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Planning and Environment Act 1987

DECLARATION OF THE BELLARINE PENINSULA AS A DISTINCTIVE AREA AND LANDSCAPE

Order in Council

The Governor in Council, under section 46AO(1) of the **Planning and Environment Act 1987** (the Act), on the recommendation of the Minister, makes the following Order:

1. Preamble

In accordance with section 46AO(2)(d)(i) of the Act, the following statement sets out the significance of the area to the people of Victoria:

- (a) The Bellarine Peninsula has landscapes of outstanding natural beauty. It contains environmental, economic and cultural heritage values of state and national significance, particularly along the coastline between Ocean Grove and Point Lonsdale.
- (b) Its diverse natural environment and impressive landforms, combined with visible layers of settlement history, highlight its special significance to the people of Victoria. It holds an important role in our social, cultural and economic development.
- (c) The Bellarine Peninsula's wetlands are protected under the internationally recognised Ramsar convention. These include Lake Connearre, Salt Lagoon, Swan Bay, Lonsdale Lakes, Reedy Lake and the lower Barwon River Estuary. These reserves host many unique species.
- (d) The region has extensive heritage and cultural value, ranging from renowned surfing locations, numerous shipwrecks along the coastline and areas of indigenous heritage significance.
- (e) Queenscliff's natural landscape, historic town attractions and ferry services are significant attractions and the area has a growing food trail economy.

The following statement sets out the significance of Wadawurrung Country to the Traditional Owners, the Wadawurrung, in traditional language, in accordance with section 46AO(2)(d)(ii) of the Act:

Comugeen budj-o thalikiyu kin kin bil beng-ordi-ngadak. Ngarrwabil, boron, guli, bagurrk. Comugeen budj-o bengadak ngarr-uk dja, ngubiyt, weagoon gobata gupma wurring-wurring baap beng-ordi-nganak, djarrima murrup-nhuk bengadak.

Gobata Wadawurrung balug jumbuk didalbil murrup-nhuk bundjil monomeeth beek-o weagoon. Mutjak-ak noogie n'uder durrallully Wa-ngarrak Wadawurrung balug bengadak mirriyu boron-dja gobata-k ying ying, ngarrimilli, wah-ak, karrung, kuy-a, nyanayit-yanunit, djilenawurr, baap willam beng-ordi-ngadak.

Nyurrinana-ngal beng-ordi-ngadak

Willam Barwon Yaluk baap Koaka-dorla 'bass strait' Wadawurrung Balug dja beng-ordi-ngadak, bullarto nerr-i-girr baap monomeeth worrowing warree, gelanyi bul-boluk
Gupma gobata Bellawein beek Bengali Balug bengadak
Weagoon-o Beangala, Nerm, Connearre baluk, Pawon Yaluk monomeeth-wa Yonbarra baap wirripiyn, buniya, tark-a binyak-ngal.
wa-weagoon nerr-i-gurr-o kit kit baap bullarto gurrin-gurrin-k wah-ak, karrung, yanikan-werrity. Corroborree bullarto wa-ik-ngitj balug-wa beng-ordi-ngadak Yeraioo, Perweyt, Wooranalyook, Borongook. Willam Wadawurrung.

SPECIAL

Mirr wurru-ngarra dja bengadak.

Mirr-i-tonton dja Wadawurrung balug, gobata be-ak yerra-ak murrup yani-mirriyu ngarrwa-uk beng-ordi-ngadak

The following statement sets out the significance of Wadawurrung Country and the area to the Traditional Owners, the Wadawurrung, in accordance with section 46AO(2)(d)(ii) of the Act;

We deeply respect our people of the past. Elders, children, men, women. We deeply respect their knowledge of country, water, life, their care of the traditions and of each other, we stand with their spirit.

Great spirit Bundjil told us to take care of the great life within the land. To only take what you need without selfishness.

Wadawurrung shared their knowledge of singing, dance, trade, camps, fishing, hunting, paintings, and homes to us to protect for our future generations.

We all need to help.

