Representing our community: shaping our future

Advocating Bass Coast’s priorities

January 2020
Advocacy was a key theme which was constantly reappearing during our extensive community conversations and consultation to ‘Help shape a better Bass Coast’ in early 2017. Throughout the Council Plan engagement we asked our community:
• What would make living, visiting or investing in Bass Coast better?
• What would you like to see retained or improved?
• What health and wellbeing issues are you concerned about?
• What would you like Council to achieve in the next four years?

During the consultation we repeatedly heard that the community wanted Council to focus on advocating on issues and projects which require support from higher levels of government.

We learnt that the community expect Council to represent them and advocate on their behalf to other levels of government, and drive home the needs of Bass Coast in the major areas of roads, health, education, and a range of other state or federal government controlled areas.

As a direct result of this feedback, we developed our very first Advocacy Strategy, and an Advocacy Priority List which sets out the top 10 advocacy items for our community.

It’s important to understand that the Advocacy Strategy and Priority List is a direct result of the rigorous community consultation involved in the development of our Council Plan.

Our first Priority List was adopted in September 2017 and within 10 months we began to prepare the next version, adopted in August 2018. We are now onto our fourth edition, thanks to the delivery of key advocacy projects including: the Wonthaggi Hospital upgrade, a new senior campus for Wonthaggi Secondary College, a shared Wonthaggi Highball facility, intersection upgrade for Phillip Island Road/Back Beach Road, 24 hour medical care in Cowes, commitment to transfer the McBride Campus school site, and the declaration of Bass Coast as a Distinctive Area and Landscape.

While we feel our Council Plan engagement provided a real understanding of our community’s priorities in advocacy, it doesn’t stop here. We are continuing to listen to our community’s needs and advocate on their behalf.

We are excited by our success to date, however there is still much to be done. It is critical that we continue to focus on our advocacy priorities, which are fundamental to the liveability of Bass Coast.
About Bass Coast

Bass Coast is approximately 130km south east of Melbourne and is bounded by Western Port in the north and west, Cardinia Shire in the north east, South Gippsland Shire in the east and Bass Strait to the south.

Our major industries are tourism, construction, agriculture and manufacturing. Tourism generates $339 million in direct visitor expenditure and supports 3,100 direct and indirect full-time equivalent jobs.

Today’s Reality
Our natural environment is our economy. People visit for the environment and stay to join tight knit communities that are passionate about protecting natural assets and growing business opportunities, while creating safe and supportive townships in which to raise their families.

Bass Coast Shire Council is facing unprecedented growth pressure. Our population challenges are twofold. Since 2007 our population has increased by 21.6% and every summer our population temporarily swells to over 80,000.

Our economy is growing; in fact we are the fastest growing economy in regional Victoria and the third fastest growing economy in Victoria. Since 2007 our economy has grown 45.6 per cent, out pacing all other local government areas except Wyndham and Melton.

Tomorrow Unchecked
Under a business as usual model, by 2035, Bass Coast Shire Council will be experiencing the following.

- 37% increase in the number of residents
- Upwards of 235,000 new residents will move into areas to the north and east of the region (within a one hour drive)
- An extra 1.6 million per annum in domestic and international visitors in 2035
- 71% increase in residents aged 70-74 years old
- An additional 3,950 visitor movements generated per day (on average)
- Every weekend the region will reach or exceed capacity in peak months

Environmental protection will be crucial to maintain resident quality of life and attract visitors.

Snapshot

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>32,848</th>
<th>865km2</th>
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<tr>
<td>Estimated residential population</td>
<td>Size of Bass Coast Shire</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Over 80,000</th>
<th>130km</th>
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<tr>
<td>Population during peak visitor periods</td>
<td>Approximate distance from Melbourne</td>
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**What is Council requesting?**

$30 million in funding towards redevelopment of a regional aquatics facility, located in Wonthaggi.

