

### Belfast Coast Management Plan: - Individual Submission / Survey

Name: .....

Signature .....

Email Address: .....

Post Code : .....

Age Range : 38

Gender : MALE

Is this submission to be treated as Confidential : .....

How often do you use the Reserve : FAIRLY OFTEN

How do you Get to the Reserve: .. Walk, Drive, Ride a Bike, Ride a Horse

DRIVE

What do you mainly use the Reserve for: (For example: Bird watching, Swimming, surfing, kitesurfing, windsurfing, snorkelling, horse riding, dog walking, fishing, boating, camping, family time at the beach with or without a pet)

FISHING, SWIMMING, DOG WALKING, BOATING, FAMILY

How important is it to you to be able to continue these activities within the entire Reserve?

VERY IMPORTANT

Which part of the Reserve do you use most frequently:

Killarney Beach ☒

West of Killarney Beach to Port Fairy ☒

East of Killarney Beach to The Cutting ☒

West of The Cutting towards Warrnambool ☒

What is your area of interest (For Example: Conservation, Recreational, Cultural, With Animals – Horses or Dogs)

RECREATIONAL

Is there a specific change that you want made to the Draft Proposal.

THROW IT OUT

How important is the Cultural Heritage of the Reserve to you? IMPORTANT

How important is protection of the Natural Environment and Bird life to you

I SEE AN UBUNDANCE OF BIRD LIFE ALONG THERE

How important is the ability to enjoy recreation activities to you

VERY IMPORTANT

Is your Personal Health and Wellbeing associated with your use of the Reserve? If so in what way.

EXERCISE

Do you believe that the current use of the reserve that allows for both Recreation and Conservation should continue?

YES

Do you believe that Recreational Activities should be allowed throughout the Whole Reserve, or do you believe that certain areas should be set aside for conservation only (Eg. No Dog and No Recreational Horse Areas).

WHOLE RESERVE

If you believe dogs and horses should be banned – which areas should they be banned from:

No

Do you wish to add any further comments:

JUST LEAVE IT ALONE.

## Belfast Coast Management Plan: - Individual Survey Submission

Name: .....

Signature .....

Email Address: .....

Post Code: .....

Age Range: 47

Gender: FEMALE

Is this submission to be treated as Confidential: NO

How often do you use the Reserve: ~~Seasonally~~ seasonally

How do you Get to the Reserve: .. Walk, Drive, Ride a Bike, Ride a Horse

Drive

What do you mainly use the Reserve for: (For example: Bird watching, Swimming, surfing, kitesurfing, windsurfing, snorkelling, horse riding, dog walking, fishing, boating, camping, family time at the beach with or without a pet)

Swimming walking camping family time

horse riding

How important is it to you to be able to continue these activities within the entire Reserve?

It is important to me in relation to my family

Which part of the Reserve do you use most frequently:

Killarney Beach ✓

West of Killarney Beach to Port Fairy ✓

East of Killarney Beach to The Cutting ✓

West of The Cutting towards Warrnambool



What is your area of interest (For Example: Conservation, Recreational, Cultural, With Animals – Horses or Dogs)

all on board.

Is there a specific change that you want made to the Draft Proposal.

How important is the Cultural Heritage of the Reserve to you?

I suppose its cultural heritage but ideas vary in that department

How important is protection of the Natural Environment and Bird life to you

all on board.

How important is the ability to enjoy recreation activities to you

Very.

Is your Personal Health and Wellbeing associated with your use of the Reserve? If so in what way.

First Health and wellbeing is integral into the use of the beach

Do you believe that the current use of the reserve that allows for both Recreation and Conservation should continue?

There is an overhanging of feeling of is against them.

Do you believe that Recreational Activities should be allowed throughout the Whole Reserve, or do you believe that certain areas should be set aside for conservation only (Eg. No Dog and No Recreational Horse Areas).

a sign of the times is answering that for us.

If you believe dogs and horses should be banned – which areas should they be banned from:

Do you wish to add any further comments:



Manager  
Parks Planning  
Parks Victoria  
Level 10, 535 Bourke St  
Melbourne VIC 3000

To whom it may concern,

**Re: Warrnambool Beach Training Support Submission**

As an owner of a horse trained in Warrnambool, the opportunities beach training presents as well as the relaxed country environment the district has to offer is the key reason why I will continue to support the continuation of horse training in the region.

If this opportunity was not available, the opportunities for these horses would become limited, thus there would be potential for them to retire from racing all together. This would have huge effect on the local horse trainers, horse numbers would decrease as well as taking away the opportunity for any return to continue to fund future horses to be trained in the region.

The opportunity to train horses on Levy's Beach and the dunes is critical for the ongoing success of horse training in Warrnambool which I am fully supportive of.

Regards,

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Manager  
Parks Planning  
Parks Victoria  
Level 10, 535 Bourke St  
Melbourne VIC 3000

To whom it may concern,

**Re: Warrnambool Beach Training Support Submission**

this letter is written to provide my support to the continuation of Beach training in Warrnambool.

I am very proud of the fact we have the beaches to offer this unique horse training opportunity, this for certain provides significant positive economic benefits to our local community, and employs many passionate people.

What we have is unique and something our community is proud of, as a result I am fully supportive of the continuation of horse training on our local beaches.

Regards,

## **Submission on Draft Belfast Coastal Management Plan**

### **General comments and background:**

I was eagerly awaiting the release of the Draft Belfast Coastal Management Plan. the proximity to the wonderful beaches and environment, I was shocked and dismayed to discover that the local beach at Killarney was being ruined by commercial horse training with no management in place whatsoever. This led me to come in contact and form strong friendships with other residents who were equally appalled at what was occurring within the reserve. Further investigations revealed that the entire Belfast Coastal Reserve has been in dire need of a proper management plan to address long overdue environmental concerns and to protect, enhance and repair the delicate coastal environment and the wildlife and flora which inhabit the reserve. In an area that is heavily used for agricultural purposes and as a result has endured many years of land clearing; the Belfast Coastal Reserve is a precious jewel in the South West that deserves to be protected for its cultural, environmental and passive recreational values. The draft Management plan contains many positive strategies and goals to address the environmental concerns and protect the threatened Hooded Plovers and other beach nesting and migratory shorebirds that inhabit the reserve. Unfortunately a lot of these strategies are completely negated by the further expansion of commercial horse training within the Belfast Coastal Reserve. This will lead to approximately 25% of Belfast Coastal Reserve beaches opened up to dangerous and destructive commercial use.

It is clear there has been a lot of interference from the Victorian Racing Industry. This is a questionable industry to say the least, with a clear disregard for the environment, cultural values, local residents and other beach users that engage in passive recreational use. Most visitors come to this area for the wonderful beaches and wildlife both of which are clearly at risk from the proposed further expansion of commercial horse training within the reserve.

### **Comments on Key Management Themes**

#### **1. Cultural landscape and living heritage chapter 4**

I support the goals and strategies in this chapter; however many of them are in complete contradiction with the proposed return of commercial horse training through the dunes and beaches in the Levys Beach to Big Baldy area. The Levys beach and surrounding dunes area have long been neglected and have sustained erosion and damage through illegal commercial horse training, dirt bike riding, 4wd access, rubbish dumping, pollution from Midfield Meat's rendering plant and unregulated recreational horse riding. Although identified in this chapter, the need to conserve Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and geographical values of this area the proposed resumption of commercial horse training will further exasperate the erosion that has already occurred from the above mentioned threats.

**Conclusion** - Commercial horse training should immediately be removed from the management plan in the Levys Beach to Hoon Hill area. Illegal 4wd, dirt bike and unregulated recreational horse riding access needs to be excluded and monitored by the land manager.



## 2. Healthy Country chapter 5

This chapter is very confusing and full of contradictions. I strongly support and agree with a conservation zone. With the Belfast Coastal Reserve being identified as a Key Biodiversity area, it is imperative that a conservation zone be put in place. However I am at odds to understand why commercial horse training is being proposed to occur within that zone. This will completely negate the goals of a conservation zone in the first place. On page 29 Table 5.1 it clearly states habitat degradation from threats such recreational riding and horse training as extreme to resident shorebirds, Hooded Plovers and Oyster Catchers both currently and following the management action. I do not support Duck Hunting or "Natural Resource Extraction" as it is referred to in table 5.1 page 29 in any part of the Belfast Coastal Reserve. Duck Hunting is not a passive recreational activity. It causes extreme stress on all waterbirds and other wildlife within the shooting area. Daily bag limits and target species unable to be confirmed due to inadequate monitoring from DELWP. Many non target species are at risk of death and injury from indiscriminate shooting. I question how Duck Hunting is deemed as a medium risk to waterbirds currently and negligible risk after management action.

