Planning and Environment Act 1987

DECLARATION OF THE BELLARINE PENINSULA AS A
DISTINCTIVE AREA AND LANDSCAPE

Order in Council

The Governor in Council, under section 46AO(1) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 (the Act), on the recommendation of the Minister, makes the following Order:

1. **Preamble**

In accordance with section 46AO(2)(d)(i) of the Act, the following statement sets out the significance of the area to the people of Victoria:

(a) The Bellarine Peninsula has landscapes of outstanding natural beauty. It contains environmental, economic and cultural heritage values of state and national significance, particularly along the coastline between Ocean Grove and Point Lonsdale.

(b) Its diverse natural environment and impressive landforms, combined with visible layers of settlement history, highlight its special significance to the people of Victoria. It holds an important role in our social, cultural and economic development.

(c) The Bellarine Peninsula’s wetlands are protected under the internationally recognised Ramsar Convention. These include Lake Connewarre, Salt Lagoon, Swan Bay, Lonsdale Lakes, Recy Lake and the lower Barwon River Estuary. These reserves host many unique species.

(d) The region has extensive heritage and cultural value, ranging from renowned surfing locations, numerous shipwrecks along the coastline and areas of indigenous heritage significance.

(e) Queenscliff’s natural landscape, historic town attractions and ferry services are significant attractions and the area has a growing food trail economy.

The following statement sets out the significance of Wadawurrung Country to the Traditional Owners, the Wadawurrung, in traditional language, in accordance with section 46AO(2)(d)(ii) of the Act:


Gobata Wadawurrung balug jumbuk didalbil murrup-nhuk bundjil monomeeth beek-o weagoon. Mutjak-ak noogie n’uder durrakkyu Wa-ngarrawak Wadawurrung balug bengadak miritju boron-djja gobata-k ying ying, ngarrimili, wah-ak, karrung, kuy-a, nyanayit-yanunit, djilenawurr, baap willam beng-ordi-ngadak.

Nyurrinana-ngal beng-ordi-ngadak

Willam Barwon Yaluk baap Koaka-dorla ‘bass strait’ Wadawurrung Balug dja beng-ordi-ngadak, burlarto nerr-i-gurr baap monomeeth worrowing warree, gelanyi bul-boluk.

Gupma gobata Bellawein beek Bengali Balug bengadak Weagoon-o Beangala, Nerm, Connewarre baluk, Pawon Yaluk monomeeth-wa Yonbarra baap wirraplyn, buniya, tark-a binyak-ngal.

Mirr wurru-ngarra djia bengadak.
Mirr-i-tonton djia Wadawurrung balug, gobata be-ak yerra-ak murrup yani-mirriyu ngarrwa-uk beng-ordi-ngadak

The following statement sets out the significance of Wadawurrung Country and the area to the Traditional Owners, the Wadawurrung, in accordance with section 46AO(2)(d)(ii) of the Act;

We deeply respect our people of the past. Elders, children, men, women. We deeply respect their knowledge of country, water, life, their care of the traditions and of each other, we stand with their spirit.

Great spirit Bundjil told us to take care of the great life within the land. To only take what you need without selfishness.
Wadawurrung shared their knowledge of singing, dance, trade, camps, fishing, hunting, paintings, and homes to us to protect for our future generations.

We all need to help.

Our Wadawurrung family group lived within Barwon River and Bass Strait, with a large land of forested areas and wonderful banks of the ocean, near many water bodies.
The Bengali family were the caretakers of the Bellarine land
Beangala, Nerm, Lake Connewarre, Barwon River all provide ideal life to birds and fish, eels. Reeds turned into our baskets.
Life in the forest gave resources like food and lots of tools to use for trade, building, journey.
If there were lots to trade, we would share with our families and celebrate. We would name our country, by what we could see.
Yeraio, Perweit, Wooranalyook, Boronggook. Home of Wadawurrung.
Our country is remembered by Wadawurrung, our proud spirit walks to tomorrow to teach others the care of our earth.

2. **Declaration**

In accordance with section 46AO of the Act, the Bellarine Peninsula is declared as a distinctive area and landscape.

