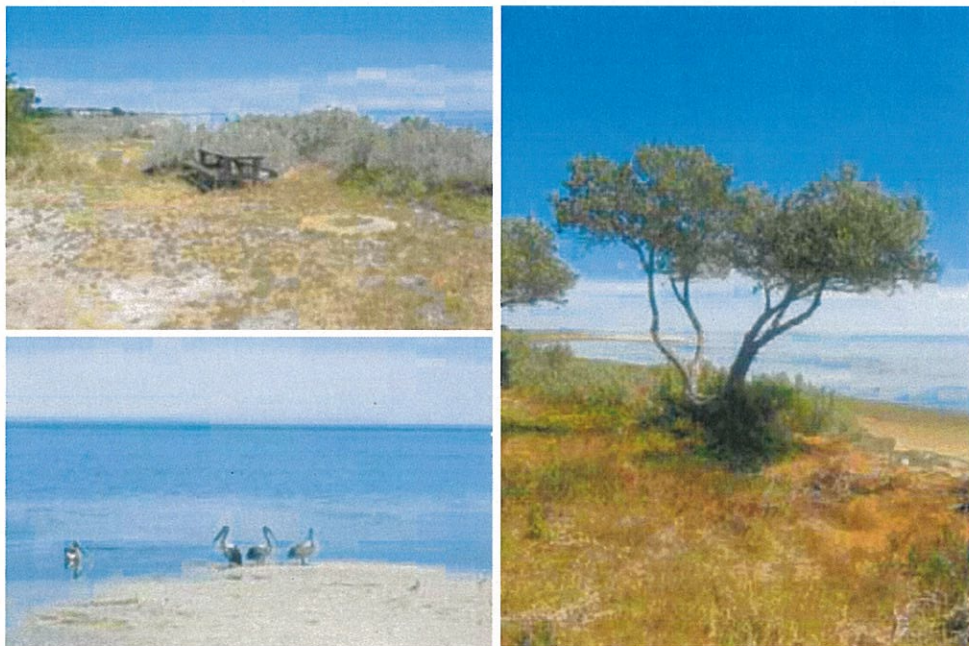




FINAL

Ramblers Road Foreshore Management Plan



Prepared for the City of Greater Geelong by:



Thompson Berrill Landscape Design Pty Ltd

in association with

Mark Trengove Ecological Services and Terraculture Pty Ltd

JUNE 2007

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**ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL
RESOURCES UNIT**

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: Summary of Community Consultation on the Draft Management Plan

Prepared by TBLD P/L for City of Greater Geelong June 2007

APPENDIX B: Ramblers Road Foreshore Management Plan Questionnaire #1

Summary of Questionnaire #1 Responses prepared by TBLD P/L for City of Greater Geelong December 2006

Community Meeting Notes prepared by TBLD P/L for City of Greater Geelong December 2006

APPENDIX C: Existing Vegetation Communities Survey

Prepared by Mark Trengove Ecological Services for City of Greater Geelong September 2006

APPENDIX D: Archaeological Survey

Prepared by Terraculture P/L for City of Greater Geelong November 2006

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The project team would like to thank the Steering Committee who have attended meetings and contributed to the development of the Management Plan including:

Burke Renouf	Sustainability Officer, City of Greater Geelong (COGG)
Bernie Cotter	Manager Environment Unit, COGG
Matt Jackman	Environment Unit, COGG
Alex Shackleton	Environment Unit, COGG

The project team would also like to thank the Local Portarlington Community and Residents of Ramblers Road who attended the meeting and/ or contributed to the development of the Management Plan through filling in the questionnaires which provided valuable information that has shaped the direction of the management plan.

ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Description
BBFCOM	Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee
CAP	Coastal Action Plan
COGG	City of Greater Geelong
DSE	Department of Sustainability and Environment
EPA	Environment Protection Authority
PV	Parks Victoria
VCS	Victorian Coastal Strategy
WACL	Wathaurong Aboriginal Cooperative Limited

1.0 INTRODUCTION

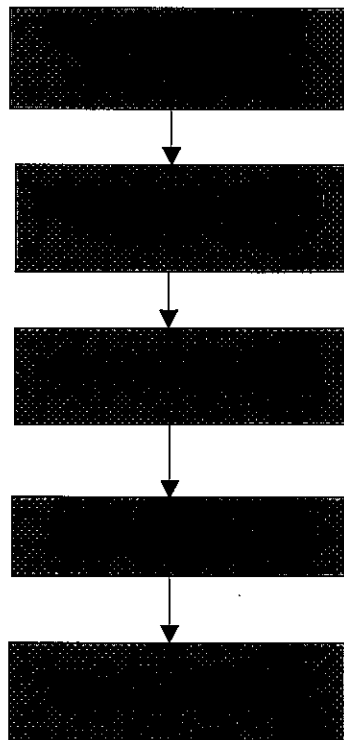
1.1 Project Scope

The project brief called for the preparation of a Management Plan for the future management and development of Ramblers Road Foreshore Reserve. The Plan is to establish up to date management guidelines and recommendations for the City of Greater Geelong to encourage and guide an integrated approach for the future management, use and development of the reserve in consultation with adjoining residents and the local community.

1.2 Key Objectives

- Improve and maintain public access along the foreshore reserve
- Identify, protect and improve indigenous flora and fauna values
- Improve existing stormwater management
- Liaise with adjoining residents and the local community to encourage continued community involvement in management of the reserve.

1.3 Project Process



- ☐ Site Visit / Meeting with Council Officers
- ☐ Vegetation Assessment
- ☐ Archaeological Investigation
- ☐ Information Letter and Questionnaire
- ☐ Community Meeting November 2006
- ☐ Draft Supplied to Council Officers, DSE, Bellarine Bayside Committee of Management, Department of Sustainability and Environment, Parks Victoria and Barwon Water for comment
- ☐ Amend and refine the plan in accordance with comments
- ☐ Public display of Draft Plan (March-April 2007)
- ☐ Plan amended in accordance with Community Feedback
- ☐ Final Plan tabled at Council for endorsement

1.4 Project Team

Thompson Berrill Landscape Design Pty Ltd (TBLD)

TBLD is a firm of landscape architects with expertise in the area of open space, coastal and waterway planning and design. TBLD have worked extensively in this region preparing a range of management plans for other coastal areas and waterways through the Bellarine Peninsula and Geelong region.

Mark Trengove Ecological Services (MTES)

MTES has extensive experience in flora survey and vegetation management in the Geelong region. For this project, MTES has undertaken a vegetation community survey, summarised their condition and has provided management recommendations.

2.0 SITE CONTEXT

2.1 Study Area

Ramblers Road Foreshore Reserve is located west of Point Richards Road at Portarlington, approximately 22km east of Geelong on the Bellarine Peninsula. The management plan area consists of 1.1km of foreshore reserve approximately 30m wide directly adjoining Port Phillip Bay. The study area extends west of the existing pier and boat ramp at Point Richards to the end of the directly adjoining 56 residential allotments on the north side of Ramblers Rd. There are also four public access points/walkways providing access from Ramblers Road.

The reserve consists of a low energy beach and dune with a mix of remnant indigenous Dune Shrubland vegetation and planted exotic and native vegetation. There are areas of remnant saltmarsh vegetation, wetland lagoons and a sandbar at the wider western end of the reserve. The foreshore reserve has been historically been managed informally by adjoining residents with areas of mown grass and shrubs defining their adjoining private property lines. There are several concrete boat ramps and seats, tables and associated domestic infrastructure located in the public reserve.

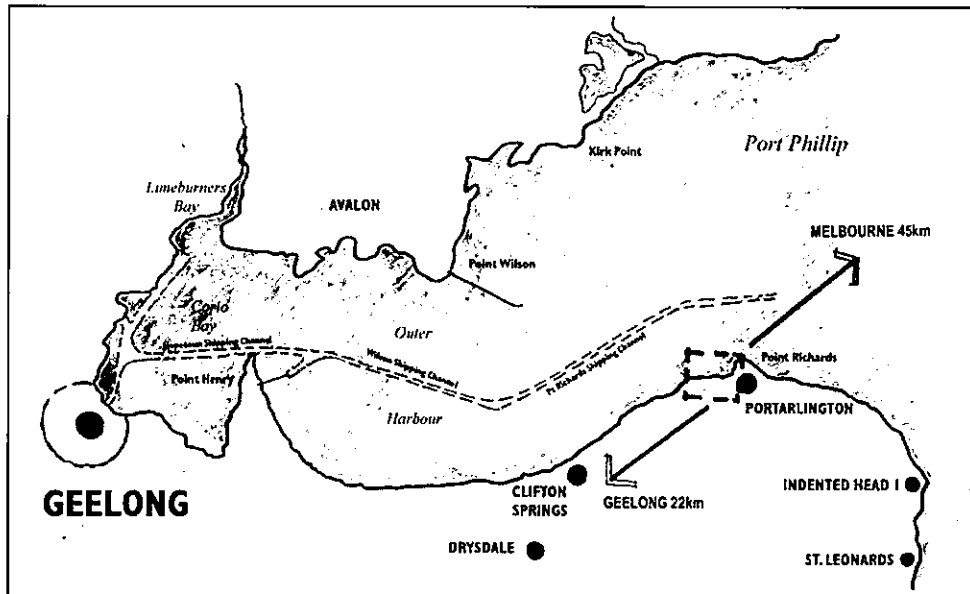


Figure 1: Site Context Plan

2.2 Brief Site History

The following is a brief summary of information from the Terraculture Cultural Heritage Investigation - Refer Appendix C.

The pre-European Aboriginal inhabitants of the Portarlington area were from the *Wada wurrung* language group, whose territory included the coastline from the Werribee River to Painkalac Creek at Aireys Inlet. The *Wada wurrung* included at least 25 different clans – family units associated with specific locations. There is little specific historical information on the specific clans for the Portarlington area and no recorded sites of archaeological or cultural significance within the study area however shell middens, stone artifact scatters including a hand axe, areas of baked earth, ash and charcoal, and a scarred tree have been recorded in the broader Portarlington area.

The Bellarine Peninsula was first charted by Lieutenant John Murray, who entered the mouth of Port Phillip Bay on February 14th 1802. Later in the same year (April 26th) Flinders entered and crossed Port Phillip Bay on the 'Investigator' and later landed at Indented Head, where he camped and moved further northwest along the Bellarine Peninsula, in the vicinity of Portarlington. He crossed Port Phillip Bay again to investigate the You Yangs, later returning to Indented Head. In early 1803 the 'Cumberland' entered Port Phillip Bay with the Surveyor-General Charles Grimes, to survey the coast for potential settlement. They landed at Portarlington and headed westward on foot to Point Henry.

In 1803 the 'Ocean' and the 'Calcutta' arrived at Sorrento, laden with convicts including William Buckley, settlers and marines. The settlement was abandoned apparently due to the poor quality of the soil, but not before William Buckley had escaped from the Sorrento settlement. He went on to live with the Wathaurong for the next 32 years, during which time there was little European exploration. There is an interpretative sign at the Point Richards Rd east end of the foreshore reserve regarding William Buckley and historical collection of shellfish by the Wathaurong in the area.

In 1835, Buckley learned of three white men camped at Indented Head, part of John Batman's Port Phillip exploration party. The party had landed on the 'Rebecca' on 29th May 1835, and went on to explore the area. The early European settlement of the Bellarine Peninsula spread from the west and the landing place at Point Henry.

The area was originally occupied by large pastoral runs, the most famous of which was the Derwent Run, a large cattle run extending from Bellarine to Point Lonsdale and west toward Paywit, operated by several prominent Geelong settlers including Dr Alexander Thompson. As European settlement into the area increased, only the well established squatter runs remained. Spray Farm, originally called 'Ellendale', was built by C. J. Langdon in 1851 and sold in 1856 to Charles Ibbotson. Originally used for sheep, the farm was located between the Bellarine coastline and Portarlington Road. Closer to the study area, John Birkett maintained a large pastoral holding to the west of Point Richards Road, which contained a homestead built in the early 1850s. The area later became known as Lincoln's Farm.

The township of Portarlington was first surveyed in 1848. Land sales began in the early 1850s with much of the area taken up rapidly by both pastoral holdings and township settlement. The township of Portarlington developed during the 1850s and 1860s, with much of its growth due to pastoral development and a small dependence on steamer ships and day-trippers from Melbourne and Geelong. By the 1880s, Portarlington boasted four hotels for 'summer visitors', several stores, and a blacksmith and coach house.

The Ramblers Rd subdivision occurred in the early 1970's (?) and the original sub divider owned the existing property at No.78 (tbc). Many original properties were fishing shacks and summer beach houses, however as with many areas along the Bellarine Peninsula there has been a significant increase in permanent residents.

2.3 Existing Site Ownership, Management and Site Context

The foreshore reserve is freehold land owned by the City of Greater Geelong. The site is zoned Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ) in the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme. West of Ramblers Rd is zoned Public Conservation and Resource Zone (PCRZ) again extending approximately 600m out into the bay.

There is an Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO) over sections of the Point Richards Flora and Fauna Reserve and Rosedale, (formally Lincoln's Farm House) at 1-65 Point Richards Road is covered by a Heritage Overlay (HO49). All residential properties adjoining Ramblers Rd are subject to a Design Development Overlay (DDO14). The objectives of this overlay are to ensure new dwellings and extensions are compatible with the existing scale and character of adjoining dwellings and that height and visual bulk are acceptable in the neighborhood setting. A permit is also required to construct or extend a dwelling more than 7.5m above natural ground level unless constructed or permit approved prior to August 2001.

Parks Victoria (PV) is responsible for the recreational use of the waters of Port Phillip Bay and Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) is the crown land manager which includes both the sea bed (high tide mark) and coastal crown land reserves west of Ramblers Rd. Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee manages the Pt. Richards boat ramp, carpark and pier and are committee of management for foreshore crown land east of Pt. Richards Rd.



Figure 2: Land Ownership Plan

2.4 Summary of Key Background Documents

The following is a brief summary of the key outcomes and recommendations from existing background documents which informed the development of the Management Plan. For original descriptions, please refer to the original report listed in the Bibliography.

2.4.1

Relevant State-wide policies and strategies

Victorian Coastal Strategy, Victorian Coastal Council, 2002

This Strategy was developed by the Victorian Coastal Council under the *Coastal Management Act* (1995) and provides an integrated coastal management framework for the Victorian Coast. The Strategy considers the environmental, social and economic implications of future management of the coast in order to establish a ecologically sustainable development and management framework. The Strategy has categorised the entire Victorian Coast into different management zones, and Ramblers Road is located in a Coastal Protection Zone. A Coastal Protection Zone is defined as an area in relatively natural condition or which are significant for botanical, zoological, geomorphological, geological, archaeological or historical reasons including fragile areas sensitive to modification. This zone should be managed primarily to protect the natural values of the zone. This sets the direction for the Ramblers Road Foreshore Management Plan.

Coastal Spaces Recommendation Report DSE, April 2001 (Extract as supplied by CoGG)

Coastal Spaces recognises that climate change is expected to have implications for Victoria's coastal areas. Rising sea levels combined with higher temperatures and changes to wind and storm patterns are expected to increase the potential for erosion and damage to coastal infrastructure, and intensify pressure on biodiversity assets. Climate change is expected to produce more intense low pressure systems off Victoria's coast causing a greater number of extreme storm events and storm surges. Particular parts of Victoria's coast are more vulnerable to storm surge events, with low lying, sandy shorelines and low lying areas adjacent to estuaries and waterways at most risk.

"Whilst limited information is available on the likely impacts of climate change specific to the Victorian coast, current estimates indicate sea levels will rise up to 55cm by 2070. Storm surges and potential estuarine flooding in storm conditions will result in further effective increase in areas affected by flooding and coastal erosion. Not all areas of the coast are the same and therefore the level of risk and likely patterns of impact and change will vary." Notwithstanding the need for more detailed information to assess the impacts of climate change, it should be standard practice to adopt a Precautionary Principle approach when planning for areas likely to be vulnerable to climate change effects, such as estuaries, sandy shorelines and other low lying sites. (The Precautionary Principle advocates taking action now despite a level of uncertainty, to minimise future risks)

Siting and Design Guidelines for Structures on the Victorian Coast, Victorian Coastal Council, 1998

The primary purpose of the Siting and Design Guidelines is to define those issues which should be considered in the siting, design and construction of new structures and the improvement of existing structures in coastal areas.

Marine Coastal and Estuarine Investigation, Environment Conservation Council, 2000

The Environment Conservation Council (ECC) were requested by the Victorian Government to investigate the State's marine, coastal and estuarine areas and make recommendations on the protection of significant environmental values and the sustainable use of Victoria's marine environment, with priority given to recommendations for a representative system of marine parks and for areas suitable for marine aquaculture. Areas off the coast at Point Richards have been identified as a Special Management Area (C7) and an Aquaculture Zone (E3) designated in the Bay adjacent to the seagrass beds offshore from Ramblers Road. Refer Figure 3.

2.4.2

Relevant local policies and strategies

Corio Bay Coastal Action Plan, Central Coastal Board, 2005

The Action Plan prepared by the Central Coastal Board and the City of Greater Geelong has been developed in accordance with the *Coastal Management Act* 1995, and is a key mechanism for implementing the Victorian Coastal Strategy (described in 2.1.2). The Coastal Action Plan (CAP) is a strategic planning document that considers the environmental, social and economic facets of the area.

Specifically for Ramblers Road and Point Richards the CAP recommends:

- Protection of marine seagrass beds including preparation of a specific management plan for these areas.
- Regeneration of foreshore reserve for conservation through revegetation and definition of a trail from Point Richards Rd to end of Ramblers Rd.
- Ensure new development is low profile and sits within the topography of the land as detailed in the Victorian Coastal Council Siting and Design Guidelines for Structures on the Victorian Coast (1998).

Draft Boating Coastal Action Plan, Central Coastal Board, 2005

The Draft Boating Coastal Action Plan is to provide strategic regional guidance for future planning, management and funding of boating facilities within the central coastal region of Victoria. The Point Richards boat ramp is a Regional Level facility.

Geelong Coastal Processes Study, 2004

Prepared for the City of Greater Geelong in 2004 by Lawson & Treloar Pty Ltd the study reviewed the coastal processes in Corio Bay and the Bellarine Peninsula. The study includes an overview of the coastal processes at Point Richards. Refer to Section 3.1.

Biodiversity Strategy, City of Greater Geelong, 2003

This Strategy details the context of biodiversity in Geelong, its importance, value and legislative obligations for its protection. The Biodiversity inventory is provided in summary whilst the Strategy itself details the Vision, Mission, Guiding Principles, Commitment and Targets to ensure Biodiversity protection and enhancement. Biodiversity is defined as 'the totality of the variety of living organisms, the genetic differences among them, and the communities and ecosystems in which they occur. It is the natural wealth of the earth, which supplies all our food and much of our shelter and raw materials' (COGG, 2003). Ramblers Road and adjoining foreshore areas are located in a Primary biodiversity zone.

Point Richards and Portarlington Reserve Strategic Concept Plan, TBLD P/L, 2005

Point Richards Flora and Fauna Reserve in the western area of the site is Crown Land managed by Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee of Management. Portarlington Recreation Reserve in the eastern area of the site is Crown Land managed by City of Greater Geelong. Indigenous flora and fauna values extend over both reserves and the majority of recreation facilities are located in Portarlington Reserve. The intent of the future directions plan for both reserves is to improve the management of the flora and fauna values, whilst providing improved recreational use and facilities in the reserve. Proposed pedestrian paths in both reserves will facilitate increased informal use by the local community including potential walking links to Ramblers Road.

Draft Domestic Waste Water Management Plan for the City of Greater Geelong,

ASR Research P/L, 2006

Objectives of the report are to review Councils Waste Water Management processes and practices and recommend improvements. Key outcomes from audit of Ramblers Road including identification of risks to groundwater contamination due to the presence of over 30 of the septic systems which are over 30 years old and a further 11 are at least 20 years old. Recommendations include:

- Investigate feasibility of connection to sewer
- Upgrade systems to treatment plants when opportunities arise (if connection to sewer is not possible)
- Provide education pack to householders specific to their particular system
- Require maintenance checks and effluent tests on treatment plants and sand filters

2.5 Community Consultation

A brief questionnaire was prepared to seek feedback from residents and the community regarding their existing use of the site, reasons for visiting the site, and issues they would like considered in development of the Management Plan. City of Greater Geelong distributed the questionnaire and letter invitation to a community meeting to residents in Ramblers Road and the local Portarlington area. A total of 23 questionnaires were returned and over 25 people attended the Community Meeting. In summary:

Key values included:

- Peaceful, Quiet, Serenity
- Views
- Birdlife
- Open space
- Privacy

Popular activities include:

- Walking
- Swimming
- Bird watching
- Dog walking
- General ball games on the open grass areas

Key issues to be addressed in the plan included:

- Stormwater drain between No. 96 and 98
- Septic tanks leak into sea and land/water table

- Provision and retention of public access
- Seaweed removal and beach cleaning required
- No formal path required
- Dogs impact on birdlife
- Consultation with residents in management of the reserve

For further details refer to Appendix A.