I strongly support the goal and strategies of habitat protection for "*The condition of Coastal Dune Scrub and Swamp Scrub/Aquatic Herbland Mosaic communities and wetlands is maintained and enhanced to support dependent flora and fauna Species*" page 32 chapter 5.1

I strongly support the goal and strategies "*The impact of predation is reduced to maintain and increase native fauna populations*" page 34 chapter 5.1

I strongly support the goal and strategies "*The impact of visitors at key locations is reduced to allow for an increase in the extent and richness of vulnerable fauna, and the occupation of most of their potential habitat*" page 34 chapter 5.1

I strongly support the goal and strategies "*The diversity and productivity of the marine habitats is maintained and impacts from new pests and other threats are reduced*" page 39 Chapter 5.2

I am supportive of goals in chapter 5.2 page 39, 5.3 page 40, 5.4 page 40, 5.5 page 42

**Conclusion:** Taking all this into account the following conclusions are reached. Remove Commercial Horse Training from the conservation zone and throughout the Belfast Coastal Reserve. Recreational Riding if permitted would need to be carefully managed. Duck Hunting not to be permitted within the Belfast coastal reserve as per present regulations.

## Chapter 6. Recreation and use

This chapter is misleading in its title. It should be renamed “Recreation and commercial use” to reflect the true nature of what is being proposed for a large part of Belfast Coastal Reserve. There should be a clear distinction between recreation, use and commercial use of the Belfast Coastal Reserve.

Chapter 6.5 Beach Training of racehorses focuses mainly on the supposed economic benefits that horse racing brings to this district. The September 2013 report by IER consultants for the Racing Victoria Ltd takes into account the whole of the Western District of Victoria which includes such areas as Camperdown, Coleraine, Hamilton, Casterton etc. In the report it also states a rather large percentage of gross value added from thoroughbred racing is from gambling. Proceeds from gambling do not necessarily stay in the community and it is a well known fact problem gambling harms the community. The figures quoted on page 63 are therefore very misleading to the untrained eye. Tourism is a much bigger economic contributor to this region.

Racing Victoria should stop relying on use of public land and the sensitive beach and dune environments of the Belfast Coastal Reserve. Training facilities need to be built on site at racecourses with large trainers requiring to have their own, leaving smaller trainers access to better facilities at local racing tracks.

I support many of the goals and strategies relating to recreational use within the Belfast Coastal Reserve in table 6.1 with the exception those listed below:

- I do not support the use of Jet skis within the reserve including Belfast Lough.
- I do not support commercial horse training within the Belfast Coastal Reserve including dune access.

Dog Walking –

- I support the plan for a designated off leash dog beach.
- I support the prohibiting of dogs within the proposed conservation zone

## Chapter 7. Managing in partnership

I support the goal page 72 of *“Coordinated management of the Reserve enables efficiencies in program delivery and is supported by consistent land status and regulations.”* However I do not agree with the strategy to retain management across Moyne Shire, City of Warrnambool., and Parks Victoria. The ultimate goal should see the Belfast Coastal Reserve become a park in which the management will fall under the National Parks Act 1975.

I do not support a 5 or 10 year review of implementation of the plan. This time frame is far too long for the threatened and vulnerable species that call the Belfast Coastal Reserve their home. A shorter timeline of 1 to 2 years is suggested.

I support the goal *“Traditional Owners caring for their Country is an integral part of the Reserve’s management”*

I support the goal *“Community Skills, knowledge and assistance provide stewardship and help in managing the Reserve”* However the strategies listed to reach this goal will be pointless if commercial racehorse training is allowed to continue and expand throughout the Belfast Coastal Reserve.

## **Chapter 8. Research and monitoring**

I support the goal *“Monitoring and evaluation improves management decisions and techniques through enhanced ecological, cultural and visitor use knowledge”*

However none of the strategies list explains how to negate the extreme risk that commercial horse training presents to resident shorebirds nesting, fledging and feeding. Table 5.1 page 29

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft management plan for the Belfast Coastal Reserve.



**Belfast Coast Management Plan: - Individual Submission / Survey**

Name:

Signature

Email Address:

Post Code :

Age Range : 50/70

Gender : Female

Is this submission to be treated as Confidential :

How often do you use the Reserve : Daily to walk a dog

How do you Get to the Reserve: .. Walk, Drive, Ride a Bike, Ride a Horse

WALK & DRIVE

What do you mainly use the Reserve for: (For example: Bird watching, Swimming, surfing, kitesurfing, windsurfing, snorkelling, horse riding, dog walking, fishing, boating, camping, family time at the beach with or without a pet)

I believe it is imperative for the health & wellbeing of our wider community do have unimpeded access to the beach do participate in all underlined activities for their physical & mindful health, the environment also benefits

How important is it to you to be able to continue these activities within the entire Reserve?

with all from the community clean up the beach, watching for vegetation, caring for birdlife & native animals. Users & the environment have managed this beach extremely well for hundreds of years!

Which part of the Reserve do you use most frequently:

Killarney Beach ✓

West of Killarney Beach to Port Fairy

East of Killarney Beach to The Cutting ✓

West of The Cutting towards Warrnambool

What is your area of interest (For Example: Conservation, Recreational, Cultural, With Animals – Horses or Dogs) ✓

99% of users care for the environment they use

Is there a specific change that you want made to the Draft Proposal.

conservation zone changed to recreation / conservation to enable current activities to continue

How important is the Cultural Heritage of the Reserve to you?

Very

How important is protection of the Natural Environment and Bird life to you

Very

How important is the ability to enjoy recreation activities to you

Very

Is your Personal Health and Wellbeing associated with your use of the Reserve? If so in what way.

Fitness on a physical level & mindfulness! \* see overleaf →

Do you believe that the current use of the reserve that allows for both Recreation and Conservation should continue?

YES - undoubtedly!!



Do you believe that Recreational Activities should be allowed throughout the Whole Reserve, or do you believe that certain areas should be set aside for conservation only (Eg. No Dog and No Recreational Horse Areas).

= YES

If you believe dogs and horses should be banned – which areas should they be banned from:

Do you wish to add any further comments:

1 The more you make change to a situation with nature the more you upset the present environment, I would like to see proactive response to the fox rabbit problem we have along the coastline, and up in Tower Hill, which is also totally overrun with kangaroos for the size of the enclosed area.

The present environment is not & has not been kept properly by parks so why do they want to take more land on which they will not be able to care for — 'lets not fix something that ain't broke' — bird numbers are increasing, beaches are cleaned by local community, all you need is to have foxes & rabbits cleared!

\* Dogs have become an integral part of family living today. I believe strongly that owners of dogs should have the ability to be able to walk their dogs on the beach where ever & when ever they feel the need to do so — Daily — as a Australian I feel very strongly that I have a democratic right to do so & for

Thursday, 15 March 2018

Manager  
Parks Planning  
Parks Victoria  
Level 10, 535 Bourke St  
Melbourne VIC 3000

To whom it may concern,

**Re: Warrnambool Beach Training Support Submission**

As an owner of horse/s trained in Warrnambool, the opportunities beach training presents as well as the relaxed country environment the district has to offer is the key reason why I will continue to support the continuation of horse training in the region.

The reduced stress and mental benefits have helped a very large population of horses to stay sound and enjoy a much longer and more successful career.

If this opportunity was not available, the opportunities for these horses would become limited, thus there would be potential for them to retire from racing all together. This would have huge effect on the local horse trainers, horse numbers would decrease as well as taking away the opportunity for any return to continue to fund future horses to be trained in the region.

The opportunity to train horses on Levy's Beach and the dunes is critical for the ongoing success of horse training in Warrnambool which I am fully supportive of.

Regards,



15 March 2018

Parks Victoria

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: Belfast Coastal Reserve Draft Management Plan

I have several reasons for interest in this Reserve,

I write to object to key elements of the Draft Management Plan. In general, the plan is inconsistent with the objectives for the establishment of the Belfast Coastal Reserve and incorporates many elements which are contrary to good public land management. There are also elements which appear to place private interest above that of the public interest.

Vision for the reserve. This is far too long and more turgid than the constitution. While most of the vision is good the inclusion of horse riding should be removed. Horses have no place in sensitive conservation areas.

1. The key problem to me is the proposal to allow heavy animals (racehorses) access to 5 km of the beach and up to 750 m behind fragile sand dunes. This will result in severe dune erosion. One of the key reasons for establishing the Reserve was to control sand erosion. No objective justification can be found in the Draft Management Plan to reverse the sound land management objective of preventing sand erosion along the coastal reserve.

I strongly object to reintroduction of discredited land management policies. No amount of mitigation can prevent extensive and expanding erosion while heavy race horses are allowed access to this fragile ecosystem. This probably explains why the Draft Plan indicates Extreme risk for allowing horses to use the coastal reserve, even after "management is implemented" extreme risk remains.

Allowing the Warrnambool Racing Club (WRC) to manage the number of race horses accessing the Coastal Reserve is a disgrace. The WRC has no skill or experience in soil conservation, the reserve is public land not part of the race course. In fact, the WRC has their own state funded sand track to use.

By entrenching and expanding commercial horse training the Plan is a relic of past coastal mismanagement and inappropriate use. Horse riding and allowing race horses to train on the Reserve should be removed as "authorized access". Just who is calling the shots in the Environment Department? Racing Victoria or the WRC does not allow environmentalists to manage race courses in Victoria.

