



SUBMISSION FROM MALLACOOTA RE DRAFT WORKS 2017-2021

This submission coordinated by MADBATA with contributions from community groups including The Friends of Mallacoota, The Information Shed, Mallacoota Inlet Aged Care (MIAC), Community Health Infrastructure and resilience Group (CHIRF), The Mallacoota Arts Council, Mallacoota Halls and Recreation Committee, and Mallacoota Progress Association.



MAY 25, 2018
Mallacoota Community Groups

SECTION 1: MALLACOOTA COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO DRAFT REVISED COUNCIL PLAN 2017-2021

Works Plan

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SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Bushfire Safety: Local Incident Management Plan (LIMP)

1. The Budget allocate money to improve the fire rating of the Big Hall so that it is safer for frail people to shelter in when under ember attack.
2. The Mallacoota community present ideas for gathering places and shelter from ember attack, to the Shire.
3. The Shire nominate someone to work with Mallacoota groups to design a more adequate fire management plan before the summer of 18/19.
4. That funding a more adequate LIMP implementation be taken from the estimated \$2m/year dollars revenue raised by the Mallacoota camp park as its users will be in the most need in terms of numbers.

New Pavilion

Recommendation 5: That the Council ensure the building works and supplies for the New Pavilion and other major projects should be designed to offer a fair opportunity for all locally-based suppliers/contractors.

Pathways

6. Mallacoota make a list of priority pathways that the community agree on, and present it to the shire.
7. The Shire allocate a person that we can liaise with regarding this.
8. The Shire should respect the opinion of the Mallacoota community on priority works.

Ecotourism And Management Of The Environment

Recommendation 9:

The Shire as a responsible land manager should focus on protecting landscape and habitat by weed management and indigenous planting to replace trees and other vegetation which is removed.

Boat Ramp Budget Recommendations:

10. The budget specify the money allocated annually for dredging.
11. The budget should include cost of fixing the dredge so it is more efficient
12. Dredging should continue whenever the ramp needs it – there seems not enough dredging, at present, making it a risky entry and return during low tides.
13. Ultimately, the Shire should invest in an independent engineering report for a long term solution.

Industrial Land Zoning

Recommendation 14: The Council undertake an independent review of the demand for industrial zoned land during 18/19 with the view to justifying the release of the land adjacent to the current industrial park and promoting development appropriate to our position and future needs.

Recommendation 15: The Shire should release the second block zoned as Industrial, next to the current Industrial area on Genoa Rd, as soon as possible. This land release is supported by the Friends of Mallacoota, MADBATA and all parties.

CARAVAN PARKS: Recommendation 16: The Council rezone land along Mirrabooka Rd near and on Zachary Drive, as permissible for caravan parks

Off Leash Dog Beaches And Yard

Mallacoota has so far collected a petition with over 643 signatures, requesting off leash access for dogs to Mallacoota beaches, similar to that in all major Australian cities.

Recommendations 17: By December 2018, the Shire provide off leash dog areas, including times on main beaches within walking distance of the caravan park, an allocated beach, and an off leash dog yard to be located on the grassy area called "Bruces Bottom Paddock, Lakeside Drive."

Recommendation 18: The Shire allocate Money in the budget to educating (not bullying or fining) dog owners including dog training classes in Mallacoota.

The Shire offer Life Long Dog Registration, and Australia wide dog registration, in addition to year by year.

Aged Residential Facility

Recommendation 19: The Shire should support the endeavours of Mallacoota people to acquire an Aged Care residential Facility in Mallacoota.

Revised Council Plan 2017-2021 Year 2 (DRAFT)

Our remaining concerns cover gaps of essential works in the plan, including:

NEED FOR A BETTER FIRE LOCAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

- Given the fire disaster at Tathra, priority should be given to **fire preparedness** especially along Lakeside Drive as well as the increasing undergrowth along Bruce St etc.
- We lack a **Local Incident Management Plan (LIMP) tailored to Mallacoota**. The current generic plan is unworkable for Mallacoota e.g. there **is insufficient space at the “safer place”** to accommodate the residents, let alone up to 8000 visitors at the height of the bushfire season, one road in and out etc.
- The current plan does not protect people from ember attack, lacks child or animal care options.
- The current plan is too close to the bush. A more appropriate place to gather would be the far point Danger Point and for those who are able to walk on sand, the beach.
- The plan must be workable for Mallacoota and developed with community involvement.
- One obvious place to shelter is the Big Hall. However its fire rating needs to be improved so people too frail to walk on the beach, can shelter there.

Recommendations

2. The Budget allocate money to improve the fire rating of the Big Hall so that it is safer for frail people to shelter in when under ember attack.
3. The Mallacoota community present ideas for gathering places and shelter from ember attack, to the Shire.
4. The Shire nominate someone to work with Mallacoota groups to design a more adequate fire management plan before the summer of 18/19.
5. That funding a more adequate LIMP implementation be taken from the estimated \$2m/year dollars revenue raised by the Mallacoota camp park as its users will be in the most need in terms of numbers.

NEW PAVILION FOR MALLACOOTA RECREATION RESERVE

We welcome the release of the revised plan and the (Stage 2) – \$0.613 million (at p.28).

We understand that the project was not put out for open tender to maximise the ability to target local contractors. This is a worthwhile approach providing such major building works should be open for all local licensed building contractors and sub-contractors to bid for.

Recommendation 6: That the Council ensure the building works and supplies for the New Pavilion should be designed to offer a fair opportunity for all locally-based suppliers/contractors.

PATHWAYS – WHY ARE WE WAITING?