EXOTIC PLANTING ADJACENT TO DUNE SHRUBLAND



GARDEN WASTE



PRIVATE CONCRETE BOATRAMPs



DEPLETED DUNE SHRUBLAND



PIER (Bellarine Batside Committee of Management - outside study areas)



PLANTING RESTRICTS PUBLIC ACCESS IN SOME AREAS



RUBBLE ON BEACH



STORMWATER OUTFALLS



PUBLIC BOAT RAMP (Bellarine Batside Committee of Management - outside study areas)



OPEN DRAINAGE CHANNEL



SAND BAR AND BEACH OUTFALL



SEATING AREAS



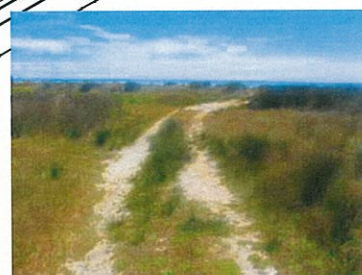
EXISTING PARKLAND



SALINE HERBFIELD



PINES AND MOWN GRASS

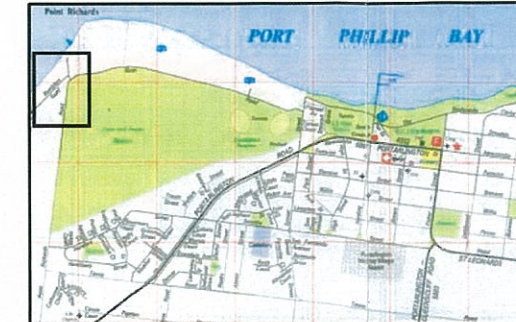


INFORMAL ACCESS TRACKS

Port Phillip Bay



LOCATION PLAN



DRAWING KEY

	Existing native trees		Fence lines
	Dune shrubland		Picnic tables
	Mixed Exotic shrub/trees		Concrete ramp
	Pine trees		Light
	Palms		Stormwater drain
	Wetland		Pine log barrier
	Saline herbfields		Bollards
	Mown grass		Signage
	Sand		Interpretive signage
	Edge of water		





3.0 EXISTING CONDITIONS

3.1 Geology and Coastal Processes

The Bellarine Peninsula is an uplifted landmass bounded by the Barrabool Fault to the north and the Bellarine Fault along the east. The southern side of the Peninsula fronts the Bass Strait coastline and its south-eastern point (Point Lonsdale) forms the western heads of the Port Phillip Bay entrance. Point Richards marks the north-eastern point of the peninsula where the coastline changes direction and heads southeast to Corio Bay. Refer Figure 1. Point Richards is noted as a site of Regional Geological Significance featuring the largest single sand accumulation on the Port Phillip Bay Coast. (Site 21 - Rosengren, 1988) The coastal area west of Ramblers Road to Spray Farm Road is also of Regional Geological Significance (Site 22 - Rosengren, 1988) featuring a variety of coastal depositional feature of great interest in determining the Late Holocene sedimentary history of Port Phillip Bay. The site is of interest for the relict coastal ridges, lagoons and the broad terrace of clay overlain by coarse beach sand and shells. The form of the coast immediately west of Ramblers Rd indicates that sand drift has at some time been predominately toward the northeast which contrasts with the westerly drift regime of Point Richards today. (Rosengren 1988)

The Coastal Processes Study by Lawson and Treloar P/L (2004) notes the coastline exposed to west or north-west winds from Clifton Springs to Point Richards including Ramblers Rd Foreshore Reserve is especially susceptible to storm surge events. This is where meteorological forcing of wind and atmospheric pressure leads to an increase in sea level over a number of days. In these events, the low lying foreshore reserve may suffer significant erosion in a relatively short time period.

From Clifton Springs, past Spray Farm Lane, net sand transport continues to the east towards Point Richards. Point Richards is a meeting place of sand drift, with sand traveling from Portarlington to Point Richards in a westward direction and sand traveling along the beach in an eastward direction from Clifton Springs. The sand then feeds the offshore sand bars and possibly the adjacent shipping channel. The transport from the east is confirmed by the sand at the Point Richards boat ramp building up on the western side. The offshore sand bars have increased since the 1960's. The spits and sand bars, however, have been known to fluctuate, with a bulb of sand forming off the end of Point Richards in the mid 1980's that had disappeared by 2001. The beach on the west side of Point Richards has accreted by up to 11m since 1966. This accretion is probably due to material transported from the west, past Clifton Springs. (Lawson and Treloar 2004)

Currently the western beach at Portarlington (but not Ramblers Rd) is renourished annually in late spring for summer. This is achieved by removing the built-up sand at Point Richards and transferring it back to Portarlington. Locals have suggested that part of the problem was the destabilization of the seabed by removal of the seagrass, but aerial photographs of the area show that the line of seagrass has remained constant since 1956. However, the photographs do not show if the quantity of seagrass has remained the same and local fishermen believe that some of the seagrass in this region has been dying out. (Lawson and Treloar 2004)

The existing sand bar currently located at the western end of the site provides evidence of this dynamic sand movement having developed over the past 15 years moving slowly east toward Point Richards.

3.2 Adjoining Coastal Values

The Marine, Coastal and Estuarine Investigation (ECC, 2000) identified a Special Management Area in intertidal and subtidal zone adjacent to Clifton Springs extending from the former Long Jetty (near Coronae Drive) eastwards to Point Richards. This 785 hectare area contains some of the best examples of intertidal and subtidal seagrass (*Heterostera tasmanica*, *Zostera muelleri*) in the Geelong Arm of Port Phillip Bay and is an important area for settlement of larval fish, including King George whiting and shark. The large offshore seagrass meadow extends from Point Richards to Point Henry.' (ECC, 2000). It is noted that the seagrass beds continue to be threatened by poor water quality, introduced pests such as the European tube worm and physical damage from propeller scour and anchoring. Activities that damage seagrass and associated marine life (e.g. some forms of boating and anchoring, dredging, dredge spoil disposal) should be regulated

in this area. The boat ramps at both ends of the area including Portarlinton and Clifton Springs provide good boat access, and there is potential to improve education facilities to highlight the important ecological role of seagrass communities to minimise the damage from fishing and boating in this area (ECC, 2000).

Offshore from the Special Management Area, there are two Aquaculture Zones adjacent to Clifton Springs (E3) and Portarlinton (EZ). These areas have been used for mussel production site since 1979 and some experimental production of abalone, scallops and flat oysters also occurs (ECC, 2000).



Figure 3: Extract from Map A Marine Coastal & Estuarine Investigation Recommendations, prepared by Environment Conservation Council, 2000

3.3 Flora

There is little information available on the original vegetation communities present at Ramblers Road. The Broad Vegetation Types (Estimated coverage Pre-1750) and Victorian Bioregions map (NRE, 1997) includes Coastal Scrubs and Grassland Complexes. Recent assessment completed by Mark Trengove Ecological Services confirmed a total of 19 indigenous species recorded in the study area. Three of those are possibly planted; one of those, Coast Tea-tree *Leptospermum laevigatum* is reproducing from seed. A total of 3 species, Boobialla *Myoporum insulare*, Chaffy Saw-sedge *Gahnia filum* and *Malva sp. aff. australiana* are considered to be of Regional Conservation Significance. The *Malva sp. aff. australiana* is rare in the Geelong Region. Both the *Malva sp. aff. australiana* and the Chaffy Saw-sedge are limited to one specimen each. The remaining 16 indigenous species are all considered to be of Local Conservation Significance.

The vegetation on site is classified in the following communities:



Photo 1: Dune Shrubland

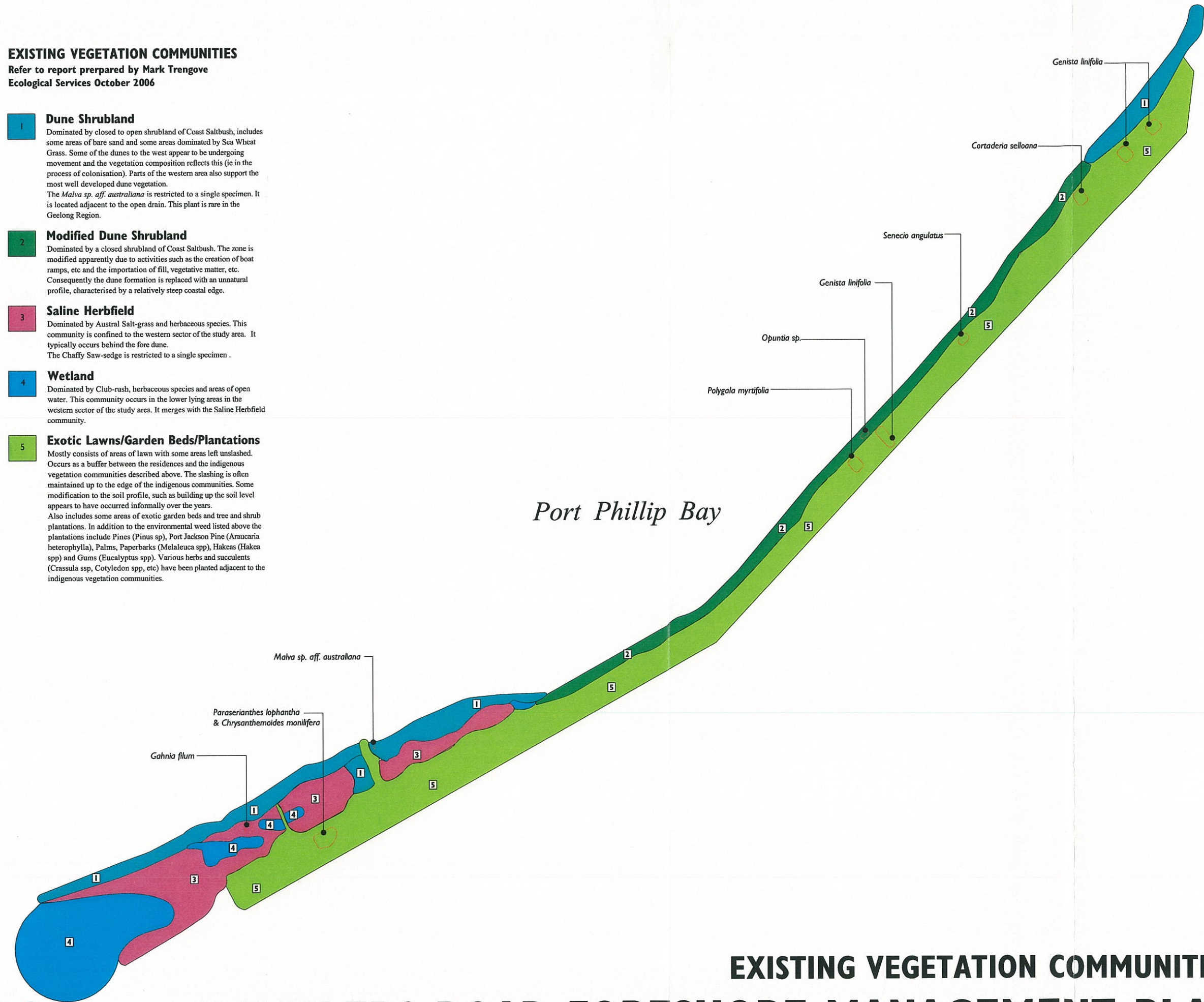
DUNE SHRUBLAND (EVC1)

Dominated by closed to open shrubland of Coast Saltbush *Atriplex cinerea*, includes some areas of bare sand and some areas dominated by the weed species Sea Wheat Grass *Thinopyrum junceiforme*. Some of the dunes to the west appear to be undergoing movement and the vegetation composition reflects this (i.e. in the process of colonisation). Parts of the western area also support the most well developed dune vegetation. The *Malva sp. aff. australiana* is restricted to a single specimen. It is located adjacent to the open drain at No.96 -98. This plant is rare in the Geelong Region and is at risk from ongoing clearance of the open channel.

EXISTING VEGETATION COMMUNITIES

Refer to report prepared by Mark Trengove
Ecological Services October 2006

- 1 Dune Shrubland**
 Dominated by closed to open shrubland of Coast Saltbush, includes some areas of bare sand and some areas dominated by Sea Wheat Grass. Some of the dunes to the west appear to be undergoing movement and the vegetation composition reflects this (ie in the process of colonisation). Parts of the western area also support the most well developed dune vegetation.
 The *Malva sp. aff. australiana* is restricted to a single specimen. It is located adjacent to the open drain. This plant is rare in the Geelong Region.
- 2 Modified Dune Shrubland**
 Dominated by a closed shrubland of Coast Saltbush. The zone is modified apparently due to activities such as the creation of boat ramps, etc and the importation of fill, vegetative matter, etc. Consequently the dune formation is replaced with an unnatural profile, characterised by a relatively steep coastal edge.
- 3 Saline Herbfield**
 Dominated by Austral Salt-grass and herbaceous species. This community is confined to the western sector of the study area. It typically occurs behind the fore dune.
 The Chaffy Saw-sedge is restricted to a single specimen.
- 4 Wetland**
 Dominated by Club-rush, herbaceous species and areas of open water. This community occurs in the lower lying areas in the western sector of the study area. It merges with the Saline Herbfield community.
- 5 Exotic Lawns/Garden Beds/Plantations**
 Mostly consists of areas of lawn with some areas left unslashed. Occurs as a buffer between the residences and the indigenous vegetation communities described above. The slashing is often maintained up to the edge of the indigenous communities. Some modification to the soil profile, such as building up the soil level appears to have occurred informally over the years.
 Also includes some areas of exotic garden beds and tree and shrub plantations. In addition to the environmental weed listed above the plantations include Pines (*Pinus sp.*), Port Jackson Pine (*Araucaria heterophylla*), Palms, Paperbarks (*Melaleuca spp.*), Hakeas (*Hakea spp.*) and Gums (*Eucalyptus spp.*). Various herbs and succulents (*Crassula spp.*, *Cotyledon spp.*, etc) have been planted adjacent to the indigenous vegetation communities.



MODIFIED DUNE SHRUBLAND

Dominated by a closed shrubland of Coast Saltbush *Atriplex cinerea*. The zone is modified and has been completely removed in some areas due to activities such as the creation of boat ramps, the importation of fill and dumping of garden waste. Consequently the dune formation is replaced with an unnatural profile, characterised by a relatively steep coastal edge and subject to significant invasion by Kikuyu *Pennisetum clandestinum* and other exotic grasses.



Photo 2: Modified Dune Shrubland

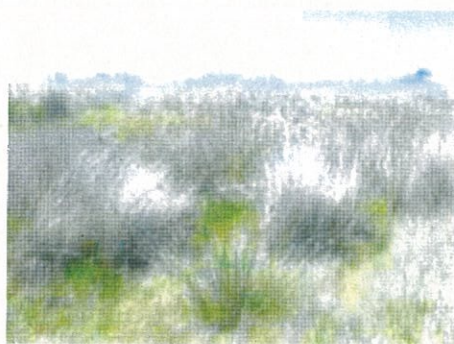


Photo 3: Saline Herbfield

SALINE HERBFIELD

Dominated by Austral Salt-grass *Distichlis distichophylla* and herbaceous species including Sea Rush *Juncus kraussii* and Beaded Glasswort *Sarcocornia quinqueflora*. This community is confined to low lying areas the western sector of the study area. It typically occurs behind the fore dune. The Chaffy Saw-sedge *Gahnia filum* is restricted to a single specimen and there are areas of Spiny Rush *Juncus acutus* invasion.

WETLAND

Dominated by Club-rush *Bolboschoenus* sp. and areas of open water this community occurs in the lower lying areas in the western sector of the study area and merges with the Saline Herbfield community.

EXOTIC LAWNS/GARDEN BEDS/PLANTATIONS

The remaining study area mostly consists of areas of lawn with some areas left unslashed. The mown edge is often maintained up to the edge of the indigenous communities. Some modification to the soil profile, such as building up the soil level appears to have occurred informally over the years.

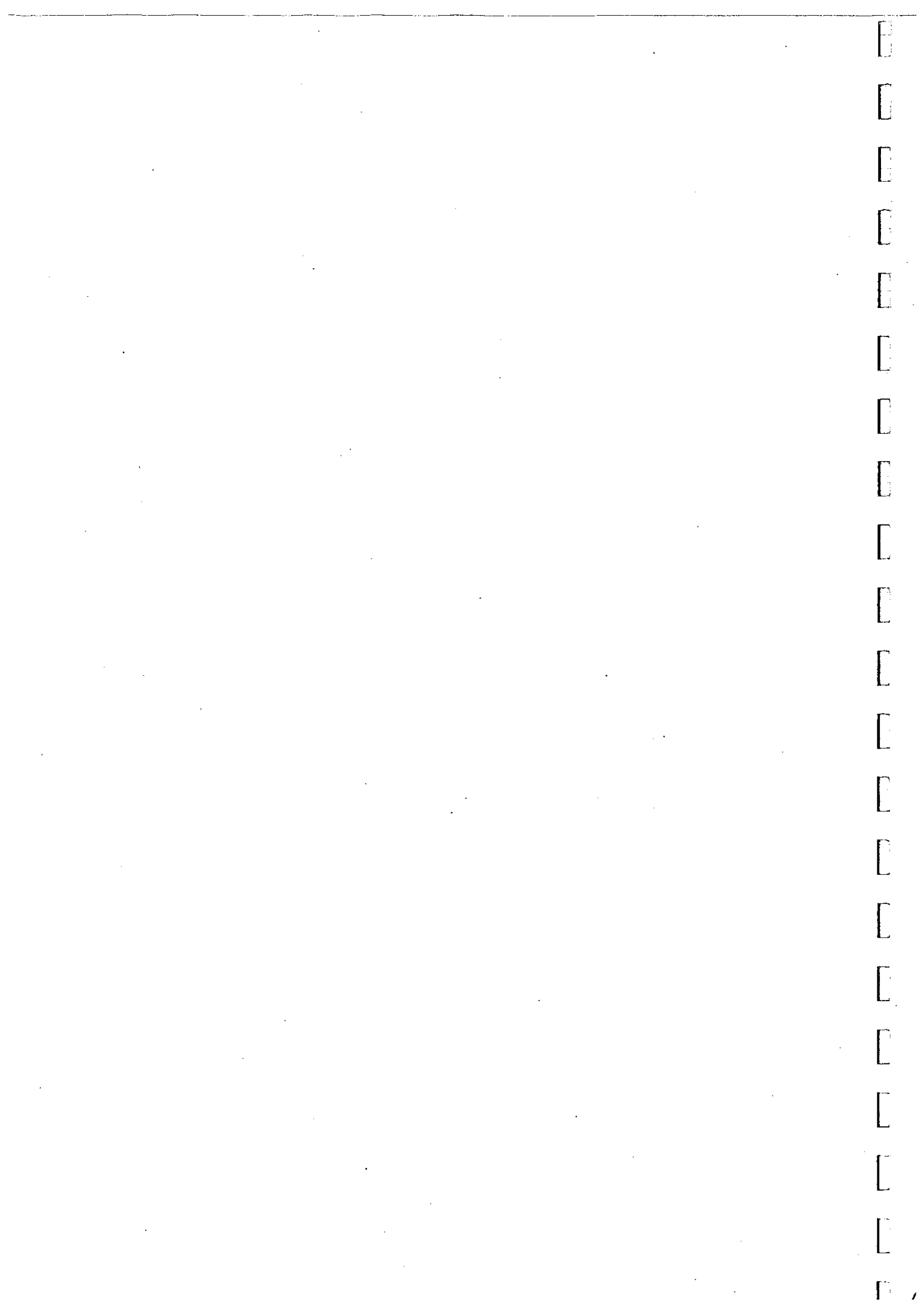
There has been extensive planting in some areas of the reserve by adjoining residents predominantly with exotic garden plants, tree and shrub plantations. In the absence of other indigenous overstorey trees the native and exotic trees provide a significant contribution to landscape character including Pines (*Pinus* sp), Port Jackson Pine (*Araucaria heterophylla*), Palms, Paperbarks (*Melaleuca* spp), Hakeas (*Hakea* spp) and Gums (*Eucalyptus* sp). Many species have been planted adjacent to the indigenous vegetation communities including environmental weeds such as Agapanthus (*Agapanthus praecox*), Gazania (*Gazania* sp), Prickly Pear (*Opuntia* sp), Geranium, Myrtle-leaf Milkwort (*Polygala myrtifolia*) and Mirror Bush (*Coprosma repens*).



Photo 4: Planted exotics along Dune Shrubland



Photo 5: Existing Pine trees provide shade and landscape character



Refer Appendix B for further details.

3.4 Fauna

There is no available fauna report for the Ramblers Road site. The beach and sand bar are popular with pelicans and there appears to be significant numbers of wading birds feeding along the shallow waters of the intertidal zone.



Photo 6: Pelicans on the sandbar

The narrow reserve and lack of continuous Dune Shrubland vegetation result in high levels of disturbance for birdlife. There are also significant levels of dog use and the proximity of adjoining properties may limit habitat values for all but the most tolerant species. Connection to adjoining undeveloped farmland results in potential use of the area by small reptiles and snakes.

3.5 Access

Vehicle access

Vehicle access to the foreshore reserve is uncontrolled in many areas. Recent Council works to secure access points at reserves appear to have been successful however there is a lack of rear boundary fencing at many private properties and at a number of vacant lots which means access to the reserve is still uncontrolled in several areas. Existing garages at No. 38 and No. 78 can only be accessed via the adjoining reserve.

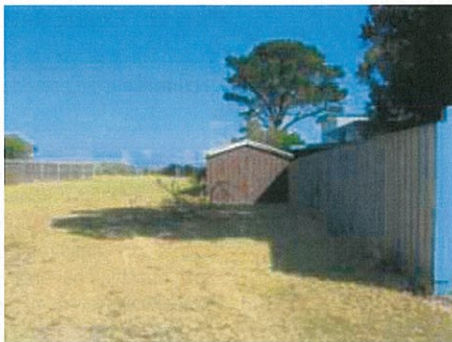


Photo 7: Lack of fencing



Photo 8: Access to garage at No. 78

Pedestrian access

There are two narrow walkways and two larger links which provide public access through to the foreshore reserve and beach from Ramblers Road.



Photo 9: Narrow walkway access and drain easement



Photo 10: Dense shrubs limit access in some areas

There is continuous informal public access east-west along the foreshore reserve from Point Richards Pier however planting in the reserve along private lines blocks easy access in some areas.

3.6 Recreation Facilities

There is only one picnic table at the Point Richards Rd end which has been provided by Council. All other facilities including a number of seats and tables have been installed, constructed or placed by adjoining residents.



Photo 11: Existing seat



Photo 12: Existing seating area

While some of these are in good condition, many do not meet current building standards and may present risk to the public or are contributing to impacts on vegetation.



Photo 13: Pt. Richards Rd picnic area

There are over 12 informal concrete boat ramps in various states of repair. These appear to have been constructed by adjoining residents many years ago. These ramps are no longer used for boat launching but provide informal access to the beach, however, in many areas broken and uneven concrete may present some risk for the public. All ramps restrict opportunities for restoration of Dune Shrubland to the primary dune system.



