

Help Shape a Better Bass Coast

Community Engagement Session

Comments from Wonthaggi 24 January 2017

THEMES

Youth and Children

9/491 = 1.8%

- Long term youth plan – with a focus on education and employment
- Facilities for youth on Phillip Island to help occupy them (i.e. Skate Park for San Remo / Cowes) and help entertain. Healthy life healthy kids * Yes Yes a must ASAP
- Support for early years – help to reduces disadvantage at this stage
- No youth space – with services **

Waste

10/491 = 2.0%

- Current weekly bin (garbage) pick up ***** No community consultation of this
- More rubbish bins
- More rubbish bins
- Cf Tarwin Lower. Need bin – growing natives
- Hard rubbish collection

Tourism

34/491 = 6.9%

- Strength: State coal mine huge tourist attraction under promoted against Phillip Island ***
- Opportunity: Tourism and accommodation in areas other than Phillip Island **
- Information centre in Wonthaggi **
- Improved accommodation with planning encouragement of outsiders
- Sate Coal Mine

- Help improve the mine its Victoria's heritage not just Wonthaggi. Lobby State Government for assistance. Improve signage to the mine and entry to Garden St for Coaches etc. ** **
- Resign station and State Coal Mine. Already developing as vibrant community hub. To further develop and promote as tourist destination. **
- Visiting – better accommodation *, restaurants, parking (especially caravans) caravan parks
- New caravan park at the mine
- Better caravan entry to Info Centre in Wonthaggi and caravan dump *
- RV stop at Visitor Centre *
- Re instate signage of places on interest *
- Marketing the town and tourist venues / facilities * E.g. walks to buildings places of historical interest
- Promote the area – TV ads etc.
- Work with the mine to bring more visitors to town – maybe even a caravan park up there for accommodation as there is little in Wonthaggi. *

Toilets and Cleaning

3/491 = 0.6%

- Improved maintenance of toilets in Cowes
- Have the toilets near the skate park open more often, not only when the recreation reserve is having an event
- Better signage for toilet locations

Sports and Recreation

22/491 = 4.5%

- Strength: Arts and leisure ***
- If a second pool (i.e. mooted Phillip Island) it should be at San Remo for Island and Water line
#pool for PI *
- Wonthaggi pool is current Bass Coast Aquatic Centre. Needs to have the commitment to redress and improve this facility. Is in the centre (main hub) of the shire and cannot be let to deteriorate *
- Sporting Stadium
- Bass Coast Aquatic Centre – Improve
- More leisure activities for all ages
- More opportunities for people to be involved in community activities, active events *
 - Bass Coast Aquatic Centre *
- Indoor sport venue for activity in all weather
- Facilities for youth on Phillip Island to help occupy them (i.e. Skate Park for San Remo / Cowes)
- Support for local sporting venues

- Keep active – Wonthaggi needs upgrading pool, courts, walking and riding tracks *
- “GoorFa’s” / skateboard on footpath
- Insufficient opportunities for a range of sporting activities:
 - For young people
 - For older people

Roads

10/491 = 2.0%

- Safer roads for Phillip Island i.e. roundabout at Rhyll – Phillip Island intersection *
- 50km/h to be enforced in all streets with the exception of some major roads. E.g. White road, McKenzie St, Cameron St
- No large (Cement tucks) in Graham St.
- Better roads
- Dalyston Traffic Management Plan 2013
 - Outcomes and implementations?
- Lower speed through town create awareness for all to take it easy. So many people need to take it gently while crossing the road
- Completion of sealed roads in Crown subdivision
- Traffic intersections *

Public Transport

27/491 = 5.5%

- Weakness: Limited public transport **
- Public transport improved
- Public transport increased especially at end of working day
- Relocate bus stop from Biggs Drive to where it was in Watt Street *****
- Relocating the Vline bus stop back to Watt St with toilet facilities parking and security already available!!
- Improve local transport around town / between towns and to Melbourne ****
- Better public transport
- Effective bus shelter both Wonthaggi and Dalyston *
- Car Ferry Cowes to Hastings
- V line bus stop – location = no public convenience, shelter danger of people car movement at Murry and Bilson St / Biggs Drive ****

