

Community Connection Session

Wednesday 8 May 2019

Council Chambers, Civic Centre, Wonthaggi

3.00pm to 3.30pm

I. Presentation Topic: 3.00pm

Gape Barren Geese and Wallaby numbers on Phillip Island

Name of person/s and/or organisation presenting:

Anne Davie, Fergus Cameron & Deborah Holland

Notes:

The reason for attending this forum is to inform Council and to seek assistance to manage the situation where sustainable farming has been affected by oversupply of wildlife with Cape Barren Geese and to a lesser extent, wallabies and possums decimating vegetation.

Phillip Island Nature Parks is aware of problem and experimenting with fencing to keep wallabies out.

Estimate a loss of approximately 30% of vegetation coverage on Phillip Island.

Wallabies have been eating tree and shrub lines and possums killing mature trees. The drought has been the tipping point – these animals are thirsty and hungry.

Cape Barren Geese have grown in number to over 3000, since six were re-introduced to the Island in the 1970s. There are farm fields filled with flocks of adolescent geese.

There are no natural predators now that foxes have been eradicated from the Island.

Solutions:

- Botanists assess plants and determine what are not attractive to possums.
- Council advocate on behalf of farmers – approach DELWP to engage with farmers.
- Maintain geese numbers - currently clutches are averaging 5-7. Suggestion that eggs are removed from nest and 1 egg remains with the birds. This will gradually reduce numbers.

Actions:

Councillors and Council officers are aware of the significant problems being caused for farmers by the growing numbers of Cape Barren Geese and other wildlife on Phillip Island.

There have been a number of meetings between relevant stakeholders including farmers, DELWP, Phillip Island Nature Parks, Land Care, The Bunurong Land Council and others to find a way forward. This has led to the establishment of a Cape Barren Geese working group (Cr Fullarton is Council's representative on the group)

Council will continue to work with all relevant stakeholders and the Goose Group to find solutions.

2. Presentation Topic: 3.30pm

Cape Paterson Caravan Park Lease

Name of person/s and/or organisation presenting:

Miguel Del Rio

Notes:

Miguel is the current lessee of Newhaven Caravan Park and is the successful tenderer of the Cape Paterson Caravan Park and understands that the decision regarding that tender recommendation will be before Council at the May Ordinary Meeting.

He wished to explain to Councillors his vision for the Cape Paterson Caravan Park. And to immediately address the following under best practice guidelines issued by DELWP:

- Safety and non-compliance
- Implement systems and processes
- Implement business plan

He spoke about other areas that required attention:

- Modernise entry and check in
- Look at Boundary alignment
- Address aging infrastructure - Upgrade facilities, amenities and camp kitchens
- Review tourist attractions/accommodation

Miguel expanded on improvements that have been implemented at Newhaven and stated he was prepared for transition and excited about the opportunity.

Actions:

Noted by Councillors