Photos 14 and 15: Private boat ramps

3.7 Drainage

There are three stormwater drains which discharge directly to the coast. House drains from adjoining properties are discharged to the road and there is kerb and channel on the north side and an informal grass swale system on the south side of Ramblers Road. Drains at No. 14-16 and No. 60-62, while untreated, discharge directly to the coast and are less prone to blockage. The drain at No. 96-98 is in poor condition. A deep open channel has been cut bank into the foreshore reserve to improve drainage however this channel is continually blocked at the sand bar. Even when recently reopened in November 2006 it was blocked again by rising tide almost immediately.



Photo 16: Drain outfall at No. 60-62



Photo 17: Deep open channel at No. 96-98



Photo 18: Existing pit at No. 14-16 Ramblers Rd



Photo 19: Blocked existing pit on Pt. Richards Rd

3.8 Maintenance

Historically, there has been very little active maintenance in the reserve by Council. Many residents have actively mown, planted and maintained the reserve adjoining their properties for many years contributing to the unique character and accessibility of many areas along the reserve. However, active involvement of residents in management has also impacted on the environmental and recreational values in some areas including removal of indigenous vegetation, inappropriate planting and placement of private household items including clothes lines, boat ramps and other private infrastructure.



Photo 20: Removal of indigenous vegetation



Photo 21: Fencing and planting



Photo 22: Dumping of garden waste



Photo 23: Planted exotic weed species

There are no existing rubbish bins on the site and residents have noted a significant amount of litter at times, potentially blown in by the prevailing north westerly winds.

DRAFT MANAGEMENT ZONES

1 COASTAL PROTECTION ZONE

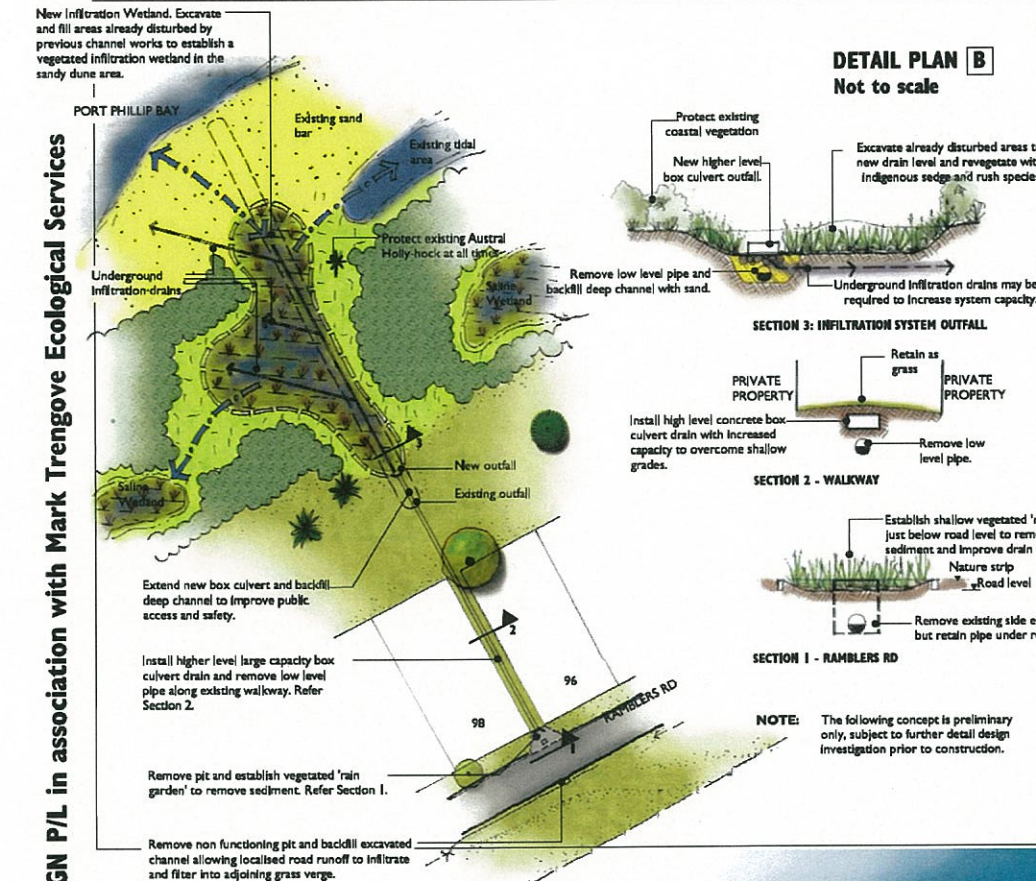
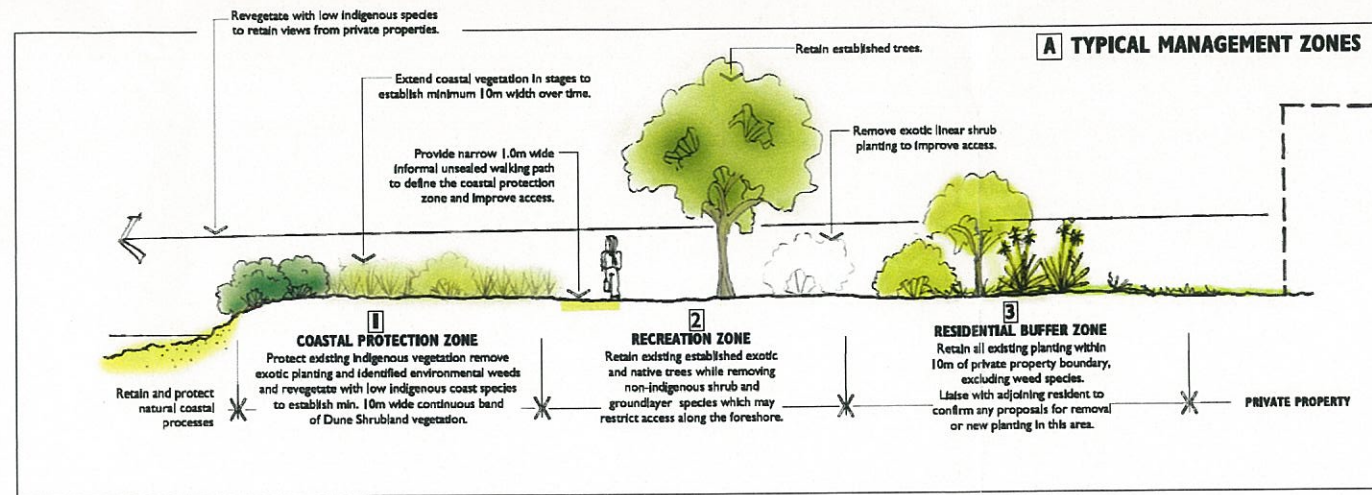
This zone including existing areas of indigenous coast vegetation and all land within 10m of the beach, on the coast side of the proposed path, is to be managed to protect natural values and assist in stabilising the foreshore. The long term intent is to restore a continuous band of indigenous vegetation while retaining views to the bay. All concrete boat ramps and recreational infrastructure is to be removed or relocated while retaining beach access at several points along the reserve.

2 RECREATION ACCESS ZONE

This zone is to be managed for recreational use providing continuous public access along the foreshore. The intent is to manage this area as mown grass providing informal walking access and larger areas of mown grass for passive and informal active recreation.

3 RESIDENTIAL BUFFER ZONE (within 10m of private property)

This zone is to be managed as an extension of the Recreation Access Zone and will remain part of the public foreshore reserve with vegetation removal and all planting subject to Council approval. However, due to the proximity of existing private properties, management of this zone is to be co-ordinated with adjoining landholders.



DOGS
Dog walking is a popular activity however many adjoining properties do not have rear boundary fences and dogs off lead in the narrow foreshore reserve disturb birds and may impact on users and adjoining residents. Residents with pets are also required to secure their animal on their property in accordance with existing Council by laws. Dogs must be under effective control at all times in accordance with the Domestic Feral and Nuisance Animals Act 1994.
As part of the city-wide City of Greater Geelong Urban Animal Management Strategy currently in development consider implementation of dog on lead controls.

RAMBLERS RD FORESHORE MANAGEMENT PLAN

OVERALL DESIGN INTENT

The overall design intent is to protect and retain the existing relaxed coastal character of the foreshore reserve while improving public access and environmental values in consultation with adjoining residents and the local community.

- Define and maintain all ability public access along the foreshore reserve and retain key access points to the beach with a low key informal walking track.
- Protect existing remnant indigenous vegetation communities, remove exotic groundlayer and shrub vegetation within 10m of the coast and restore continuous Dune Shrubland vegetation along the foreshore.
- Retain existing established trees, including exotics, and provide additional indigenous shade trees at linked council reserves where they will not impact on views from adjoining properties.
- Remove or thin linear shrub planting where it restricts access along the foreshore reserve.
- Remove concrete boat ramps and general domestic rubbish from the reserve. Review design and location of existing informal seating and tables. Where they do not meet current Australian and Council Standards remove them from the reserve.
- Minimise provision of new built infrastructure in the reserve providing new tables and bench seating at adjoining open space link areas only to minimize impacts on adjoining residents.
- Retain and monitor existing vehicle control to restrict illegal vehicle use of the foreshore reserve.
- Modify existing stormwater outfall channel to improve function, water quality and landscape amenity.
- Liaise with adjoining residents and the local community in management of the reserve.

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

The overall design intent is to protect and restore indigenous vegetation communities along the coast while retaining public access, open grass areas and the existing landscape character provided by established exotic and native trees. Key recommendations include:

- No removal of existing vegetation other than identified environmental weed species without Council approval.
- No new planting is to occur within the reserve without written Council approval. All new planting in the Ramblers Road Foreshore Reserve is to be undertaken using indigenous coastal species of local provenance.
- No new tree planting is proposed in front of residential properties without approval of the resident however additional indigenous tree planting is encouraged where possible to provide shade and improved habitat values.
- No dumping of garden waste including lawn clippings or soil.

INFRASTRUCTURE GUIDELINES

The design intent is to minimise provision of recreation infrastructure in the reserve. Existing seating and picnic tables will be removed where they do not meet Council Standards. No new furniture is proposed in the reserve aside from two additional picnic tables in the small reserve west of Point Richards Road.

WALKING TRACK

Define public access with a 1.0m wide narrow informal unsealed walking path aligned along the boundary of the Coastal Protection Zone to improve all ability access. Note this will also assist in defining the management boundary between indigenous coastal vegetation and mown grass reducing weed invasion.

Council acknowledge the concerns of some residents regarding establishment of a path however it is recommended that a narrow unsealed path will provide equal access for all residents, assist in defining the proposed management zones and encourage walkers along a route to maximising setback from properties to retain privacy for adjoining residents.

PRIVATE FURNITURE

Residents are encouraged to utilise the reserve for family picnics and events subject to the following guidelines:

- Public access along and through the reserve on the coast side must be retained at all times.
- All furniture and picnic facilities are to be removed from the reserve at completion of the event (maximum 24 hours total time on site).
- Activities must comply with all Council local laws including but not limited to noise, liquor licensing, safety and nuisance.
- Not to impact Coastal Protection Zone.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Council acknowledges history of use and maintenance of the reserve by many long-term residents and supports the continued involvement of adjoining residents and the local community in direct management of the reserve. Activities including grass mowing, rubbish collection and planting will continue to be supported where they comply with Councils Occupational Health and Safety requirements and the recommendations of this management plan.

DRAWING KEY

	Existing trees		Sand
	Proposed Moonah		Beach access points through vegetation
	Proposed Dune Shrubland revegetation		Fence lines
	Existing Dune Shrubland		Picnic tables
	Mixed Exotic shrub and trees		Concrete ramp
	Pine trees		Light
	Palms		Stormwater drain
	Saline Wetland		Pine log barrier
	Saline Herbfields		Signage
	Mown grass		Interpretive signage
	Proposed 1.0m wide unsealed walking path		

PORTARLINGTON

JUNE 2007

DWG No: RRF-03

SCALE: 1:2000 @ A1

0 20 40 60 100



FINAL

4.0 OVERALL RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Overall Design Intent

The overall design intent is to protect and retain the existing relaxed coastal character of the foreshore reserve while improving public access and environmental values in consultation with adjoining residents and the local community.

Key principles include:

- ☐ Define and maintain all ability public access along the foreshore reserve and retain key access points to the beach.
- ☐ Protect existing remnant indigenous vegetation communities, remove exotic groundlayer and shrub vegetation within 10m of the coast and restore continuous Dune Shrubland vegetation along the foreshore.
- ☐ Retain existing trees where possible for wildlife habitat and carbon sequestration, and provide additional indigenous shade trees at linked council reserves where they will not impact on views from adjoining properties.
- ☐ Remove or thin linear shrub planting that runs 90 degrees to the coast where it restricts access along the foreshore reserve.
- ☐ Manage all environmental weeds.
- ☐ Remove concrete boat ramps and general domestic rubbish from the reserve. Review design and location of existing informal seating and tables. Where they do not meet current Australian and Council Standards remove them from the reserve.
- ☐ Minimise provision of new built infrastructure in the reserve providing new tables and bench seating at adjoining open space link areas only to minimize impacts on adjoining residents.
- ☐ Retain and monitor existing vehicle control and improve if required to restrict illegal vehicle use of the foreshore reserve.
- ☐ Modify existing stormwater outfall channel to improve function, water quality and landscape amenity.
- ☐ Liaise with adjoining residents and the local community in management of the reserve.

4.2 Vegetation Management Guidelines

4.2.1 OVERALL

The overall design intent is to protect and restore indigenous vegetation communities along the coast while retaining public access, open grass areas and the existing landscape character provided by established exotic and native trees. Key recommendations include:

- ☐ No removal of existing vegetation other than declared noxious weed species without Council approval.
- ☐ No new planting is to occur within the reserve without written Council approval. All new planting in the Ramblers Road Foreshore Reserve is to be undertaken using indigenous coastal species of local provenance. Refer Appendix B.
- ☐ No new tree planting is proposed in front of residential properties without consultation with the affected resident/s however additional indigenous tree planting is encouraged where possible to provide shade and improved habitat values.
- ☐ Manage all identified environmental weeds, aim to remove all species except couch grass and kikuyu grass which are to be retained as lawn species but removed from coastal protection zone.
- ☐ No dumping of garden waste including lawn clippings or soil
- ☐ Impacts on visual amenity/character and erosion will be considered and addressed in any weed removal program.

4.2.2 COASTAL PROTECTION ZONE

This zone, including existing areas of indigenous coast vegetation and all land within 10m of the beach, is to be managed to protect natural values and assist in stabilising the foreshore. The long term design intent is to restore a continuous band of indigenous vegetation while retaining views to the bay. All concrete boat ramps and recreational infrastructure is to be removed or relocated while retaining beach access at several points



along the reserve. All exotic planting and identified environmental weeds are to be removed and the area revegetated in stages to establish a largely continuous modified Dune Shrubland community. Refer Appendix B.

4.2.3 RECREATION ACCESS ZONE

This zone is to be managed for recreational use providing continuous public access along the foreshore. The design intent is to manage this area as mown grass providing informal walking access and larger areas of mown grass for passive and informal active recreation. Established exotic and native trees are to be retained while identified environmental weeds and non indigenous mid storey shrubs are to be removed to provide continuous public and maintenance access.

4.2.4 RESIDENTIAL BUFFER ZONE (within 10m of private property)

This zone is to be managed as an extension of the Recreation Access Zone and will remain part of the public foreshore reserve with vegetation removal and all planting subject to Council approval. However, due to the proximity of existing private properties, management of this zone is to be co-ordinated with adjoining landholders. All existing planting is to be retained and any future removals or proposed new planting confirmed with the adjoining landholder prior to implementation.

4.3 Infrastructure Guidelines

4.3.1 OVERALL

The design intent is to minimise provision of recreation infrastructure in the reserve. Existing seating and picnic tables will be removed where they do not meet Council Standards. No new furniture is proposed in the reserve aside from two additional picnic tables in the small reserve west of Point Richards Road and the proposed walking track is to remain as a low key informal access only.

4.3.2 WALKING TRACK

Define public access with a graded informal walking route aligned along the proposed boundary of the Coastal Protection Zone while maximising set back from adjoining houses. Establish a narrow 1.0m wide unsealed walking track providing continuous all ability access along the foreshore. Note the track will also assist in defining the management boundary between indigenous coastal vegetation and mown grass reducing weed invasion.

Council acknowledge the concerns of some residents regarding establishment of a path however it is recommended that a narrow unsealed path will provide equal access for all residents, assist in defining the proposed management zones and encourage walkers along a route to maximising setback from properties to retain privacy for adjoining residents.

4.3.3 PRIVATE FURNITURE

Residents and the local community are encouraged to utilise the reserve for family picnics and events subject to the following guidelines:

- Public access along and through the reserve on the coast side must be retained at all times.
- All furniture and picnic facilities are to be removed from the reserve at completion of the event (maximum 24 hours total time on site).
- Activities must comply with all Council local laws including but not limited to noise, liquor licensing, safety and nuisance.

4.4 Dogs

Dog walking is a popular activity however many adjoining properties do not have rear boundary fences and dogs off lead in the narrow foreshore reserve disturb birds and may impact on users and adjoining residents. Residents with pets are also required to secure their animal on their property in accordance with existing Council by laws. Dogs must be under effective control at all times in the reserve in accordance with the Domestic Feral and Nuisance Animals Act 1994.

As part of the city-wide City of Greater Geelong Urban Animal Management Strategy currently in development consider implementation of dog on lead controls.

4.5 Community Consultation

Council acknowledges history of use and maintenance of the reserve by many long-term residents and supports the continued involvement of adjoining residents and the local community in direct management of the reserve. Activities including grass mowing, rubbish collection and planting will continue to be supported where they comply with Councils Occupational Health and Safety requirements and the recommendations of this management plan.

5.0 IMPLEMENTATION

The following tables are to be read in conjunction with the overall recommendations outlined in Section 4.0. Each recommendation is assigned a priority, which represents the following indicative timeframe:

1 - 3 years

4 - 6 years

7+ years

Ongoing - Part of existing Council Programs/Policies

These priorities are subject to availability of Councils capital and operational budgets to undertake the tasks and in some instances, availability of other agency budgets and works and other funding sources e.g. Commonwealth and State government grants.

5.1 ENVIRONMENT

No	Issue	Recommendation	Priority	Agency
5.1.1	Properties along Ramblers Road are unsewered and older style septic systems may be contributing to contamination of groundwater.	In accordance with the recommendations of the Draft Domestic Waste Water Management Plan 2006: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require maintenance checks and effluent tests on treatment plants and sand filters Investigate feasibility of connection to sewer Upgrade systems to treatment plants when opportunities arise (if sewer is unfeasible) Provide education pack to householders specific to their particular system 	1 - 3 years	CoGG BW Landholders
5.1.2	Deep open drainage channel at No. 96-98 does not function effectively, contributes to poor water quality and requires ongoing clearance which is impacting on surrounding coastal vegetation. Depth and sheer sides on channel may present risk to public.	Redesign stormwater outfall investigating use of an infiltration system to improve function, reduce maintenance, improve water quality and habitat values. Refer to Management Plan Drawing RRF-03 Detail Plan B.	1 - 3 years	CoGG DSE (WACL)
5.1.3	Untreated stormwater and potential contamination of groundwater from aging septic systems may impact on adjoining marine seagrass beds.	Refer recommendations 5.1.1, 5.1.2 and 5.1.4.	1 - 3 years	CoGG DSE BW Landholders
5.1.4	Stormwater drains at No. 14-16 and No. 60-62 discharge untreated stormwater to the bay. Narrow reserve and proximity of adjoining properties limits opportunities for treatment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain grass swale on south side of Ramblers Road and revegetate deep sections of channel with indigenous sedge and rush species to improve filtration and water quality. Liaise with adjoining residents to educate regarding impacts of illegal discharges on water quality and significant offshore marine seagrass areas. Investigate at source litter trap. 	1 - 3 years	CoGG DSE
5.1.5	Existing side entry pit at Point Richards Road is blocked with concrete and may contribute to localised flooding.	Remove concrete from opening and review connection to existing open channel east of Pt. Richards Road.	1 - 3 years	CoGG
5.1.6	Gaps in Dune Shrubland vegetation caused by private concrete boat ramps and/or illegal removal of vegetation may contribute to accelerated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short term revegetate to close gaps in Dune Shrubland to match adjoining remnant sections of vegetation, typically 2-5m wide. Retain access to the beach at key locations. Refer to Plan. 	1 - 3 years	CoGG

No	Issue	Recommendation	Priority	Agency
	erosion of the foreshore reserve in major storm/tidal events and reduce habitat connectivity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium term extend indigenous coastal revegetation to achieve a minimum 10m wide continuous band of vegetation. 	4 - 6 years	
5.1.7	Exotic planting, dumping of garden waste and naturally occurring weed species including kikuyu are impacting on habitat values and long term sustainability of Dune Shrubland vegetation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake ongoing weed control in the Coast Revegetation Zone to minimize impacts of exotic weeds including removal of planted exotic species. • Establish a mulch buffer minimum 1.0m wide to reduce Kikuyu invasion of remnant and revegetated Dune Shrubland. • Ensure all future planting in the reserve is undertaken using indigenous species of local provenance. Refer 4.2. • Liaise with residents to undertake stage removal of identified environmental weed species from the recreation zone. Refer 4.2.2. • Encourage adjoining residents to utilize indigenous species to reduce future invasion of the reserve. Refer 4.2. • Investigate occurrence and control of Hemple's Curse. 	1 - 3 years 1 - 3 years Ongoing 4 - 6 years Ongoing	CoGG Landholders
5.1.8	Established exotic and native trees including Palms, Pines and Eucalypts provide a significant contribution to landscape character, shade and habitat values as there are limited indigenous overstorey trees.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain existing established exotic and native overstorey trees where they are not impacting on public access. Refer 4.2.2. • Undertake all new and replacement planting using indigenous species of local provenance. Refer 4.2. 	Ongoing Ongoing	CoGG CoGG
5.1.9	There is limited indigenous overstorey planting however any additional tree planting may impact on existing views to the coast from private property.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish additional indigenous shade tree planting at adjoining public reserves where it will provide maximum benefit for future picnic facilities and will not impact on views from private property. • New overstorey planting in the foreshore reserve in front of private property is only to be undertaken in consultation with the adjoining resident. Refer 4.2. 	1 - 3 years 7+ years	CoGG CoGG Landholders
5.1.10	Existing shrub planting, uneven terrain, proximity of properties (and windows) to the reserve, and lack of fencing in many areas may impact on future Council mowing operations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove areas of dense exotic shrubs to improve public and maintenance vehicle access. Refer 4.2. • Undertake mowing with smaller ride on mower in close proximity to private property to minimize impact. 	1 - 3 years	CoGG
5.1.11	Ramblers Road foreshore is not a designated swimming beach and regular beach cleaning is not undertaken. Residents have complained about build up of seaweed on the beach and sandbar.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate beach cleaning on the popular sand bar area only at the start of summer to improve conditions for local family use through the holiday period. • Seagrass only removed if entangled in litter. Seagrass on beaches provides critical bird habitat. 	1 - 3 years	CoGG DSE