Planning

57/491 = 11.6%

- Strength: Green spaces around town (Wonthaggi) ***
- Weakness: Policy is not in planning scheme
- Threat: Not adequate planning controls *
- Threat: Inadequate planning laws to protect our small towns and coastal feel and Wonthaggi as the hub ***
- Threat: Allowing development on low lying estuarine areas e.g. Screw Creek- back of Manna Gum **Too late! Real Estate Agents win again**
- Cape Paterson – fill in the blocks already available before any more subdivision? Years ago consultants and the community worked on the Cultural Precinct. Where is it now?
- Improved development
- Keep the old buildings e.g. Post ****
- Rezoning cemetery end of town from farming to low density res **XXX**
- Town (Reed Cres – Rifle Range end) Wonthaggi needs change – radical change *****
- Faster planning approvals **
- A viable 30 year plan includes how the new East and North Wonthaggi connects to old Wonthaggi **instead of just 4 years ****
- No more development to be allowed on low lying coastal areas. E.g. marsh area of Screw Creek at Manna Gum. This is subject to flooding.
- Do not be in thrall to developers. Their only interest in Wonthaggi and all of Bass Coast is their bottom line. **
- Good planning laws in place to keep our small coastal towns and Wonthaggi as the main centre. *****
- Policy and Action - Support for the environment cease clearing into planning scheme
- Town planning to maintain green space, water management, before it disappears and plan for future population of retirees (street seating, adequate footpaths...) *****

Infrastructure

8/491 = 1.6%

- Developers must make contribution to Council for infrastructure facilities
- Town drains – **Especially waste traps prior to water entering wetlands etc.**
- Attend to potholes quickly *
- Huge drains in – cover in all open drains Wonthaggi!
- Channel/kerbing/trees along Billson St – it's still 1950s style
- Street lighting to be maintained especially at intersections

Paths, Trails and Footpaths

34/491 = 7.0%

- Improving walking access around the town *
- Footpaths south side of Wonthaggi Reed Cres, Caledonian, Stewart St, Peverill Cr, West End Broom Cr ***
- Bike lanes on main roads – Korumburra rd.
- Bike lanes be provided on left hand side of Cape Paterson to Inverloch Rd.
- Walk / bike paths connecting Rhyll to Surf Beach / Sunderland Bay (connecting paths to all suburbs on PI) *
- Complete walk/cycle routes around town eg Old Rifle Road to Read Crescent ***
- A walking/cycling path Wonthaggi to Inverloch. **Forget purchase of farm land!**
- Walking /cycling track map of all reserves
- Bike paths around town (Wonthaggi and Dalyston)
- Dalyston Traffic Management Plan 2013
 - Walking tracks/bike tracks connection to rail trail
- Consider traffic management and active ways of getting around Wonthaggi
- Promote our walking and cycling trails and complete the last link from Cowes to Inverloch
- Paths – including Wonthaggi to Inverloch **plus Dalyston**
- Community activity needing (Wonthaggi) linking State Coal Mine back to CBD – Need helicopter view – i.e. Google Earth trails link *
- Extra seating for elderly in town
- Keep active – Wonthaggi needs upgrading pool, courts, walking and riding tracks *
- Water fountains in the wetlands *
- More promotion of physical activities like bike tracks, walking tracks, YMCA, fitness classes *
- Walking and cycling tracks in Wonthaggi and Dalyston
- Bike lanes across shire

Local Laws and Animals

9/491 = 1.8%

- Opportunity: Employ more enforcement officers for infringements * * * * * **especially for cats and dogs**
- Threat: No enforcement of policies, planning, clearing, dogs, cats

