court.

The most degraded/modified sites are Margaret Avenue and Noble Street (overstorey, midstorey and understorey effectively absent).

The blocks provide habitat for native animals. The FVBP audit identified the presence of native birds and animals at the sites. However given the size of the blocks in question and their degraded and fragmented nature it is difficult to argue that the blocks in their current condition provide essential habitat.

Attachment 20
Native Vegetation Assessment



SG SC 8A Margaret Avenue – Indigenous Overstorey, Midstorey and Understorey Effectively Absent



SG SC 8 June Court - Indigenous Overstorey (Coast Banksia) and Scattered, Midstorey Present

Attachment 20 Native Vegetation Assessment

The blocks could be regenerated if mowing of the sites was stopped and the weeds controlled. FVBP are successfully regenerating a Coast Banksia Woodland block contain patches of native grass.

The State Native Vegetation Management Framework, Statutory document guiding native vegetation management in Victoria states that "All native vegetation has value." The Framework also states the "Retention and management of remnant native vegetation is the primary way to conserve the natural biodiversity across the landscape" (DSE 2002, Victoria's Native Vegetation Management - A Framework for Action).

If you have any queries please contact me Ext: 267.

Regards,

Chris

Attachment 20 Native Vegetation Assessment

Indigenous Plants Found at the 7 Sites (based on indigenous plants found in Coast Banksia Woodland vegetation communities)										
	Trees	Shrubs (L/M/S)	Herbs	Climbers /Vines	Ferns	Sedges /Rushes	Halophytes	Grasses	Important	Total
22-24 Fishermans Rd	1	4 (2)	3 (2)		1	1	1	2	3	9
8 Gary Court	1	2	4 (2)				1	2	1	6
8 June Court	1	4 (1)	2 (1)					1	1	5
8A Margaret Avenue	1	3 (2)	2 (1)					2		6
3 McMillan Avenue	2 (1)	2	3			1	1	2	3	4
1 Neal Street		3	3 (1)		1		1	3 (2)	1	4
1A Noble Street	1	2 (1)	4 (2)		1			1	1	5

Plants highlighted in red/bold are the most frequent and important in classifying/demarcating Coast Banksia Woodland.

Attachment 21 Venus Bay Village Streetscape Redevelopment Proposal

VENUS BAY VILLAGE STREETScape REDEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL	
<p>PURPOSE</p> <p>The Beach and River Business Association of Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower are submitting the following proposal for the development of the Venus Bay retail sector streetscape.</p> <p>BACKGROUND</p> <p>The Beach and River Business Association of Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower represents 15 businesses that provides employment to approximately 80 local residents of the area. These businesses also provide major sponsorship to almost all local community and sporting groups.</p> <p>Venus Bay is the key holiday home location in South Gippsland Shire. As a result there are significant fluctuations in the population of Venus Bay throughout the year. In addition Venus Bay is now attracting significant numbers of day visitors.</p> <p>The retail sector of Venus Bay is located to the immediate west of the intersection of Jupiter Boulevard and Centre Road. The sector consists of shop fronts; with 2 new shops under construction; and is the focal point for the permanent population, holiday makers and day visitors.</p> <p>In addition to goods and services the retail sector is also critical for the provision of information to holiday makers and tourists. Traffic flows through the retail sector are also heightened as Jupiter Boulevard is the only access road to the caravan park and the patrolled surf beach.</p> <p>ISSUES</p> <p>The first shops in the Venus Bay retail sector were occupied in 1991 on the Northern side of Jupiter Boulevard. The shops located on the Southern side of the Boulevard were built in 2004. In a sense the retail sector was developed in an ad hoc manner and as a result:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Visually suffers from a lack of consistency of style in built form• Visually suffers from a lack of any land or streetscape detail.• Has insufficient parking for peak periods• Has no welcoming signage• Has no public seating• Poses safety issues for pedestrians in terms of crossing the road and getting to the beach and caravan park.• Drainage issues occur in winter in front of the pizza shop and creations shop. <p>The current streetscape therefore provides very little public amenity to the current number of holiday makers and day tourists. In addition the poor streetscape does little to promote Venus Bay as a holiday or day visit destination.</p> <p>The significant traffic flow through the retail sector is also causing difficulties for pedestrians trying to cross the road to access services. The safety of pedestrians is at issue here.</p> <p>These issues have been noted in previous Shire reports. For example, the 2006 Venus Bay Urban Design Framework identified the need to develop a master plan for the town which focuses on the retail sector.</p>	

Attachment 21

Venus Bay Village Streetscape Redevelopment Proposal

Despite the recognition of these issues over a significant time period there has been no capital improvements to the retail sector land or streetscape since its initial establishment in 1991.