2. The Plan and this public consultation process is trying to sidestep the State responsibility to conserve the threatened Hooded Plover, which is an Australian bird which nests on sandy beaches. The Belfast coastal area has been a stronghold for nesting Hooded Plovers. This

Draft plan and the notion that allowing heavy race horses to use the coastal reserve all through the year is an absolute outrage when the state has allegedly committed itself to conserve Hooded Plovers via existing Threatened Species Action Statements.

There has been extensive volunteer efforts by the community to protect Hooded Plovers from humans, dogs and other threats during the sensitive period of nesting and rearing juvenile birds. This draft plan is a slap in the face to these volunteers, the wider conservation movement and generally to volunteerism around the state. It appears that volunteer efforts will be taken for granted by the State when it suits the State, but volunteers will be trodden upon when some vested interest wants to make a fast buck using critical bird breeding habitat.

3. The underlying motive revealed in public statements made by the first proponents of allowing race horses to train on the beach was that this was a winning innovation used to train the winner of a Melbourne Cup. There was claimed to be something special in the sand in this region which provided the Cup winner an advantage.

This underlying motivation is a myth which the Minister for Racing and those responsible for handicapping horses should have disclaimed in disbelief. It is beyond belief that Parks Victoria has swallowed such a myth. This can be simply explained by the following. If beach training was beneficial to winning, then horses from coastal areas elsewhere in Australia and overseas would have a historical advantage in winning the Melbourne Cup. Irrespective of the claimed benefits, the handicappers would adjust the riding weights for such horses and any potential advantage would be lost.

It appears that at least two Ministers have caved in to the spurious claims of the racing industry.

4. As a visitor to parks and coastal reserves I do not want my recreation experience disrupted by frightening and dangerous encounters with large, heavy and fast-moving race horses. Some people may like horses, but this does not mean horses should have access to public reserves whose main function is for conservation and passive recreation purposes.

Yours sincerely,

1. The discussion paper does not take into account information already provided by philanthropists.

In submissions and at meetings attended by us with the panel, donors emphasised that they did not want their donations wasted on more red tape on auditing and reporting on the proposed new requirements. Environmental organisations, and for that matter government departments, are already struggling for funds to do their existing work. Adding new red tape will reduce the already limited funds available for environmental work.

We support any new regulatory changes, as outlined in the discussion paper, which focus on removing complexity for organisations and simplifying administration costs.

2. The discussion paper does not provide any mechanism to assure donors that any proposed “environmental remediation” works will be secure and maintained into perpetuity.

Why should there be compulsory new rules on activities such as remediation works when there are no new rules to ensure such works become permanent improvements?

Does the Commonwealth propose to fund the state based agencies to audit the property owners to ensure improvements are permanent?

Will land titles be affixed with caevets to notify and warn new owners of their responsibilities? If not why not?

Consequently, we support the introduction of the mandatory use of caevets on land titles so that current owners and new owners know of their requirement to permanently protect environmental remediation works into the future. Costs for such legal work should be paid by the Commonwealth.

3. Introduction of new advocacy reporting requirements are not supported.

In our democracy the Government supports free speech. Many organisations in our society are beneficiaries of tax-deductable donations while also engaged in advocacy, such as political parties, health focussed organisations and sporting associations. Why should one sector of our society be required to provide extensive information about advocacy when all the other sectors are exempted?

4. Advocacy is an important aspect of a free and secular society.

Presently Parliament House is full of lobbyists for all manner of companies, both local and foreign owned, all advocating for their own interest. If advocacy is to be limited for environmental organisations then lobbyist should also be limited in Parliament, these lobbyists should also be made to provide similar reporting requirements and companies employing such lobbyists should not be able to claim tax deductions for employing these people or service providers providing similar services.

5. Proposed requirement to spend 25 to 50% of funds on environmental remediation.

We strongly object to a mandatory requirement that all environmental organisations be directed to carry certain aims and have specific targets for remediation.

Firstly, the environmental organisations are not responsible for the environmental damage so why should remediating someone else’s damage be applicable to them? At best this is offensive



retrospective assigning responsibility to another entity (blame switching), at worst this reeks of an authoritarian state telling community organisation what to think and how to act.

Secondly, the businesses, government and individuals responsible for environmental damage should be responsible for full environmental remediation. It is an illogical argument to say community organisations should repair environmental damage when the perpetrators of the damage contribute little or nothing. Where is the natural justice in such a ruling?

Thirdly, we have laws to prevent environmental damage but which are often flouted with impunity. The Government, by having laws regarding avoiding or remediation of environmental damage accepts it has responsibility in this area and has mandated certain actions.

Fourthly, given the Governments clear concern regarding having more environmental remediation which is implicit in the discussion paper, we support more resources being spent by government on this issue, we support stronger laws to prevent environmental damage and we support new taxes and higher penalties in relation to environmental damage. As a first step, the Government should report annually on how it is progressing in preventing environmental damage and how it is supporting environmental remediation.

Fifthly, environmental remediation works are complex and require skilled staff and specialised equipment.

It is fanciful to expect all present environmental organisations, irrespective of their present aims and objectives, to ever be in a position to undertake successful environmental remediation. There is no evidence in the discussion paper that tree planting undertaken by environmental organisations which is outside their expertise is success in the long term. Indeed, given the present rate of climate change, it is likely that many tree planting projects will fail when hotter weather and drier climates impact on poorly undertaken projects which have no legal protection.

Lastly, It is clear that the proposal has not been properly thought out. On one hand, the present government has a philosophical position that it wants the free market to provide specialised services but then with the proposals in the discussion paper the government wants to pass laws to enforce community organisations to compete with the private sector using volunteer labour to undercut free market suppliers of these services.

6. The proposal that environmental remediation should be undertaken by all environmental groups has not been supported by organisations presently undertaking such work.

As donors to environmental organisations we are highly unlikely to support organisations whose sole focus is on remediating environmental damage caused by government, business or individuals.

As volunteers we are not attracted to providing labour and time to repair environmental damage caused by business, government and individuals who should be fully accountable for their conduct and who should be pursued by existing responsible authorities.

As people on management boards and committees of environmental organisations we strongly dislike being told what our aims should be, to have our cost base increased by unneeded red tape and to have our financial position weakened by undermining our relationship with existing funders. In other words, there are no votes in most of the proposals in the discussion paper.

## **a critical response to BELFAST COASTAL RESERVE DRAFT COASTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN 2018:**

the proposed conservation zone within the reserve I believe is both unfair and misguided on many levels and I will attempt to lodge my opposition as succinctly and unemotionally as this multi faceted issue will allow...

1) I believe this plan has been slipped in without enough community engagement. This is a radical change to zoning and will directly impact the daily lives of this low population area. We are rural which follows our close affinity with our animals and our environment; physically, emotionally, psychologically and soulfully. I am a local who uses this area 5 days a week year round for exercise, dog walking, recreation and relaxation. My awareness of this plan was simply stumbled upon...there should have been a public awareness campaign easily achievable through letter drops, local print, signage at beach entrances, local radio and verbal communication by rangers with locals. This important document needs more community engagement before it should be presented to government for institutionalised change.

2) Statistical breakdowns of threats to the hooded plover appear to be purposely misleading based on Parks Victoria's own publications. (managing the hooded plover report 2014) Table 10 clearly cites coastal development and Marram Grass as the most severe threats to the hooded plover through loss of habitat logically following a loss of reproductive survival. This is further elucidated in table 1 (managing the hooded plover in Victoria 2014) where unknown factors 42.03%, tides 25.91%, foxes 6.91%, person 5.95%, avian predator 4.22%, strong winds 4.03%, dog 3.26% etc... From both these tables I take Marram Grass as the #1 threat to breeding success of the hooded plover. The fencing off of tracks has only made this deadly weed flourish along with other natural predators of the hooded plover. The birds have been forced to adapt to an unnatural and dangerous nesting pattern and this is where an aggressive strategy is required. The vegetation of the dunes needs to be radically modified not protected. Particularly from Gormans Road to the western point of the basin. You would think a program of relocation or nesting encouragement to a deeper beach like east of the cutting would be perhaps a more effective strategy to combat the extreme tides on such a narrow beach.

3) Page 51 of the plan cites that "baiting should not occur adjacent to any walking tracks where dogs may be walked on-leash or near any designated off-leash areas" truthfully fox baiting has occurred in this area for at least the better part of a decade so its relevance now seems mute.

4) Citing the Mornington Peninsula case study is not relevant to the location of the Belfast Coast Reserve

a. population density is not comparable

b. your own statistics demonstrate that the population of the birds are already increasing and have exceeded that of the Mornington Peninsula without regulation.

This is not to say that regulations should not be modified in the area but this extreme measure of imposing a conservation zone based on implied future behaviour is objectionable.

5) The use of the reserve surges at one specific time of year December 26 - January 30 when we are inundated with holiday makers. A complete ban on the use of the area would be useful at this time. But to be realistic or fair all activities need to be banned. Page 65 of Parks Victoria Managing the Hooded Plover Report 2014 cites a distinction between the impact of mobile and static users of the beach. "static people (sun bakers, fishing, picnickers etc.) caused substantial disruption to incubation that almost always exceeded one hour, while generally the birds returned to the nest within an hour when encountering mobile people (9.5% vs. 85.7% return rate within an hour for static versus mobile encounters)." It also notes no distinction between a walker or a walker with a

leashed dog. Extremes of heat is also a contributing factor to the failure of the plover...it is reasonable to expect the complete closure of the reserve in extreme heat.