Health

42/491 = 8.6%

- Homelessness – how to address this? **
- Retirement village

- Retirement village
- Programs to encourage healthy lifestyles ***
- Encouragement for people to have healthy and active and involved in the community*
- Improved specialist care *
- Preventative health rec walking tracks *
- Lack for facilities for mental health and youth
- Hospital upgrade
- Healthy eating – many do not know how to cook and eat in a healthy way *
- Mental health services – lack of access *****
- We need a surgeon so operations can be performed at Wonthaggi Hospital, Traralgon is too far away both for patients and their families. It is not economical to travel there and visit.
- Hospital upgrade – to a regional hospital **This has been mooted for years ******
- Better emergency facilities (24/7) for Phillip Island, especially during peak season of tourism *
and all of Bass Coast *
- Teenage pregnancies
- Hospital upgrade
- Better promotion of existing (health) activities and programs
- Sustainable aged care and for those in need
- Inadequate local psychological and counselling services **
 - Drugs
 - Youth
 - Depression

Finances and Budget

6/491 = 1.2%

- More external grants
- Keep budget under control
- Better spending techniques
- Utilise Council financial reserves to obtain government grants with matching of funds to build for future generations *
- A better balancing of books

Environment

40/491 = 8.1%

- Strength: Beautiful location
- Environment - Cease clearing and plant - global warming is REAL
- Native display garden with plaques with ID so they can then identify plants when walking
- Fincher St Reserve – vegetate! **

- Plant indigenous natives
- Street plaques like at Cranbourne Botanical Park re. mining
- Paths and seats
- Shade trees on nature strips
- Under powerlines- correct trees so not butchered!
- Plastic bag free town
- Reservoir Hills - western side – local botanical gardens?
- Preserve and enhance our natural environment including what is close to town
- Solar +++++ Recycle Water *****
- All subdivisions should be required to recycle all storm water for use with the mauve hoses for gardens/lawns etc.
- Plus have blocks which align to allow homes to face north, so can utilise passive solar
- Enforce Council advice that new residents plant native plants. Council could make an example by planting native plants in their roundabouts etc. on land but need to label plants for people to then identify ***
- Create more natural/native walks, suitable paths for residents and encourage visitors to see us as a 'walking destination' ***
- Reduce carbon footprint for Council
 - Plus more support for Community Energy
 - Plus reduced Carbon footprints of local residents and businesses
- More tree planting
- Maintain our green environment *

Education

7/491 = 1.4 %

- Education precinct *
- Tertiary education increased options *
- Long term youth plan – with a focus on education and employment
- Increased education facilities especially tertiary *

Economic Development

36/491 = 7.3%

- Opportunity: We live in a beautiful area – sell it better – encourage young families to bring down their businesses and initiatives to the area. ****
- Weakness: Lack of employment opportunities **
- Positive approach to stimulate pride in the township of Wonthaggi e.g. unemployed encouraged to work for community benefit which will stimulate their own self-worth = pride in self and community. **They need to be acknowledged for their achievements too.**

- Developer contribution *
- Improved marketing of town centre ***
- Council needs to encourage 'knowledge' industries and 'sell' our proximity to Melbourne plus the natural environment. This may include establishment of business 'hubs' and /or incubators to support migrating of business in and local 'start ups' *
- Long term youth plan – with a focus on education and employment
- How do we diversify types of industry and investment that create jobs for a broader demographic (other than retail and hospitality)
- Promote educational opportunities for our young people **
- Sell what we already have better: encourage 'knowledge' economy business to establish here.
- Unemployed can be used to help with recycling items at a recycling/transfer station. Save our planet!
- Business opportunity for garden waste – compost sales
- A broader demographic profile *
 - Encourage families to settle here **
 - Encourage businesses to shift here and new businesses to start up
- Access to fresh fruit and vegetables
- Encouraging employment for 50 + *
- Diversify types of industry to encourage part time positions
- Push for outside industries to come to Wonthaggi. Where do our year 12s go for jobs after graduation? Not all are Einsteins.

