

I believe that it is a little too late for preserving what the Bellarine was when I first moved here over 20 years ago. The over development has already occurred and extra pressure that the population increase has put on the existing infrastructure and amenities such as the ocean beaches has ruined it already. I am hoping that this could be tempered by this proposal but I don't think so. What can be done is managing the traffic flow from the Bellarine into and through Geelong to Melbourne.

We have major transport/traffic issues getting from the Bellarine to Melbourne with about 30+ sets of lights before getting to the freeway at Corio. We have seen an improvement in traffic flow through Geelong when going to Melbourne which occurred with the opening of the Geelong bypass. That is the only benefit the residents of the Bellarine have gained from it. With every new development we have more intersections, traffic lights installed and now even more speed reductions on the same road increasing travel times.

I noticed a while ago in the Geelong advertiser that 4 million had been allocated for the planning of the ring road extension to the Bellarine which would be better spent elsewhere! I will not use the extension even though I commute to Melbourne as it will not save me any time. It will actually take me longer and it will be further to travel costing me in fuel and wear and tear on my vehicle. The cost compared to benefit does not make any sense at all as there is no benefit unless you are heading towards Lorne. Land and houses might also have to be acquired if in the path and it will do nothing to get trucks in and out of Geelong South without having to continue to go through Geelong.

What we need is a bridge or tunnel from Point Wilson across Corio Bay and because of the benefits I would be happy to pay a toll to use it! It would save at least 20 minutes each way in travel time and would make living and development on the Bellarine more appealing to people because of the shorter commute time to Melbourne. This route would also remove trucks from Geelong giving them quicker and easier access to Geelong South via Moolap etc. It would also make the area of Moolap and surrounding areas more appealing for commercial and industrial development due to the improved access and reduced travel times. The whole Alcoa site could be used for any purpose and would only be 40 minutes realistically from the CBD in Melbourne.

What we need are people looking at the benefits of a more long term approach to actually fixing this problem and future proofing it rather than a band aid approach that extending the ring road will supposedly achieve.