6) Without the beach being used by respectful locals there will be no-one to modify the behaviour of the dreaded hoon which will never be eliminated no matter how many laws are passed. There will be no-one to pick up litter, rubbish drifting ashore or the endless meters of rope and netting that is left or washes in...all are imminent dangers to not only the plover but to all the birds and animals of the sea and shore. There will be no-one to tell interlopers to stay out of the dunes, that they can't drive on our beach etc... In such a low populated area the presence of the locals keeps the beach safe for all living creatures humans as well.

I believe the entire area should remain a shared conservation - recreation zone. I agree we need dog leash regulation in nesting season . I have learned much about the hooded plover during this process and truly believe that co-existence is possible not just an ideal. We need a public relations campaign for the plover to increase public awareness not just to its existence but also to their needs i.e. their nesting patterns, life cycle, feeding habits, pair bonding behaviour, how they rear their young. People might then be enchanted by the birds and want to protect them. We need better signage, informative signage and we need rangers out there engaging the community.

I also believe by keeping the shared conservation - recreation zone that the aboriginal cultural heritage of the reserve will not be compromised. also agrees that the zoning should remain unchanged. "Letter of Request for Amendments to the Belfast Coastal Draft Management Plan & Outline of Systems of Self-regulation"(7/3/2018) bears his signature.

In conclusion I strongly object to the proposed Belfast Coastal Reserve Draft Coastal Management Plan. It has excluded the residents, users and therefore custodians of the reserve in its planning and its proposed effect.

KEEP THE RESERVE A SHARED CONSERVATION RECREATION ZONE1111

sincerely and respectfully

13/3/2018

## Submission template for Draft Belfast Coastal Reserve Management Plan

### About you:

Your name:

Your Organisation (if relevant): \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode:

\_3280\_\_\_\_\_

Email or Postal address

**THIS SUBMISSION IS:** ☐ NOT CONFIDENTIAL      Date: 5/3/2018

### Your Comments:

**Please Note – The following information will be made publically available.**

Main reason for interest: *(such as local resident, visitor to parks, tourism operator, environmental interest, business operator, education interest, scientific interest)*

---

Recreation and use: **Windsurfing , Kitesurfing, surfing**

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How often do you or your organisation use the reserve?

☐ Daily    ☒ Weekly      **Which ever is appropriate for you**

How do you or your organisation mainly use the reserve?

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Walking or running | <input type="checkbox"/> Dog walking    | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Using the beach (swimming and surfing)</b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Horse riding       | <input type="checkbox"/> Horse training | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteering                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Camping            | <input type="checkbox"/> Hunting        | <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing/boating                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Picnicking         | <input type="checkbox"/> Birdwatching   | <input type="checkbox"/> Socialising                                   |
- ☒ Other (please specify): windsurfing Kitesurfing ,surfing

Which part(s) of the reserve do you or your organisation most frequently use?

☐ **West of Killarney (Port Fairy side)**      ☐ **Between Killarney and Big Baldy**

### **About the vision- Belfast Coastal Reserve, 15 years from now...:**

How supportive are you of the vision for the Belfast Coastal Reserve?

- ☐ Very unsupportive

Comments: *(Your submission can be as short or long as you wish. Put comments under relevant headings corresponding to plan sections or strategies, noting page and paragraph numbers. Attach more pages if required).*

### **Key management theme #1: Cultural landscape and living heritage**

How supportive are you of the strategies for 'Cultural landscape and living heritage' included in the draft management plan?

- ☐ Very unsupportive

Comments: *(Your submission can be as short or long as you wish. Put comments under relevant headings corresponding to plan sections or strategies, noting page and paragraph numbers. Attach more pages if required).*

### **Key management theme #2: Healthy Country**

How supportive are you of the strategies for 'Healthy Country' included in the draft management plan?

Very unsupportive

Comments: *(Your submission can be as short or long as you wish. Put comments under relevant headings corresponding to plan sections or strategies, noting page and paragraph numbers. Attach more pages if required).*

### **Key management theme #3: Recreation and use**

How supportive are you of the strategies for 'Recreation and use' included in the draft management plan?

- ☐ Very unsupportive

Comments: *(Your submission can be as short or long as you wish. Put comments under relevant headings corresponding to plan sections or strategies, noting page and paragraph numbers. Attach more pages if required).*



## **Submission to Belfast Coastal Reserve Draft Management plan by**

for many years but have not had the possibility to spend as much time on the waters as I would have liked. I have been using the Belfast Coastal Reserve of and on for some years.

I have had much pleasure improving both my physical and mental well being using mainly the Belfast Lough and the waters at Killarney beach for windsurfing and other water activities. I regard these areas as invaluable assets in my situation as I can safely preform my water sport there. I am very concerned about changes suggested in the Draft management Plan that seeks to create a conservation zone all along the Armstrong Bay beaches in South West Victoria. This conservation zone will have a immediate, detrimental impact on my recreational choices, now and into the future, due to restriction of access to waterways. This conservation zone will exclude me and the all people in the South West of Victoria from a highly valued recreational reserve which has been open to everyone and used by the community and tourists alike.

### **Addressed to specific issues.**

#### **Prohibition of Windsurfing Kitesurfing and Surfing on the Belfast Lough and Rutledges Cutting (saltwater swamp).**

**I have not included surfing here as it is not possible to surf on flat water.**

In the draft plan under **Section 6 Recreation and Use**, there is no mention or data on Windsurfing or Kitesurfing as having any negative influence in the Belfast Reserve, yet these groups are prohibited from the Belfast Lough and Rutledges Cutting (saltwater swamp).

In **table 6.1 Page 54**, motorised boating, which includes jet skis, is permitted in the Belfast Lough, yet windsurfing and kitesurfing are not. Non-motorised boating (canoes, kayaks rowing skulls, paddleboards etc. are permitted. On Rutledges Cutting, non-motorised boating is permitted.

Where is the data to support the prohibition of Windsurfing and Kitesurfing, that in reality are non- motorised sports?

Windsurfing and Kitesurfing on the Belfast Lough and Rutledges Cutting are very passive activities with zero ecological effect. The Lough and the Cutting are not used frequently and then only by a small number of enthusiasts.

We access the Belfast Lough (**see Map 1**) from the 20-metre wide public right of way that serves as access to the Port Fairy airport.

The Belfast Lough and the Rutledges Cutting are geographically special places for windsurfers and kitesurfers. Both are shallow. The surrounds are flat without any tall vegetation. This gives a "clean" constant wind. The closest places that replicate these conditions are Point Henry, Geelong (200 km East) and Lake George, Beachport (300km west)

The Belfast Lough is used as it is a place of safety. We teach learners in the shallow water away from Ocean waves. The Lough and Rutledges Cutting are occasionally used when the wind is northerly and sailing on the Ocean is too dangerous due, to offshore winds.

They sail infrequently and this is a safe place for them to sail.

Due to the length of the fin on a windsurf board we can only sail in a small area in the middle of the Lough and cannot access the shallow mud flats. This means that we do not affect any birds or nesting places.

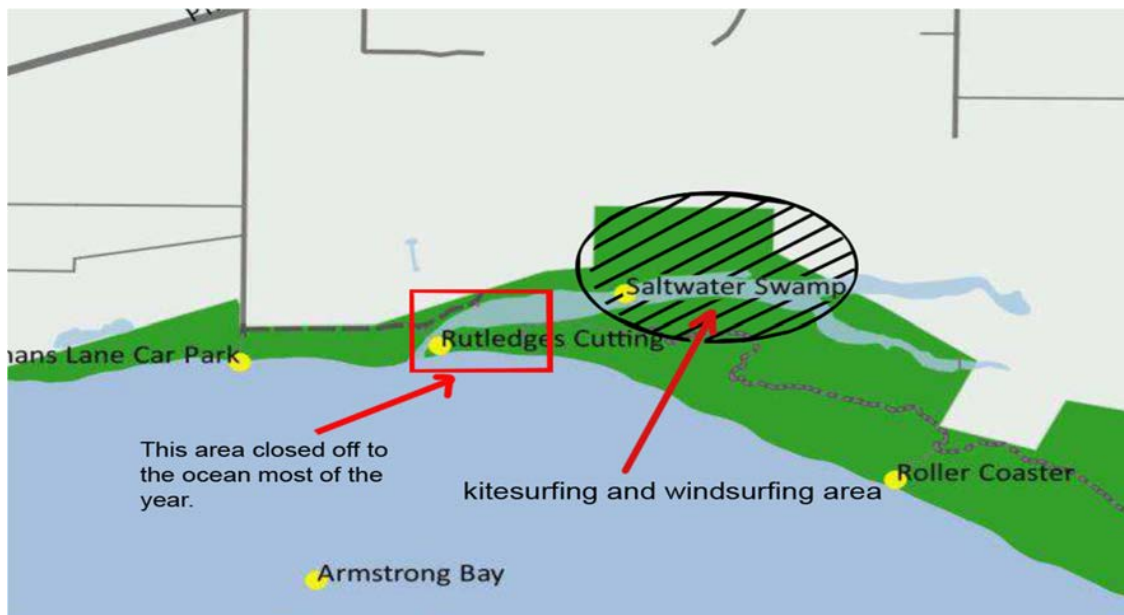
### **Some other points to note under the draft plan:**