5.2 RECREATION

No	Issue	Recommendation	Priority	Agency
5.2.1	The CAP and community consultation outcomes recommend establishment of a defined walking path through the reserve. Dense shrubs along private property boundaries restrict access in many areas and contribute to the sense of 'private' open space.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove exotic shrubs to open up public access through the reserve. Refer 4.2.2. Establish a narrow 1.0m wide informal unsealed walking path to improve all ability access and define the management boundary between the coastal protection and recreation buffer zones. 	1 - 3 years 7+ years	CoGG
5.2.2	There is no defined pedestrian access through the boat ramp car park connecting Portarlington to Ramblers Rd Foreshore Reserve.	Liaise with Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee to investigate establishing a signed pedestrian route and defined crossing point through the boat ramp car park to improve pedestrian safety and links to existing toilets and along the foreshore.	4 - 6 years	BBFCoM CoGG
5.2.3	Many seats and picnic tables within the reserve were placed/constructed by residents and do not meet current Australian and Council Standards. There are limited Council Standard public picnic facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain existing seats and remove seats and tables where they do not meet current Australian and/or Council Standards. Refer 4.3 for guidelines on provision of private picnic facilities and recreational infrastructure. Install new Council Standard bench seats and tables at adjoining open space links to minimise impacts on adjoining residents. 	1 - 3 years Ongoing 7+ years	CoGG Community CoGG
5.2.4	Domestic facilities including clothes lines, boats and other private recreational or household items in the reserve may present risk to the public.	Remove and dispose all non-Council Standard recreational and household items from the reserve.	1 - 3 years	CoGG
5.2.5	Existing 'private' concrete boat ramps do not meet current Australian Standards and are no longer used. They limit opportunities for restoration of coastal vegetation and poor condition may present some risk to the public.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove concrete rubble and boat ramps from the foreshore reserve as part of clean up. Refer 5.2.4. Revegetate to restore grass and coastal vegetation. Refer 5.1.5. 	1 - 3 years	CoGG
5.2.6	There are no rubbish bins within the reserve.	Install a single Council Standard rubbish bin to the Point Richards Road entry only.	4 - 6 years	CoGG
5.2.7	There is extensive signage at the Point Richards end of the reserve.	Install Standard Council Signage identifying the 'Ramblers Road Foreshore Reserve' and highlighting permitted and non-permitted uses as outlined in the report. Where possible integrate new signs with existing signs to reduce overall number.	Ongoing	CoGG BBFCoM PV
5.2.8	Dog walking is a popular activity however many adjoining properties do not have rear boundary fences and dogs off lead in the narrow foreshore reserve disturb birds and may impact on users and adjoining residents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents with pets are also required to secure their animal on their property in accordance with existing Council by laws. Dogs must be under effective control at all times in the reserve in accordance with the Domestic Feral and Nuisance Animals Act 1994. Investigate designation of the foreshore reserve as 'dog on lead' subject to review as part of the City-Wide Urban Animal Management Strategy. Pick up after dogs to be added to regulation signage. Investigate dog poo bag dispenser at boat ramp carpark. 	Ongoing	CoGG

5.3 ADJOINING LAND USE

No.	Issue	Recommendation	Priority	Agency
5.3.1	Access to existing garages at No. 38 and No. 78 requires use of the public reserve.	Retain access to private garages and liaise with landowner to confirm maintenance of driveway access. Note: No private vehicles are to be left parked on the public reserve at anytime.	Ongoing	CoGG Landholders
5.3.2	Due to existing building layout or for building works, residents may need to use the public reserve for vehicle access to rear of property.	Vehicle access to private property via the public reserve is only available on a short term or temporary basis under a temporary permit system. Contact at CoGG Environment and Natural Resources Unit on Phone 5227 08785.	Ongoing	CoGG Landholders
5.3.3	Lack of fencing at vacant lots contributes to illegal vehicle access to the reserve.	Liaise with landowners to establish fencing to all vacant lots. If landowner is unwilling or unable to fence the property Council is to establish fencing to the reserve title boundary.	4 - 6 years	CoGG Landowners
5.3.4	Fencing on some properties appears to extend into the public foreshore reserve.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake survey to confirm existing title boundaries. If fencing is found within public reserve, it will require immediate removal including any associated infrastructure and planting where not consistent with the objectives of the plan. 	1 - 3 years	CoGG
5.3.5	Historically, areas along the foreshore reserve have been maintained by the adjoining residents including mowing, planting, rubbish removal and provision of seating/picnic tables.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council to undertake maintenance in accordance with the recommendations outlined in Section 4.2. Retain and support grass mowing of adjoining residential property frontages within the recreation zone. Refer 4.2.2. Encourage and support through education and funding formation of a Friends Group to assist in maintaining the reserve including planting and weed control in accordance with the recommendations of the Management Plan. 	Ongoing	CoGG
			Ongoing	Landholders
			1 - 3 years	CoGG Community
5.3.6	New residents may not understand the responsibilities of living in such close proximity to the coast and public reserve. Local residents advise that marketing from local Real Estate agent is often unclear as to extent of land ownership.	Develop an information pack to all residents. This pack is to outline key environmental values, recommendations, guidelines and responsibilities for new residents to the area. Consider use of a similar package as used at Breamlea.	1 - 3 years	CoGG
5.3.7	The existing sealed boat ramp car park is visually intrusive, lacks shade and there is no treatment of stormwater runoff.	Liaise with Bellarine Bayside Bayside Foreshore Committee to investigate integrated stormwater treatment options and provision of overstorey shade trees to improve landscape amenity.	4 - 6 years	BBFCoM CoGG DSE

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Victorian Coastal Council (2005) *Corio Bay Coastal Action Plan*

APPENDIX A

RAMBLERS ROAD FORESHORE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Summary of community consultation on the Draft Management Plan

Ramblers Road Foreshore Masterplan

Summary report on community consultation outcomes on the Draft Masterplan

Prepared by Thompson Berrill Landscape Design P/L for City of Greater Geelong, June 2007

1.0 Description of the consultation undertaken at the Draft Masterplan Phase

The Draft Management Plan was available for public comment from mid-January to mid-May 2007. The Plan was available for viewing at the three customer service centres and on the website. Information leaflets and feedback questionnaires were mailed to all those who responded in the first phase of consultation (directly mailed to households).

2.0 Summary of written submissions

A total of 11 written submissions were received and summarised. The following is a summary of all comments:

- The Draft Masterplan does not address the lack of sewerage services along Ramblers Road.
- Request that Council begin sewerage works immediately and suggest that works should be carried out prior to the beautification of the foreshore reserve.
- The use of septic tank systems should be abolished to prevent runoff from polluting the Bay.
- Underground sewerage system to be installed.
- The need for an underground sewerage system is minimal, as the natural sand filtration appears to have prevented seepage from septic tanks into the foreshore area.
- Concerns that in some places along the foreshore greywater is being discharged directly into the Bay.
- Query as to why houses along Ramblers Road do not have access to a main gas line like those houses located in Portarlington and upper Point Richards area.
- The Draft Masterplan does not identify a low growing weed locally known as Hepel's Curse.
- No provisions have been made for the supply of additional sand so that locals and their children can use the beach for recreation.
- The Draft Masterplan should address the need for clean sand and water. Request that respondent be advised to whether there are plans for their provision in the future.
- The Draft Masterplan approved in principle.
- Impressed by future plans to clean up the foreshore area.
- Happy with the Draft Masterplan.
- Agree with the proposed minimal width path which will act as a boundary to the coastal protection zone.
- Look forward to the Draft Masterplan's implementation.
- The Draft Masterplan is well thought out and presents a considerate and balanced approach to the best use of the foreshore reserve.
- The Draft Masterplan acknowledges past efforts of residents to manage and improve the environment.
- The Draft Masterplan offers an organised structure to the layout of the area.
- Categorising the Ramblers Road Foreshore Reserve as a coastal protection zone ignores the fact over 30 years there has been unsupervised residential development immediately adjoining the reserve.
- For the last 30 years, residents have contributed to the area by way of landscaping and plantings and this has had the tacit approval of the local Council. In return,

residents would maintain the area and therefore relieve the Council of this responsibility.

- The Draft Masterplan proposes removal of potentially destructive plantings, however, there are concerns that in the future the foreshore reserve's classification as a coastal protection zone may allow wholesale replanting with native vegetation to the detriment of residents.
- A management committee consisting of representatives from both Council and the local community should be established to ensure that the balanced approach that has been proposed in the Draft Report is continued.
- The continued growth eastward of the sand bar on the western end indicates that the shoreline along the reserve will be 50 to 75 metres north of its present location. Any future planning should take this into consideration.
- Seagrass degradation due to heavy netting carried out several years ago.
- The Draft Masterplan aims to remove environmental weeds from the area, however, this must be done without destroying the character of the area. Needs staged removal which will consider visual amenity and erosion control.
- Concerns that boat ramp removal works will require the use of heavy machinery i.e. bulldozers and this may damage the foreshore reserve.
- Assurances are needed to ensure that any plans to remove the boat ramps would not result in any damage to the foreshore reserve.
- Backfill of the resulting trench is to be achieved by means other than just simply grading the surrounding area.
- Dogs off-lead should not be permitted in the foreshore reserve.
- Suggest that dogs are to be on-lead at all times due to the fact a majority of homes are unfenced on the foreshore reserve side.
- Dog owners are to clean up after their dogs.
- More signage in regards to dogs is required as there is only one sign in the Point Richards boat ramp area.
- Storm water drainage is a problem. Suggest cutting off the existing drains and redirecting stormwater to a holding basin where it can be later used to water Point Richards Reserve or enhance the wetlands.
- Proposed track to be limited to walking only with all dogs to be on-lead. Cycling and other vehicles are not to be permitted.
- Request that signage be placed at all public entrances into the reserve so that all users are informed of what is and isn't permitted in the foreshore reserve.
- The Draft Masterplan is a very thoughtful and sensitive report on the existing conditions.
- The three-strip layout appears to be a fair way of achieving the aims of the management plan whilst retaining the rights of the locals.
- Peace and quiet of the foreshore to be maintained.
- Gravel footpath is not necessary as the number of people walking along the foreshore is minimal.
- Boat ramp area and beach at Point Richards is an eyesore.
- Beach at Point Richard needs to be maintained.
- Boat ramp and carpark are in poor condition and require improvement.
- Dogs under effective control do not harm wildlife.
- Four-wheel drives are damaging the foreshore.
- Requests that a designated dog off-lead area be provided by Council for use all year round. If it is a multi-use area, suggested times of access for dog walkers could be between 6am to 9am and 5pm to 8pm.
- Local reports that seagrass beds are being swamped by sand drift.
- Re-open Beach Road to improve connection along the foreshore at the caravan park.
- Break up and revegetate enormous area of asphalt east of Ramblers Road.
- Additional planting of Casuarinias to frame Portarlington History Group sign and views to the You Yangs west of pier.

- Remove weeds including Gazania and Agapanthus and replant native communities.
- Timeline for works is overly generous and management plan will fail if CoGG are not seen to be active in the area.
- Sand removal at Pt. Richards near pier is now being replaced with ugly dirt which has all sorts of rubbish in it.

3.0 TBLD response to the comments and proposed changes to the Draft Report

3.1 Response to issues raised in the written submissions

No	Submission comment	TBLD response
1	Lack of sewerage services and potential impact of septic systems on environmental values.	Barwon Water is the responsible sewerage authority. In accordance with the recommendations of the Domestic Waste Water Management Plan 2006, investigation of connection to sewer is recommended. Refer 5.1.1 page 22. Recommendation <i>No change to recommendation.</i>
2	Provision of additional sand to the beach for recreation.	As noted in 5.1.11 page 23, Ramblers Road is not a designated swimming beach and has not been identified as requiring 'renourishment' in the 2004 Coastal Processes Study. Recommendation <i>No change to recommendation.</i>
3	Concerns that designation of the reserve as a coastal protection zone may lead to wholesale replanting with native vegetation to the detriment of resident's amenity and use of the area.	As outlined in Section 4.2 page 19, while revegetation is encouraged, no new tree planting is proposed in front of residential property without consultation with the affected resident. Retention of passive recreation access through management of the 'recreation access zone' (refer 4.2.3 page 20) is to ensure retention of balance between recreation and environmental values. Recommendation <i>No change to recommendation.</i>
4	Suggest direction of stormwater runoff to a holding basin for reuse in the reserve.	The stormwater system is severely constrained by lack of grade. Indigenous planting does not require irrigation and in conjunction with a lack of available land for establishment of a storage facility, this limits opportunities for cost effective reuse of stormwater for irrigation. Recommendation <i>No change to plan.</i>
5	Dogs off lead should not be permitted in the foreshore reserve as many homes are unfenced.	This issue is acknowledged in the report. Refer Section 4.4 page 20. Dogs off lead also impact on bird habitat values and generally have potential to restrict access in the narrow coastal reserve. Recommendation <i>Change to dog on lead at all times (subject to review as part of the City of Greater Geelong Urban Animal Management Strategy currently in development).</i>
6	Gravel footpath is not necessary as there are few people who through the reserve.	Establishment of the narrow path is to both define public access leading to an increase in walking use but also to assist in defining the management boundary between coastal vegetation and mown grass reducing weed invasion. Refer 4.3.2 page 20.

No	Submission comment	TBLD response
		Recommendation No change to recommendation.
7	Concrete boat ramp removal may cause damage.	While removal of the old concrete boat ramps may cause short term impact on landscape amenity and potentially erosion in a major storm, longer term their removal will significantly assist in regeneration of Coastal Dune vegetation (increasing stability) and reduce potential hazards to the public. Recommendation No change to plan.
8	Signage regarding permitted and non-permitted use required and to be placed at all entries.	Section 5.2.7 page 24 notes there is extensive signage at the Point Richards end of the reserve. The report recommends integration of signage here to reduce the overall number. As most users are residents or local to the area, signage at other entries is not required or recommended. Recommendation Add note to 5.2.7 to include note identifying 'Ramblers Road Foreshore Reserve' and permitted and non-permitted uses as outlined in the report at the Point Richards end only.
9	Local weed known as Hempels Curse not identified in the plan.	Suggest Environment Unit/Bushland Crew liaise directly with resident to confirm location and nature of weed and undertake immediate control action. Recommendation Add note to 5.1.7 to include "Also investigate occurrence and control of Hempels Curse".
10	Removal (and replacement) of sand at Pt. Richards and potential impact on seagrass beds.	The seagrass beds are managed by Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) as part of the Special Management Area extending from Clifton Springs through to the Long Jetty (Coronae Drive). DSE were consulted as part of developing this plan and no issues aside from stormwater and potential sewerage discharge as addressed in Section 5.1.2, 5.1.3 and 5.1.4 have been noted. The seagrass beds and areas subject to sand removal by Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee are outside the study area and scope of works to be addressed in this report. Any further enquires should be directly addressed to the relevant management authority. Recommendation No change to plan.
11	Port Bellarine Project	The submission received regarding the Port Bellarine Tourist Resort land is outside the scope of this project and is currently being reviewed under a separate planning process. Recommendation No change to plan.
12	A management committee consisting of representative from both Council and the local community should be established to ensure that the balanced approach that has been proposed in the Draft Report is continued.	Section 4.1 page 19 notes key principles are to include "Council liaison with adjoining residents and the local community in management of the reserve" and Section 4.5 page 21. Prior and during works, Council will engage and liaise with any effected residents. Recommendation No change to plan.

No	Submission comment	TBLD response
13	The Draft Masterplan aims to remove environmental weeds from the area, however, this must be done without destroying the character of the area.	Section 4.1 page 19 notes the overall design intent is to <i>"retain the existing relaxed coastal character of the foreshore reserve"</i> . Recommendation Add note to 4.2.1 to include <i>"Impacts on visual amenity/character of area and erosion will be considered and addressed in any weed removal program"</i> .
14	Dog owners are to clean up after their dogs.	Recommendation Add note to 4.4 to include <i>"Pick up after dogs to be added to regulation signage and investigate dog poo bag dispenser at boat ramp carpark"</i> .
15	Stormwater drainage is a problem. Suggest cutting off the existing drains and redirecting stormwater to a holding basin where it can be later used to water Point Richards Reserve or enhance the wetlands.	Refer to 5.1.2 page 22. There is insufficient Council land to accommodate a retention basin on site and topography limits opportunities for gravity feed back to Point Richards. Refer to CoGG Sustainable Water Use Plan for reuse opportunities currently being investigated by Council. Recommendation No change to plan.
16	Boat ramp area and beach at Point Richards is an eyesore.	Point Richards is outside project scope as boat ramp area is managed by Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee. Recommendation No change to plan.
17	Beach at Point Richards needs to be maintained.	Point Richards is outside project scope as boat ramp area is managed by Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee. Recommendation No change to plan.
18	Boat ramp and carpark are in poor condition and require improvement.	Point Richards is outside project scope as boat ramp area is managed by Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee. Recommendation No change to plan.
19	Four-wheel drives are damaging the foreshore.	Refer to Section 4.1 page 19 which notes <i>"retain and monitor existing vehicle control and improve if required to restrict illegal vehicle use of the foreshore reserve"</i> . Recommendation No change to plan.
20	Re-open Beach Road to improve connection along the foreshore at the caravan park.	Beach Road is outside project scope. Recommendation No change to plan.
21	Additional planting of Casuarinias to frame Portarlington History Group sign and views to the You Yangs west of pier.	As outlined in 5.3.7 page 25, trees are recommended to be planted in this location. Recommendation No change to plan.

APPENDIX B

RAMBLERS ROAD FORESHORE MANAGEMENT PLAN **Questionnaire #1**

Summary of Questionnaire #1 Responses

Prepared by Thompson Berrill Landscape Design P/L for City of Greater Geelong December 2006

Community Meeting Notes

Prepared by Thompson Berrill Landscape Design P/L for City of Greater Geelong December 2006

RAMBLERS ROAD FORESHORE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Summary of Information Leaflet Questionnaire Responses

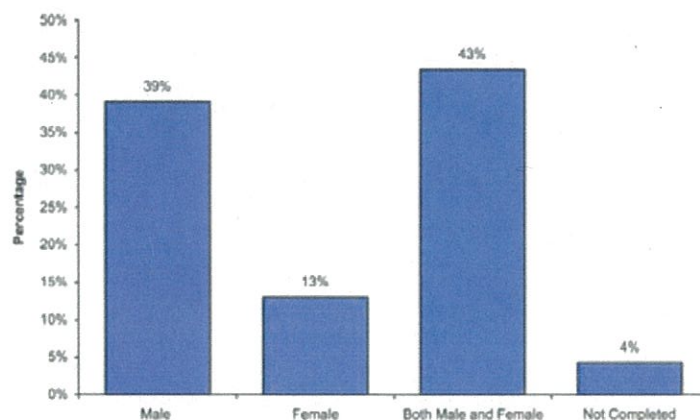
Prepared by Thompson Berrill Landscape Design P/L for the City of Greater Geelong November 2006

INTRODUCTION

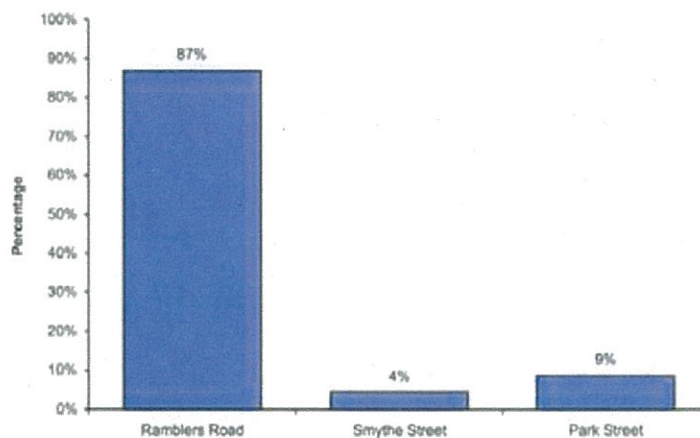
A brief questionnaire was prepared to seek feedback from residents and the community regarding their existing use of the site, reasons for visiting the site, and issues they would like considered in development of the Management Plan. City of Greater Geelong distributed the questionnaire and letter invitation to a community meeting to residents in Ramblers Road and the local Portarlington area. A total of 23 questionnaires were completed and returned. The outcomes of these have been summarised in this paper.