3. **Description of area**

In accordance with section 46AO(2)(a) of the Act, the Bellarine Peninsula area be declared as a distinctive area and landscape as described in the plan numbered LEGL./19-288 lodged in the Central Plan Office.

4. **Attributes and distinctive features of the declared area**

In accordance with section 46AO(2)(b), Table 1 provides the attributes described in section 46AP(1) that qualify the Bellarine Peninsula as an area to be declared as a distinctive area and landscape.

*Table 1. Attributes qualifying declared area as a distinctive area and landscape*

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<th>Item</th>
<th>Attribute</th>
<th>Distinctive Features</th>
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| 1    | Outstanding Environmental Significance | (a) The endangered native flora and fauna located in pockets of this area, particularly along river corridors. This habitat consists of various plant species including the endangered Bitter-Bush, CoastWirilda and Trailing Coast Poa.  
(b) The wetlands across the Bellarine Peninsula are Ramsar protected wetlands and form part of a global network for migratory birds. The wetlands are home to several unique and threatened species. |
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| 2    | Significant Geographical Features, including Natural Landforms            | (a) The Heads at Point Lonsdale are a defining feature at the entrance to Port Phillip Bay. It features on numerous early artworks. It is part of a Marine National Park that includes high sand dunes, limestone cliffs, and a vast intertidal rock platform that stretches across to Point Nepean.  
(b) The scenic views across the Bellarine Peninsula of rural landscapes and along the coast are highly valued for their natural beauty. |
| 3    | Heritage and Cultural Significance                                        | (a) Bellarine Peninsula has outstanding examples of Victorian era architecture offering a unique insight into the area’s development as a holiday destination.  
(b) Queenscliff has rich maritime and military history characterised by Victorian and early twentieth century architecture including Fort Queenscliff. A large proportion of Queenscliff is under a heritage overlay, or is heritage-listed, which indicates its state significance.  
(c) Significant Aboriginal cultural sites exist, including shell middens archaeological sites and The Bluff at Barwon Heads for the Wadawurrung People. |
| 4    | Natural Resources or Productive Land of Significance                      | (a) The Bellarine winery area between Clifton Springs and Portarlington has a cluster of wineries that support the tourism industry.  
(b) Identified Extractive Industry Interest Areas (EIIs) including Murradoc Hill to Portarlington area and the Lonsdale Lake surrounds.  
(c) Land in the Bellarine Peninsula is ranked with some capability for soil-based agriculture at moderate to high intensity. |
| 5    | Strategic Infrastructure or Built Form of Significance                     | (a) Queenscliff and Portarlington Harbor are important assets for the local economy.  
(b) Barwon Heads Road and Bellarine Highway form part of a significant transport corridor, critical to the function of the region.  
(c) The Queenscliff – Sorrento ferry is a state-significant transport and tourism link. The Bellarine heritage rail is a popular attraction, important to the local tourism economy. |

5. **Threats of significant land use change of the declared area**

In accordance with section 46AO(2)(c) of the Act, the list below identifies the threats of significant or irreversible land use change, as described in section 46AP(2), that would affect the environmental, social or economic values of the declared area.

(a) Threats to areas of significant biodiversity, including Swan Bay and surrounds, Lake Connewarre and wetlands, Ocean Grove Nature Reserve and Lonsdale Lakes Wildlife Reserve from weeds and pests, climate change, natural hazards such as bushfire, and urban development.

(b) Threats to natural landscapes and landforms, including visual impact on view lines and topography of the rural landscapes through the Bellarine Peninsula, from intensity of land use and urban development.
(c) Threats to preservation of heritage and cultural attributes from the cumulative impact of development and land use practice and increased tourism activity and recreation.

(d) Threats to natural resources, water catchments and productive land from land use conflicts (including intensity of uses) between conservation, catchment management, agricultural use, residential use and recreation activities; cumulative impacts of development; and natural hazards, including bushfire and flooding.

(e) Threats to future effectiveness of strategic infrastructure from climate change impacts, expanded tourism activity, and the loss of road reservations due to development.

Dated 22 October 2019

Responsible Minister:
THE HON RICHARD WYNNE MP
Minister for Planning

ANDREW ROBINSON
Acting Clerk of the Executive Council