- The Lough and the Cutting are not undisturbed pristine areas. They have been highly modified over the years. Both have old fencing in parts and are very muddy. The biggest environmental impact on the Belfast Lough and Rutledges Cutting is the nutrient inflow and rubbish from agricultural activities further up in the Moyne river catchment. Windsurfers and Kitesurfers have no detrimental effect on these places.
- The Lough is approximately 700m wide and 1800m long. Under the draft plan it is permissible to ride up and down the middle of the Lough on a jet ski at 90 km/hr, as it would be over 200m from shore. In comparison, a windsurfer is an engine free, noise-free, relatively slow craft.
- Boating (non-motorised) is permitted. Rowing skulls, canoes, kayaks, paddleboards, all with a low draft, could disturb the shallow waters at the Lough's edge. However, due to the length of a windsurf board fin windsurfers can only sail in a small area in the middle of the Lough and cannot access the shallow mud flats. This causes zero disturbance.
- A great deal of rubbish floats down the Moyne River and into the Lough. Our group pulls this to shore and responsibly disposes of it. We often pick up rubbish that is dumped on the road access beside the airport. We care for the Lough and do not leave an ecological footprint. Under the new plan, who will be responsible for cleaning up rubbish in the Lough if we are excluded? As friends of the Lough, we fulfil a very useful conservation purpose.
- Both the Lough and Cutting are rarely used by any other user groups, especially when our usage is during windy conditions that is generally unappealing to other users. Consequently, our usage has zero conflict with other users or the public.
- **Rutledges Cutting and saltwater swamp (see Map 2)** is a body of water usually closed off from the Ocean and generally containing little water. It is a highly modified area. It has been dredged, graded, and modified for agricultural means. During times of flood (winter mainly) much of the water flows out onto private agricultural land and is beyond the boundaries of the Belfast coastal reserve. It is subject to considerable nutrient inflow and rubbish from surrounding farmland. On page 59, the draft plan for Rutledges Cutting mistakenly assumes it has a similar ecology to Kellys Swamp, is always open to the sea and, consequently, is a nursery area for fish and a refuge for birds. This is not the case. Rutledges Cutting is landlocked, brackish and closer in ecology to that of Belfast Lough. Occasionally, Kitesurfers and Windsurfers use this area when a northerly wind blows and the area is in flood. The water then spreads way out beyond the Belfast coastal reserves boundary over flat agricultural land. This means this area can only be used infrequently. The ecological impact on the reserve is zero, especially when compared to the permitted agricultural activities. Currently, the draft plan permits non-motorised craft in the Rutledges Cutting. I would propose that windsurfing and kitesurfing are included in the permitted activities on Rutledges Cutting.
- Kellys swamp should be considered as environmentally different to the Belfast Lough and Rutledges Cutting. Kellys swamp is a fresh water, heavily reeded bird habitat. Consequently, it is not appropriate for windsurfing and kitesurfing to be allowed on Kellys swamp.

- we are willing to engage with Parks Victoria on any issue related to use and management of the Belfast Lough and the Cutting.



Map 1: Showing the approximate small area of Belfast Lough used for Kitesurfing and Windsurfing.



Map 2: Showing approximate small area of Rutledges Cutting used for Kitesurfing and Windsurfing.

Notice red box showing area of Rutledges Cutting mostly closed off to ocean.

### **Summary**

Windsurfing and Kitesurfing have zero ecological impact on Belfast Lough and Rutledges Cutting and are ecologically sustainable recreational activities. They do not have any documented, detrimental environmental impact on these waterways.

These recreational activities are determined solely by prevailing wind and weather conditions. This means infrequent use. The safety and long term health implications of removing such places of recreational activity will have an impact on the safety of inexperienced, novice and elderly users.

These activities should be supported for many reasons, including the health and well-being of the people who engage in them. I hope the prohibition of these outdoor recreations in the Belfast Lough and Rutledges Cutting is an oversight in the plan, otherwise it cannot be justified.

### **Proposal**

I would propose that windsurfing and kitesurfing are included in the permitted activities on the Belfast Lough and Rutledges Cutting

Regards

### **Key management theme #4: Managing in partnership**

How supportive are you of the strategies for 'Managing in partnership' included in the draft management plan?

- ☐ Very unsupportive

*Comments: (Your submission can be as short or long as you wish. Put comments under relevant headings corresponding to plan sections or strategies, noting page and paragraph numbers. Attach more pages if required).*

### **Key management theme #5: Research and monitoring**

How supportive are you of the strategies for 'Research and monitoring' included in the draft management plan?

- ☐ Very unsupportive

*Comments: (Your submission can be as short or long as you wish. Put comments under relevant headings corresponding to plan sections or strategies, noting page and paragraph numbers. Attach more pages if required).*

## Submission template for Draft Belfast Coastal Reserve Management Plan

### About you:

Your name:

Your Organisation (if relevant): \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: 3280

Email or Postal address

**THIS SUBMISSION IS:** ☐ **NOT CONFIDENTIAL**      Date: 5/3/2018

### Your Comments:

**Please Note – The following information will be made publically available.**

Main reason for interest: *(such as local resident, visitor to parks, tourism operator, environmental interest, business operator, education interest, scientific interest)*

---

Recreation and use: **Windsurfing , Kitesurfing, surfing**

---

How often do you or your organisation use the reserve?

☐ Daily    ☐ Weekly      **Which ever is appropriate for you**

How do you or your organisation mainly use the reserve?

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Walking or running                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Dog walking    | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Using the beach (swimming and surfing)</b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Horse riding   | <input type="checkbox"/> Horse training | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteering                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Camping  | <input type="checkbox"/> Hunting        | <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing/boating                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Picnicking   | <input type="checkbox"/> Birdwatching   | <input type="checkbox"/> Socialising                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): windsurfing Kitesurfing ,surfing |   |  |

Which part(s) of the reserve do you or your organisation most frequently use?

- ☐ **West of Killarney (Port Fairy side)**      ☐ **Between Killarney and Big Baldy**



### **About the vision- Belfast Coastal Reserve, 15 years from now...:**

How supportive are you of the vision for the Belfast Coastal Reserve?

- ☐ Very unsupportive

Comments: *(Your submission can be as short or long as you wish. Put comments under relevant headings corresponding to plan sections or strategies, noting page and paragraph numbers. Attach more pages if required).*

### **Key management theme #1: Cultural landscape and living heritage**

How supportive are you of the strategies for 'Cultural landscape and living heritage' included in the draft management plan?

- ☐ Very unsupportive

Comments: *(Your submission can be as short or long as you wish. Put comments under relevant headings corresponding to plan sections or strategies, noting page and paragraph numbers. Attach more pages if required).*

### **Key management theme #2: Healthy Country**

How supportive are you of the strategies for 'Healthy Country' included in the draft management plan?

Very unsupportive

Comments: *(Your submission can be as short or long as you wish. Put comments under relevant headings corresponding to plan sections or strategies, noting page and paragraph numbers. Attach more pages if required).*

### **Key management theme #3: Recreation and use**

How supportive are you of the strategies for 'Recreation and use' included in the draft management plan?

- ☐ Very unsupportive

Comments: *(Your submission can be as short or long as you wish. Put comments under relevant headings corresponding to plan sections or strategies, noting page and paragraph numbers. Attach more pages if required).*

## **Submission to Belfast Coastal Reserve Draft Management plan by**

The Belfast Lough and the waters at Killarney is invaluable assets in my situation as I can safely preform my water sport there. I am very concerned about changes suggested in the Draft management Plan that seeks to create a conservation zone all along the Armstrong Bay beaches in South West Victoria. This conservation zone will have a immediate, detrimental impact on my recreational choices, now and into the future, due to restriction of access to water ways. This conservation zone will exclude me and the other people in the South West of Victoria from a highly valued recreational reserve which has been open to everyone and used by the community and tourists alike.

