

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

PO Box 500

East Melbourne, Victoria

3225 Australia.

27/7/21

Dear [REDACTED]

RE: DRAFT BELLARINE PENINSULA STATEMENT OF PLANNING POLICY

I wish to submit the following points for inclusion in the Victorian Government's Distinctive Areas and Landscapes Policy:

- Your map shows that Swan Bay is protected by the Ramsar agreement. However a small area of Swan Bay at its southern end, commonly known as Lakers Cutting, is part of the body of water of Swan Bay and is excluded from the Ramsar Agreement. The flora and fauna is identical in both areas and both are subject to the same tidal movements.

I submit that the Bellarine Peninsula Statement of Planning Policy includes Lakers Cutting in the Port Phillip Bay (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar site.

- In regard to Lake Victoria I submit that the following values need to be recognized in the Bellarine Peninsula Statement of Planning Policy:

Lake Victoria is a shallow sub-coastal lagoon forming part of the Swan Bay systems of wetlands on the Eastern Bellarine Peninsula, south-east of Geelong. It is part of the Lonsdale Lakes Nature Reserve administered by Parks Victoria.

Lake Victoria, although it varies in water level provides a relatively stable environment for waterbirds, maintaining its high salinity even when full and never drying out in summer. Saltmarsh is the dominant vegetation around the lakeshore. It is a natural lake but has been modified by shell-grit mining. Water enters the lake through urban run-off, rainfall and slow seepage

BIODIVERSITY VALUES :

Plant communities consist of salt tolerant species typical of coastal dune woodland and saltmarsh in the region. Woodland and tall shrubland along the southern lakeshore mainly consist of Moonah woodland *Melaleuca lanceolata*, a species that is listed as threatened in Victoria under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee ACT.

81 bird species have been recorded. These include Waterfowl, Waders, Pelicans, Cormorants, Herons, Egrets, Ibis, Spoonbills, Crakes and Rails. There are breeding records for five species and it often supports thousands of birds. The highest ever

recorded was 10,062 birds in 2000. The lake is of international significance for Red-Necked Stints, Banded Stilts and the globally endangered Orange-Bellied Parrot.

- While your Vision states that the “Bellarine Peninsula is powered by renewable energy and produces net-zero carbon emissions” nothing appears in the policy that would contribute to achieving this vision or provides any policies that may help lower emissions. I believe that some action to achieve this goal needs to be included, and sites suitable for zero emissions energy sourced as a part of this long- term planning process including support for solar installations on both roof tops and rural land.
- To prevent degradation of the pockets of remnant vegetation found across the Bellarine Peninsula a program of protection for these needs to be developed and included in the Policy.

Yours Sincerely,

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