Community Engagement

45/491 = 9.2 %

- Opportunity: Tap into the talents of the community *
- Weakness: Communication with the community **
- Weakness: Consultation with locals – great to see this event happening but you must listen to us *****
- Threat: Wasting money on consultancy ✓✓* X
- Support farmer's argic/rural base of Bass Coast Shire
- Make the most of the amazing talents in the shire, of older residents especially – establish advisory groups ✓
- No more outside consultants – too expensive!! We have more than enough local people to advise who also have knowledge. X wrong! *i.e. environmental*
- Create unity with public consultation – this is a great start to the Council's term ✓✓✓✓✓
- Help promote more community involvement with their decisions and better Q&A time during meeting. You represent US ✓✓✓✓✓
- Open forum often

- More community based activities designed to bring about closeness of residents
- Documenting plans across shire and list start dates rather than priority 1,2 etc.... transparency
- Dalyston on edge of large ward can Westernport Ward Councillors attend Wonthaggi meetings?? (we feel overlooked) or have travel further to see Councillors at meetings

Car Parking, Crossings and Signage

26/491 = 5.3%

- Parking – blocks smaller – more parks on street and nature strips – should be on their own property
- Parking is really due for improvement
- Increase time of parking to allow visitors to shop and lunch
- Sign for caravan parking ✓
- Inadequate parking spaces ✓
- Parking – need more time 2hr limits ✓✓
- Information sign advertising info and sport centre in McKenzie St and sign be erected on outside of White Rd. Also re caravan parking
- Coles complex exit needs improving ✓✓*
- Gazetted crossing Graham St at plaza arcade
- Biggs Dr at medical centre – **crossing/refuge/lights for pedestrians and vehicle safety**
- More parking (Wonthaggi) Off street areas behind buildings
- Open up an exit on the north side of Car Park at Coles etc. shop centre, this is a tragedy waiting to happen if a fire emergency etc. occurred, how do CFA, police, SES, Ambulance get access if 200 cars are trying to get out?
- Pedestrian crossings! *
- Better pedestrian traffic movement in major centre
- Longer term car parking needed especially outside of Mitchell House *
- More car parking
- Pedestrian movement in and around town = safety issue

Arts and Culture

44/491 = 9.0%

- Strength: Arts and leisure ✓✓✓
- Strength: Historical buildings history – community spirit especially Wonthaggi ✓*
- Strength: Rescue station – last one in Australia – do support ✓✓✓
- Strength: Keeping cinema ✓ *
- Strength: Vibrant community
- Opportunity: Participation in many areas of arts, sports clubs etc

- Opportunity: Build on the vibrant (arts) community
- Wonthaggi Union Cinema ✓
- Where is the Council for development contribution?
- The town hall is due for a BIG makeover (I was a teenager last time!)
- Continued Council support for community facilities. Council did such a good job with the Union Arts Centre and the Centennial Centre Info/Art space. Council officers were terrific in their support **
- Keep cinema in Wonthaggi * ✓
- Retained historical buildings, knowledge of towns history ✓✓
- Arts centre – improve fabric of the facility and variety of events there
- Cinema retained * ✓
- Maintain the fantastic Union Cinema ✓
- Support for the Arts
- Rescue the Rescue station!
- Regional gallery to house colinihan and other acquisitive art works
- Need Arts Centre to be improved and a wide range of events there
- Cultural programme engaging local and new residents
- Union Art Centre ✓
- Creative innovation and culture and a focus on Boonwurrung facts

Amenity of Towns

6/491 = 1.2%

- Town entrances to highlight facilities and points of interest
- Clean up town entrances
- Make the approaches to the town more attractive ✓
- Roundabouts – WHITE PETUNIAS!!!! NO!!!
- Keep roundabout gardens so a clear view is available. Pansies not gumtrees.

Advocacy

8/491 = 1.6%

- Strength: Strong Bass Coast – Vic Government relationship ✓
- Access to State and Federal Government funds *****

Accessibility

5/491 = 1.0%

- 27% population disability

- Appropriate development e.g. wheelchair access
- Disability access to WUCAC
- Support for community services for disadvantaged and disability support ✓

Other

3/491 = .60%

- Strength: Strong community support and welcoming new residents and tourists *
- Threat: Our population is likely to increase and age nearly 50% in the next 20 years!