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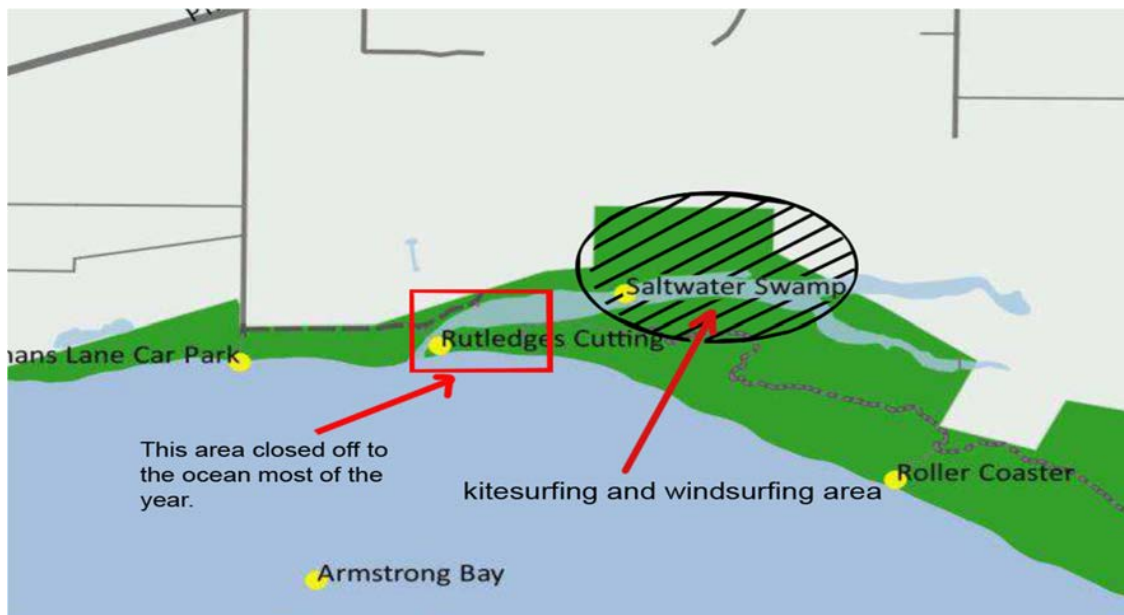
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- Kellys swamp should be considered as environmentally different to the Belfast Lough and Rutledges Cutting. Kellys swamp is a fresh water, heavily reeded bird habitat. Consequently, it is not appropriate for windsurfing and kitesurfing to be allowed on Kellys swamp.

- we are willing to engage with Parks Victoria on any issue related to use and management of the Belfast Lough and the Cutting.



Map 1: Showing the approximate small area of Belfast Lough used for Kitesurfing and Windsurfing.



Map 2: Showing approximate small area of Rutledges Cutting used for Kitesurfing and Windsurfing.

Notice red box showing area of Rutledges Cutting mostly closed off to ocean.

### **Summary**

Windsurfing and Kitesurfing have zero ecological impact on Belfast Lough and Rutledges Cutting and are ecologically sustainable recreational activities. They do not have any documented, detrimental environmental impact on these waterways.

These recreational activities are determined solely by prevailing wind and weather conditions. This means infrequent use. The safety and long term health implications of removing such places of recreational activity will have an impact on the safety of inexperienced, novice and elderly users.

These activities should be supported for many reasons, including the health and well-being of the people who engage in them. I hope the prohibition of these outdoor recreations in the Belfast Lough and Rutledges Cutting is an oversight in the plan, otherwise it cannot be justified.

### **Proposal**

I would propose that windsurfing and kitesurfing are included in the permitted activities on the Belfast Lough and Rutledges Cutting

Regards

### **Key management theme #4: Managing in partnership**

How supportive are you of the strategies for 'Managing in partnership' included in the draft management plan?

- ☐ Very unsupportive

*Comments: (Your submission can be as short or long as you wish. Put comments under relevant headings corresponding to plan sections or strategies, noting page and paragraph numbers. Attach more pages if required).*

### **Key management theme #5: Research and monitoring**

How supportive are you of the strategies for 'Research and monitoring' included in the draft management plan?

- ☐ Very unsupportive

*Comments: (Your submission can be as short or long as you wish. Put comments under relevant headings corresponding to plan sections or strategies, noting page and paragraph numbers. Attach more pages if required).*



Dear Parks Victoria,

I would like to state my formal objection to the proposed ban on windsurfing and/or kitesurfing on Belfast Lough. Friends have taken time to address this issue in detail and have stated the obvious reasons why this is a terrible idea much better than I can. The high points are below.

Please do not follow through with these new restrictions.

Thanks,

**Belfast Coastal Reserve Plan 2018- Windsurfing and Kitesurfing in estuaries or wetlands – with particular reference to the Belfast Lough**

**The basic issue:**

1. Windsurfing and Kitesurfing are to be prohibited on the Belfast Lough and Rutledges Cutting, as both comes under estuaries in the proposed plan.
2. The Lough and Cutting are the **only safe** places to sail in an offshore wind direction (Northerly) for over a 200 km distance. The conditions on the Ocean become too dangerous with offshore winds.
3. They are also the only **safe learner spot** for over 200 km. It is waist deep, so learners can walk back to shore if they have problems.
4. Windsurfers and Kitesurfers are virtually the sole water user groups on the Lough/Cutting and do not clash with any other users. (The water quality is very unpleasant and you have to be desperate to use it!).
5. We have been using the Lough/Cutting infrequently for a period of .
6. There is only approximately 6-8 people using the Lough for a small number of times per year.
7. We do not affect the environment value of this asset. There is agricultural land right up to the water's edge, a 1 km airstrip on the Loughs southern bank and rubbish floating down the Moyne River into the Lough.
8. The Belfast Lough and Rutledge's Cutting are environmentally different to Kelly's swamp. The Lough and The Cutting are brackish and highly modified. Kellys swamp is a fresh water, heavily reeded, consequently is not suitable for windsurfing and kitesurfing.
9. Windsurfers and Kitesurfers are opposed to the Belfast Reserve Plan and do not believe it is not appropriate to treat all wetlands and estuaries the same under the plan. Windsurfers and Kitesurfers cannot see Parks Victoria justification to change from the current permitted use of the Lough as we have zero environmental impact.

**Some Ironic points about the proposed permitted activities in the draft plan "Table 6.1 summary of activities" (page 54)**

- Boating (non-motorised) will be permitted in the Lough– that means I can take my and use it on the Lough but not my windsurfer!

- Boating motorised (including Jet Ski's) will be permitted – that means that I can race up and down the centre of the Lough at 90 km/hr on my jet ski, but not use my windsurfer!
- And the funniest of all – **surfing will not be permitted**, as Parks Vic. will be banning something that has never occurred and never will occur on the Lough. It is generally accepted you need a swell to generate a wave to ride a surfboard on. There is no swell in the Lough.

**Other Points in a little more detail.**

- The Belfast Lough/Cutting is the only safe learners spot for over 200km distance. The Lough is mostly 1.0-1.5m deep and only 700m wide by 1800m long. In most parts, you can stand up and walk to shore if needed.
- It is also the only safe windsurfing spot for intermediate and advanced windsurfers to sail in an offshore wind direction.
- Windsurfer's and kite surfers do not clash with other user groups on the Lough, as they are frequently the only water user group on the Lough. The water quality is very unpleasant; you have to be desperate to use it. Some rowers use the Lough. We do not have any conflict with them because as soon as it gets windy enough to sail, it is too windy to row.
- Windsurfers are naturally limited to the centre of the Lough/cutting due to the water depth and the boards fin length. We cannot access the banks where birds congregate.
- Under the proposed Plan, motorised boating (including Jet Ski's) will be permitted; however, there will be a 5-knot speed limit within 200m from shore. The main body of the Lough is 700m wide and 1800m long, that means I will more than 200m from shore in the centre of it and can race up and down at 90km/hr on my jet ski, but not use my windsurfer!
- It is the only site for over 200km where the low banks do not interrupt the wind and allows for "clean air". Other inland water bodies are mainly volcanic craters, with high surround hills, which create swirling wind patterns. These are not suitable for wind sports.
- The Lough/Cutting has been used for over 20 years by windsurfers and kitesurfers and these groups have had zero detrimental effect. Why change from the current permitted use?

## Belfast Coast Management Plan: - Individual Submission / Survey

Name: .....

Signature .....

Email Address: .....

Post Code : .....

Age Range : 40's .....

Gender : Female .....

Is this submission to be treated as Confidential : No .....

How often do you use the Reserve : Once a week .....

How do you Get to the Reserve: .. Walk, Drive, Ride a Bike, Ride a Horse

Drive .....

What do you mainly use the Reserve for: (For example: Bird watching, Swimming, surfing, kitesurfing, windsurfing, snorkelling, horse riding, dog walking, fishing, boating, camping, family time at the beach with or without a pet)

Horse riding , fishing , Swimming .....

How important is it to you to be able to continue these activities within the entire Reserve?

.....

.....

Which part of the Reserve do you use most frequently:

Killarney Beach All .....

West of Killarney Beach to Port Fairy All .....

East of Killarney Beach to The Cutting All .....

West of The Cutting towards Warrnambool All .....

What is your area of interest (For Example: Conservation, Recreational, Cultural, With Animals – Horses or Dogs)

Everything

Is there a specific change that you want made to the Draft Proposal.

How important is the Cultural Heritage of the Reserve to you?

How important is protection of the Natural Environment and Bird life to you

How important is the ability to enjoy recreation activities to you

Very

Is your Personal Health and Wellbeing associated with your use of the Reserve? If so in what way.

Do you believe that the current use of the reserve that allows for both Recreation and Conservation should continue?

Do you believe that Recreational Activities should be allowed throughout the Whole Reserve, or do you believe that certain areas should be set aside for conservation only (Eg. No Dog and No Recreational Horse Areas).

