

Australian Heritage Strategy Submissions
Heritage Branch
Department of the Environment
GPO Box 787
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Sir / Madam,

Input into Australian Heritage Strategy

This submission is in response to the attached article "Have your say" from the May 14, 2014 edition of the Phillip Island Advertiser, featuring comment by Greg Hunt MP, Federal Member for Flinders.

Enclosed please find a completed '[COVER SHEET FOR INPUT INTO AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE STRATEGY](#)'.

Port of Hastings

Expansion proposals for the Port of Hastings are a threat to the **heritage values** of Western Port and the aspirations of the Phillip Island Nature Parks for Australian Heritage listing and World Heritage listing of the Summerland Peninsula.

Attached is a media release from The Hon David Hodgett MP Minister for Ports dated Thursday 29 May 2014, and titled "Port of Hastings expansion is declared under the Major Transport Projects Facilitation Act".

A 'search' of the word "**heritage**" in the *Major Transport Projects Facilitation Act 2009* reveals very little consideration of heritage values and a clash with the *Heritage Act 1995*.

This clash would occur, if expansion plans for the Port of Hastings were to proceed, in the heritage value rich waters of Western Port.

Attached is an extract from the Phillip Island Nature Parks *Environment Plan 2012–2017*.

You will note the aspirations in actions 122 & 123 of the plan, to achieve National Heritage listing and World Heritage listing at the Summerland Peninsula.

Expansion plans for the Port of Hastings would inhibit these aspirations, and even if the aspirations were fulfilled, port development would be a threat to those Australian Heritage and World Heritage values.

Yours faithfully,



Maurice Schinkel
enc. att. Copy to Greg Hunt MP Federal Member for Flinders

ISA DRIVE to provide \$2.2 million dollars to build a Community Health Centre in Cowes and use an additional \$1.1 million held in Trust from Warley for this purpose.

A. The application for this was from the Bass Coast Community Health Service, not from the council who became aware of it only a few days before the announcement. Cr Phillips said: "The shire found itself thrown in there without much consultation."

3. Education

Question: What support has BCSC given for the establishment of a new Secondary School for Phillip Island/San Remo

7. Tourism Infrastructure

Concerns were expressed around how unattractive Phillip Island towns and tourist attractions can be for visitors.

Question: Does BCSC have asset register of the entire infrastructure which is in place for tourists on Phillip Island and for all of Bass Coast Shire?

What is the value of this infrastructure?

What is the annual cost of maintenance?

Have your say

GREG Hunt MP Federal Member for Flinders is encouraging residents to have a say in the future of our nation's heritage by commenting on the Government's draft Australian Heritage Strategy.

The aim of the Strategy is to provide outcomes, priorities and actions that effectively recognise, manage and celebrate Australia's unique heritage.

It contains a range of commitments and proposed actions that recognise the work of residents in supporting and strengthening community engagement with our heritage.

"Local residents across the Mornington Peninsula, Koo Wee Rup, Lang Lang, the Bass Coast and Phillip Island devote countless hours to preserving our heritage."

"This is an opportunity for all Australians to discuss how local heritage icons should be protected and maintained," Mr Hunt said.

Their knowledge of local heritage issues is outstanding and their dedication to preserving local heritage sites is greatly valued, which is why we are calling for their input into this draft strategy.

The protection of Australia's heritage is central to the Government's Plan for a Cleaner Environment and is a fundamental pillar of our vision for Australia - a society that protects and improves the environment for future generations.

The draft Australian Heritage Strategy is open for public comment until June 9 on the department's website at www.environment.gov.au/australian-heritage-strategy



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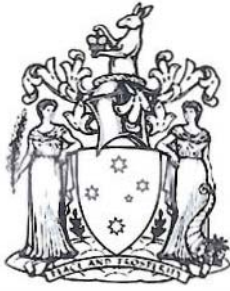
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Media release

The Hon David Hodgett MP

Minister for Ports
Minister for Major Projects
Minister for Manufacturing

Thursday 29 May 2014

Port of Hastings expansion is declared under the *Major Transport Projects Facilitation Act*

- **Port of Hastings expansion continues with project declaration announced**
- **Declaration under the *Major Transport Projects Facilitation Act* paves the way for planning approvals process to commence**
- **Victorian Coalition Government investing in future-shaping infrastructure and building a better Victoria**

Minister for Ports David Hodgett, speaking in Parliament today, announced a major milestone for the Port of Hastings expansion with the project being declared under the *Major Transport Projects Facilitation Act 2009*.