**Why?**

The existing 40 year old aquatics facility is ageing, outdated and does not meet the functional demands of a regional aquatic and leisure centre. It is restricted in its ability to provide the community with programs to improve health and wellbeing.

The development of a regional facility will have economic benefits as well as health benefits, enabling regional tournaments and competitions to be hosted which will bring people to our Shire to contribute to our local economy.

The need for an upgraded regional aquatics facility located in Wonthaggi aligns with the growth of the town as a Regional Centre and recent investments including upgrading the Wonthaggi Hospital to Sub-Regional Status, and the construction of a new three court indoor highball stadium and senior secondary college campus.

Council has a aquatics design funding earmarked in the 2020-21 Annual Budget. This project aligns with Council’s strategic vision and key guiding documents including Active Bass Coast 2018-28 and Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-21.

**Anticipated cost**

$30 million in funding towards the redevelopment of an aquatics facility in Wonthaggi.

**Supporting strategies**

- Council Plan and Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-21
- Active Bass Coast 2018-28
- Bass Coast Aquatics Strategy
- Victorian Tourism Industry Council (VTIC) five-point plan – Tourism is Victoria’s Business
- Victorian Visitor Economy Strategy Action Plan 2016-20
- Australian Local Government Association Federal Election Initiatives 2018 ‘All Politics is Local’
Cowes Cultural and Community Centre

What is Council requesting?
Grant funding of $750,000 through the Living Libraries Fund 2020, and additional funding available through State and Federal Governments, to support the redevelopment of the Cowes Cultural and Community Centre (CCCC).

Why?
The current CCCC is ageing and does not meet growing community and visitor needs. In October 2019, Council agreed to invest $19 million to bring this important community project to fruition.
The Centre will include:
• New library and research hub
• Multipurpose community hall
• Theatre/cinema/concert and lecture hall
• Modern dressing rooms, storage and stage management systems
• Accessible toilet facilities
• Art studio and exhibition space
• Operational facilities for local societies and community groups
• Kitchen and servery
The redevelopment of the CCCC has been a priority for the community for many years. Council allocated $650,000 towards development of detailed designs and a further $19 million towards its construction.
Funding through the Living Libraries infrastructure program would contribute towards the development of a new library and research hub to complete the new Cultural Centre. Additional infrastructure funding is also sought to support this major project.

Anticipated cost
$750,000 through Living Libraries infrastructure program 2020.
Additional infrastructure funding towards construction.

Supporting strategies
• Council Plan and Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-21
• Cowes Activity Centre Plan 2015
• Bass Coast Towards 2030
• Arts and Culture Strategy 2019-29
• Gippsland Regional Growth Plan
• Gippsland Regional Plan
• South East Melbourne Regional Plan
What is Council requesting?
$1.86 million towards urgent erosion mitigation solutions and policy change at a State and Federal level to recognise a Climate Emergency, and appropriately plan for the future.

Why?
Council has declared a Climate Emergency and is now advocating to the Victorian Government to also declare a Climate Emergency. Council is also asking the Federal Government to review and implement a national Climate Change Policy.

Council acknowledges that it cannot act alone and it is State and Federal governments around the world which will have the most powerful impact on the Climate Emergency.

Climate Change and Adaptation Policy direction at a State and Federal level will assist local government authorities in areas such as: accessing electrified public transport, ensuring a ‘just transition’ away from fossil fuels, funding community and renewable energy projects, developing smart waste management processes and encouraging innovation towards sustainable practices.

In Bass Coast, the impacts of Climate Change and severe weather events are noticeable on our coastal communities and environments. Urgent erosion mitigation action in the order of $4.56 million is required to implement critical erosion infrastructure in Cowes, Inverloch and Grantville. Following a $1.5 million commitment from the Federal Government, $1.175 million from the Victorian Government, and $25,000 from Council, an additional $1.86 million is needed to close the gap.