If you believe dogs and horses should be banned – which areas should they be banned from:

No

Do you wish to add any further comments:



**Belfast Coast Management Plan: - Individual Submission / Survey**

Name: .....

Signature .....

Email Address: .....

Post Code : .....

Age Range : 65/75 .....

Gender : Male .....

Is this submission to be treated as Confidential : No .....

How often do you use the Reserve : often .....

How do you Get to the Reserve: .. Walk, Drive, Ride a Bike, Ride a Horse

What do you mainly use the Reserve for: (For example: Bird watching, Swimming, surfing, kitesurfing, windsurfing, snorkelling, horse riding, dog walking, fishing, boating, camping, family time at the beach with or without a pet)

How important is it to you to be able to continue these activities within the entire Reserve?

For peace & quiet closest to  
Where to with my dog (Rump Wrens, Bloody Hell,)

Which part of the Reserve do you use most frequently:

Killarney Beach every way but just want one option

West of Killarney Beach to Port Fairy .....

East of Killarney Beach to The Cutting .....

West of The Cutting towards Warrnambool .....



What is your area of interest (For Example: Conservation, Recreational, Cultural, With Animals – Horses or Dogs)

Realistic CONSERVATION

Is there a specific change that you want made to the Draft Proposal.

CAN 'IT

How important is the Cultural Heritage of the Reserve to you?

None!  
IS important if done Right For All.

How important is protection of the Natural Environment and Bird life to you

Very important but Humans can fit in also

How important is the ability to enjoy recreation activities to you

Monumental • Monumental.

Is your Personal Health and Wellbeing associated with your use of the Reserve? If so in what way.

Time out for me at water Edge.

Do you believe that the current use of the reserve that allows for both Recreation and Conservation should continue?

How far from now that it is Great  
until all this CRAP HAPPENS

Do you believe that Recreational Activities should be allowed throughout the Whole Reserve, or do you believe that certain areas should be set aside for conservation only (Eg. No Dog and No Recreational Horse Areas).

Yes. But let me Ride my Horse. Walk my Dog,  
and Dig a worm to go Fishing.

If you believe dogs and horses should be banned – which areas should they be banned from:

WHAT HARM do they Real Do. For Gods Sake.

Do you wish to add any further comments:

Woods FAIL me.

## Belfast Coast Management Plan: - Individual Submission / Survey

Name: .....

Signature .....

Email Address: .....

Post Code : .....

Age Range : 21

Gender : Female

Is this submission to be treated as Confidential : No.

How often do you use the Reserve : Weekly.

How do you Get to the Reserve: .. Walk, Drive, Ride a Bike, Ride a Horse

Ride a horse.

What do you mainly use the Reserve for: (For example: Bird watching, Swimming, surfing, kitesurfing, windsurfing, snorkelling, horse riding, dog walking, fishing, boating, camping, family time at the beach with or without a pet)

horse riding, dog walking,

Fishing, Swimming.

How important is it to you to be able to continue these activities within the entire Reserve?

Which part of the Reserve do you use most frequently:

Killarney Beach /

West of Killarney Beach to Port Fairy /

East of Killarney Beach to The Cutting /

West of The Cutting towards Warrnambool /

**Belfast Coast Management Plan: - Individual Submission / Survey**

Name: .....

Signature .....

Email Address: .....

Post Code : .....

Age Range : 40 TO 50

Gender : MALE

Is this submission to be treated as Confidential : NO

How often do you use the Reserve : ONCE A MONTH.

How do you Get to the Reserve: .. Walk, Drive, Ride a Bike, Ride a Horse

DRIVE -

What do you mainly use the Reserve for: (For example: Bird watching, Swimming, surfing, kitesurfing, windsurfing, snorkelling, horse riding, dog walking, fishing, boating, camping, family time at the beach with or without a pet)

FISHING, BOATING, BIKING.

How important is it to you to be able to continue these activities within the entire Reserve?

VERY IT'S AWAY FROM MY LIFE

Which part of the Reserve do you use most frequently:

Killarney Beach ☒

West of Killarney Beach to Port Fairy ☒

East of Killarney Beach to The Cutting ☒

West of The Cutting towards Warrnambool ☒



What is your area of interest (For Example: Conservation, Recreational, Cultural, With Animals – Horses or Dogs)

RECREATIONAL

Is there a specific change that you want made to the Draft Proposal.

NO

How important is the Cultural Heritage of the Reserve to you?

MEDIUM

How important is protection of the Natural Environment and Bird life to you

VERY ALWAYS

TREAT OR INVIROMENT WITH RESPECT.

How important is the ability to enjoy recreation activities to you

EXTREMELY

Is your Personal Health and Wellbeing associated with your use of the Reserve? If so in what way.

YES, WALKING, AND ANY OTHER FORM OF ACTIVITY ON THE BEACH IN GOOD VALUE.

Do you believe that the current use of the reserve that allows for both Recreation and Conservation should continue?

YES

Do you believe that Recreational Activities should be allowed throughout the Whole Reserve, or do you believe that certain areas should be set aside for conservation only (Eg. No Dog and No Recreational Horse Areas).

YES

If you believe dogs and horses should be banned – which areas should they be banned from:

NO.

Do you wish to add any further comments:

THIS IS A TRODICATION TO THIS AREA AND PART OF OUR EUROPEAN CULTURE. WHICH IS IMPORTANT TO ME.

**Belfast Coast Management Plan: - Individual Survey Submission**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code: 3280.

Age Range: 62

Gender: FEMALE.

Is this submission to be treated as Confidential: NO.

How often do you use the Reserve: Weekly except summer.

How do you Get to the Reserve: .. Walk, Drive, Ride a Bike, Ride a Horse

What do you mainly use the Reserve for: (For example: Bird watching, Swimming, surfing, kitesurfing, windsurfing, snorkelling, horse riding, dog walking, fishing, boating, camping, family time at the beach with or without a pet)

How important is it to you to be able to continue these activities within the entire Reserve?

Very important

Which part of the Reserve do you use most frequently:

Killarney Beach \_\_\_\_\_

West of Killarney Beach to Port Fairy ☒ occasionally walk to Port Fairy.

East of Killarney Beach to The Cutting ☒ mostly

West of The Cutting towards Warrnambool \_\_\_\_\_



What is your area of interest (For Example: Conservation, Recreational, Cultural, With Animals – Horses or Dogs)

walking dogs, relaxing & enjoy quiet & beauty whilst  
being VERY respectful of environment - keep to tracks  
we also collect RUBBISH! - pick up excreta  
- mindful of birds & nests.

Is there a specific change that you want made to the Draft Proposal.

How important is the Cultural Heritage of the Reserve to you? Very.

How important is protection of the Natural Environment and Bird life to you

Very.

How important is the ability to enjoy recreation activities to you

Very.

Is your Personal Health and Wellbeing associated with your use of the Reserve? If so in what way.

Enjoy beauty & serenity of area - maintaining mental  
health. Physical health whilst walk & interact with  
our dogs & other walkers.

Do you believe that the current use of the reserve that allows for both Recreation and Conservation should continue?

Yes.

Do you believe that Recreational Activities should be allowed throughout the Whole Reserve, or do you believe that certain areas should be set aside for conservation only (Eg. No Dog and No Recreational Horse Areas).

IF used with respect, all should be able  
to enjoy all areas.

If you believe dogs and horses should be banned – which areas should they be banned from:

Should not be banned.

Do you wish to add any further comments:

**Belfast Coast Management Plan: - Individual Survey Submission**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Age Range: 32

Gender: Male

Is this submission to be treated as Confidential: No

How often do you use the Reserve: 2-3 times per week

How do you Get to the Reserve: .. Walk, Drive, Ride a Bike, Ride a Horse

Drive

What do you mainly use the Reserve for: (For example: Bird watching, Swimming, surfing, kitesurfing, windsurfing, snorkelling, horse riding, dog walking, fishing, boating, camping, family time at the beach with or without a pet)

Bird watching, swimming, surfing, horse

Riding, dog walking

How important is it to you to be able to continue these activities within the entire Reserve?

essential

dogs off beach is essential to me

Which part of the Reserve do you use most frequently:

Killarney Beach ☒

West of Killarney Beach to Port Fairy ☒

East of Killarney Beach to The Cutting ☒

West of The Cutting towards Warrnambool ☒

What is your area of interest (For Example: Conservation, Recreational, Cultural, With Animals – Horses or Dogs)

horses and dogs

Is there a specific change that you want made to the Draft Proposal.

yes I want unrestricted access for myself and my horse and dogs

How important is the Cultural Heritage of the Reserve to you? Fairly

How important is protection of the Natural Environment and Bird life to you

Quite important however it should remain as is

How important is the ability to enjoy recreation activities to you

Very I love surfing and swimming

Is your Personal Health and Wellbeing associated with your use of the Reserve? If so in what way.

Yes I enjoy keeping fit and enjoy my time off from work ~~the~~ enjoying the beach in all seasons

Do you believe that the current use of the reserve that allows for both Recreation and Conservation should continue?

Yes I ~~do~~ like it that way it is now

Do you believe that Recreational Activities should be allowed throughout the Whole Reserve, or do you believe that certain areas should be set aside for conservation only (Eg. No Dog and No Recreational Horse Areas).

