

**Submission to DELWP re: the draft Bellarine Peninsula Statement of Planning Policy (SPP)
2021 by [REDACTED] resident of [REDACTED]**

I value DELWP's collaborative approach and consultation with all the partners involved in forming the draft SPP, particularly the opportunity to comment on Indented Head village proposed plan. I support the 50-year **draft Vision** that the Bellarine Peninsula is a sustainable, diverse region with thriving rural and coastal communities. Its unique natural beauty, Wadawurrung living culture and its historic heritage, ecological significance, distinctive landscapes and identity is widely recognised.

Indented Head is a small geographic coastal area where major significant sites are not located so not referred to in the SPP. Still our local village areas are highly valued and need to be acknowledged under the SPP to be sustained. * I propose a detailed IH village map is added to The SPP to recognise the areas described below marked with *, for the future planning policy.

Policy Domains and concerns

The SPP directions for a whole of Bellarine Peninsula proposal are critical for the significant protection of natural resources and environment and to be binding for the RPEs across the peninsula. The **Policy Domains** must establish a clear framework of future use and development of land. Comments below.

Environmental risks and resilience- I support Objective 1 and all 11 strategies.

Indented Head is a low-lying coastal area with LSIO overlays. The impacts of climate change on drought, water resources, flooding, coastal erosion, stormwater run-off and more extreme weather events are damaging the village. These impacts need to be mitigated by policy plans to ensure safe use of public places and protection of the village.

Landscape- I support Objective 2 and all 7 strategies.

Indented Head encompasses coastlines, wetlands, hinterland and rural areas of natural beauty, highly valued to be recognised as unique features of the peninsula. *I propose Map 4 include reference to significant landscapes of the Indented Head Moonah woodlands vegetation along Macdonald Street, Woodland Nature Reserve along Seascape Drive and North Red Bluff coastal cliffs to strengthen landscape character. (Note. *Map 26, The Bellarine, Township Character Assessment Report, 2020, COGG shows the nature reserve incorrectly as Residential Zone (GRZ1).

Environment and biodiversity- I support Objective 3 and all 8 strategies.

Indented Head has areas of biodiversity of habitats, plants and animals including coastal, marine environs, woodlands, grasslands and waterways. *Map 6 should show Indented Head has Moonah woodlands, the Woodland Nature Reserve and Freshwater Sedge seasonal wetlands on Batman Road where the Latham Snipe, a critical endangered migratory species habitat.

Protection from erosion of North Red Bluff, Wrathall reserve and Taylor Reserve coastal cliffs is critical, and revegetation and enhancing the canopy of coastal trees and habitat on the foreshore and open spaces. A common oversight of the RAMSAR sites to connect local groups of the peninsula, could link and manage wetland sites to promote future sustainability could be set up.

Aboriginal cultural heritage - Wadawurrung Country- I support Objective 4 and all strategies.

Indented Head Community Association (IHCA) engage with the Bellarine Bayside and Wadawurrung Owners Aboriginal Corporation (WTOAC) to learn, educate, plan land use and build awareness of

cultural heritage and care of the coastal area. (The new Tennis Court on Wrathall Reserve acknowledges cultural heritage with artwork designs). Local residents recognise enduring living culture, the significant sites where the Wadawurrung, Bengalat balug aboriginal people lived, harvested yams (see image attached) fished and camped near middens, which must be protected to enhance cultural knowledge and walking together.

Historic heritage - I support Objective 5 and all 4 strategies.

Indented Head has historic settlements, maritime history and land use which IHCA promotes that has shaped the local culture and amenities. Preservation of these valued sites to enhance heritage values is a priority. In particular, the historic monument that marks the landing of Matthew Flinders in 1802 and John Batman in 1835 at Indented Head foreshore and the Ozone Wreck. (See images attached). The Batman Park & Boat Sheds Heritage Review 2013, by the COGG, identified 24 local boatsheds built between c.1924-25 and 1953 unique on the Bellarine Peninsula. *Note add into the draft SPP.