Funding towards key Erosion Mitigation Projects:
- **Inverloch**: Development of a Regional and Strategic Partnership (RASP) and Coastal Hazard Risk Assessment Study ($700,000 - funded), Geotextile sandbags ($450,000 - funded), Extension of wet sand fencing pilot project ($300,000)
- **Cowes East**: Foreshore design ($50,000 - funded), 500 metres of wet sand fencing, sand renourishment and revegetation ($800,000), replacement of groynes ($350,000)
- **Cowes**: Design infrastructure to protect Cowes Main Beach ($80,000, installation of seawall infrastructure (estimated $1.5 million).
- **Grantville/Jam Jerrup**: Boulder rampart condition report ($30,000). Implement actions from the condition report (estimated $300,000).

Anticipated cost
$1.86 million needed. Total project cost of $4.560 million.

Supporting strategies
- Council Plan and Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-21
- Natural Environment Sustainability Strategy 2016-26
- Victorian Auditor General’s Office - Protecting Victoria’s Coastal Assets
- Coastal Erosion Management Options Cowes Main Beach Foreshore Reserve (April 2018)
- Cowes East Foreshore: Erosion Management Option (July 2018)
- Victorian Tourism Industry Council (VTIC) five-point plan – Tourism is Victoria’s Business
- Australian Local Government Association Federal Election Initiatives 2018 ‘All Politics is Local’
- Western Port Local Coastal Hazard Assessment
Homelessness and Emergency Housing

What is Council requesting?

$130,000 to partner with local agencies and undertake critical strategic work to guide the development of emergency and social housing in Bass Coast. This will include an initial land assessment and audit, and the development of a Bass Coast Affordable and Emergency Housing Feasibility Study.

Why?

Bass Coast is experiencing increased incidences of people facing homelessness or being at risk of homelessness. The situation is critical with the closure of a major accommodation provider in Wonthaggi. There is no available community or government owned social housing in Bass Coast, the only option is privately owned accommodation, which is increasingly limited.

Council is working in partnership with the Salvation Army to progress the development of emergency housing in Bass Coast. There is the opportunity for private/public partnership and interest from developers and investors. However, a critical piece is missing; a land assessment to identify suitable land for the development of emergency and/or social housing.

Council is urgently seeking $30,000 to produce a land assessment report. This would form stage one of the integrated Bass Coast Affordable and Emergency Housing Feasibility Study.

An additional $100,000 is sought to complete stage two and complete the evidence based Study. Stage two will capture the needs, risks and opportunities to reduce homelessness and increase emergency housing in Bass Coast. Local agencies are struggling to meet the demands of case management, leaving no room for them to undertake critical strategic and planning work. Council would lead the development of this strategy in partnership with local agencies.

The objectives of the Housing Feasibility Study would be to:

- Identify suitable land across the Shire for the provision of emergency and social housing
- Use data and metrics specific to Bass Coast to identify the needs of the community today and into the future
- Consider and recommend types of housing and program support which aligns with Bass Coast’s needs
- Consider and recommend a developer contribution framework for social and emergency housing
- Provide recommendations on advocacy priorities relating to social and emergency housing

Anticipated cost

Stage one: $30,000 Initial Land Assessment
Stage two: $100,000 Bass Coast Affordable and Emergency Housing Feasibility Study

Supporting strategies

- Council Plan and Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-21
- Youth Action Plan 2016-20
- Change for Sam Advocacy Strategy (2018)
- Australian Local Government Association Federal Election Initiatives 2018 ‘All Politics is Local’
Mental Health and Suicide Prevention

What is Council requesting?
$210,000 to employ a Bass Coast Coordinator of Suicide Prevention through the Gippsland Primary Health Network (GPHN). This role would build on the existing community momentum in suicide prevention strategy, including the Lifespan Program and community advisory committee.