1.0 PERSONAL DETAILS OF THE RESPONDENTS

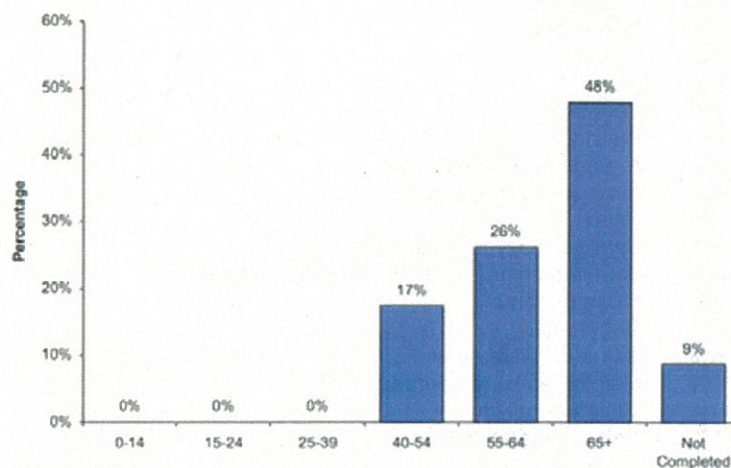
1.1 Gender



1.2 Where they live

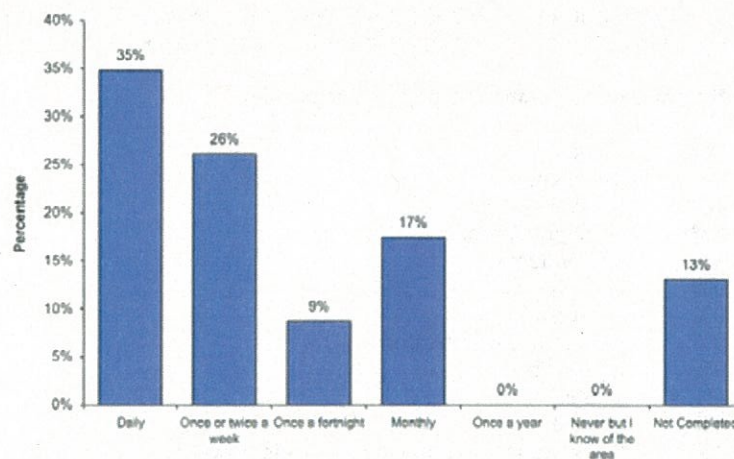


1.3 Age range



2.0 FREQUENCY OF VISITS

Respondents were asked to tick a box indicating how frequently they visited the site. The percentage columns have been calculated on the basis of the total number of returned questionnaires, 23.



3.0 WHAT PEOPLE VALUE ABOUT THE SITE

Respondents were asked to list what they valued about the site.

Summary of all values

The percentages have been calculated on the basis of the total number of returned questionnaires, 23. Note that many respondents indicated more than one value.

- 43% Peaceful, Quiet, Serenity
- 30% Enjoying the views
- 17% Birdlife
- 13% Beautiful area
- 13% Views over Corio Bay
- 13% Views to the You Yangs

13%	Wildlife
9%	Landscape
9%	Open space
9%	Privacy
9%	Safe
9%	Vegetation
9%	Walking
4%	A range of places to play
4%	A range of places to sit
4%	Beach
4%	Beach is easy to walk along
4%	Boat launching, ability to use existing boat ramp
4%	Close to home
4%	Dog friendly
4%	It's natural character
4%	Maintained by residents
4%	Miniature railway
4%	Native vegetation
4%	Ocean
4%	Relaxation
4%	Reserve is mown
4%	That it exists
4%	Undeveloped

4.0 WHAT ACTIVITIES PEOPLE ENJOY AT THE SITE

Respondents were asked to indicate the activities they do at the site. The percentages have been calculated on the basis of the total number of returned questionnaires, 23. Note that some respondents indicated more than one reason.

Summary of all activities enjoyed at the site

74%	Walking
30%	Swimming
13%	Playing with children
13%	Sit by the foreshore
9%	Bird watching
9%	Dog walking
9%	Football
9%	Play with grandchildren
9%	Relaxation
4%	Boules
4%	Cricket
4%	Dogs, opportunity to meet other dog owners
4%	Family gatherings
4%	Fishing
4%	General maintenance and upkeep
4%	Kayaking
4%	Kite flying
4%	Lawn mowing
4%	Not completed
4%	Passive recreation
4%	Photography
4%	Reading
4%	Talking to friends
4%	Use it daily
4%	Views of the You Yangs
4%	Views over Corio Bay
4%	Watch the ships in Corio Bay
4%	Watching the sealife e.g. stingrays in the shallows
4%	Weeding

5.0

ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE PLAN

Respondents were provided a section where they were able to list the issues they would like addressed in the plan and the following is a summary of these comments in priority order.

Summary of all issues

The percentages have been calculated on the basis of the total number of returned questionnaires, 23. Note that some respondents indicated more than one issue.

Stormwater and Stormwater Drains

- 55% Stormwater drain between No. 96 and 98
 - To be covered
 - Mosquito breeding ground
 - Personal safety concerns
 - Extend
 - Improvement required
 - Maintenance poor
 - Management poor
 - Stagnant water
 - Suggest consultation with Council Engineering Department to investigate problem
 - Water to be piped out to sea
- 9% Stormwater drains - cleaning required
- 9% Stormwater drains - immediate improvements required
- 4% Stormwater is an issue in general
- 4% Septic tanks leak into sea and land water table
- 4% Odors from septic tanks are a concern
- 4% Replace septic tanks with main line sewerage
- 4% Drainage is an issue in general
- 4% Drainage to be directed away from foreshore reserve

Maintenance and Management

- 17% Seaweed, regular removal required
- 9% Beach area to be cleaned regularly
- 9% Grass to be mown regularly
- 9% Weed control required
- 8% Road is isolated, link to Yacht Club and Portarlington via Beach Rd required
- 4% Mosquitos - control or eradication required
- 4% Snakes - personal safety concerns
- 4% Weed removal required
- 4% Rubbish - regular removal required
- 4% Maintenance required to remove rubbish washed up from fishermen
- 4% Boat ramps at end of Ramblers Rd to be cleaned
- 4% Rubbish bins required
- 4% Council allowed houses to be built so there should be a compromise

Facilities, Infrastructure and Access

- 22% No formal path required
- 9% Establish a defined walking path
- 9% Walking along reserve is difficult due to obstructions like trees, shrubs, clothes lines and drains
- 4% Provide beach access paths
- 4% Camping ground - investigate closure of road and boat ramp to local residents
- 4% Limit vehicle access
- 4% Removal of private extensions in the reserve is required
- 4% Increased use may cause security issues for houses

Dogs

- 13% Dogs impact on birdlife
- 9% Dogs to be on-lead

- 9% Dog owners to carry dog waste bags
- 4% Dog owners to pick up dog waste
- 4% Unsupervised dogs are a concern
- 4% Dogs waste bags to be provided
- 4% Dog on-lead signage required

Foreshore Reserve

- 4% Definition to what this means is required
- 4% Ramblers Road Committee to be formed to manage the area
- 4% Erosion prevention required
- 4% No development required

Protection of Natural Values

- 8% Retain open areas
- 4% Retain natural character
- 4% Minimise impact on natural environment
- 4% Concerns about impact of global warming
- 4% High tide levels, embankment required
- 4% Allow for natural sand and tidal movements
- 4% Sustainability
- 4% Build up of beach required, suggest using sand from Pt. Richards
- 4% Protection of birdlife required
- 4% Cats impact on birdlife

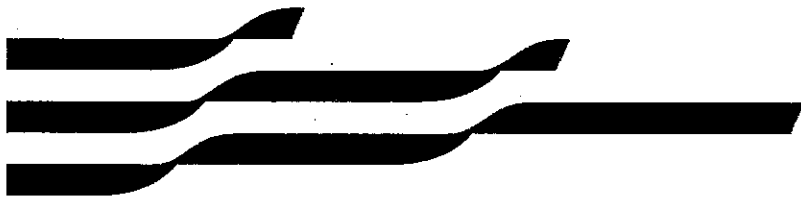
Vegetation

- 4% Clear entire length of reserve with minimum tree plantings
- 4% Exotic vegetation provides good windbreaks
- 4% Retain exotic vegetation
- 4% Exotic vegetation is used as bird habitat
- 4% Trees to be retained
- 4% Removal of garden escapees
- 4% Remove planted barriers at extensions of private home boundaries
- 4% Should not be put back to original bushland

ATTACHMENT A

Ramblers Road Foreshore Management Plan

Copy of Information Leaflet with questionnaire as distributed



CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

Ramblers Road Foreshore Reserve

QUESTIONNAIRE

Please fill out this questionnaire for yourself and your family

How often do you visit Ramblers Road Foreshore Reserve?

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Daily | <input type="checkbox"/> Once a fortnight | <input type="checkbox"/> Once a year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Once or twice a week | <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly | <input type="checkbox"/> Never but I know the area |

What do you value most about Ramblers Road Foreshore Reserve?

What activities do you do in Ramblers Road Foreshore Reserve?

Male ☐ Female ☐ Street Name _____

Age Range(s)

(Please fill out for more than one person if applicable)

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 0-14 | <input type="checkbox"/> 25-39 | <input type="checkbox"/> 55-64 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15-24 | <input type="checkbox"/> 40-54 | <input type="checkbox"/> 65+ |

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Please describe any issues you would like considered as part of the plan?

Delivery Address:
PO Box 2157
PRAHRAN VIC 3181

FOLD DIAGRAM

Once completed fold questionnaire
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City of Greater Geelong
c/-Thompson Berrill Landscape Design
Reply Paid 2157
PRAHRAN VIC 3181

MEETING NOTES

Ramblers Rd Foreshore Management Plan Community Workshop

Thursday November 2 2006, from 7 to 9pm, Springdale Community Centre, 14 Princess St Drysdale

Attendance:

Burke Renouf (BR)

City of Greater Geelong (COGG)

Matthew Bolton (MB)

Thompson Berrill Landscape Design (TBLD)

26 Local Community Members

1. WELCOME

BR welcomed all to the meeting and gave a brief outline of the project scope. The project scope required preparation of a management plan for Council owned land along the foreshore at Ramblers Rd west of Pt. Richards Rd.

A query was raised by a resident regarding management of the actual coast and land surrounding the study area. It was clarified that Parks Victoria (PV) is the responsible water authority for Port Phillip Bay and Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) is the crown land manager which includes both the sea bed (high tide mark) and coastal crown land reserves west of Ramblers Rd. Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee manage the Pt. Richards boat ramp and are committee of management for crown land east of Pt. Richards Rd. It was confirmed that these land managers would be consulted in development of the plan.

2. BRIEF OUTLINE OF PROJECT PROCESS METHODOLOGY AND TIMEFRAMES

MB gave a brief outline of the project process and methodology confirming the intent of this meeting is to confirm issues and opportunities that residents and the local community wish to see addressed in the plan.

MB gave a brief summary of the vegetation assessment completed by Mark Trengove confirming a total of 19 indigenous species in the study area of which three are considered of Regional Conservation Significance in the Geelong area. The archaeological assessment by TerraCulture P/L confirmed that, while there are significant sites west of Pt. Richards, there are no known archaeological values in the study area.



- ☐ Site Visit / Meeting with Council Officers
- ☐ Vegetation Assessment
- ☐ Archaeological Investigation



- ☐ Information Letter and Questionnaire
- ☐ Community Meeting November 2006



- ☐ Draft Supplied to Council Officers for Comment





- ☐ Public display of Draft Plan (February-March 2007)



- ☐ Plan amended in accordance with Community Feedback
- ☐ Final Plan tabled at Council for endorsement

After the meeting, residents queried whether a second community meeting would be held. BR confirmed that one is not planned however residents will be notified when the Draft Plan is on display for comments. All residents are encouraged to read and provide written feedback on the Draft Plan when prepared.

3. WORKSHOP SESSION

The next part of the meeting was run as a workshop with comments and suggestions from the community recorded onto butchers paper.

3.1 Key values of Ramblers Rd Foreshore Reserve

- Birdlife including pelicans, swans and migratory wading birds (7)
- Tranquillity (6)
- Great views across the bay (5)
- Lack of infrastructure such as bicycle path and boat ramp reduces number of visitors
- Residents actively maintain the area including lawn mowing (4)
- Natural environment (3)
- Walking access along the coast (3)
- Perfect for family gatherings with no road (3)
- Continuous access to the beach (3)
- Lack of use by others (2)
- Some shrubs and rubbish bins have been removed lately improving access (2)
- Private, has been residents own little are for a long time (2)
- Quietness (2)
- Grandchildren use the lawn areas for football and cricket games (2)
- Open areas where they occur
- Scenery
- Boat mooring
- Predominantly local use and local management of the reserve
- Unique area
- Recent vehicle control measures have been good
- Dog walking
- Great place to live
- Wetland environment
- People, friendships formed with other residents

3.2 Key issues to be addressed in the Management Plan

- Management of stormwater (9)
- Public safety at stormwater outlets including water quality (2)
- Protection of natural systems (2)
- Deep stormwater channel presents danger to children
- Kikuyu invading the Saltbush
- Saltbush may be dying at No. 78
- No formal track restricts access in some areas and impacts on older people with limited mobility
- Clothes lines and shrubs block walking access
- As of 1st November grass is to be maintained to 4 inches to reduce fire risk, is Council going to do this?
- Residents/community impacting on fauna
- Weeds, lack someone to contact at Council

- Drains flooding in several areas
- Mosquitos
- Control weeds especially Spiny Cone Bush with small yellow flowers
- Stormwater outfall is compromising recreational use by families of the sand bar
- Rubbish, possibly from fishermen washed up on beach
- Septic systems, lack of sewerage and gas to the area
- 2009/10 timeline for action on stormwater drain improvements is too long
- Clearance of stormwater drains is impacting on natural systems including dumping of removed sand
- Lack of stormwater clearance causing flooding
- Erosion of the beach
- Foreshore land is marketed by real estate agents as private
- Dogs contribute to birdlife disturbance
- Blocking of stormwater drains and flooding of property during rainfall/high tide
- Fox control, dead kangaroos have been found
- Water rats migrate from camp ground
- Odour due to seaweed and stagnant water
- Sand bar is moving east
- Stagnant water behind the sandbar
- Preferred width of Dune Shrubland (Saltbush) may not be achievable in some areas
- Narrowness of the reserve in some areas may limit opportunities for dune revegetation
- Residents have maintained the reserve to date and this needs to be acknowledged in future management

3.3

Key opportunities to be considered in the Management Plan

- Protection and enhancement of the natural environment (2)
- Maintain the integrity of the foreshore (2)
- Retain area for family use
- Preservation of naturalness and existing natural values
- Blocking planting is no longer required if all vehicles are kept out at key entry points and this could be thinned or removed to improve access
- Ensure consultation with residents before any actions are taken
- Ensure residents to still have a say in looking after the reserve e.g. planting, rubbish collection, lawn mowing
- Access to the beach is important and must be retained
- Immediate action to remove rubbish/junk from the reserve
- Consultation with residents is critical
- Actions should be taken in partnership with residents
- Develop a new residents information package to outline information on requirements e.g. Breamlea example. Council notification via rates may be too late as often residents will have taken action e.g. removing vegetation thinking the land is theirs
- Trees should not block view
- Use of the reserve by others outside Ramblers Rd for walking is important
- Granitic path would be good especially for aging residents
- Ensure access for all
- Keep in natural state
- Limit vehicles/access in the reserve
- Majority of residents are concerned about environment
- One limb on one tree removed and access is continuous along the reserve without need for a path
- Access to the beach is to be retained
- Existing trees provide good shade, landscape character and habitat even though many are exotic
- Acknowledgement of human use and proximity of existing houses in any future management recommendations
- Retain diversity of use
- Compromise between the requirements of Council and residents
- Liaison with DSE for management beyond Council land based area to ensure integrated management outcomes
- Retention of local swimming use of the beach
- No bicycle track which will increase use impact on residents

APPENDIX C

Existing Vegetation Communities Survey

Prepared by Mark Trengove Ecological Services for City of Greater Geelong
September 2006

Ramblers Road Foreshore, Portarlington

Vegetation Communities

**Prepared by
Mark Trengove Ecological Services**

**Prepared for
Thompson Berrill Landscape Design
and
City of Greater Geelong**

October 2006

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1. Introduction

An area of land, located between the residences of Ramblers Road, Portarlington and the high tide mark of the foreshore reserve, is currently the subject of a Management Plan being prepared for the City of Greater Geelong by Thompson Birrell Landscape Design. As a component of that Plan, this report has been commissioned to describe the existing vegetation conditions of the study area.

2. Methods

The site was inspected on foot on the 2nd of October, 2006. R The following data was collected.

A list of all indigenous species

A list of all environmental weed species

Notes were taken concerning the general condition of the vegetation

Vegetation communities were mapped.

This report presents the findings of that inspection.

3. Vegetation Communities

1 DUNE SHRUBLAND

Indigenous Species

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	SIGNIFICANCE
<i>Atriplex cinerea</i>	Coast Saltbush	L
<i>Distichlis distichophylla</i>	Austral Salt-grass	L
<i>Ficinia nodosa</i>	Knobby Club-rush	L
<i>Malva australiana</i>	Austral Holly-hock	R
<i>Suaeda australis</i>	Austral Sea-blight	L
<i>Tetragonia implexicoma</i>	Bower Spinach	L

Environmental Weeds

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME
<i>Arctotis stoechadifolia</i>	White Arctotis
<i>Berkheya rigida</i>	African Thistle
<i>Galenia pubescens</i>	Blanket Weed
<i>Gazania sp</i>	Gazania
<i>Lycium ferocissimum</i>	Boxthorn
<i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i>	Sour-sob
<i>Paraserianthes lophantha</i>	Cape Leeuwin Wattle
<i>Pennisetum clandestinum</i>	Kikuyu
<i>Thinopyrum junceiforme</i>	Sea Wheat-grass

Description

Dominated by closed to open shrubland of Coast Saltbush, includes some areas of bare sand and some areas dominated by Sea Wheat Grass. Some of the dunes to the west appear to be undergoing movement and the vegetation composition reflects this (ie in the process of colonisation). Parts of the western area also support the most well developed dune vegetation.

The Austral Holly-hock is restricted to a single specimen. It is located adjacent to the open drain. This plant is rare in the Geelong Region.

2 MODIFIED DUNE SHRUBLAND

Indigenous Species

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	SIGNIFICANCE
<i>Atriplex cinerea</i>	Coast Saltbush	L
<i>Distichlis distichophylla</i>	Austral Salt-grass	L
<i>Suaeda australis</i>	Austral Sea-blight	L
<i>Tetragonia implexicoma</i>	Bower Spinach	L

Environmental Weeds

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME
<i>Arctotis stoechadifolia</i>	White Arctotis
<i>Berkheya rigida</i>	African Thistle
<i>Galenia pubescens</i>	Blanket Weed
<i>Gazania sp</i>	Gazania
<i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i>	Sour-sob
<i>Pennisetum clandestinum</i>	Kikuyu
<i>Thinopyrum junceiforme</i>	Sea Wheat-grass

Description

Dominated by a closed shrubland of Coast Saltbush. The zone is modified apparently due to activities such as the creation of boat ramps, etc and the importation of fill, vegetative matter, etc. Consequently the dune formation is replaced with an unnatural profile, characterised by a relatively steep coastal edge.

3 SALINE HERBFIELD

Indigenous Species

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	SIGNIFICANCE
<i>Atriplex cinerea</i>	Coast Saltbush	L
<i>Distichlis distichophylla</i>	Austral Salt-grass	L
<i>Ficinia nodosa</i>	Nodding Club-rush	L
<i>Gahnia filum</i>	Chaffy Saw-sedge	R
<i>Juncus kraussii</i>	Sea Rush	L
<i>Myoporum insulare</i>	Boobialla	R
<i>Samolus repens</i>	Creeping Brookweed	L
<i>Sarcocornia quinqueflora</i>	Beaded Glasswort	L
<i>Suaeda australis</i>	Austral Sea-blight	L
<i>Tetragonia implexicoma</i>	Bower Spinach	L

Environmental Weeds

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME
<i>Berkheya rigida</i>	African Thistle
<i>Juncus acutus</i>	Spiny Rush

<i>Lycium ferocissimum</i>	Boxthorn
<i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i>	Sour-sob
<i>Pennisetum clandestinum</i>	Kikuyu

Description

Dominated by Austral Salt-grass and herbaceous species. This community is confined to the western sector of the study area. It typically occurs behind the fore dune.

The Chaffy Saw-sedge is restricted to a single specimen.

4 WETLAND

Indigenous Species

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	SIGNIFICANCE
<i>Bolboschoenus sp</i>	Club-rush	L
<i>Distichlis distichophylla</i>	Austral Salt-grass	L
<i>Juncus kraussii</i>	Sea Rush	L
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed	L
<i>Sarcocornia quinqueflora</i>	Beaded Glasswort	L
<i>Triglochin striata</i>	Streaked Arrow-grass	L

Environmental Weeds

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME
<i>Cotula coronopifolia</i>	Water Buttons
<i>Juncus acutus</i>	Spiny Rush
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curled Dock

Description

Dominated by Club-rush, herbaceous species and areas of open water. This community occurs in the lower lying areas in the western sector of the study area. It merges with the Saline Herbfield community.

5 EXOTIC LAWNS/GARDEN BEDS/PLANTATIONS

Indigenous Species

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	SIGNIFICANCE
<i>Acacia pycnantha</i>	Golden Wattle	L (PP)
<i>Acacia sophorae</i>	Coast Wattle	L (PP)
<i>Atriplex cinerea</i>	Coast Saltbush	L
<i>Dianella brevicaulis</i>	Coast Flax-lily	L
<i>Distichlis distichophylla</i>	Austral Salt-grass	L
<i>Ficinia nodosa</i>	Nodding Club-rush	L
<i>Leptospermum laevigatum</i>	Coast Tea-tree	L (PP)
<i>Rhagodia candolleana</i>	Sea-berry Saltbush	L

Environmental Weeds

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME
<i>Acacia longifolia</i>	Sallow Wattle
<i>Agapanthus praecox</i>	Agapanthus
<i>Arctotis stoechadifolia</i>	White Arctotis
<i>Berkheya rigida</i>	African Thistle
<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i>	Hottentot Fig
<i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera</i>	Boneseed
<i>Coprosma repens</i>	Mirror Bush
<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>	Pampas Grass
<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	Couch Grass
<i>Galenia pubescens</i>	Blanket Weed
<i>Gazania sp</i>	Gazania
<i>Genista linifolia</i>	Flax-leaf Broom
<i>Juncus acutus</i>	Spiny Rush
<i>Lycium ferocissimum</i>	Boxthorn
<i>Opuntia sp</i>	Prickly Pear
<i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i>	Sour-sob
<i>Paraserianthes lophantha</i>	Cape Leeuwin Wattle
<i>Pelargonium sp</i>	Pelargonium
<i>Pennisetum clandestinum</i>	Kikuyu
<i>Polygala myrtifolia</i>	Myrtle-leaf Milkwort
<i>Senecio angulatus</i>	Creeping Groundsel

Description

Mostly consists of areas of lawn with some areas left unslashed. Occurs as a buffer between the residences and the indigenous vegetation communities described above. The slashing is often maintained up to the edge of the indigenous communities. Some modification to the soil profile, such as building up the soil level appears to have occurred informally over the years.