PROPOSAL

The Beach and River Business Association of Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower proposes that the Shire of South Gippsland commences work towards undertaking improvement to the streetscape of the retail area which reduces traffic speed; promotes a "village" appearance; improves amenity for pedestrians and softens the hard visuals of the shops.

Whilst initial work should canvass input from the broad range of Venus Bay community groups and residents the Business Association believes these improvements should consider:

- Establishing a median strip to define one way traffic between Centre Road and the Caravan Park.
- The median strip to be planted with trees to give area a more "village" appeal.
- 40km speed limits from Centre Road to Surf Pde.
- Raised pedestrian crossings.
- Completion of Curbing through to Pizza shop & Creation shop.
- Provision of more seating and the re-working of the seat outside Foodtrap to make it more compliant and appealing.
- Provision of Solid planter boxes on the Northern side of the Boulevard.
- Welcome signage to the Venus Bay Village precinct advising of speed restrictions.

These ideas are encapsulated in the attached drawings.

These essential improvements are in line with the Shire's current Economic Development and Tourism Strategy which acknowledges that:

- The retail sector is second only to agriculture in terms of employment provision
- Retail provides additional benefits as it is the hub of town development, identity and community interaction.
- Many new businesses are established in response to a thriving tourism base. In addition tourism makes these businesses viable, thus both retaining existing and creating new employment opportunities for residents of the Shire.

One key desire of the Economic Development and Tourism Strategy is to retain and strengthen the commercial precincts of The Shire's towns and villages. A desire achieved through promoting town centre development through the councils annual capital works program.

We believe these projects fit well within this strategy and would significantly enhance economic development in an environmentally sustainable way by taking away adhoc development and ensuring new projects fit the "sustainable village" model.

We believe that tourism will be not only enhanced but the community and environment will better cope with tourism by adopting these projects.

Attachment 21
Venus Bay Village Streetscape Redevelopment Proposal

RECOMMENDATION	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Allocate funds from the sale of the residential blocks owned by the shire to the above projects.2. Work with the locals Business Association on the design and planning phases.3. Seek input from other community groups to assist with the design phase.4. Set specific time frames for the funding; planning and construction of the above projects.5. Set clear and open communication channels with The Local Business Association as the progress of the above projects.	
<p>Sincerely</p>	
<p>Jacob Van Der Meulen BARBA President</p>	
<p>David Liebelt BARBA Project Officer</p>	

Attachment 22 Recent Public Open Space History in Venus Bay

Recent Public Open Space (POS) History in Venus Bay

Submission - Cr Kieran Kennedy

September 2013

BACKGROUND AND STUDIES:

The former shire of Woorayl and present Shire of South Gippsland, have continually sold POS in Venus Bay over the past four decades. As a result the community in partnership with the present Council embarked on a document titled Tarwin Lower – Venus Bay Strategy Plan.

Examples are:

Recommendation 31.1:

That Council use methods of management for the parklands and playgrounds within the housing estates of the area that will allow regeneration and maintenance of the native flora and fauna.

Recommendation 31.2:

That the direction of development in tourism be based on the concept of passive, environmentally appreciative recreational opportunities. Despite the Strategy Plan in 2000 and 2001, Council produced a POS document recommending the sale of some 8 POS lots in Venus Bay.

In 2005 the community received funding producing a document titled the Tarwin Lower & Venus Bay Strategy Plan – a document independently put together by the Try Consulting Group. 2240 questionnaires were posted to all resident resulting in a 1016 or 45.5% of resident response.

Questions 28-30 were natural environment issues around sustainability of the two townships and the important value of flora and fauna. 93% of responses indicated the value was very important 4% undecided and 2% not important to both townships.

The 2005 Strategy Plan fed into the 2006 Urban Design Framework (UDF) when again, the community signalled its thirst for all POS to remain intact due to, in particular, Venus Bay being the Shires most prominent "environmental pocket".