Why?
The suicide rates in Bass Coast are well above the Victorian state average and the most at risk are men aged 44-56. For every 100,000 males, the suicide rate in Bass Coast is 24.7, compared to 15.3 for the state. The Bass Coast community is deeply touched by suicide and passionate about addressing mental health and suicide prevention. This commitment is evident in the participation and frequency of mental health forums and community led projects.

Council’s Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan identifies actions for the provision of coordinated mental health services and the reduction of rates of suicide (particularly male suicide) for our community, with GPHN as the lead agency for this work.

In 2017 a community advisory committee was established to underpin and develop a suicide prevention strategy for Bass Coast. From this, Bass Coast became one of 12 municipalities in the state to run a trial integrated suicide prevention program. Lifespan, led by GPHN, is a place-based and evidence-based suicide prevention program, focussed on building a community safety net to help prevent suicide. The trial will be completed in June 2020.

After June 2020, the momentum and facilitation led by GPHN through the implementation of Lifespan will cease. The Bass Coast community needs a designated Coordinator of Suicide Prevention to continue the momentum and outcomes of the advisory committee and Lifespan program.

The objectives of this role would be to:
• Continue the community advisory committee and take it forward to becoming a sustainable and established community network
• Facilitate and develop strategic partnerships and plans
• Represent Bass Coast in the development of the Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Plan for Gippsland
• Increase the capacity of the Bass Coast community to reduce suicide
• Advocate for the continued implementation of programs and services delivered through the Lifespan program.

Anticipated cost
$210,000 over three years for local agency GPHN to fund the paid position of a Bass Coast Coordinator of Suicide Prevention.

Supporting strategies
• Council Plan and Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-21
What is Council requesting?
A total of $11.05 million in pathway funding. This includes $10 million of infrastructure funding towards construction of its top three Pathways projects: Cowes to Rhyll, Wonthaggi to Inverloch and Guy Road Corinella. An additional $1.05 million of funding support to design the connection of the rail trail from Woolamai to Nyora and Cowes to the Penguin Parade (Nobbies).

Why?
Pathways play an important role in the health and wellbeing of a community. In Bass Coast, they also make a significant contribution to our visitor economy, providing links to key attractions and contributing to our unique eco-tourism.

The rail trail extension would connect with future plans along the Great Southern Rail Trail, creating a super trail from Cowes all the way to Welshpool.

- Wonthaggi to Inverloch
  Option one: Design and construction of 12km of shared pathway along an existing unmade road reserve through farmland between Wonthaggi and Inverloch.
  OR, Option two: Regional Roads Victoria (RRV) to coordinate the design and construction of a shared pathway alongside the Highway.

The construction of a shared pathway from Wonthaggi to Inverloch would complete a tourism trail from Cowes to Inverloch, complementing the aspirations of the Phillip Island and San Remo Visitor Economy Strategy 2035 – Growing Tourism (VES).

The VES identifies pathways as a way to link primary visitor accommodation nodes with key attractions, and also estimates that by 2035 an additional $3.8 million could be generated through the development of pathways. Once completed, the 60km trail from Cowes to Inverloch would provide a stunning two day hike option with panoramic views across Bass Strait and Phillip Island, half way stop overs in the beautiful seaside hamlets of Kilcunda or San Remo, and finishing or beginning in the main tourism hubs of Inverloch or Cowes.

This pathway would also provide a safe commuter option and would link with the cycling corridor through both Wonthaggi and Inverloch, supporting the objectives of the Victorian Cycling Strategy.

- Cowes-Rhyll Road from Thompson Avenue, Cowes to Rhyll
  Design and construction of 7km of shared concrete pathway

The shared pathway between Cowes and Rhyll would link the accommodation options of Cowes with the seaside hamlet of Rhyll, a popular spot for visitors and also the current location for passengers to disembark from cruise ships visiting Phillip Island. It would also connect with the popular walking trails through protected bushland at Oswin Roberts Reserve and Conservation Hill Reserve.

