

Feedback comments on Draft policy for Bellarine Peninsula Distinctive Areas and Landscapes.

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I feel the Draft Policy is saying all the right things about what should be done but I think the 'how' is not definitive enough. And maybe that is the next step of the process but if it is not, an example would be:

2.7 Conserve and increase native coastal and indigenous vegetation by revegetating land..

The how could be, ' Current (government/council dept 'to be named') to approach landowners to plant wildlife corridors to enhance tree lines, roadsides, biodiversity corridors already in existence. For Councils to establish a program of tree planting along side local landholders to plant any council land which is not vegetated.'

I would like to see a wildlife corridor from the You Yangs to Queenscliff. This is out of scope of this document but we could have a corridor from the border of the Bellarine Peninsula with Geelong to Queenscliff. A koala corridor has recently been created from the Queensland border to the NSW border, if this is possible then surely we could do a similar thing on a much smaller scale. The name of the organisation is 'Bangalow Koalas' worth connecting with to gain knowledge from their experience.

Another Point:

There are a lot of diverse groups helping the Bellarine for example: planting, saving grasslands, there is a koala tree planting group, etc. These groups need to be involved, harnessed and coordinated in a plan like this. There is so many stakeholders there needs to be an excellent communication system between the groups. I didn't see where this energy was going to be harnessed in the draft policy, sorry if I missed it.

Very best regards and I hope the draft plan becomes policy.

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Protected Settlement Boundary

Under this heading it is vital that the current proposal be fully implemented. The proposal would ensure the biodiversity connections are kept and enhanced for future generations, we owe these future generations something.

The population of Melbourne is planned to grow to 6 million in the next 20 to 30 years. This alone should put an enormous pressure on scarce biodiversity on the Bellarine Peninsula as the needs of the capital city population inevitably spill over to the Bellarine.

The demands for more land use will explode under the guise of “we need develop”

This mini submission on keeping the faith with initial proposal is very heartfelt and needs all your careful consideration to fully implement the DELWP proposal as outlined.

Yours Faithfully,

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