Also includes some areas of exotic garden beds and tree and shrub plantations. In addition to the environmental weed listed above the plantations include Pines (*Pinus* sp), Port Jackson Pine (*Araucaria heterophylla*), Palms, Paperbarks (*Melaleuca* spp), Hakeas (*Hakea* spp) and Gums (*Eucalyptus* spp). Various herbs and succulents (*Crassula* spp, *Cotyledon* spp, etc) have been planted adjacent to the indigenous vegetation communities.

4. Indigenous Species

A total of 19 indigenous species were recorded for the study area. Three of those are possibly planted; one of those, Coast Tea-tree is reproducing from seed.

Indigenous Species Recorded for the Study Area

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	SIGNIFICANCE
<i>Acacia pycnantha</i>	Golden Wattle	L (PP)
<i>Acacia sophorae</i>	Coast Wattle	L (PP)
<i>Atriplex cinerea</i>	Coast Saltbush	L
<i>Bolboschoenus sp</i>	Club-rush	L
<i>Dianella brevicaulis</i>	Coast Flax-lily	L
<i>Distichlis distichophylla</i>	Austral Salt-grass	L
<i>Ficinia nodosa</i>	Nodding Club-rush	L
<i>Gahnia filum</i>	Chaffy Saw-sedge	R
<i>Juncus kraussii</i>	Sea Rush	L
<i>Leptospermum laevigatum</i>	Coast Tea-tree	L (PP)
<i>Malva australiana</i>	Austral Holly-hock	R
<i>Myoporum insulare</i>	Boobialla	R
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed	L
<i>Rhagodia candolleana</i>	Sea-berry Saltbush	L
<i>Samolus repens</i>	Creeping Brookweed	L
<i>Sarcocornia quinqueflora</i>	Beaded Glasswort	L
<i>Suaeda australis</i>	Austral Sea-blight	L
<i>Tetragonia implexicoma</i>	Bower Spinach	L
<i>Triglochin striata</i>	Streaked Arrow-grass	L

- L- Local Conservation Significance
R- Regional Conservation Significance
PP- Possibly Planted

5. Significant Plant Species

A total of 3 species, Boobialla, Chaffy Saw-sedge and Austral Holly-hock are considered to be of Regional Conservation Significance. The Austral Holly-hock is rare in the Geelong Region. Both the Austral Holly-hock and the Chaffy Saw-sedge are limited to one specimen each.

The remaining 16 indigenous species are all considered to be of Local Conservation Significance.

6. Revegetation Plant Species List

The following local species recommended for revegetation with in the reserve.

Planting Zone 1 - Recreation Zone

Planting Zone 2 - Coastal Protection Zone

Revegetation List

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	PLANTING ZONE
<i>Acacia implexa</i>	Lightwood	1
<i>Acacia paradoxa</i>	Hedge Wattle	1
<i>Acacia pycnantha</i>	Golden Wattle	1
<i>Acaena novae-zelandiae</i>	Bidgee-widgee	1,2
<i>Allocasuarina verticillata</i>	Drooping She-oak	1
<i>Atriplex cinerea</i>	Coast Saltbush	2
<i>Bursaria spinosa</i>	Sweet Bursaria	1
<i>Carpobrotus rossii</i>	Coastal Pigface	1,2
<i>Clematis microphylla</i>	Small-leaf Clematis	1
<i>Dianella admixta</i>	Black-anther Flax-lily	1,2
<i>Dianella brevicaulis</i>	Coast Flax-lily	1
<i>Dichondra repens</i>	Kidney-weed	1
<i>Disphyma crassifolium</i>	Rounded Noon-flower	2
<i>Distichlis distichophylla</i>	Australian Salt-grass	1,2
<i>Ficinia nodosa</i>	Knobby Club-rush	1,2
<i>Imperata cylindrica</i>	Blady Grass	1,2
<i>Leptospermum laevigatum</i>	Coast Tea-tree	1
<i>Leucopogon parviflorus</i>	Coast Beard-heath	1,2
<i>Lomandra longifolia</i> ssp <i>longifolia</i>	Spiny Mat-rush	1,2
<i>Malva australis</i>	Austral Hollyhock	1,2
<i>Melaleuca lanceolata</i>	Moonah	1,2
<i>Muehlenbeckia adpressa</i>	Climbing Lignum	1
<i>Myoporum insulare</i>	Common Boobialla	1,2
<i>Olearia axilaris</i>	Coast Daisy-bush	1,2
<i>Pelargonium australe</i>	Austral Storks-bill	1
<i>Poa poiformis</i>	Coast Tussock-grass	1,2
<i>Rhagodia candolleana</i>	Sea-berry Saltbush	1,2
<i>Senecio biserratus</i>	Jagged Fireweed	1,2
<i>Senecio odoratus</i>	Scented Groundsel	1,2
<i>Tetragonia implexicoma</i>	Bower Spinach	1,2

APPENDIX D

Archeological Survey

Prepared by Terraculture P/L for City of Greater Geelong
November 2006

CULTURAL HERITAGE DESKTOP INVESTIGATION:
Ramblers Road, Portarlington

Report Prepared for: Thompson Berrill Landscape Design
and
City of Greater Geelong

November 2006

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Preamble

The City of Greater Geelong (CoGG) have commissioned Thomson Berrill Landscape Design (TBLD) to prepare a management plan for a small 1.2km stretch of foreshore near Portarlington. TerraCulture Pty Ltd was commissioned by TBLD to provide advice on any cultural heritage issues associated with the area.

The study area comprises foreshore reserve that extends from just west of the Point Richards boat launching ramp and jetty, southwest along a narrow low energy beach with a low (less than 1 metre) dune. Houses associated with Ramblers Road, which runs parallel to the foreshore, back onto the reserve. Elements associated with these houses, including seating and gardens, extend into the public reserve. Derelict informal boat launching ramps lead from these houses to the edge of the water.

1.2 Project Aims

There was no brief for the project and the scope of works was determined in consultation between CoGG, TBLD and TerraCulture. The scope of works allowed for a desktop assessment, a site visit and a brief report. The investigation will consist of the following:

- A search of the relevant heritage registers for known Aboriginal and historic sites.
- A review of previous archaeological and heritage studies.
- Collation of relevant background information on the natural and cultural history of the region.
- A site visit to establish existing conditions and determine any requirements for additional cultural heritage assessment.
- Presentation of a brief report detailing the above and including recommendations in regard to any requirements for further archaeological investigation.

There are statutory requirements for the protection of cultural heritage items and places. A summary of the relevant legislation is provided in Appendix 1.

1.3 Methodology

This investigation was undertaken by searching relevant Commonwealth, State and local registers for any known heritage sites or places. These searches were conducted via the register web sites or manually, which required visits to registries and inspections of hard-copy records. Previous archaeological studies undertaken in the area were also reviewed. The site listings of the following organisations were searched:

- Aboriginal Affairs Victoria
 - Site register for archaeological sites
 - Aboriginal Historic Places register
- Heritage Victoria
 - Site Inventory (largely for archaeological sites)
 - Heritage Register (for sites and places of State or National significance)
- Register of the National Estate
- National Trust of Australia (Victoria)
- Planning Scheme (Heritage Overlays)
 - City of Greater Geelong

A brief site inspection was undertaken of the study area by Catherine Webb and Brendan Marshall of TerraCulture. This site inspection allowed a fuller understanding of the potential of the area for sites of cultural heritage significance.

1.4 Aboriginal Affairs Victoria (AAV)

AAV Heritage Services Branch is the State Government body that administers the Commonwealth and State Legislation that serves to protect Aboriginal heritage in Victoria. This heritage includes archaeological sites, artefact collections and places of cultural significance. There is no requirement to notify AAV of the commencement of this desktop study, but AAV will be sent copies of this report.

1.5 Heritage Victoria (HV)

Heritage Victoria (HV) is the State Government body that administers the Heritage Act (1995). This Act serves to protect heritage in Victoria relating to non-indigenous or European settlement of the State. This heritage encompasses built structures, and modifications to the natural landscape, including archaeological features and deposits, resulting from its historic use. There was no requirement to notify HV of the commencement of this desktop study but HV will be sent copies of this report.

1.6 Local Aboriginal Community

Under the Regulations of the Commonwealth *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984*, the study area falls within the boundaries of the *Wathaurong* Aboriginal Co-operative Ltd. Under the current legislation, this organisation represents the Aboriginal owners and custodians of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites on the Bellarine Peninsula. However, as this study did not involve a field component, there was no requirement for TerraCulture Pty Ltd to consult with the community.

Cultural Significance

The *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984* recognises a cultural significance to artefacts, sites and places, distinct from an assessment based on scientific values. Aboriginal people have their own views on the importance of individual archaeological sites or areas as being generally sensitive for Aboriginal heritage materials. This report focuses on scientific values but not to the exclusion of any views that may be expressed by relevant Aboriginal people.

1.7 Report Format and Contents

This study is a review of existing information on the Aboriginal and European heritage values in the vicinity of Ramblers Road, Portarlington. It does not involve new field studies and there is no new survey data or field confirmation of any sites and places that are known or predicted to occur within the subject land.

Neither Aboriginal Affairs Victoria nor Heritage Victoria has a standard brief for conducting desktop studies. This report generally follows the format recommended by AAV for reporting on archaeological field investigations. It deviates from this format where AAV recommends the inclusion of information that is not relevant to achieving the aims of the desktop study. As a stand-alone document, this report necessarily reiterates background information on the physical or historical context of the study area that may have been presented elsewhere.

For the remainder of this report the Ramblers Road subject land may be referred to more simply as the 'survey area' or 'subject land'. Appendix 2 contains a Glossary of Technical terms that may appear in this report.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Description of the Subject Land

The Bellarine Peninsula is an uplifted landmass bounded by the Barrabool Fault to the north and the Bellarine Fault along the east. The southern side of the Peninsula fronts the Bass Strait coastline and its south-eastern point (Point Lonsdale) forms the western heads of the Port Phillip Bay entrance. Point Richards marks the north-eastern point of the peninsula where the coastline changes direction and heads southeast to Corio Bay.

The subject land lies on the northern side of the Bellarine Peninsula, on the northwest facing shoreline to the west of Portarlington and Point Richards.

It is a narrow (30 metre) strip of foreshore reserve extending from the rear of private properties on Ramblers Road to the foreshore. The area of interest is approximately 1.2 km in length, extending west from the boat ramp and jetty at Point Richards. The reserve is a low energy beach with a very low dune. It contains no drainage lines emptying into the bay. Aside from a series of small boat launching ramps leading from the houses that back onto the reserve, there is no indication that the area has been subject to any modification since European settlement of the area.

The surface geology of the Bellarine Peninsula is primarily sand sheets overlying Miocene sands and clays. The subject land comprises a narrow beach and low dunes of recent sands.

Extant vegetation consists of remnant dune grasses and other coastal vegetation, interspersed with introduced grasses, trees and shrubs.

2.2 Summary of Aboriginal History

According to Clark's (1990) synthesis of Aboriginal social organization in Victoria in the 1800s, the pre-European Aboriginal inhabitants of Portarlington area were from the Wada wurrung language group, whose territory included the coastline from the Werribee River to Painkalac Creek at Aireys Inlet. The Wada wurrung included at least 25 different clans – family units associated with specific locations.

The Wada wurrung clans who lived on the coast were the first to come into direct contact with the ngamadjig/amerjig or white man. This occurred '... by at least 1802 when Lieut. John Murray in the Lady Nelson, chartered part of Indented Head and named Swan Bay' (Clark 1990: 227).

The *Wada wurrung* clan that occupied the eastern end of the Bellarine Peninsula including Portarlington are thought by Clark to be the Bengalut balug. The accepted documentary evidence for the Bengalut balug is poor, though their clan location is provided as Indented Head (Clark 1990: 317).

Like most other Wada wurrung clans, there is little specific historical information on the Bengalut balug, a circumstance attributed to '...the rapidity with which they were physically destroyed by settlers seeking undisputed possession of their land' (Corris 1968, cited in Clark 1990: 227).

2.3 Summary of the History of European Settlement

The Bellarine Peninsula was first charted by Lieutenant John Murray, who entered the mouth of Port Phillip Bay on February 14th 1802. Later in the same year (April 26th) Flinders entered and crossed Port Phillip Bay on the 'Investigator' and later landed at Indented Head, where he camped and moved further northwest along the Bellarine Peninsula, in the vicinity of Portarlington. He crossed Port Phillip Bay again to investigate the You Yangs, later returning to Indented Head.

In early 1803 the 'Cumberland' entered Port Phillip Bay with the Surveyor-General Charles Grimes, to survey the coast for potential settlement. They landed at Portarlington and headed westward on foot to Point Henry.

Also in 1803 the 'Ocean' and the 'Calcutta' arrived at Sorrento, laden with convicts including William Buckley, settlers and marines. The settlement was abandoned apparently due to the poor quality of the soil, but not before William Buckley had escaped from the Sorrento settlement. He went on to live with the *Wathaurong* for the next 32 years, during which time there was little European exploration, although in 1824 Hume and Hovell traversed the north shore of Corio Bay between Point Wilson and Hovells Creek, where they learned from a *Wada wurrung* party that the name of the bay was *Jillong*.

In 1835, Buckley learned of three white men camped at Indented Head, part of John Batman's Port Phillip exploration party. The party had landed on the 'Rebecca' on 29th May 1835, and went on to explore the area. The men had been left behind to make a garden and built a house of sods and not long after William Buckley approached the camp. It was during this time that Batman explored the Bellarine Peninsula and reported:

I found the Hills of a most superior description beyond my most sanguine expectation – the Land Excellent and very rich a light black soil covered with Kangaroo Grass (cited in Wynd 1988: 6).

The early European settlement of the Bellarine Peninsula spread from the west and the landing place at Point Henry.

The area was originally occupied by large pastoral runs, the most famous of which was the Derwent Run, a large cattle run extending from Bellarine to Point Lonsdale and west toward Paywit, operated by several prominent Geelong settlers including Dr Alexander Thompson (Wynd 1971:47-51).

As European settlement into the area increased, only the well established squatter runs remained. Spray Farm, originally called 'Ellendale', was built by C. J. Langdon in 1851 and sold in 1856 to Charles Ibbotson. Originally used for sheep, the farm was located between the Bellarine coastline and Portarlington Road. Closer to the subject land, John Birkett maintained a large pastoral holding to the west of Point Richards Road, which contained a homestead built in the early 1850s. The area later became known as Lincoln's Farm (Wynd 1988:13-25).

The townships of Bellarine, Bellarine East and Portarlington were first surveyed in 1848. Land sales began in the early 1850s with much of the area taken up rapidly by both pastoral holdings and township settlement.

The township of Portarlington developed during the 1850s and 1860s, with much of its growth due to pastoral development and a small dependence on steamer ships and day-trippers from Melbourne and Geelong. By the 1880s, Portarlington boasted four hotels for 'summer visitors', several stores, and a blacksmith and coach house. The Portarlington Flour Mill was built on five acres of land in 1857 to support the peninsula's large farming community (Huddle 1996).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The following section summarises previous archaeological investigations and presents the results of searches within the relevant Commonwealth, State and local cultural heritage registers. These searches were conducted via web sites or manually, which required visits to registries and inspections of hard-copy records.

3.1 Previous Archaeological Investigations

There have been many archaeological investigations on the Bellarine Peninsula. A regional Aboriginal heritage study of the entire peninsula was undertaken in 1986 by Rhoads, but given the size of his study area, only small sample areas in widely dispersed locations were surveyed. The closest sites to the present subject land recorded by Rhoads were at Indented Head.

Weaver (1996) conducted a regional study of non-Aboriginal heritage on the Bellarine Peninsula for the CoGG. Her field investigation was based on a windscreen survey during which she recorded 32 sites

Apart from these regional studies, most archaeological investigations have been assessments of specific parcels of land proposed for development. These include, in the general vicinity of Portarlington, the following reports:

Portarlington Road Portarlington (Marshall 2004)

Marshall undertook a survey of 28 hectares of land on the corner of Portarlington Road and Batman Road, some 1.5 - 3km inland (south) of the Ramblers Road subject land, on a hillside overlooking the bay. Despite poor ground visibility, Marshall recorded three Aboriginal archaeological sites, all stone artefact scatters.

Port Bellarine Proposal, Portarlington (Cekalovic 2003)

Cekalovic conducted an archaeological survey of 100 ha of land along Portarlington Road, between Spray Farm Lane and Point Richards Road, Portarlington, an area which incorporates the current subject land. Cekalovic identified twelve Aboriginal archaeological sites during the survey; seven stone artefact scatters and five isolated stone artefact sites (AAV 7821/0571-0582). These sites were found predominantly where the underlying sand was exposed. These sites consisted predominantly of quartz stone artefacts with smaller quantities of silcrete; Sites 7821/0574 and 0575 were notable for their high stone artefact densities. These sites were found away from the foreshore area, with none in the vicinity of Ramblers Road.

Bellarine Peninsula Gas Supply Route (Stone 2001)

Stone conducted an archaeological survey of a 20km section of road reserve including sections of Portarlington Road and The Esplanade at Portarlington, to assess the impact of the construction of a proposed gas main on any archaeological values. No Aboriginal archaeological sites were identified during the survey.

Proposed Storm Water Re-Use Scheme, Portarlington Golf Course, Hood Road Portarlington (Weaver 2000)

Weaver undertook an archaeological survey of a pipeline intended to reuse stormwater from the Portarlington foreshore for the Portarlington Golf Course. Weaver surveyed the foreshore at the northern end of Mercer Street, a 5 metre wide section of road reserve along Mercer Street, and an area of the golf course where a dam was proposed. No Aboriginal archaeological sites were identified during the survey.

Steele's Rock Midden, Portarlington (Marshall 1997)

Marshall undertook an archaeological investigation of a section of eroded cliff face along the Portarlington foreshore. At the time of the survey, six separate registered Aboriginal archaeological sites existed along the foreshore (AAV 7821/0366-0371), identified in Rhoads' (1986) study of the Bellarine Peninsula as 'Steele's Rock Midden Complex'. Marshall undertook the survey in response to the Portarlington Foreshore Committee's plans to stabilise the section of cliff face. Marshall concluded that the midden deposit extended continuously along the Portarlington foreshore in an east west direction for 355 metres, parallel to The Esplanade. It was subsequently re-recorded as one archaeological site (AAV 7821/0170).

Portarlington Waste Water Treatment Plant (Tulloch 1995)

Tulloch conducted an archaeological survey of 60 ha of land on the corner of Church Road and Grassy Point Road Portarlington for the development of a proposed wastewater treatment plant. The study area was located 2 km from the Portarlington coastline and approximately 5 km east of the current subject land. The area contained dense low-lying vegetation with sections of exposed sand and soil caused by sand mining and cattle grazing.

Although ground visibility was poor, Tulloch identified six Aboriginal archaeological sites consisting of stone artefact scatters including a hand axe, areas of baked earth, ash and charcoal, and a scarred tree (AAV 7821/0418-0423). One historical site was also identified - a stone formation, possibly a road or path (H7821/0028).

Bellarine Tanks Heritage Study (Marshall 1999)

Marshall (1999) conducted an archaeological survey and heritage assessment of two water storage tanks along the Bellarine Peninsula, at Portarlington and Barwon Heads. The tank at Portarlington (H7821-0059) was located along the southern side of Tower Road approximately 600 metres east of the current subject land and was an important component of the Barwon Water's supply system to the Bellarine Peninsula. Constructed circa 1933 the tank was made of reinforced concrete and measured 18 metres in diameter and 4 metres high. As a result of the survey both tanks at Portarlington and Barwon Heads were registered with Heritage Victoria (D7821/0059 and D7821/0060). No Aboriginal artefacts were found in the reserves surrounding the historic tanks.

3.2 Registered Aboriginal Archaeological and Historical Sites

The above assessments have demonstrated that both Aboriginal and European archaeological sites are widespread throughout the Bellarine Peninsula.

AAV maintains a register of all recorded Aboriginal archaeological sites in Victoria. Where available, site cards were copied and checked against the relevant report and maps contained therein. A separate register contains details of Aboriginal historic places.

A search of the site register demonstrated that there are no registered sites within the vicinity of the Ramblers Road subject land, with the closest sites occurring along the north-facing foreshore of the Portarlington township, and further inland to the south and southwest of the subject land. Coastal sites are predominantly shell middens, with or without associated earth features such as burnt earth, within exposed cliffs and near rocky points where shellfish grow. Inland sites are predominantly stone artefact scatters, either on the surface or in shallow deposits.

There are two Aboriginal Places registered in the vicinity of Portarlington; 7821-661 and 7821-662. These sites are of particular sensitivity to Aboriginal people, but will not be affected by any activity in the vicinity of Ramblers Road.

3.3 Registered Historic Sites

Heritage Victoria

HV maintains the following site registers that are of relevance for this study:

- The Victorian Heritage Inventory, which contains a list of largely archaeological sites that are afforded protection under the Heritage Act 1995; and
- The Victorian Heritage Register, which lists historic heritage sites in Victoria of State or National significance.

There are many historic sites registered within Portarlington, but none in the vicinity of the ramblers Road subject land.