As identified in the VES, linking accommodation and attractions via a range of mediums such as walking and cycling helps the region become a sustainable destination. Providing opportunities for visitors to walk and cycle enables them to fully experience the region’s attractions with minimal impact on the environment and a reduction in traffic congestion.

This pathway would also provide a safe commuter option for students and professionals who live in Rhyll and study or work in Cowes.

- Guy Road, Corinella
  Construction of 5.9 km of shared concrete pathway (design is complete, this project is shovel ready.)

Council has completed designs for a 2.5m wide shared pathway along Guy Road in Corinella, from Jamieson Street to Bass Valley Primary School and is seeking funding to construct the path.

The pathway will link the popular coastal hamlet of Tenby Point with Corinella and Coronet Bay and, via the Corinella punt, with French Island. The pathway will provide an option for visitors to experience the Waterline area through walking and cycling.

This pathway will also establish a safe commuter link from Tenby Point and Corinella to Bass Valley Primary School. This aspect of the path links with the Victorian Cycling Strategy which seeks to increase cycling as transport and support cycling to school.

Anticipated cost
- Wonthaggi to Inverloch shared path
  Option one: $5.5 million
  Option two: RRV design and construction along Bass Highway - $5 million

- Cowes-Rhyll Road shared path – Shovel Ready
  Stage one: Thompson Avenue to Coghlan Road (3.2km) - $1.63 million
  Stage two: Coghlan Road to Rhyll (3.8km) - $1.88 million

- Guy Road, Corinella shared path – Shovel Ready - $2.51 million

- Cowes to Penguin Parade - strategic and design work - $250,000

- Extension of Rail Trail from Woolamai to Nyora - strategic and design work - $800,000 over three years.

Supporting strategies
- Aspirational Network Pathways Plan 2016
- Phillip Island and San Remo Visitor Economy Strategy 2035 – Growing Tourism
- Victorian Cycling Strategy 2018-28
- South East Transport Strategy
- Victorian Tourism Industry Council (VTIC) five-point plan – Tourism is Victoria’s Business
- Victorian Visitor Economy Strategy Action Plan 2016-20
- Gippsland Tracks and Trails Feasibility Study (currently underway)
What is Council requesting?
$47 million in funding to develop the new Phillip Island Aquatics and Recreation Precinct. This includes $17 million for the development of Hilton Chadwick Master Plan Recreation and Open Space, and $30 million to construct the Aquatics Facility.

Why?
The proposed Phillip Island Aquatics and Recreation Precinct will provide Phillip Island with a long awaited essential recreation and aquatics facility to improve the health and wellbeing of the local community and visitors to the Island.

 Council is currently negotiating for the purchase of additional land in Cowes that will become the recreation hub for the Phillip Island community. For over 20 years, the local community has fundraised and lobbied for better facilities on the island. Local clubs and associations are at full capacity at existing locations and residents must commute long distances to participate in aquatic and recreational activities.

Current facilities do not meet community and visitor expectations in line with Phillip Island’s high profile tourism status. The Precinct will cater for the local community while meeting increasing demand from the growing visitor population. This will include a multi-purpose aquatics and leisure facility, sporting fields, hard courts and landscaped open spaces for informal recreation and social gatherings for all ages and abilities.

The Precinct will include a range of uses, including:
- Multipurpose aquatics and leisure centre, including a 25m indoor pool, water therapy pool and gymnasium
- Sporting fields and pavilions catering for football, cricket and soccer
- Cricket training facilities
- Netball, basketball and tennis courts
- Play and landscaped open spaces, including accessible pathways for informal recreation and social gatherings for all ages and abilities.