Our Wadawurrung family group lived within Barwon River and Bass Strait, with a large land of forested areas and wonderful banks of the ocean, near many water bodies.

The Bengali family were the caretakers of the Bellarine land

Beangala, Nerm, Lake Connewarre, Barwon River all provide ideal life to birds and fish, eels. Reeds turned into our baskets.

Life in the forest gave resources like food and lots of tools to use for trade, building, journey.

If there were lots to trade, we would share with our families and celebrate. We would name our country, by what we could see.

Yeraioo, Perweit, Wooranalyook, Borongook. Home of Wadawurrung.

Our country is remembered by Wadawurrung, our proud spirit walks to tomorrow to teach others the care of our earth.

2. Declaration

In accordance with section 46AO of the Act, the Bellarine Peninsula is declared as a distinctive area and landscape.

3. Description of area

In accordance with section 46AO(2)(a) of the Act, the Bellarine Peninsula area be declared as a distinctive area and landscape as described in the plan numbered **LEGL./19-288** lodged in the Central Plan Office.

4. Attributes and distinctive features of the declared area

In accordance with section 46AO(2)(b), Table 1 provides the attributes described in section 46AP(1) that qualify the Bellarine Peninsula as an area to be declared as a distinctive area and landscape.

Table 1. Attributes qualifying declared area as a distinctive area and landscape

Item	Attribute	Distinctive Features
1	Outstanding Environmental Significance	<p>(a) The endangered native flora and fauna located in pockets of this area, particularly along river corridors. This habitat consists of various plant species including the endangered Bitter-Bush, Coast Wirilda and Trailing Coast Poa.</p> <p>(b) The wetlands across the Bellarine Peninsula are Ramsar protected wetlands and form part of a global network for migratory birds. The wetlands are home to several unique and threatened species.</p>

Item	Attribute	Distinctive Features
2	Significant Geographical Features, including Natural Landforms	<p>(a) The Heads at Point Lonsdale are a defining feature at the entrance to Port Phillip Bay. It features on numerous early artworks. It is part of a Marine National Park that includes high sand dunes, limestone cliffs, and a vast intertidal rock platform that stretches across to Point Nepean.</p> <p>(b) The scenic views across the Bellarine Peninsula of rural landscapes and along the coast are highly valued for their natural beauty.</p>
3	Heritage and Cultural Significance	<p>(a) Bellarine Peninsula has outstanding examples of Victorian era architecture offering a unique insight into the area's development as a holiday destination.</p> <p>(b) Queenscliff has rich maritime and military history characterised by Victorian and early twentieth century architecture including Fort Queenscliff. A large proportion of Queenscliff is under a heritage overlay, or is heritage-listed, which indicates its state significance.</p> <p>(c) Significant Aboriginal cultural sites exist, including shell middens archaeological sites and The Bluff at Barwon Heads for the Wadawurrung People.</p>
4	Natural Resources or Productive Land of Significance	<p>(a) The Bellarine winery area between Clifton Springs and Portarlington has a cluster of wineries that support the tourism industry.</p> <p>(b) Identified Extractive Industry Interest Areas (EIAs) including Murradoc Hill to Portarlington area and the Lonsdale Lake surrounds.</p> <p>(c) Land in the Bellarine Peninsula is ranked with some capability for soil-based agriculture at moderate to high intensity.</p>
5	Strategic Infrastructure or Built Form of Significance	<p>(a) Queenscliff and Portarlington Harbor are important assets for the local economy.</p> <p>(b) Barwon Heads Road and Bellarine Highway form part of a significant transport corridor, critical to the function of the region.</p> <p>(c) The Queenscliff – Sorrento ferry is a state-significant transport and tourism link. The Bellarine heritage rail is a popular attraction, important to the local tourism economy.</p>

5. Threats of significant land use change of the declared area

In accordance with section 46AO(2)(c) of the Act, the list below identifies the threats of significant or irreversible land use change, as described in section 46AP(2), that would affect the environmental, social or economic values of the declared area.