Tourism, agriculture and natural resources- I broadly support Objective 6a,6b and strategies.

IHCA has worked closely with Bellarine Bayside to improve the village public amenities for residents, visitors and 900 campers who use the foreshore and local transport. The community needs better public access to facilities, for example new public toilets located near the community hall, sailing /boat clubs.

Please note the SPP states on page 44, *Australia's largest abalone farm is just off the coast at Indented Head*. *This description is not accurate and should be updated. For example, the Abalone farm is located on privately owned coastal land, and utilises the roadway, foreshore and pipes on a public beach for pumping water for in-take and out-take pipes into and from the beach and Port Phillip Bay.

*Note the Aquaculture farm is not shown on map 7 as a site. Further, the Aquaculture farm operations need to be monitored and planning permit controls applied to meet EPA standards to protect the environment. The farm infrastructure has caused damage to the coastal beach, boaters and the marine environment. This land use is not sympathetic to the natural environment and village character and management acknowledge that a new planning permit would not be granted today for this land use.

Objective 6b, for Indented Head refers to the lands adjoining the declared settlement boundary on Map 7 that shows large areas designated for Extractive Industry. Although small sand quarries exist on Grassy Point Road, If the SPP allows major expansion of this industry it will reduce the natural landscape areas and rural farmland. Further, there is no designated green bank on the boundary to buffer the village and protect landscape character, vegetated sand hills and views to the rural hinterland (As highlighted for SPP Objective 2. 2.6). Residents of Indented Head want it to remain a low-key tourism destination, small-scale agriculture area with no new expansion of land use areas for aquaculture. Natural resource uses need to be planned, controlled under the planning schemes to protect the village character and natural beauty.

Strategic Infrastructure- I support Objective 7 and all strategies. The provision of transport, services and community infrastructure contributes to the liveability and meets community needs. Future built form must be sympathetic to the peninsula villages by the nature of the character, landscapes and distinct areas.

Settlement Boundaries-I strongly agree with Objective 8.

The SPP hierarchy of settlements shows Indented Head as a small settlement with a small resident population, which integrates with its rural and natural resources. It is critical that town planning

boundaries establish a clear hard growth boundary and green buffer areas. The SPP boundary will limit new land use for housing estates. Four subdivisions/ housing estates, Amalfi Cove, Harvey Estate, Secret by the Bay Estate and Seabreeze Estate already exist. Many new houses are unsympathetic with the village character, street vista and older houses, so not aligned with the Township Character Report- Indented Head Structure Plan 2016 that states, *new development will integrate with the coastal and historical character of the township through the incorporation of design elements that reflect the coastal location and traditional seaside housing characteristics.*

Other Issues and questions - RPE's role, powers and community association

I am a member of the IHCA, a community not for profit association which actively works to support policies and strategies to enact community values by engaging residents in having a say and taking actions to shape their community.

The Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee of Management (Bellarine Bayside/BB) under the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978* by the Victorian Government in 1994 is responsible and manages all of the Indented Head Foreshore designated areas of the coastal reserve. Their role is to ensure the land is managed, maintained, improved and controlled to provide environmental, social and economic benefits for the community. This includes the main area of public open space on the foreshore from Batman Park, Taylor Reserve and Bayside Foreshore, which covers 3 Caravan Parks accommodating 900 campers for six months annually, when public does not have access to this open space. The community needs to work as an equal partner with Bellarine Bayside to meet our mutual objectives

Questions for DELWP are:

- How will DELWP, City of Greater Geelong and Bellarine Bayside be able to work effectively with IHCA to initiate plans, ensure the community has a say and has a recognised role in shaping the SPP strategies in the future?
- What is the formal governance decision making role and legal responsibility of the four partners to listen and work with residents and IHCA members?
- How can our community assist DELWP in retaining the protected settlement boundaries in the proposed locations and meet the SPP vision?

Name: [REDACTED]

Date: 18/8/21

Appendix of Images