Anticipated cost
Sporting Facilities and Open Space - $17 million
New Aquatics and Leisure Centre - $30 million
Total - $47 million

Supporting strategies
- Bass Coast Aquatics Strategy 2015
- Active Bass Coast 2018
- Cowes Future Recreation Land Master Plan (and incorporating a new master plan for Cowes Recreation Reserve) October 2014
- Bass Coast Sport and Active Recreation Needs Assessment 2016
- Council Plan and Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-21
- Phillip Island and San Remo Visitor Economy Strategy 2035
- Phillip Island Aquatic Centre Fund Incorporated Masterplan October 2018
- Phillip Island Aquatics and Leisure Draft Component Plan 2017
- Australian Local Government Association Federal Election Initiatives 2018 ‘All Politics is Local’
What is Council requesting?
$30 million of funding allocated to Regional Roads Victoria (RRV) for the implementation of two critical road upgrade projects: The Bass Highway concept development and implementation in Kilcunda ($7.5 million) and Back Beach Road intersection upgrade in San Remo ($22.5 million).

Why?

Kilcunda
Pedestrian safety and parking improvements in Kilcunda were identified as key priorities by RRV through recent community engagement. This project is considered by Council to be of critical importance to the local community. The upgrades will address issues when crossing the highway between the beach/caravan park and the residential/business precinct.

The Bass Highway is a key access corridor for local agriculture and forms part of the Melbourne to Sydney coastal tourist route. As well as linking visitors to the picturesque clifftop town of Kilcunda, with its pristine beaches and local eateries, it also connects the key townships of Leongatha, Inverloch, and Wonthaggi with the Anderson turnoff to Phillip Island.

San Remo
Council has worked in partnership with Regional Roads Victoria and the Phillip Island Integrated Transport Study (PIITS) Community Reference Group with relation to key intersection upgrades and community engagement. The community has identified upgrades at Back Beach Road and Bergin Grove in San Remo as essential improvements to tackle significant safety and equity of access issues onto Phillip Island Road.

This intersection serves as a gateway onto Phillip Island, linking San Remo with access to the Phillip Island Bridge and Bass Highway.

Current access issues are anticipated to worsen. The Phillip Island and San Remo Visitor Economy Strategy 2035 Growing Tourism states that Phillip Island can expect an additional 4,300 visitors per day by 2035. Thirty five per cent of international visitors that come to Victoria visit Phillip Island, and Phillip Island is the second most visitor reliant economy in Australia behind Uluru.

Anticipated cost
Kilcunda: $7.5 million
San Remo: $22.5 million

Supporting strategies
- Phillip Island Integrated Transport Study
- Phillip Island and San Remo Visitor Economy Strategy 2035 Growing Tourism
- Regional Public Transport Strategy
- Gippsland Freight Strategy
What is Council requesting?
$1.595 million towards the establishment and operation of a Bass Coast Country Universities Centre in Wonthaggi, through the Federal Government’s Regionals Study Hubs Funding Program.

Why?
Fifty per cent of Bass Coast students who achieve their first preference university offer do not accept. This can be related to limitations around travel, re-location, finances and an unwillingness to leave the community.

The closest higher education providers are in Churchill and Frankston. These are two hour’s drive away and there is no feasible public transport services. Students must either have a car and their licence to commute, or relocate both at a considerable cost to the student.

Bass Coast is experiencing a shortfall in skilled workers. This shortfall will be amplified by forecasted industry growth particularly in the areas of health and education. For example, Bass Coast Health’s $115m expansion in Wonthaggi, and the new Community Hospital on Phillip Island, are expected to generate 700 new jobs for Bass Coast over the next three years. This will include hundreds of jobs requiring skilled and trained staff. A Country University Centre would provide local opportunities for people to pathway from training to employment.

Bass Coast students are less likely to complete Year 12, less likely to go to university, and less likely to start at university compared to metropolitan students.

Providing a local education pathway would improve retention and participation, supporting students at risk of poor learning outcomes to reach their full potential and stay in education for better life opportunities.