The Port of Hastings expansion is one of several major transport projects to be declared under the Act, including East West Link, and the move paves the way for the planning approvals process to commence.

"Planning for our economic future is critical and the Coalition Government's investment in the Port of Hastings expansion will translate into the creation of thousands of ongoing Victorian jobs for decades, while retaining our position as the nation's freight and logistics capital," Mr Hodgett said.

"Without investing to meet future demand, Victoria will reach container capacity by the mid-2020s, even with the benefit of current expansion projects at the Port of Melbourne. This is why the Port of Hastings expansion is so critical to preserving our export and manufacturing industries and supporting the future liveability and economic growth of the state.

"By declaring the Port of Hastings expansion under the *Major Transport Projects Facilitation Act*, the Coalition Government is sending a clear message that we are committed to developing the project and will get on with seeking the necessary approvals and undertaking critical studies to progress this project through the planning approvals process," Mr Hodgett said.

Member for Hastings Neale Burgess said project declaration provides the local community with certainty, ensuring an assessment and approval process for the development of the port and guaranteeing their feedback will be a critical part of this process.

"Project declaration is the first milestone in the assessment and approvals process under the Act. It ensures a full and independent evaluation of the project will be undertaken, one which considers the needs and feedback of the community," Mr Burgess said.

.../2

"This project represents a transformational change that will provide a major boost to the social and economic wellbeing of Hastings, the Mornington Peninsula and surrounding communities while also ensuring Victoria's rightful position as Australia's leading container hub."

Port of Hastings Development Authority CEO Mike Lean also welcomed the declaration.

"This announcement signals the beginning of the next three to four years of port planning, conceptual design and comprehensive study of the social, economic and environmental effects associated with developing the state's next container port," Mr Lean said.

"In particular, we are acutely aware of the unique and significant environmental aspects of Western Port, ranging from the internationally-recognised Ramsar wetlands site through to the Mornington Peninsula and Western Port Biosphere Reserve. Understanding the existing conditions in the Western Port marine environment is the first step in this process.

"We are equally committed to having timely and open conversations with local communities and other stakeholders to ensure that every point of view is heard in this systematic and comprehensive assessment process," Mr Lean said.

For further information on the project, please visit www.portofhastings.com.

Media contact: Steve Mann 0428 398 039 steve.mann@minstaff.vic.gov.au

Environment Plan 2012–2017

Coastal Tussock Grass *Poa poiformis*

7 | Key Area A: Summerland Peninsula



Summerland Peninsula is an exposed plateau with a coastline of sandy and basalt boulder beaches and rock platforms amongst rocky cliffs at the western end of Phillip Island; it is of high conservation significance. Seal Rock and Black Rock are home to the second largest breeding colony of Australian Fur Seals in the world.

The Key Area contains a wide range of habitat and is of state botanical significance²⁰ and contains a number of BioSites. The south coast is of National Landscape Significance²¹ while the north coast is a coastal landscape of state significance. The area supports the largest remaining Little Penguin colony on Phillip Island and is one of the largest in Victoria. It is an important habitat for many other species and is a significant nesting site for migratory and other birds.

Surveys of flora and some fauna, mapping of Little Penguin and Short-tailed Shearwater habitat as well as archaeological sites and a fire plan have been completed. The subtidal zone between Kennon Head, Seal Rock and Point Sambell is a Marine Special Management Area (SMA) for the protection of Little Penguins. Rock platforms within the Nature Parks support important intertidal communities. A management plan for the SMA is currently being prepared. The Summerland Peninsula is also home to key state tourism assets including the world renowned Penguin Parade and the Nobbies Centre.

