

Bellarine Peninsular
Distinctive Area
10 July 2021

In Regards to the policy planning for the area, where I both live and work (Dept of Defence/Queenscliff) I wish to add the following general notes for consideration.

In regards to transport infrastructure for the Bellarine, a few items stick out for me. One is that there should be a continuation of the dual lane road from the corner of Grubb Road and the Bellarine Hwy through to the Bellarine Hwy and Queenscliff Rd (Portarlinton Rd). This road is often over loaded with vehicles rarely reaching the signed speed limit. I note this as I work in Queenscliff and travel daily. The Second point on transport, should be consideration to re-instate a train service via the existing 'Bellarine rail trail'/Heritage train service. From South Geelong to Queenscliff. This new service should be placed in parallel with the heritage train service. The existing walking trail should not be affected given the width spacing of the overall trail.

In regards to town planning boundaries. Housing expansion on the Peninsular over the past 10 years has indeed been moving along. That said, it can be noted early in the mornings the volume of traffic heading into Geelong is getting significant, conversely the traffic re-entering the peninsular in the evenings is getting out of hand. That said, there should be a housing/population limit set for the area, so not to tip the scales where the peninsular becomes problematic to live in. This leads me to the next point being that if there is to be further housing estates being delivered, that they are more focused around large 2.5 to 5-acre block size parcels of land. I suspect that this arrangement will be more in line with the core of the Bellarine peninsular living.

Regarding Reedy Lake. This lake is a fantastic wetland area, and I have been fortunate enough to have helped out family members who have commercially 'eel' fished that waterway and have seen it up close. I suspect that the days of duck hunting are becoming numbered, and that said I would like to see new public walkways added to the edge of the lake, making it more accessible. I would also like to see that the health of this wetland is in good order, as I have seen dead fish on the edge of this lake, where I suspect there was a lack of oxygenated water at the time. This may require occasional clearing of reeds to help the natural state of the lake be at its best.

I am lucky enough to live close to that lake and enjoy (along with others) who regularly walk down there and occasionally with a dog or two to enjoy the quiet place that is reedy lake.

Lake Connewarre needs attention, unlike its next-door cousin of Reedy Lake. Connewarre needs to have action taken to improve its quality. Such actions as dredging the silt buildup caused from years of agriculture and other associated activities upstream has settled here wrecking its potential. I had heard from an elderly relative of them being in Connewarre in the early 1900's and being told of tales of Dolphins coming up into that lake. On certain days in summer the smell from the lake is awful and needs to be addressed. This area could be a fantastic area to visit if it was to have action taken to fix and improve the lake and its shoreline.

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