Anticipated cost
$1.595 million to establish and operate over four years

Supporting strategies
- Council Plan and Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-21
- Victorian Tourism Industry Council (VTIC) five-point plan – Tourism is Victoria’s Business
- Victorian Visitor Economy Strategy Action Plan 2016-20
- Bass Coast Country Universities Centre Business Case 2018 (TBC)
Transport

Public Transport Infrastructure and Freight

What is Council requesting?
Investment from the Victorian Department of Transport to develop strategic plans and analysis on Transport in Bass Coast, and commit funding towards recommendations from those plans.

Why?
Transport into and around Bass Coast is severely lacking in the number of services, connectivity and infrastructure. Improved transport options will increase accessibility to jobs and education and have a significant impact on the local community. These priority projects will also ensure that the transport system can cope with anticipated growth in Bass Coast, in particular in the areas of population, tourism and freight. The extractive resources industry is set to grow rapidly in our area. With this growth will come increased pressures on our freight systems and transport assets and infrastructure such as local road routes. Council is eager to work in partnership with local industry and all levels of government, to ensure this growth is managed in a way that brings maximum value and minimum disruptions.

Public Transport infrastructure:
- Public Transport Victoria to undertake a gaps/needs analysis and implement improved bus connections within Bass Coast, and connecting Bass Coast to Melbourne
- A strategic plan to consider the extension of rail from Clyde to Lang Lang, and a future extension from Lang Lang to Wonthaggi
- Improved public transport infrastructure for Bass Coast

Freight:
- Strategic plan to map out the extractive resource industry freight impacts and to mitigate potential negative consequences.
- Funding towards recommendations from the Strategic Plan, in particular to protect public and Council maintained assets which will be impacted by the extractive resources industry.

Anticipated cost
Improved bus connections – Department of Transport to undertake
Strategic rail plan - Department of Transport to undertake
Improved Public Transport infrastructure - $50,000 for bus stops
Freight Strategy Bass Coast South Gippsland - $200,000
Funding towards Extractive Resource recommendations – Determined by Freight Strategy

Supporting strategies
- Phillip Island Integrated Transport Strategy
- Phillip Island and San Remo Visitor Economy Strategy 2035 Growing Tourism
- Regional Public Transport Strategy
- Gippsland Freight Strategy 2013
- Gippsland Local Government Network Victorian Budget Submission 2018/19
- Australian Local Government Association Federal Election Initiatives 2018 ‘All Politics is Local’
- Aspirational Network Pathways Plan 2016
- Victorian Cycling Strategy 2018-28
- South East Transport Strategy
- Victorian Tourism Industry Council (VTIC) five-point plan – Tourism is Victoria’s Business
- Victorian Visitor Economy Strategy Action Plan 2016-20
- South Gippsland Corridor Strategy 2019
Bass Coast says thanks!

Funding commitments so far

Our community is grateful for the successful funding announcements for Bass Coast including:

- Wonthaggi Hospital Upgrade - $115 million
- Wonthaggi Secondary College New Senior Campus - $25 million
- Phillip Island Integrated Transport Strategy Stage 2 – Phillip Island Road/Back Beach Road Intersection Upgrade - $9.7 million
- Wonthaggi Highball Stadium – Indoor Sports Hub & Community Stadium - $6.2 million
- 24 hour medical care for Phillip Island
- Recognising Bass Coast as a Distinctive Area and Landscape
- Transfer of the Wonthaggi Secondary College McBride Avenue Campus land to Council
- Erosion mitigation funding - $2.675 million
- Cowes jetty repair works

Left: Students from Wonthaggi Secondary College celebrate the announcement of funding for a new Senior Campus.
Above: Erosion mitigation funding; Construction of geotextile sandbag sea wall at Inverloch foreshore to protect Inverloch Surf Life Saving Club, access paths and footpaths and roads.
Right (l-r): Celebrating funding the Back Beach Road/Phillip Island Road upgrade; Council’s Assets Officer Scott Morrison with Phillip Island Integrated Transport Study Community Reference Group member, Michael Wright of South Coast Bus Lines.