A large parcel of land in the centre of the Key Area was subdivided in 1927 into 776 residential lots, and ultimately 190 homes were constructed on the 'Summerland Estate'. In 1985 the Victorian government commenced a program to purchase privately held property within the Estate in order to protect the penguin colony. All properties were purchased by June 2010 and a subsequent three year \$3.4 million habitat restoration program was funded by the State Government. The program included undergrounding power, demolition and removal of the last remaining houses and redundant infrastructure, revegetation and the provision of artificial nests and pest control and will enable the long term reclamation of critical penguin habitat.

The completion of the buy-back was also the catalyst for the development of the Summerland Peninsula Master Plan (SP 1.1.1), which is due to be completed in 2012. The Master Plan seeks to address the role of tourism and recreation within this highly sensitive conservation area.

Critical questions to be addressed include identifying the most appropriate location for the Penguin Parade Visitor Centre, reassessing pedestrian, vehicle and recreational user access in and around the Peninsula and the Nobbies Visitor Centre.

Further to the Master Plan, a business case seeking further funding from the Victorian Government for public investment in capital works on the Peninsula commenced in 2012. The business case will demonstrate the environmental, social and economic benefits to be delivered by the fulfilment of the *Summerland Peninsula Master Plan* (SP 1.2.1).

In recognition of the significant surfing sites at Cat Bay and Summerland Beach, the Nature Parks and the community are currently developing an application for these two beaches to be included in a National Surfing Reserve proposal via the National Surfing Reserves Board (SP 2.4.1).

The invertebrate fauna and flora of the intertidal rock platforms around the Summerland Peninsula has not been studied in detail. Bennet and Pope (1953)²² describe the zonation of intertidal rock platforms in Victoria and Synott and Wescott (1976)²³ at nearby Flinders Reef.

Local knowledge has confirmed the presence of species listed in Appendix 6.

No.	Whole Key Area Actions	Goal	Partners
121	Investigate the possible endorsement of the Summerland Peninsula as a Protected Area under the IUCN. (SP 2.4.1)	Application prepared for the Summerland Peninsula to become an IUCN Category IV Habitat/Species Reserve by June 2013	WPB, BCSC, BirdLife Australia, community, DSE and Indigenous community
122	Enhance the enduring protection of the Summerland Peninsula through National Heritage listing (SP 2.1.7)	Application prepared by June 2014	BCSC, BirdLife Australia, community, WPB, Heritage Victoria, DSE and Indigenous community
123	Evaluate the likelihood of achieving World Heritage Listing for the Summerland Peninsula (SP 2.1.7)	Evaluation completed by June 2016	WPB, BCSC, BirdLife Australia, local community, Heritage Victoria, DSE and Indigenous community
124	Investigate the inclusion of the Summerland Peninsula as a Skylight Reserve (UNESCO) (SP 2.4.1)	Evaluation completed by June 2016	BCSC, BirdLife Australia, local community, WPB, Heritage Victoria, DSE and Indigenous community
125	Implement habitat restoration, weed and feral animal management programs to complement the Summerland Masterplan	<i>See targets under section on habitat restoration, weed control and feral animal management</i>	Volunteers, landowners, Landcare, VicRoads, BCSC, contractors
126	Help investigate the viability and impact of reintroducing indigenous fauna and flora to the Summerland Peninsula (SP 2.1.4)	Investigation completed by June 2017	Research Department, DSE, Healesville Sanctuary
127	Complete the requirements of the Victorian Government's Summerland rehabilitation grant	All milestones completed by June 2013	DSE, volunteers, contractors
128	Seek additional funding to maintain conservation gains beyond June 2013 (SP 1.2.1)	Continued improvement of habitat quality on the Summerland Peninsula. One grant running or application per annum	DSE, Penguin Foundation, government agencies
129	Continue to protect Little Penguins, Short-tailed Shearwaters and other fauna by restricting public access to the Summerland Peninsula at night	Continued protection of indigenous fauna and flora by enforcing Nature Park regulations and determinations	DSE, VicRoads, BCSC
130	Protect intertidal areas from trampling by visitors	Include the negative effects of visitation on intertidal flora and fauna during the development of the Nature Parks Access Policy. Enforce Nature Park regulations and determinations	DSE, BCSC, Community

