

Re submissions from the public living on the Bellarine Peninsular.

To [REDACTED],

Dear Sir, having gone to the web site many of us have not found any short or long submission form.

Therefore I assume what I am going to comment on will neither reach you or be recognized as a proper submission nor an opinion on the development to preserve the beautiful Bellarine Peninsular. But having come down to live here since I was 12 years old and now every second week since 1990 I can say that there has been little or no regulation of housing. The wetlands have been deeply impacted upon. The numbers of waterfowl, Ibis etc have fallen in a huge manner. The wetlands provide a breeding ground for all sorts of animals from fish to birds. Their importance to the ecology of an area is not understood. The loss of one habitat means the loss of the ecological chain. The native flora and fauna has been reduced to a point where I would say some animals no longer exist on the Peninsular. This means that what once attracted people to come and holiday and spend money here has been replaced by collecting rates. The 'Curlewis Estate' is a prime example. It is house upon house. Where once there were cattle, sheep, crops and natural habitat now there has been an uncontrolled explosion of development. The infrastructure to support all this development and prevent environmental issues has come too late. We don't see the bird life, the native animals nor the rolling hills that overlooked Corio Bay. I am referring to Drysdale and Clifton Springs. But Port Phillip and Bass Strait whether it be the sea or the land are all suffering from the greed of developers and councils.

Look at Clifton Springs - the old paddle steamer piers still bring back memories of a heritage most would not be aware of. The Sea Horses, the Leafy Sea Dragons, the Sting Rays and all the other aquatic creatures that make the old piers home have virtually gone due to the pollution coming from the run off and the amount of fuel being released from over fishing and the tankers that go through to Geelong. You walk along the piers anywhere in this wonderful area and you see buckets of undersized fish being taken for food. Most people would not know of the mineral springs and what was once a beautiful creek flowing into a beautiful sea.

Development cannot be stopped. But we cannot let it ruin our environment. An environment which came about through volcanic explosions and ice ages. Yet mankind is more destructive than these. These made the Peninsular what it is today. There is an over crowding of people. This all has negative effects on the wild life, both sea and land and the beauty of the place. Crime will increase too. Clifton Springs and its heritage should be recognized and this made the focus. It has all the potential of being 'listed' in some areas as being heritage - from the actual geographical origins which the indigenous peoples would have witnessed, including the creation of Corio and Port Phillip Bays, the pioneers, two of which were women, the natural springs, the paddle steamers bringing people from Melbourne to the springs. There are so many unique things past and present I cannot list them all. But I am sure some of you would be aware of this part of the world. I believe on the other side such as Hastings etc they are doing a better job. It doesn't matter if we are in lock down now and again. City people and tourists will come and visit views of both sea and field. Not housing estates. Visitors spend the money. Locals buy groceries and pay rates. But they need to pay the rates to clean up the rubbish and keep up with the infrastructure which is massive. We could have something like a 'Margaret River' instead we have an ugly suburb with occupants who have really no idea about the land upon which they dwell.

Make sure the wetlands remain and if one has been lost then put in another. Stop the rate of housing

and keep the wonderful green hills with sheep and cattle grazing, olive groves and vineyards thriving. Police the problem that is happening in our bays. Stop the over fishing. Stop people from taking undersized fish or squid. Stop the boats and jet skis from allowing a petrol film to cover the water. Repair what has happened and stop it from happening again.