- (a) Threats to areas of significant biodiversity, including Swan Bay and surrounds, Lake Connewarre and wetlands, Ocean Grove Nature Reserve and Lonsdale Lakes Wildlife Reserve from weeds and pests, climate change, natural hazards such as bushfire, and urban development.
- (b) Threats to natural landscapes and landforms, including visual impact on view lines and topography of the rural landscapes through the Bellarine Peninsula, from intensity of land use and urban development.

- (c) Threats to preservation of heritage and cultural attributes from the cumulative impact of development and land use practice and increased tourism activity and recreation.
- (d) Threats to natural resources, water catchments and productive land from land use conflicts (including intensity of uses) between conservation, catchment management, agricultural use, residential use and recreation activities; cumulative impacts of development; and natural hazards, including bushfire and flooding.
- (e) Threats to future effectiveness of strategic infrastructure from climate change impacts, expanded tourism activity, and the loss of road reservations due to development.

Dated 22 October 2019

Responsible Minister:

THE HON RICHARD WYNNE MP

Minister for Planning

ANDREW ROBINSON
Acting Clerk of the Executive Council

Planning and Environment Act 1987**DECLARATION OF BASS COAST AS A DISTINCTIVE AREA AND LANDSCAPE****Order in Council**

The Governor in Council, under section 46AO(1) of the **Planning and Environment Act 1987** (the Act), on the recommendation of the Minister, makes the following Order:

1. Preamble

In accordance with section 46AO(2)(d) of the Act, the following statement sets out the significance of the area to the people of Victoria:

- (a) The Bass Coast has landscapes of outstanding natural beauty and environmental, economic and cultural heritage values of state and national significance.
- (b) The coastline has been shaped by the high seas and winds of Bass Strait and known for its rugged beauty, cliffs and rocky formations, rich marine life, renowned surfing locations, and significant fossil sites.
- (c) The Bass Coast's parks and wetlands are recognised nationally and internationally for their environmental significance including Phillip Island Nature Park, Bunurong Marine National Park, Churchill Island Marine Park, Westernport Ramsar Wetland, Churchill Island, Powlett River Mouth and Andersons Inlet and tributaries.
- (d) Across the landscape, a wealth of archaeological sites including shell middens, combine with intangible expressions of culture to indicate the importance of the area across generations of Aboriginal use and occupation. The region also provides significant insight into the history of European settlement including sites of agricultural, mining and industrial heritage.
- (e) The region contains infrastructure and resources of state significance including the Victorian Desalination Plant, mineral sands resources, and productive agricultural land.

The following statement sets out the significance of Bunurong Country to the Traditional Owners, the Bunurong in accordance with section 46AO(2)(d)(ii) of the Act:

We the Bunurong People are the Traditional Custodians to this Country, it's alive with our stories. These Sands of the Bass Coast contain the foot prints left behind by our ancestors in every cultural way.

The responsibility for the Caring of our Country belongs to us as its Custodians. She is our Mother and Bunjil our Father.

Our Country has always given us our physical means to flourish and survive, food, water and air. We are salt water people, and the rivers that run into the sea are Our Country, and where these rivers meet the sea have always been important places to our people.

Our Country will continue to preserve us and our values into the future, as we will continue to preserve Our Country and protect our past and persist within these modern spaces. We have been here since the beginning and will be here until the end.

These Places hold our Stories, Culture and our Ancestor's physically as well as Spiritually and it is by the Lore of Bunjil we protect, love and look after her.

2. Declaration

In accordance with section 46AO of the Act, the Bass Coast is declared as a distinctive area and landscape.

3. Description of area

In accordance with section 46AO(2)(a) of the Act, the Bass Coast area be declared as a distinctive area and landscape as described in the plan numbered **LEGL./19-287** lodged in the Central Plan Office.

4. Attributes and distinctive features of the declared area

In accordance with section 46AO(2)(b) of the Act, Table 1 provides the attributes described in section 46AP(1) that qualify the Bass Coast as an area to be declared as a distinctive area and landscape.