National Trust of Australia (Victoria)

The National Trust of Australia (Victoria) is a non-profit, non-government organisation that has been operating since 1956. The National Trust Register contains over 7000 listed historical and cultural heritage places within Victoria. Classification on the National Trust register does not in itself provide any legal protection to a heritage place. However, it can often lead to legal protection as classified places are nominated for inclusion on either the Victorian Heritage Register (for places of State significance) or local government (for places of regional or local significance), which does provide legal protection.

The on-line National Trust (Victoria) register of classified places was accessed for this study. There are no sites within the vicinity of the subject land listed with the National Trust.

Australian Heritage Database

The on-line Australian Heritage Database was accessed for this study. There are no sites within the vicinity of the subject land listed on any of the Australian heritage lists.

Local Planning Schemes

Local municipal councils have Heritage Overlays to their Planning Schemes. These Planning Schemes give Councils the ability to regulate or prohibit the use or development of any land, as set out in Section 6(2) of the State Planning and Environment Act 1987. Further, the City of Greater Geelong Heritage Overlay lists the Waurn Ponds Lime Kiln (HO377) as a significant site. An 'Outer Areas Heritage Survey' was commissioned by CoGG and covered the Portarlington area.

The Planning Scheme of the City of Greater Geelong was accessed through DSE Planning Schemes Online and the Outer Areas study was accessed. There are no sites listed on the planning scheme or in the Outer Areas study in the vicinity of the subject land.

3.4 Site Inspection

Catherine Webb and Brendan Marshall undertook a site inspection and the length of the foreshore was walked. This inspection concluded that:

- The landforms present on this stretch of the bay are not sensitive for Aboriginal archaeological sites as they have little in the way of dune formation that would provide sediments conducive to the deposition and preservation of Aboriginal archaeological material, and the low-energy coastline is also not conducive for Aboriginal archaeological sites as it lacks the resources typically required for the gathering of people and the accumulation of archaeological deposits (e.g. shellfish, freshwater).
- The area has been subject to little development since European settlement and the likelihood of historic remains relating to the past occupation of the area is low.

Nevertheless, it is possible that one or more features relating to boat launching may have some historic interest, and in the event that the many launching ramps that are present are to be removed, then these should be further assessed.

3.5 Summary

- There are no registered Aboriginal or historic archaeological or heritage sites within or in the immediate vicinity of the subject land;
- Registered Aboriginal archaeological sites are located to the east, on the north-facing foreshore that is present-day Portarlinton. These sites include shell middens, cultural deposits and traditional Aboriginal places (the latter include sites of high cultural significance);
- Registered post-contact (European) sites are, again, located within the township of Portarlinton;

4.0 MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The Point Richards subject land has not been previously investigated for its archaeology and the inspection undertaken during the current project does not constitute a proper field survey. In this instance the absence of registered archaeological sites should not be interpreted as an absence of sites. Certainly, with its close proximity to the bay and aggrading sands, the foreshore retains considerable potential for archaeological sites, both Aboriginal and European (historical) in origin, in surface and subsurface contexts.

The requirement for and extent of a proper archaeological investigation will depend on the degree of likely ground disturbance associated with any proposed developments. A qualified and suitably experienced archaeologist should determine the need for such an investigation. Minimally, any archaeological investigation should engage the relevant statutory communities, AAV, HV and the *Wathaurong* Aboriginal Co-operative.

At this stage the Point Richards management plan does not need to consider archaeological values but it should recognize the need for an archaeological assessment prior to any works.

APPENDIX 1 LEGISLATIVE PROTECTION FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE SITES

All heritage legislation is subordinate to the Coroner's Act 1985 in relation to the discovery of human remains.

State and Commonwealth Aboriginal Heritage Legislation

Victoria has both State and Commonwealth legislation providing protection for Aboriginal cultural heritage. With the exception of human remains interred after the year 1834, the *State Archaeological and Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act 1972* provides blanket protection for all material relating to the past Aboriginal occupation of Victoria, both before and after European occupation. This includes individual artefacts, scatters of stone tools, rock art sites, ancient camp sites, human burials, trees with slabs of bark removed (for the manufacture of canoes, shelters, etc.) and ruins and archaeological deposits associated with Aboriginal missions or reserves. The Act also establishes administrative procedures for archaeological investigations and the mandatory reporting of the discovery of Aboriginal sites. Aboriginal Affairs Victoria (AAV) administers the *Archaeological and Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act 1972*.

In 1987, Part IIA of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984* was introduced by the Commonwealth Government to provide protection for Aboriginal cultural property in Victoria. Immediately after enactment, the Commonwealth delegated the powers and responsibilities set out in Part IIA to the Victorian Minister Responsible for Aboriginal Affairs. Currently, the Hon. Gavin Jennings holds this delegation, and the legislation is administered on a day-to-day basis by AAV.

Whereas the State Act provides legal protection for all the physical evidence of past Aboriginal occupation, the Commonwealth Act deals with Aboriginal cultural property in a wider sense. Such cultural property includes any places, objects and folklore that 'are of particular significance to Aboriginals in accordance with Aboriginal tradition'. Again, there is no cut-off date and the Act may apply to contemporary Aboriginal property as well as ancient sites. The Commonwealth Act takes precedence over State cultural heritage legislation where there is conflict. In most cases, Aboriginal archaeological sites registered under the State Act will also be Aboriginal places subject to the provisions of the Commonwealth Act.

The Commonwealth Act prohibits anyone from defacing, damaging, interfering with or endangering an Aboriginal place unless the prior consent of the local Aboriginal community has been obtained in writing. The Schedule to the Act lists local Aboriginal communities and each community's area is defined in the Regulations so that the whole of Victoria is covered. The study area is in the community area of the Wurundjeri Tribe Land Compensation and Cultural Heritage Council Inc.

Further information on the State and Commonwealth legislation protecting Aboriginal heritage in Victoria and the role of Aboriginal Affairs Victoria (AAV) Heritage Services Branch can be obtained from:

Aboriginal Affairs Victoria
Heritage Services Branch
GPO 2392V
Melbourne Vic 3001
Phone: (03) 9208 3333

Summary of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*

The Victorian Parliament enacted a new Aboriginal Heritage Act in May 2006. This bill will replace both the current state Archaeological and Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act 1972 and the federal *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984 Part IIA* in relation to Aboriginal cultural heritage in Victoria. It is expected to come into force over the following 12 months as the enabling regulations are developed.

Aboriginal Heritage Council

The Act establishes an Aboriginal Heritage Council to, amongst other things, advise the Minister in regard to cultural heritage matters and to register Aboriginal parties with a cultural heritage interest in an area.

Registered Aboriginal Parties

The registered Aboriginal Parties replace the Aboriginal Communities under the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984 Part IIA* and may:

- Evaluate and approve or refuse to approve cultural heritage management plans that relate to the area for which the party is registered;
- Enter into cultural heritage agreements;
- Apply for interim and ongoing protection declarations; and
- Carry out any other functions conferred under this act.

More than one Registered Aboriginal Party may be registered for an area except where native title has been determined to exist, when the native title holder is the only registered party allowed.

Cultural Heritage Permits

A cultural heritage permit is required for various actions in relation to Aboriginal cultural heritage and must be referred to any Registered Aboriginal Party for the area. The party has 30 days to advise the Secretary in writing whether they object or agree to the granting of the permit and under what conditions they agree. The Secretary shall not grant the permit if a registered Aboriginal party objects within the 30 days nor shall the Secretary include any additional conditions that conflict with any conditions imposed by the registered Aboriginal party. A cultural heritage permit must not be granted for an activity for which a cultural heritage management plan is required under the act.

Cultural Heritage Agreement

A cultural heritage agreement may be made to deal with, but limited to, the following:

- Protection, maintenance or use of land containing an Aboriginal place;
- Protection, maintenance or use of an Aboriginal object;
- Rights of access to, or use of, Aboriginal places or objects by Aboriginal people; and
- The rehabilitation of Aboriginal places or objects.

A cultural heritage agreement may not deal with any activity for which a cultural heritage permit or cultural heritage management plan is required under the act.

Cultural Heritage Management Plan

A cultural heritage management plan under the act consists of an assessment of the area to determine the nature of any Aboriginal cultural heritage and a written report setting out the results of the assessment and recommendations to manage and protect any Aboriginal cultural heritage identified in the assessment. The assessment may include background research, a ground survey and excavation of the ground. *The cultural heritage plan must*

comply with the prescribed standards.

A cultural heritage management plan may be carried out voluntarily but **must** be carried out under the following conditions:

- If the regulations require the preparation of the plan for the activity; or
- The Minister directs the preparation of the plan; or
- If an Environment Effects Statement is required under the *Environment Effects Act 1978*.

If the activity also requires statutory authorisation from another body, this authorisation must not be granted until an approved cultural heritage management plan is completed. Statutory authorisation must not be granted for an activity if that activity is inconsistent with the approved cultural heritage management plan.

The sponsor of a cultural heritage management plan must engage a cultural heritage advisor to assist in the preparation of the plan.

Before a cultural heritage management plan can begin written notice must be given to:

- The Secretary
- The Owner or occupier of the land
- Each relevant registered Aboriginal party.

A registered Aboriginal party may elect to evaluate the plan and must reply in writing within 14 days of their intention to do so. If they do notify their intention they may also do all or any of the following:

- Consult in relation to the assessment;
- Consult as to the recommendations; and
- Participate in the conduct of the assessment.

The Secretary must be advised if a registered Aboriginal party either declines to evaluate the plan or fails to respond within 14 days.

The act sets out various matters that must be considered in assessing whether a cultural heritage management plan is to be approved.

- Whether the activity will be conducted in a way that avoids harm to Aboriginal cultural heritage.
- If it is not possible to avoid harm, whether the activity will be conducted in a way that minimises harm.
- Specific measures for the management of Aboriginal cultural heritage material during and after the activity.
- Contingency plans for disputes, delays and other obstacles that may affect the conduct of the activity.
- Requirements for the custody and management of Aboriginal cultural material during the activity.

Application must be made to each registered Aboriginal party that notified their intention to evaluate the plan for approval of the plan. Written notice of their decision to approve or reject the plan must be given within 30 days after receiving the application. If no registered Aboriginal party exists in the area or notified their intention to evaluate the plan or the relevant registered party fails to respond within the 30 day period, the plan is submitted to the Secretary for approval.

The act also makes provisions for a cultural heritage audit if the Minister reasonably believes that a cultural heritage permit or a cultural heritage management plan has been or is likely to be contravened or that the impact of the activity on Aboriginal cultural heritage will be greater than determined at the time the plan was approved. There is also provision in the act for the issuing of Stop Orders, interim protection declarations and ongoing protection declarations.

Dispute Resolution Procedures and Appeals

If there is a dispute between two or more relevant registered Aboriginal parties as to whether a plan should be approved or rejected, the sponsor of the plan may refer the dispute to the Chairperson of the Heritage Council for alternative dispute resolution, which must take place within 30 days.

The sponsor of a cultural heritage management plan may apply to VCAT for review of a decision of a registered Aboriginal party to refuse approval of a plan, or if one of the relevant registered Aboriginal parties refuses to approve the plan and the dispute resolution procedure above has been followed, or if the Secretary refuses to approve the plan. In reaching a decision VCAT must take into account all matters required to be considered by the relevant registered Aboriginal party or the Secretary under this act.

Non- Aboriginal (European) Historic Archaeological Sites

The Heritage Act was passed in 1995. The main purposes of the Act are:

- To provide for the protection and conservation of places and objects of cultural heritage significance and the registration of such places and objects;
- To establish a Heritage Council; and
- To establish a Victorian Heritage Register

The Heritage Act serves to protect all categories of historic cultural heritage relating to the non-Aboriginal settlement of Victoria, including historic buildings, shipwrecks and archaeological sites. The Act defines an archaeological relic as:

- a) Any archaeological deposit; or
- b) Any artefact, remains or material evidence associated with an archaeological deposit-

which-

- c) Relates to the non-Aboriginal settlement or visitation of the area or any part of the area which now comprises Victoria; and
- d) is more than 50 years old-

(Heritage Act 1995 Part 1 Section 3)

There are two categories of listing provided for under the Heritage Act (1995) the Heritage Register and the Heritage Inventory. The Heritage Register is established under Section 18 of the Act and the Heritage Inventory under Section 120.

The Heritage Register

The Heritage Register is a register of all heritage places, relics, buildings, objects or shipwrecks deemed to be of outstanding cultural significance within the State of Victoria. Section 23 of the Act sets out procedures for nomination of a place or object to the Heritage Register. Section 23(4) of the Act states that nominations are required to clearly specify why the place or object must be included in the Heritage Register and are to include an assessment of cultural significance against the criteria published by the Heritage Council. Nominations are assessed by the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria; if accepted, the Executive Director may then recommend to the Heritage Council that the nomination be accepted for inclusion in the Heritage Register. The notice of the recommendation must be published in a newspaper within the area where the place or object is located. Submissions in relation to a recommendation for inclusion in the Heritage Register can be made within 60 days after notification of a decision by the Executive Director. A person with a specific interest in the place or object, such as a property owner or local historical society, may request a hearing by the Heritage Council into a recommendation by the Executive Director for nomination. Archaeological sites or places and relics from any such sites or places can be nominated for the heritage register.

Section 64 of the Heritage Act (1995), states that it is an offence under the Act to disturb or destroy a place or object on the Heritage Register. Under Section 67 of the Act, a person may apply to the Executive Director for a 'Permit to carry out works or activities in relation to a registered place or a registered object'. Permit applications within the classes of works identified in Section 64 must be referred to the heritage Council. They must also be publicly advertised and formal notification provided to local government authorities by the Executive Director. The Heritage Council will state, within 30 days of receiving a permit application, whether it objects to the issue of a permit after a period of 30 days.

The Heritage Inventory

Section 121 of the Acts states that the Heritage Inventory is a listing of all:

1. Places or objects identified as historic archaeological sites, areas or relics on the register under the *Archaeological and Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act 1972*;
2. All known areas where archaeological relics are located;
3. All known occurrences of archaeological relics; and
4. All persons known to be holding private collections of artefacts or unique specimens that include archaeological relics

Under Section 127 of the Act, it is an offence to disturb or destroy an archaeological site or relic, irrespective of whether it is listed on the Heritage Register or the Heritage Inventory.

Consent from Heritage Victoria is required to disturb or destroy historic archaeological sites, places, buildings or structures listed on the Victorian Heritage Inventory. An application may be made to the Executive Director for a Consent to disturb or destroy an archaeological site or relic listed on the Heritage Inventory under Section 129. Consent application fees apply. An application for Consent to uncover or expose an archaeological site or relic or to excavate land for the purpose of uncovering a site or relic, is \$80.00. An application for Consent to disturb or destroy an archaeological site on the Heritage Inventory is \$320.00.

D Classification

Heritage Victoria has introduced a 'D' classification for places of low historical or scientific significance. Sites assigned a 'D' classification are listed on the Heritage Inventory but there is no requirement to obtain consent from Heritage Victoria to allow the removal of these sites.

Commonwealth Legislation

Changes to the way heritage legislation is managed by the Commonwealth has occurred with the introduction of new laws from 1 January 2004. These new laws incorporate elements from previous systems as well as the implementation of additional provisions and are administered under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. The new heritage system was implemented by the passage of three new acts through Parliament in September 2003. These acts were:

- *Environment and Heritage Legislation Amendment Act (No. 1) 2003* (which amended the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* to include Cultural Heritage);
- *Australian Heritage Council Act 2003* (which established the Australian Heritage Council, thus replacing the Australian Heritage Commission. It also permitted the retention of the Register of the National Estate); and
- *Australian Heritage Council (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Act 2003* (which repealed the Australian Heritage Commission Act and permitted the transition of the new heritage system).

The implementation of these acts and the amendment to the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999 (amended 2004)* resulted in cultural heritage (indigenous and non-

indigenous) that is of National significance being administered under this legislation. The main features of the new heritage system are;

- The establishment of a new National Heritage List;
- Creation of a new Commonwealth Heritage List for places owned or managed by the Commonwealth;
- Creation of the Australian Heritage Council (which replaced the Australian Heritage Commission); and
- Management of the Register of the National Estate.

Commonwealth Legislation

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (amended 2004) (EPBC Act)

The main aim of the EPBC Act 1999 was to protect natural places of importance to Australia from negative actions. However, the Act could also be applied to places of cultural heritage, and in 2004 the EPBC Act was amended to include provision for Indigenous and non-Indigenous cultural sites that are of importance to the Nation. Under this law an application must be made to the Federal Minister for the Environment and Heritage for actions likely to have a negative impact upon sites or places listed on the National or Commonwealth Heritage lists. In order for the action to take place it requires approval under the EPBC Act. The Australian Heritage Council is the Federal Government's principle advisor on heritage issues.

The EPBC Act 1999 (amended 2004) enabled two new heritage lists to be established, the National List and the Commonwealth List. In addition, the Act permits the ongoing management of The Register of the National Estate by the Australian Heritage Council. Each of these lists has its own set of criteria and thresholds, and The Australian Heritage Council assesses all sites or places for their suitability for inclusion on the lists. These lists are further explained below.

National Heritage List (NHL)

This list consists of sites (both within and outside Australian territory) that are of **outstanding** national Indigenous, historic or natural value to the Nation of Australia. The list applies to sites that have 'special meaning for all Australians' and demonstrate important aspects of the history of Australia. A site or place on the National Heritage List will only be listed on the Commonwealth Heritage List if it is owned or managed by the Commonwealth.

Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL)

The Commonwealth Heritage List consists of sites that are owned or controlled (leased) by the Australian Government. The sites listed on this list will have been assessed as to whether they have **significant** heritage value to the Nation of Australia. This list may apply to sites owned or leased by the Commonwealth, including defence, communications and customs. A site or place on the Commonwealth Heritage List can also be listed on the National Heritage List.

Register of the National Estate (RNE)

The Register of the National Estate (RNE) is a register that was established under the Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975, but is now administered by the EPBC Act (2004) as a result of changes to heritage laws. The Commonwealth is the only body within Australia who is affected by constraints as a result of a site listing on the RNE. While there is no legislative protection under the EPBC Act for privately owned sites on the RNE, these sites however are usually listed on other State or Commonwealth registers that do provide statutory protection. The Register of the National Estate contains natural, cultural and Indigenous places that are special to Australians and that are worth preserving for the future.

APPENDIX 2
GLOSSARY OF TECHNICAL TERMS

Glossary of Terms

The following glossary presents definitions for words and terms that may have been used in the preceding TerraCulture report. Archaeological site types or specific stone artefact types that have counterparts elsewhere in the world are usually defined according to their known or inferred use in Aboriginal Australia. The definitions of some terms are based on common usage or convention rather than literal meaning. Italicised words within any definition have also been separately defined.

Aboriginal: Referring to indigenous people and their descendants who occupied Australia at the time of European colonisation.

Aboriginal Archaeology: The scientific study of the material remains of past indigenous peoples. Aboriginal archaeology covers both the pre-contact (also known as prehistoric) and the post-contact period.

Aboriginal Archaeological Site: A location with material evidence of past activity by indigenous people. Activities such as the manufacture and use of stone artefacts have a recognisable archaeological signature. Other activities will have little or no material consequences and are regarded as being archaeologically invisible.

Aboriginal Archaeological Site Types: Aboriginal archaeological sites can be classified into generic types according to their context, fabric and probable function. Aboriginal Affairs Victoria currently recognises some 10-site types including stone artefact scatters, shell middens and scarred trees.

Aboriginal Artefact Scatter: A collection of Aboriginal artefacts usually distributed across the surface of the ground. Stone artefacts are a common component and can be found in association with organic remains, shell, ochre and charcoal. Artefact scatters are the material remains of past Aboriginal use of a location and are generally referable to technological and economic behaviour. They are also called surface scatters.

Aboriginal Burial: Aboriginal interment consisting of human skeletal remains. Aboriginal burials occur in a wide range of forms and physical contexts and may be found with grave goods.

Aboriginal Historic Place: Aboriginal historic places are the locations of events, places or place names that were recorded in historical documents or in oral tradition during the post contact period. Unlike Aboriginal archaeological sites, Aboriginal historic places do not necessarily retain any physical evidence of any former structures, activities or specific events.

Anvil: A flat stone used as a platform in the manufacture of stone artefacts (bi-polar flaking) or in the processing of foods, ochre and other materials. With bipolar flaking the core is rested on the anvil and struck with a hammer stone creating a flake. Use leaves small circular depressions (pitting) on the anvil surface usually towards the centre. Anvil stones are often recovered as broken halves; the break being across the centre line of the stone where there has been most wear.

Archaeology: Conventionally, the scientific study of the material remains of past human activity.

Artefact: Any object created or modified by humans.

Artefact Scatter: A collection of artefacts usually distributed across the surface of the ground.

Assemblage: Archaeological term used to describe a collection of artefacts associated by a particular place or time and assumed to have been generated by a single group of people. An assemblage can be made from different artefact types.

Axe Blank: A stone that has been shaped through the removal of flakes but not yet sharpened.

Axe Grinding Groove: Oval shaped indentations in stony outcrops that are the result of grinding during the manufacturing and sharpening of ground edge axes. These indentations are usually but not exclusively formed in sandstone outcrops and can occur singly or in multiples. Axe-grinding grooves are typically found close to water, which appears to have been used to maintain the sandstone's abrasiveness.

Backed Blade: A stone blade that has been retouched along one of its lateral margins to prepare the edge for hafting.

Basalt: Igneous volcanic rock that can be used to make stone artefacts. Basalt is common in western Victoria where there has been recent volcanic activity.

Before Present (BP): referring to years before present, which for radiocarbon dating is arbitrarily fixed at 1950.

Bi-polar Flaking: The process of manufacturing stone artefacts through the use of a hammer and anvil. A core is struck with a hammerstone while resting on an anvil, detaching angular flakes that display bruising or crushing at either end.

Blade: A flake that is at least twice as long as it is wide.

Bulb of Percussion: A rounded protrusion on the interior surface of a flake caused when the core is struck with the hammerstone. The bulb is located below the striking platform and allows the identification of the orientation of the flake. The bulb of percussion is often considered the best evidence for a human agency in the manufacture of a stone flake.

Bulbar Scar: A small scar or removal of stone on the bulb of percussion.