To this day the studies are supported by the Commonwealth Coastal Policy, the aim being:

1. increasing community involvement in coastal management
2. addressing the most pressing coastal issues problems.
3. enhancing awareness through promoting education and improving the knowledge, experience and information available to coastal managers and planners

The aforementioned studies are supported by the State Government Coastal Policy, some aims being:

1. the protection of significant features
2. sustainability of natural coastal resources
3. direction for the future
4. sustainable development on the coast.

Attachment 22 Recent Public Open Space History in Venus Bay

The Venus Bay UDF resulted in key areas of sight and design guidelines:

1. functional guidelines, efficient use of space, consolidation of structures, availability of POS.
2. cultural and aesthetic guidelines
3. ecological guidelines

Other key components include:

- Open Space Clause 15.10.
The objective of this clause is to assist the creation of a diverse and integrate network of open space in line with the needs of communities and rural areas.
- General Implementation Clause 15.11.1
This section of the State Planning Policy Framework (SPPF) identifies the need for responsible authorities to identify, conserve and protect places of natural or cultural value from inappropriate development.
- The South Gippsland Coastal Development Plan 2004
Which states, "to promote compact or consolidated growth, and the development of eco towns with sustainable practices".
- Strategies & Indicators 2013 -2017 Council Plan
 - o Strategy 1.1.2: 'We will protect and retain the unique identity of towns, villages and farming districts'.
 - o Objective 1.3: 'Improve the sustainability of the local and regional environment'.
 - o Strategy 1.3.1: 'We will actively engage business, farmers, industries, and individuals in creating a clean, green shire, where environmental sustainability is embraced and practiced'.
 - o Objective 2.1: 'Engage and work collaboratively with our community'.
 - o Strategy 2.1.3: 'We aim to minimise barriers and find ways to support our volunteers, community groups and committees to provide services beyond those that council, by itself, can provide'.
 - o Objective 3.1: 'deliver affordable modern community services and facilities through and integrated approach to planning and infrastructure development'.
 - o Strategy 3.1.5: 'we will encourage sustainable development that promotes the health, well-being and unique character of the community'.
 - o Strategy 3.1.6: 'we will define the provision of Council services through reviews focussed on evolving community needs, realistic and affordable service standards and efficient management of resources'.

The POS in Venus Bay have been identified as "low hanging fruit", In actual fact, nothing can be further from this assumption, the POS in Venus Bay are incredibly important from an ecological and natural environment position, from a flora and fauna position, from a tourism perspective, from a business perspective and most critically, from a community perspective.

The cost to maintain the majority of POS in Venus Bay is one Council slashed/mown per year, with approximately 500 lots paid by property owners to be slashed/mown is a minimal costs to Council, to say the least, a number of POS are maintained by community groups and individuals.

Attachment 22
Recent Public Open Space History in Venus Bay

The Friends of Venus Bay Peninsula have a number of cross funded projects that are designed to protect the flora and fauna on these very important POS, including the fox control program, Venus Bay indigenous gardens, salt marsh protection, bird hide project. All the programs mentioned above are specifically to protect the native flora and fauna in our Venus Bay POS.

OPTIONS

The following two options are put forward following extensive community engagement:

Option One

That Council:

1. Remove all POS in Venus Bay from sale in perpetuity.
2. Rezone all remaining POS in Venus Bay to PPRZ.
3. Rezone all remaining Council owned vacant land in Venus Bay to PPRZ.

Option Two

That Council:

1. Sell the POS at 8 June Court and 1a Noble Street Venus Bay
2. Remove all other POS in Venus Bay from sale in perpetuity.
3. Rezone all remaining POS in Venus Bay to PPRZ.
4. Rezone all remaining Council owned vacant in Venus Bay land to PPRZ.

Signed: 
Cr Kieran Kennedy

Date: 9-9-13

CLOSED SESSION

Consideration of confidential matters under the Local Government Act 1989, Section 89(2).

According to Section 89 of the Local Government Act 1989 (the Act), Council may consider items in closed session. There must be a resolution to move 'In Committee' stating the reasons why the matter(s) need to be considered in this way. The reasons provided for within the Act are matters concerning personnel, personal hardship, industrial issues, contracts, proposed developments, legal advice or any other matter that Council considers would be prejudicial, to it or any other person.

Once 'In Committee' discussions and debate have concluded, a further resolution to resume open Council is required.

Nil

SECTION H - MEETING CLOSED

NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary Council Meeting open to the public will be held on Wednesday, 25 September 2013 commencing at 2pm in the Council Chambers, Leongatha.