Mallacoota lacks footpaths. Currently no block in town – even the centre shopping area with the bakery and newsagency on it, has footpaths all the way around the block. We understand that a path is planned around the hotel block – but one is needed around the bakery block as well, bordering Buckland drive, Fairhaven Drive and Dorron Ave.

- a. As a town with a disproportionate number of the aged, (271 people over 70 years old) Mallacoota pathways should receive more priority if the Council's recent embrace of the World health Organisation's Standard for Aged Friendly Communities, and their aim to be an age-friendly community is to be consistent and coherent.
https://yoursay.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/age-friendly-community/news_feed/ageing-well-in-east-gippsland-adopted-by-council
- b. During the high season Mallacoota hosts up to 8000 tourists. At Christmas, tourists cross the street haphazardly. They should expect minimal amenities such as a safe walk across the

road in the shopping centre on both sides back into the carpark to make crossing much easier and safer for young children that may not move as quickly adults. **Speed humps** have been suggested to help slow the traffic in that busy pedestrian area.

- c. The access gaps in the flower beds in the main street, should allow someone with a pram, wheelie walker or mobility scooter to move straight across, through the car park, exit the other side and leave the road by a cross-over. At present they do not align. This needs to be rectified by changing the sleepers and flower beds. E.g From the Bendigo Bank to the Arts centre could be a direct path.
- d. A pedestrian crossing from the supermarket and butcher, to the central car park needs to be considered.
- e. We are disappointed with **how Mallacoota pathway priorities** are currently determined for funding in the works plan, and ask for our input into priorities to be considered.
- f. On repairing footpaths/pathways, considerable cost just went into a bush track along to Mortimer's paddock beside Bastion Point Road that was not only fine, it was a better track for bikes and prams than its rocky replacement. Yet from Mortimer St to Bastion Point remains a high risk zone and has attracted no budget funding and also Mirrabooka Rd.
- g. **Cycleways** from Genoa Road to Karbeethong Rd are essential to facilitate local and touring cyclists on the loop as well as Lakeside drive into town, Betka Road to Betka. Yet Mallacoota Pathway Upgrades are scheduled only for FY 19/20

2. Recommendations

6. Mallacoota community coordinated by MADBATA make a list of priority pathways that the community agree on, and present it to the shire.

7. The Shire allocate a person that we can liaise with regarding this.

8. The Shire should respect the opinion of the Mallacoota community on priority works.

ECOTOURISM AND MANAGEMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Mallacoota is surrounded by Croajingolong National Park and the Wilderness Coast. The environment is what draws many visitors to Far East Gippsland to walk, birdwatch and pursue other nature-based activities. Replanting should not block water views but should follow height restrictions of one metre nominated by 2000 Mallacoota Foreshore Plan. Disabled people sitting in their cars need to be able to view the ocean.

Recommendation 9:

The Shire as a responsible land manager should focus on protecting landscape and habitat by weed management and indigenous planting to replace trees and other vegetation which is removed.

BOAT RAMP BUDGET AND RESOLUTION

- Where are the perpetual dredging works addressed in the 18/19 budget?
- Why is dredging not included in Council works?
- The current ramp management is inadequate. The ramp keeps sanding up and the current dredging schedule is inadequate with the ramp currently infested with kelp.
 - Reportedly, the dredge was designed to excavate mud, not sand and proven inefficient at sucking sand. Reportedly this could be improved by replacing this part on the dredge.
 - Also sand dredged is being dumped into the ocean less than 30 metres from the mouth of the ramp. The outgoing tide may drag the sand back out to sea past the mouth of the ramp.
- **Recommendations:**
 10. The budget specify the money allocated annually for dredging.
 11. The budget should include cost of fixing the dredge so it is more efficient
 12. Dredging should continue whenever the ramp needs it – there seems not enough dredging, at present, making it a risky entry and return during low tides.
 13. Ultimately, the Shire should invest in an independent engineering report for a long term solution.

RELEASE OF INDUSTRIAL LAND

We understand that, over the last five years, some 30 commercial or educational organisations have been discouraged from establishing a base in Mallacoota due to the lack of industrial zoned land. As far as we know, there is land that is zoned industrial adjacent to the current industrial park. The Friends of Mallacoota have previously written to the Shire to support a proposal that this existing proposed industrial land site be cleared for its intended use. Offset vegetation will be required.

Recommendation 14: In 2018/2019 the Shire should release the second block zoned as Industrial, next to the current Industrial area on Genoa Rd, as soon as possible. This land release and agreement for offset replanting is supported by the Friends of Mallacoota, MADBATA and all parties.

CARAVAN PARKS:

Recommendation 15: The Council rezone land along Mirrabooka Rd near and on Zachary Drive, as permissible for caravan parks.

OFF LEASH DOG BEACHES AND YARD

Recommendations 16: The Shire caravan park is welcomed by tourists as being one of the only caravan parks in Victoria to welcome dogs. Mallacoota is a dog friendly town. In keeping with this, we ask the Shire to consider the application for off leash dog areas, including times on main beaches within walking distance of the caravan park, an allocated dog beach at Quarry Beach, and an off leash dog yard to be located on the grassy area called "Bruces Bottom Paddock, Lakeside Drive." This to be supported by dog training classes for local and tourists over peak season.

RURAL AGED CARE RESIDENTIAL FACILITY

Recommendation 17: With the huge demand for Nursing beds – (271 people aged over 70 yrs) and 35 Mallacoota people currently in Nursing Homes ranging from Eden, Orbost, to Melbourne and Canberra, the Shire should support the endeavours of Mallacoota people to acquire an Aged Care residential Facility in Mallacoota.