

CEO's Report

Issue 29 – December 2017



Council wins Local Government Award for Council Plan Community Engagement



(l-r) Manager Advocacy and Engagement, Christian Stefani, Mayor Cr Pamela Rothfield and CEO Paul Buckley PSM.

Following an update in November's CEO Report that Council was nominated as a finalist, it is with great pleasure to announce that Bass Coast Shire Council was announced the winner of 2017 LGPro 'Best Practice and Innovation in Council Development Award'.

This award is offered every four years and Council was recognised for our Council Plan Community Engagement. Council's community engagement campaign titled 'Help shape a better Bass Coast' was well received by the judging panel with feedback provided that it was, 'a great example of genuine engagement and collaboration with the community that all Council's should emulate'.

Again, I congratulate and thank all the Councillors, staff and community members that participated and worked so hard to make it a success.



Investment into local infrastructure continues

Council's footpath renewal works have continued with the construction of two upgrades having commenced in Wonthaggi and Cowes. The concrete paths along Hicksborough Road and Fuller Road in Wonthaggi, and a section of approximately 300 metres between White Road and Vicars Avenue, have commenced being replaced. A further 200 metres of footpath along Walton Street in Cowes, between West Court and Bayliss Court, is also being replaced.

The total cost for these works is in the order of \$45,000 for the Cowes renewal works and \$50,000 for the Wonthaggi renewal works. These works are important projects in the Roads Upgrade Program under Council's adopted Road Services Asset Management Plan, which aims to meet community service levels, connectivity and community health. To stay up to date with these projects and see all of the footpath renewal projects taking place across the Shire, I encourage people to stay in touch through Council's website at www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/projects.



Council continues to invest in renewal works with several footpaths around the Shire being replaced.

Bass Coast Biolinks

Council has been busy working on a draft Biodiversity Biolinks Plan to protect and connect the remaining native vegetation in the Shire. As the name may imply, a 'Biolink' connects isolated pockets of native vegetation together to encourage the movement and protection of wildlife. They are important as they protect the fourteen per cent of native vegetation that we have left in Bass Coast.

The Biolinks Plan will also help landowners and land managers by attracting investment from State and Federal Government for revegetation works. It will also make it easier for planners to identify areas that are suitable for protection and enhancement when referring to the Bass Coast Planning Scheme. Private land participation is on a voluntary basis and there is no obligation to compel property owners to plant native vegetation in the proposed Biolinks.

A total of 186 proposed Biolinks were identified during three community workshops held earlier this year. They aim to prevent further land management problems, such as erosion, land slips and loss of habitat for local animals. Community workshops were held to help develop the Biolinks Plan with further consultation with the community through November,

where people provided feedback via an online map which shows proposed Biolinks. These proposed links cover both public and private land.

The feedback obtained on the online map has helped inform future Biolinks across Bass Coast and will feed into the Biodiversity Biolinks Plan. In addition to community consultation the Department of Environment Land Water and Planning, West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority and Bass Coast Landcare Network have all contributed to the discussion.

A final report will go before Council in April 2018.

Many visitors come to Bass Coast for our unique environment and the protection our natural attractions is pivotal to maintaining our tourism economy. This has also been recognised in other Council Strategies such as the Natural Environment Strategy 2016-26, Phillip Island and San Remo Visitor Economy Strategy 2035 and Bass Coast Economic Development Strategy 2016-21.

For further information contact Coordinator Catchment and Climate Change, Diana Whittington on diana.whittington@basscoast.vic.gov.au.

New three bin system

Bass Coast's recently implemented new three bin system has been for only a short while, but early results show a significant increase in waste diverted from landfill, and an average contamination of less than 1%.

In 2015-2016, Bass Coast's kerbside waste diverted from landfill was 30 per cent. Since the introduction of the organics bin this diversion rate has increased to around 78 per cent.

During the retrieval of old bins, over 44,000 old bins were collected to be recycled or reused. The collection of these old bins forms a part of the waste service contract which includes the exchange of the old bins.

This reduction in waste means that Council is increasing the lifespan of our landfill cells, reducing the EPA levies we pay, and importantly, reducing greenhouse gas emissions from our landfill. Creating new landfill cells is expensive, so the longer we can increase the lifespan the less cost to our community and ratepayers. It has also been pleasing to see the community's commitment to the use of the new system.

Over the Christmas period there will be a weekly Recycling collection as per previous years, Organics collection will continue weekly and Landfill collection fortnightly.

If you have any questions or would like more information, visit www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/organics or contact Council's Waste Services Team on 1300 BCOAST (226 278) or (03) 5671 2211.

