

Dear Sirs/ Madams,

Thank you for giving the Bellarine Peninsula community a chance to inform debate on the future of the peninsula.

The plan provided is carefully thought out, and I commend you for the work done so far.

Ongoing concerns I have about the development of the Bellarine Peninsula centre around it preserving its sensitive eco systems, and making it an inviting place for families to live full time, with the ability to commute to work:

- Preservation natural corridors
  - Ensuring preservation of wetlands and their drainage corridors, preventing further development that will negatively impact the international importance of Swan bay and the Port Phillip Heads Marine National Park.
- Prevention of Dune degradation
  - The fencing protecting the sand dunes at Point Lonsdale have been in a state of disrepair for 20 years.
  - Protection of the sea wall and beach of Point Lonsdale and Queenscliff.
- Improving transport links between coastal towns and Geelong.
  - Leopold straddles two key highways that connect coastal towns to Geelong, creating bottlenecks. There is no bypass and over the years, more traffic lights have been installed, which has continued to slow commuter times.
  - Implementation of the Bellarine Link as an extension of the Geelong Ring Road without traffic lights.
  - Barwon Heads road to bypass Charlemont and Armstrong creek.
- Improving recreational amenities for the region.
  - The Bellarine peninsula has poor walking paths / tracks compared to the Mornington Peninsula.
    - No easy way to walk to Ocean Grove unless at low tide via the beach
    - No track around Swan Bay that could link Queenscliff to St Leonards.
  - Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale are underserved in family amenities.
    - No bike or network of bike paths
    - Skate park is poor by local (let alone international) standards
    - Playgrounds are inadequate in number and size.
- Integrated cycle network for the peninsula
  - We have an amazing resource in the Bellarine rail trail, yet there are poor linkages with Ocean Grove (poor shoulder on Banks Road); Portarlington (poor shoulders on Portarlington – Queenscliff Road).
  - Dedicated bike link between Point Lonsdale and Ocean Grove that can extend to Barwon heads, and to the bike link to Breamlea via 13<sup>th</sup> Beach Road (then preferably to Torquay!)
- Preventing the further expansion of some towns beyond their current foot print.
  - Eg. Stop the further expansion of Ocean Grove south of Banks Road and Bonnyvale Road.

Sincerely

Paul Smith