

Coastal Advisory Group

Port Phillip Bay South

Location	Sorrento Community Centre
Date and time	Thursday 27 March 2025 / 4:00pm – 5:45pm
Attendees	Members: Emily Burke, Gerry Bryne, Chris Corrigan (Chair), Ben Cullen, Josie Jones OAM (Secretary) Councillors: Cr Andrea Allen, Cr Cam Williams Council: Lachy Chapman, Laura Crilly
Apologies	Bernadette Young, Mark Davis, Christine O'Neill

	Item	Actions	Responsible
	Welcome and introductions Acknowledgement of Country All welcomed, including new CAG members Josie and Ben and observing Councillors. Chris Chairing Meeting (in Mark's absence), Josie taking minutes (in Bern's absence) Introduction and brief backgrounds shared by all attendees, including. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ben – 25 years in nature conservation, threatened species community. Emily – environmental consultancy and marine science. Gerry – coastal engineer, lives in Sorrento. Chris – earth science background, past geography teacher, 23 years at DEECA Josie – OAM, Creative director, design background with passion for citizen science, underwater photography, mapping biodiversity Chris provided a brief update on meetings to date, priorities, and strategic alignment.		Lachy
1	Address Coastal Erosion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CAG wrote letter to Laura requesting that DEECA engage with MPSC/CAG and other key stakeholders regarding the options arising from the review of technical reports underway. Laura met with the DEECA team and understands the review has commenced. Community consultation will occur in 4-5 months. 	Update the letter with details of Josie and Ben's background and requesting more details on the next stage of the review and send through to Laura and Lachy.	Chris

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		Write to the DEECA Team and attach the letter from the CAG.	Laura
2	Beautify Portsea Pier and Reserve <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussed various concerns including the upgrading of the outfall area under the pier (awaiting arrival of equipment), improved signage, fence/mound and toilet/shower block ideas of former group. Agreed the need for a systemic approach and a 'masterplan' for the area including vegetation plan, pathways and facilities. Discussed the idea of a project/assessment task for students eg: Woodleigh and other geography students, to engage/survey key users and design masterplan options. Talked about opportunity to conduct a biodiversity audit using iNaturalist. 	Talk with key schoolteacher contacts on the peninsula to explore the idea of a project/assessment task for students to engage/survey key users and design masterplan options for Portsea Pier and the Reserve.	Bern and Chris C.
3	Beautify Sorrento Foreshore – Pier to The Baths <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Masterplan in place and key improvements taking place as budget allocated. Parking area at end of St Paul's Road is being upgraded for better parking management and Banksias (that died) will soon be replanted. There will be a watering plan and a letterbox drop to residents explaining that they will not lose their views. The CAG agreed there is a real opportunity to improve the area where people arrive to Sorrento from the Ferry, including the establishment of new vegetation, potential removal of the 'sculpture', improvement to the Cenotaph and Rotunda, more picnic tables etc. It currently looks very 'unloved'. 	Identify trees of concern and use the 'Report a Problem' process on the Shire's website to request action. Consider taking photos to upload onto the system for identification of trees to be addressed. See Home/Contact Us/Report a Problem/Report a Tree Concern.	CAG members

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Also discussed the quick win of removing the dead Sheoaks and trimming the lower branches of the Norfolk Pines to enable more light (it is a very dark area) and better views of the coast through the trees. Laura explained that these issues can be addressed through the 'Report a Problem' There was a reminder about the Map of Coastal Hazards associated with the Our Coast, Our Future Strategy. Concerns raised about the potential erosion in the area and opportunity to consider establishing a Coast Snap facility or encourage use of the Coast Snap App by the community. 	Research the coastline changes in Sorrento over time.	Lachy
4	Establish Weeroona Bay Coastal AND Marine Friends Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keen to develop a friends group, while also aware of the complexity of the area in terms of issues and management responsibilities. The Natural Systems Team at Council are responsible for supporting Friends Groups. There are 300 active Friends Groups on the Peninsula. Ben has experience setting up two of these. The Coastal Team are excited by the idea of the friends group covering the marine environment too! It will be critical to involve the Parks Vic Team. Opportunity to engage with the Aboriginal elders to understand the cultural heritage and the status of current activities/plans underway for this area, along with the Southern Peninsula Indigenous Flora & Fauna Association (SPIFFA) 	Contact Bunerong Council and SPIFFA (Gidja Walker) to arrange a time for talking with the CAG and sharing plans and thinking underway.	Josie and Ben
5	Reduce Impact of Weeroona Bay Boat Moorings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swing moorings are having a severe impact on the seaweed ecosystem that attaches to the rocky reef to the West of the Portsea Pier. In northerly winds the chains scrape and break the rock and destroy the seaweed. This is observed first-hand by the morning swimmers. The PV aerial photo of the moorings shows the direct relationship between each mooring and the loss of seaweed. There is a rich diversity of sea life that inhabits this area and an opportunity to support, preserve and re-establish it for future generations. It 	Talk with Parks Vic about the CAG concerns and request any information they have on 'best practice' mooring management.	Lachy

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	<p>is expected that the reef would regenerate over time with the movement of a number of moorings further out and off the rocky reef.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CAG agree with the action in the Portsea CMMP – <i>'Action S.2k – p 38 - Advocate for Parks Victoria to undertake a review of current boat mooring arrangements and potential opportunities for minimising user impacts (e.g., environmentally sensitive moorings).'</i> 		
6	<p>Review Public Toilet Access from Rye to Portsea</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussed concerns that have been raised about the lack of access to camping and public toilets and the resultant behaviour in and around locked toilet blocks. Observations were made about different management (DEECA/Council) approaches and raised the opportunity for improved signage about access to public toilets. Also suggested opportunity to add a public toilet to the existing camping toilet/shower blocks. 	Extract a map of existing toilets from the GIS, which will form the basis for an audit on access to toilet blocks	Coastal team
	<p>General Business</p> <p>Positive feedback that the CAG is going well. Organised, self-driven, has a clear agenda and achievable tasks.</p> <p>Council's role is to guide the CAG (key stakeholders).</p>	Find and send minutes from November meeting with Council to Lachy.	Chris C
		Diarise next meeting 26 th June 2025	CAG members
		Minutes from quarterly meetings with Council will be published on Sharepoint	Lachy
	Next meeting: 26 June 2025		