Table 1. Attributes qualifying declared area as a distinctive area and landscape

Item	Attribute	Distinctive Features
1.	Outstanding environmental significance	<p>(a) State, national and international areas of biodiversity significance including Phillip Island Nature Park, Bunurong Marine National Park, Churchill Island Marine Park, Westernport Ramsar Wetland, Churchill Island, Powlett River Mouth and Andersons Inlet and tributaries</p> <p>(b) Parks, river corridors, beaches and wetlands which are home to remnant vegetation, threatened species and are important wildlife corridors.</p> <p>(c) An integrated catchment system of river corridors, coastal waterways (estuaries and wetlands), and a unique marine environment with diverse habitats and important feeding areas.</p>
2.	Significant Geographical Features, including Natural Landforms	<p>(a) The Bass Hills and Strzelecki Foothills provide a backdrop to landscapes throughout the Shire and are highly visible from main road corridors.</p> <p>(b) San Remo to Kilcunda coastline contains open pastoral landscapes edged by rocky cliffs and slopes to the Bass Strait.</p> <p>(c) Kilcunda to Inverloch coastline (Bunurong Coast) is recognized for its rock formations, sand dune systems, dramatic cliffs and rock stacks. Eagles Nest is a dominant feature in the landscape and a site of national and geomorphological significance.</p> <p>(d) Phillip Island has distinctive landscapes including rocky cliffs and outcrops of volcanic origin such as the Nobbies and Pyramid Rock, as well as surf beaches and dune systems.</p>
3.	Heritage and Cultural Significance	<p>(a) Areas of significant cultural, spiritual and heritage value for the Bunurong people including the coastal dune systems, Western Port and Bass Strait, the Bunurong Coast, the Coronet Bay area, Bass Hills, Powlett River and the western and southern foreshores of Phillip Island.</p> <p>(b) Important post-contact heritage sites which were significant to the economic development of Victoria. They include the State Coal Mine and associated mining heritage, and Churchill Island, the location of the first European farm in Victoria.</p> <p>(c) A rich surfing history with a number of beaches recognised as a National Surfing Reserve.</p>

Item	Attribute	Distinctive Features
4.	Natural Resources or Productive Land of Significance	(a) Major nature-based tourism destination of national significance, with tourism assets including Phillip Island, the Bunurong Coast and major events facilities. (b) Extractive industries of state significance, particularly for their contribution to Victoria's supply of mineral sands. (c) High-quality agricultural land, in particular the Powlett River Valley, and importance to the Gippsland dairy industry.
5.	Strategic Infrastructure or Built Form of Significance	(a) The Victorian Desalination Plant and associated pipeline are a significant piece of public infrastructure for Victoria. (b) Phillip Island Road and Bass Highway form part of a significant transport corridor critical to the function of the region.

5. Threats of significant land use change of the declared area

In accordance with section 46AO(2)(c), the list below identifies the threats of significant or irreversible land use change, as described in section 46AP(2), that would affect the environmental, social or economic values of the declared area.

- (a) Threats to areas of significant environmental values and biodiversity, including vegetation clearance, loss of habitat, urban development pressures including water run-off, weeds and pests, visitation pressures, climate change impacts including changes in water temperatures, sea level rise, increased storm and erosion events, and bushfire.
- (b) Threats to natural landscapes and landforms, including visual impact on view lines and topography of rural and coastal landscapes from urban development, coastal erosion, and increased visitation pressures.
- (c) Threats to preservation of heritage and cultural attributes from the cumulative impact of development and land use practices, increased tourism activity, and climate change risks.
- (d) Threats to natural resources and agricultural land productivity including urban encroachment, weeds and pests, and natural hazards.
- (e) Threats to future effectiveness of strategic infrastructure from increasing pressure from urban development, climate change impacts, and increasing visitation.

Dated 22 October 2019

Responsible Minister:

THE HON RICHARD WYNNE MP

Minister for Planning

ANDREW ROBINSON
Acting Clerk of the Executive Council

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