Ceramics: Generic term used to describe historical artefacts that are made from ceramic material.

Chert: A hard fine-grained sedimentary rock high in silica and commonly used in the manufacture of stone artefacts.

Civic: A term used to describe historic structures or material culture relating to past government or public activity e.g. town hall, public parks or gardens.

Classification: The ordering of archaeological material according to age, type, fabric or other criteria.

Coastal Flint: Geologically, flint is a type of chert. A coastal form is found in limestone reefs along the Victorian and South Australian coastlines and is often detached as nodules on the roots of kelp and subsequently washed up on beaches. The appearance of the flint varies but is often fine grained with larger white intrusions and a thick outer cortex or crust and is blue to cream in colour. Coastal flint is often the dominant rock type in stone artefact sites on or near the Victorian coast.

Contact Site: General term used to describe an Aboriginal archaeological site that shows the use of European (non-indigenous) materials such as artefacts made with glass, metal or ceramic. Contact sites are usually considered to be the result of activities performed at or before the time of permanent European settlement.

Context: Refers to the place of artefacts or archaeological features with regards to time and space.

Core: A piece of stone from which other stone artefacts are made. In freehand flaking the core would be

- struck with a hammerstone removing flakes and other fragments of stone often referred to as debitage.
- Core Tool:** A core displaying signs of use.
- Core Tool and Scraper Tradition:** Aboriginal stone artefacts belonging to the core tool and scraper tradition include core tools, large sleep edged scrapers, round flat scrapers and notched implements. These assemblages are believed to pre-date the Small Tool Tradition.
- Cortex:** The weathered external surface of a stone. Cortex often identifies the origins and original form of flaked stone, e.g. river pebbles.
- Cultural Heritage:** The consequences of humanity including its relationship with the natural environment that are ascribed significance and considered to be worth preserving.
- Debitage:** Fragments of stone that are generated during the manufacture and maintenance of stone artefacts. These fragments may or may not display the typical characteristics of flaked stone.
- Deposit:** A term used to describe buried archaeological material.
- Desktop Study:** Investigation of the known or potential cultural heritage values according to the landform type, historical records and other archival material and the results of previous archaeological investigations.
- Domestic Assemblage:** A collection of historical artefacts generated by or associated directly with past household activity e.g. ceramic plates, bottles and cutlery, food refuse.
- Dry Stone Wall:** A wall that has been constructed using stone without any binding material. Dry stone walls take on many different forms and vary according to stone type and function. In western Victoria they are assembled with basalt stones collected from the surface of paddocks.
- Excavation:** The systematic removal of archaeological deposits using archaeological techniques.
- Fabric:** A synonym for original material.
- Feature:** A notable formation or structure (conventionally immovable) discovered during excavation.
- Fish trap:** A structure made from stone, wood or reeds intended to guide fish or eels into a confined space to be collected or speared. Often constructed perpendicular to the main channel of a creek or river, or in the intertidal zone of estuaries, bays and oceans.
- Flake:** A piece of stone detached by percussion or pressure from a core. The flake will usually display characteristic features such as a platform and bulb of percussion. The core will display a negative flake scar. These features assist in distinguishing between stone that has been altered through human agency and that which has been naturally shaped.
- Flake Tool:** A flake that has been shaped through the removal of other smaller flakes (retouched) or shows evidence of use (use wear).
- Freehand Flaking:** A technique of manufacturing or shaping stone artefacts whereby a hand-held stone is hit directly with the hammerstone, also handheld.
- Grinding Stone:** Stone with a flat surface used as a mortar in the processing of food or other hard materials through pounding, crushing or grinding. Grinding stones are identifiable by the presence of wear in the form of shallow depressions and pitting.
- Ground Edge Axes:** Stone axes that are commonly oval or round in shape and that have edges formed by grinding and sharpening. Ground edge axes were attached (hafted) to wooden handles using resin or other binding material. Axes from Mount William a large quarry near Lancefield in Victoria are known to have been traded in the form of axe blanks over long distances (see axe grinding groove and axe blanks).
- Ground Exposure:** A measure of the quantity of sediment that would normally be buried beneath a modern land surface.
- Ground Visibility:** A term used to describe the area of the ground's surface that is visible during archaeological field surveys. Effective ground visibility refers to the actual area of ground visible during a field survey calculated as the area of ground inspected multiplied by the percentage of ground visibility.
- Hafting:** The process of attaching a stone artefact onto a wooden handle.
- Hammerstone:** A stone that has been used to strike a core to create a flake, often causing pitting or other wear on the stone's surface.
- Hearth:** Fireplace often recognised archaeologically through the presence of charcoal or burnt (discoloured) ground. Historical hearths are usually associated with brick or stone structures.
- Historical Archaeological Site:** The material remains or other physical evidence of activity associated with the post-contact period; including portable artefacts and structural features of former buildings.
- Historical Archaeology:** The study of artefacts and archaeological features relating to the post-contact period.
- Holocene:** The geological period covering the last 10,000 years BP.
- Hornfels:** A metamorphic rock, hard and fine-grained.
- Industry:** A single class of artefacts that are consistent in their form and that can be credited to a single group of people.
- Industrial Archaeology:** Archaeology concerned with the material consequences of industrial activity.
- In situ:** In its original place.
- Layer:** A recognisable band of material of varying thickness.
- Limestones:** Carbonate-rich sedimentary rocks that are formed through the accumulation of organic remains.
- Manuport:** An object that is unmodified but has been transported to its find location by humans.
- Makers Marks:** Marks that have been etched, engraved or printed onto the surface of mass manufactured goods, including glasswares and ceramics.
- Maritime Archaeology:** The archaeological investigation of shipwrecks, piers, jetties and other maritime structures.
- Microliths:** Small stone artefacts. In Australia microliths such as backed blades are often associated with assemblages from the late prehistoric period after ca 6000 years BP.
- Monitoring** (see watching brief)
- Mound:** Aboriginal mounds consist of ground that is artificially elevated above the natural levels. Thought to be a consequence of repeated occupation at the same location particularly through the use of earth ovens, mounds can contain a wide range of artefactual material including burials. Mounds that have all but been destroyed are recognisable through changes in the colour and composition of the ground, especially the presence of charcoal.
- Platform:** Face of core that is struck by a hammerstone, leaving remnants on both the core and the resultant flake.
- Pleistocene:** The geological period equivalent to the last ice age and preceding the Holocene from ca 2

million to 10,000 years ago. The late Pleistocene commonly refers to the last 40,000 years BP.

Post-contact Period: The time after contact between Aboriginal peoples and Europeans. Also referred to as the historic period. In Victoria the post-contact period begins in early 1800s.

Posthole: A hole that has been dug into the ground to house a post. Postholes are often filled with stone or other packing material (more recently concrete).

Post Deposition: After deposition; term commonly used with reference to factors affecting the preservation of artefacts and archaeological features.

Pre-contact Period: The time period before contact between Aboriginal peoples and Europeans. In Victoria this ends with permanent European settlement.

Quartz: A hard mineral that varies from white to blue in colour and in transparency from opaque to clear.

Quartzite: A metamorphic rock formed through the 'recrystallisation of quartz rich sandstone'.

Radiocarbon Dating: Radiometric dating technique for establishing the age of organic (carbon) remains based on the rate of decay of the radioactive isotope carbon 14 (C14).

Retouch: Secondary modifications to stone artefacts such as trimming or reshaping. Retouch often indicates use of a stone flake and therefore its identification of an actual tool (cf waste flake)

Rock Art, Aboriginal: Aboriginal artworks on rock surfaces such as paintings, stencils, etchings and engravings.

Rock Well Aboriginal: A natural depression that may have been augmented through the removal of rock and from which water was collected.

Ruin: what remains of a former historic structure.

Salvage Excavation: The systematic documentation and recovery of an archaeological site prior to its destruction. Also known as rescue archaeology.

Sandstone: Sedimentary rocks that consist mostly of quartz.

Scarred Trees, Aboriginal: Trees that were used as a source of bark to make canoes and other items. Bark was cut using a stone axe and then levered from the sapwood leaving a scar. The bark around the edge of this scar is called regrowth. Natural scarring is common on some trees and is often difficult to distinguish from scars made by Aborigines during the pre-contact period.

Scarred Trees, Historic: Bark continued to be used by Aborigines and Europeans alike during the post-contact period for roofing, trail blazes, mile markers etc.

Scraper: A stone tool made on a flake or core with steep retouch along one or more edges.

Shell Middens (Marine or Coastal and Freshwater): The remains of shellfish that were gathered and eaten by Aboriginal people. They may also contain other stone artefacts, charcoal and ash, and the bones of vertebrate prey. Burials are also known to occur in shell midden deposits. Aboriginal shell middens are often confused with natural shell deposits.

Shipwreck: The remains of a ship.

Silcrete: A highly silicious rock formed by the replacement of a parent rock (commonly sandstone) by silica in solution.

Small Tool Tradition: Aboriginal stone artefacts belonging to the small tool tradition are characterised by heavily retouched microliths and backed implements and are presumed to be a mid to late Holocene development.

Spit: arbitrary quantity of excavated ground.

Stratigraphy: A geological term used to describe the sequence of vertical layers and deposits that comprise an archaeological site.

Stone Arrangement, Aboriginal: Locations where Aboriginal people have positioned rocks to form shapes or patterns. In Victoria, stone arrangements are an uncommon site type.

Stone Artefacts, Aboriginal: Stones that have been modified or used by Aboriginal people.

Stone Quarry, Aboriginal: Sources of stone used for the purpose of manufacturing stone artefacts.

Subject Land: The area that is under investigation. Also referred to as the study area.

Subsurface Testing: The testing for buried archaeological material through manual or mechanical excavation.

Survey, Pedestrian: The act of looking for archaeological material. Also known as foot survey.

Taphonomy: The study of how archaeological sites are formed.

Toe Holds, Aboriginal: Small scars on the trunks and branches of trees which are a result of the removal of bark to form notches to facilitate climbing.

Usewear: The wear displayed on the surface of an artefact as a result of its use.

Waste Flake: An unmodified and unused flake.

Watching Brief: The monitoring of earthworks or other forms of disturbance at the location of a known archaeological site or of a landform considered sensitive for artefacts or other archaeological material. A watching brief is often a condition of a grant of Consent to disturb or destroy an archaeological site. Also known as monitoring.

Windscreen Survey: Field survey based on observations made from a vehicle. Also known as a drive-through survey (cf pedestrian survey).

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Ramblers Road Foreshore Masterplan

Summary report on community consultation outcomes on the Draft Masterplan

Prepared by Thompson Berrill Landscape Design P/L for City of Greater Geelong, June 2007

1.0 Description of the consultation undertaken at the Draft Masterplan Phase

The Draft Management Plan was available for public comment from mid-January to mid-May 2007. The Plan was available for viewing at the three customer service centres and on the website. Information leaflets and feedback questionnaires were mailed to all those who responded in the first phase of consultation (directly mailed to households).

2.0 Summary of written submissions

A total of 11 written submissions were received and summarised. The following is a summary of all comments:

- The Draft Masterplan does not address the lack of sewerage services along Ramblers Road.
- Request that Council begin sewerage works immediately and suggest that works should be carried out prior to the beautification of the foreshore reserve.
- The use of septic tank systems should be abolished to prevent runoff from polluting the Bay.
- Underground sewerage system to be installed.
- The need for an underground sewerage system is minimal, as the natural sand filtration appears to have prevented seepage from septic tanks into the foreshore area.
- Concerns that in some places along the foreshore greywater is being discharged directly into the Bay.
- Query as to why houses along Ramblers Road do not have access to a main gas line like those houses located in Portarlington and upper Point Richards area.
- The Draft Masterplan does not identify a low growing weed locally known as Hepel's Curse.
- No provisions have been made for the supply of additional sand so that locals and their children can use the beach for recreation.
- The Draft Masterplan should address the need for clean sand and water. Request that respondent be advised to whether there are plans for their provision in the future.
- The Draft Masterplan approved in principle.
- Impressed by future plans to clean up the foreshore area.
- Happy with the Draft Masterplan.
- Agree with the proposed minimal width path which will act as a boundary to the coastal protection zone.
- Look forward to the Draft Masterplan's implementation.
- The Draft Masterplan is well thought out and presents a considerate and balanced approach to the best use of the foreshore reserve.
- The Draft Masterplan acknowledges past efforts of residents to manage and improve the environment.
- The Draft Masterplan offers an organised structure to the layout of the area.
- Categorising the Ramblers Road Foreshore Reserve as a coastal protection zone ignores the fact over 30 years there has been unsupervised residential development immediately adjoining the reserve.
- For the last 30 years, residents have contributed to the area by way of landscaping and plantings and this has had the tacit approval of the local Council. In return,

residents would maintain the area and therefore relieve the Council of this responsibility.

- The Draft Masterplan proposes removal of potentially destructive plantings, however, there are concerns that in the future the foreshore reserve's classification as a coastal protection zone may allow wholesale replanting with native vegetation to the detriment of residents.
- A management committee consisting of representatives from both Council and the local community should be established to ensure that the balanced approach that has been proposed in the Draft Report is continued.
- The continued growth eastward of the sand bar on the western end indicates that the shoreline along the reserve will be 50 to 75 metres north of its present location. Any future planning should take this into consideration.
- Seagrass degradation due to heavy netting carried out several years ago.
- The Draft Masterplan aims to remove environmental weeds from the area, however, this must be done without destroying the character of the area. Needs staged removal which will consider visual amenity and erosion control.
- Concerns that boat ramp removal works will require the use of heavy machinery i.e. bulldozers and this may damage the foreshore reserve.
- Assurances are needed to ensure that any plans to remove the boat ramps would not result in any damage to the foreshore reserve.
- Backfill of the resulting trench is to be achieved by means other than just simply grading the surrounding area.
- Dogs off-lead should not be permitted in the foreshore reserve.
- Suggest that dogs are to be on-lead at all times due to the fact a majority of homes are unfenced on the foreshore reserve side.
- Dog owners are to clean up after their dogs.
- More signage in regards to dogs is required as there is only one sign in the Point Richards boat ramp area.
- Storm water drainage is a problem. Suggest cutting off the existing drains and redirecting stormwater to a holding basin where it can be later used to water Point Richards Reserve or enhance the wetlands.
- Proposed track to be limited to walking only with all dogs to be on-lead. Cycling and other vehicles are not to be permitted.
- Request that signage be placed at all public entrances into the reserve so that all users are informed of what is and isn't permitted in the foreshore reserve.
- The Draft Masterplan is a very thoughtful and sensitive report on the existing conditions.
- The three-strip layout appears to be a fair way of achieving the aims of the management plan whilst retaining the rights of the locals.
- Peace and quiet of the foreshore to be maintained.
- Gravel footpath is not necessary as the number of people walking along the foreshore is minimal.
- Boat ramp area and beach at Point Richards is an eyesore.
- Beach at Point Richard needs to be maintained.
- Boat ramp and carpark are in poor condition and require improvement.
- Dogs under effective control do not harm wildlife.
- Four-wheel drives are damaging the foreshore.
- Requests that a designated dog off-lead area be provided by Council for use all year round. If it is a multi-use area, suggested times of access for dog walkers could be between 6am to 9am and 5pm to 8pm.
- Local reports that seagrass beds are being swamped by sand drift.
- Re-open Beach Road to improve connection along the foreshore at the caravan park.
- Break up and revegetate enormous area of asphalt east of Ramblers Road.
- Additional planting of Casuarinias to frame Portarlington History Group sign and views to the You Yangs west of pier.

- Remove weeds including Gazania and Agapanthus and replant native communities.
- Timeline for works is overly generous and management plan will fail if CoGG are not seen to be active in the area.
- Sand removal at Pt. Richards near pier is now being replaced with ugly dirt which has all sorts of rubbish in it.

3.0 TBLD response to the comments and proposed changes to the Draft Report

3.1 Response to issues raised in the written submissions

No	Submission comment	TBLD response
1	Lack of sewerage services and potential impact of septic systems on environmental values.	Barwon Water is the responsible sewerage authority. In accordance with the recommendations of the Domestic Waste Water Management Plan 2006, investigation of connection to sewer is recommended. Refer 5.1.1 page 22. Recommendation <i>No change to recommendation.</i>
2	Provision of additional sand to the beach for recreation.	As noted in 5.1.11 page 23, Ramblers Road is not a designated swimming beach and has not been identified as requiring 'renourishment' in the 2004 Coastal Processes Study. Recommendation <i>No change to recommendation.</i>
3	Concerns that designation of the reserve as a coastal protection zone may lead to wholesale replanting with native vegetation to the detriment of resident's amenity and use of the area.	As outlined in Section 4.2 page 19, while revegetation is encouraged, no new tree planting is proposed in front of residential property without consultation with the affected resident. Retention of passive recreation access through management of the 'recreation access zone' (refer 4.2.3 page 20) is to ensure retention of balance between recreation and environmental values. Recommendation <i>No change to recommendation.</i>
4	Suggest direction of stormwater runoff to a holding basin for reuse in the reserve.	The stormwater system is severely constrained by lack of grade. Indigenous planting does not require irrigation and in conjunction with a lack of available land for establishment of a storage facility, this limits opportunities for cost effective reuse of stormwater for irrigation. Recommendation <i>No change to plan.</i>
5	Dogs off lead should not be permitted in the foreshore reserve as many homes are unfenced.	This issue is acknowledged in the report. Refer Section 4.4 page 20. Dogs off lead also impact on bird habitat values and generally have potential to restrict access in the narrow coastal reserve. Recommendation <i>Change to dog on lead at all times (subject to review as part of the City of Greater Geelong Urban Animal Management Strategy currently in development).</i>
6	Gravel footpath is not necessary as there are few people who through the reserve.	Establishment of the narrow path is to both define public access leading to an increase in walking use but also to assist in defining the management boundary between coastal vegetation and mown grass reducing weed invasion. Refer 4.3.2 page 20.

No	Submission comment	TBLD response
		Recommendation No change to recommendation.
7	Concrete boat ramp removal may cause damage.	While removal of the old concrete boat ramps may cause short term impact on landscape amenity and potentially erosion in a major storm, longer term their removal will significantly assist in regeneration of Coastal Dune vegetation (increasing stability) and reduce potential hazards to the public. Recommendation No change to plan.
8	Signage regarding permitted and non-permitted use required and to be placed at all entries.	Section 5.2.7 page 24 notes there is extensive signage at the Point Richards end of the reserve. The report recommends integration of signage here to reduce the overall number. As most users are residents or local to the area, signage at other entries is not required or recommended. Recommendation Add note to 5.2.7 to include note identifying 'Rambler Road Foreshore Reserve' and permitted and non-permitted uses as outlined in the report at the Point Richards end only.
9	Local weed known as Hempels Curse not identified in the plan.	Suggest Environment Unit/Bushland Crew liaise directly with resident to confirm location and nature of weed and undertake immediate control action. Recommendation Add note to 5.1.7 to include "Also investigate occurrence and control of Hempels Curse".
10	Removal (and replacement) of sand at Pt. Richards and potential impact on seagrass beds.	The seagrass beds are managed by Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) as part of the Special Management Area extending from Clifton Springs through to the Long Jetty (Coronae Drive). DSE were consulted as part of developing this plan and no issues aside from stormwater and potential sewerage discharge as addressed in Section 5.1.2, 5.1.3 and 5.1.4 have been noted. The seagrass beds and areas subject to sand removal by Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee are outside the study area and scope of works to be addressed in this report. Any further enquires should be directly addressed to the relevant management authority. Recommendation No change to plan.
11	Port Bellarine Project	The submission received regarding the Port Bellarine Tourist Resort land is outside the scope of this project and is currently being reviewed under a separate planning process. Recommendation No change to plan.
12	A management committee consisting of representative from both Council and the local community should be established to ensure that the balanced approach that has been proposed in the Draft Report is continued.	Section 4.1 page 19 notes key principles are to include "Council liaison with adjoining residents and the local community in management of the reserve" and Section 4.5 page 21. Prior and during works, Council will engage and liaise with any effected residents. Recommendation No change to plan.

No	Submission comment	TBLD response
13	The Draft Masterplan aims to remove environmental weeds from the area, however, this must be done without destroying the character of the area.	Section 4.1 page 19 notes the overall design intent is to <i>"retain the existing relaxed coastal character of the foreshore reserve"</i> . Recommendation Add note to 4.2.1 to include <i>"Impacts on visual amenity/character of area and erosion will be considered and addressed in any weed removal program"</i> .
14	Dog owners are to clean up after their dogs.	Recommendation Add note to 4.4 to include <i>"Pick up after dogs to be added to regulation signage and investigate dog poo bag dispenser at boat ramp carpark"</i> .
15	Stormwater drainage is a problem. Suggest cutting off the existing drains and redirecting stormwater to a holding basin where it can be later used to water Point Richards Reserve or enhance the wetlands.	Refer to 5.1.2 page 22. There is insufficient Council land to accommodate a retention basin on site and topography limits opportunities for gravity feed back to Point Richards. Refer to CoGG Sustainable Water Use Plan for reuse opportunities currently being investigated by Council. Recommendation No change to plan.
16	Boat ramp area and beach at Point Richards is an eyesore.	Point Richards is outside project scope as boat ramp area is managed by Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee. Recommendation No change to plan.
17	Beach at Point Richards needs to be maintained.	Point Richards is outside project scope as boat ramp area is managed by Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee. Recommendation No change to plan.
18	Boat ramp and carpark are in poor condition and require improvement.	Point Richards is outside project scope as boat ramp area is managed by Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee. Recommendation No change to plan.
19	Four-wheel drives are damaging the foreshore.	Refer to Section 4.1 page 19 which notes <i>"retain and monitor existing vehicle control and improve if required to restrict illegal vehicle use of the foreshore reserve"</i> . Recommendation No change to plan.
20	Re-open Beach Road to improve connection along the foreshore at the caravan park.	Beach Road is outside project scope. Recommendation No change to plan.
21	Additional planting of Casuarinias to frame Portarlington History Group sign and views to the You Yangs west of pier.	As outlined in 5.3.7 page 25, trees are recommended to be planted in this location. Recommendation No change to plan.