Whole Reserve. my dogs deter cats and foxes therefore protect the native fauna

If you believe dogs and horses should be banned – which areas should they be banned from:

Do you wish to add any further comments: Classic example ODD Ball is a dog protecting birds from foxes



## Belfast Coast Management Plan: - Individual Survey Submission

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code: 3280

Age Range: 50s

Gender: MALE

Is this submission to be treated as Confidential: \_\_\_\_\_

How often do you use the Reserve: ONCE A WEEK, MORE IN SUMMER

How do you Get to the Reserve: Walk, Drive, Ride a Bike, Ride a Horse

What do you mainly use the Reserve for: (For example: Bird watching, Swimming, surfing, kitesurfing, windsurfing, snorkelling, horse riding, dog walking, fishing, boating, camping, family time at the beach with or without a pet)

How important is it to you to be able to continue these activities within the entire Reserve?

VERY IMPORTANT FOR MY SELF, FAMILY & VISITORS TO THIS AREA

ITS THIS COAST LINE

ITS ALSO A VERY BIG TOURIST PULL TO

Which part of the Reserve do you use most frequently:

THIS AREA, AND HAS A BIG IMPACT ON PEOPLES LIVELIHOOD

Killarney Beach

West of Killarney Beach to Port Fairy

East of Killarney Beach to The Cutting

West of The Cutting towards Warrnambool

What is your area of interest (For Example: Conservation, Recreational, Cultural, With Animals – Horses or Dogs)

Is there a specific change that you want made to the Draft Proposal.

I WANT TO CONTINUE TO USE THESE AREAS WITH MY  
FAMILY WITHOUT RESTRICTIONS THAT WILL CHANGE THE WAY WE  
LIVE IN THIS AREA.

How important is the Cultural Heritage of the Reserve to you? NIL

How important is protection of the Natural Environment and Bird life to you

IMPORTANT, BUT SENSIBLE IN APPLICATION.

How important is the ability to enjoy recreation activities to you

AS ABOVE.

Is your Personal Health and Wellbeing associated with your use of the Reserve? If so in what way.

~~ST~~ EXERCISE IS GOOD STUPID QUESTION.

Do you believe that the current use of the reserve that allows for both Recreation and Conservation should continue?

YES.

Do you believe that Recreational Activities should be allowed throughout the Whole Reserve, or do you believe that certain areas should be set aside for conservation only (Eg. No Dog and No Recreational Horse Areas).

WHOLE RESERVE, NO RESTRICTIONS.

If you believe dogs and horses should be banned – which areas should they be banned from:

NO BAN ON DOGS <sup>ANY</sup> HORSES

Do you wish to add any further comments:



## Parks Victoria - Non-Confidential Submissions to Draft Belfast Coastal Reserve Management Plan 2018

Belfast Coast Management Plan: - Individual Survey Submission	
<p>Name: _____</p> <p>Signature _____</p> <p>Email Address: _____</p> <p>Post Code: _____</p> <p>Age Range: <u>15</u></p> <p>Gender: <u>F</u></p> <p>Is this submission to be treated as Confidential: <u>NO No</u></p> <p>How often do you use the Reserve: On a regular fortnightly basis and often weekly in the warmer months</p> <p>How do you Get to the Reserve: . Walk, Drive, Ride a Bike, Ride a Horse</p> <p><u>Drive</u></p> <p>What do you mainly use the Reserve for: (For example: Bird watching, Swimming, surfing, kitesurfing, windsurfing, snorkelling, horse riding, dog walking, fishing, boating, camping, family time at the beach with or without a pet)</p> <p><u>Dog walking, swimming, horse riding, fishing and leisure activities with my family and friends it's a great place for exercising to help keep fit and healthy</u></p> <p>How important is it to you to be able to continue these activities within the entire Reserve?</p> <p><u>Very important, it's a place I enjoying visiting and it helps with my social and emotional wellbeing</u></p> <p>Which part of the Reserve do you use most frequently:</p> <p><u>I frequent all areas listed.</u></p> <p><u>Killarney Beach</u></p> <p><u>West of Killarney Beach to Port Fairy</u></p> <p><u>East of Killarney Beach to The Cutting</u></p> <p><u>West of The Cutting towards Warrnambool</u></p> <p>What is your area of interest (For Example: Conservation, Recreational, Cultural, With Animals – Horses or Dogs)</p> <p><u>I enjoy being able to use the reserve for recreational activities which includes dog walking, running, horse riding and enjoying the splendour of our beautiful coast line</u></p>	<p>Is there a specific change that you want made to the Draft Proposal.</p> <p><u>I would like to see the reserve remain as it currently is where you can enjoy a number of activities without restriction</u></p> <p>How important is the Cultural Heritage of the Reserve to you? Cultural Heritage is important as it's a huge part of our local community's history</p> <p>How important is protection of the Natural Environment and Bird life to you</p> <p><u>It's important to protect the natural environment and bird life however I believe this can be done as a recreation/conservation area</u></p> <p>How important is the ability to enjoy recreation activities to you</p> <p><u>It's very important as a healthy life style and being able to utilise the BCR for recreational activities helps me to enjoy dog walking and horse riding activities</u></p> <p>Is your Personal Health and Wellbeing associated with your use of the Reserve? If so in what way.</p> <p><u>Yes</u></p> <p>Do you believe that the current use of the reserve that allows for both Recreation and Conservation should continue?</p> <p><u>Yes – Most definitely</u></p> <p>Do you believe that Recreational Activities should be allowed throughout the Whole Reserve, or do you believe that certain areas should be set aside for conservation only (Eg. No Dog and No Recreational Horse Areas).</p> <p><u>I believe the reserve should be left as a recreational/conservation reserve and the dark green zone on the draft management plan be all changed to light green zone</u></p> <p>If you believe dogs and horses should be banned – which areas should they be banned from:</p> <p><u>No I don't believe they should be banned</u></p> <p>Do you wish to add any further comments: The BCR is one of very few places locally you can walk your dog or enjoy a leisurely horse ride, there have never been any reported incidents involving horses or dogs as most reserve users are very respectful of each other. It would be very disadvantageous to change the reserve to mostly conservation areas. Why change something that has for many many years been a place of recreation for people to enjoy.</p>

## Parks Victoria - Non-Confidential Submissions to Draft Belfast Coastal Reserve Management Plan 2018

**Belfast Coast Management Plan: - Individual Survey Submission**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Age Range: 40's

Gender: M

Is this submission to be treated as Confidential: NO No

How often do you use the Reserve: On a regular fortnightly basis and often weekly in the warmer months.

How do you Get to the Reserve: Walk, Drive, Ride a Bike, Ride a Horse

Drive

What do you mainly use the Reserve for: (For example: Bird watching, Swimming, surfing, kitesurfing, windsurfing, snorkelling, horse riding, dog walking, fishing, boating, camping, family time at the beach with or without a pet)

Dog walking, swimming, horse riding, fishing and leisure activities with my family and friends it's a great place for exercising to help keep fit and healthy

How important is it to you to be able to continue these activities within the entire Reserve?

Very important, it's a place I enjoy visiting and it helps with my social and emotional wellbeing

Which part of the Reserve do you use most frequently:

I frequent all areas listed.

Killarney Beach

West of Killarney Beach to Port Fairy

East of Killarney Beach to The Cutting

West of The Cutting towards Warrnambool

What is your area of interest (For Example: Conservation, Recreational, Cultural, With Animals – Horses or Dogs)

I enjoy being able to use the reserve for recreational activities which includes dog walking, running, horse riding and enjoying the splendour of our beautiful coast line.

Is there a specific change that you want made to the Draft Proposal.

I would like to see the reserve remain as it currently is where you can enjoy a number of activities without restriction

How important is the Cultural Heritage of the Reserve to you? Cultural Heritage is important as it's a huge part of our local community's history.

How important is protection of the Natural Environment and Bird life to you

It's important to protect the natural environment and bird life however I believe this can be done as a recreation/conservation area

How important is the ability to enjoy recreation activities to you

It's very important as a healthy life style and being able to utilise the BCR for recreational activities helps me to enjoy dog walking and horse riding activities

Is your Personal Health and Wellbeing associated with your use of the Reserve? If so in what way.

Yes

Do you believe that the current use of the reserve that allows for both Recreation and Conservation should continue?

Yes – Most definitely

Do you believe that Recreational Activities should be allowed throughout the Whole Reserve, or do you believe that certain areas should be set aside for conservation only (Eg. No Dog and No Recreational Horse Areas).

I believe the reserve should be left as a recreational/conservation reserve and the dark green zone on the draft management plan be all changed to light green zone

If you believe dogs and horses should be banned – which areas should they be banned from:

No I don't believe they should be banned

Do you wish to add any further comments: The BCR is one of very few places locally you can walk your dog or enjoy a leisurely horse ride, there have never been any reported incidents involving horses or dogs as most reserve users are very respectful of each other. It would be very disadvantageous to change the reserve to mostly conservation areas. Why change something that has for many many years been a place of recreation for people to enjoy.

## Parks Victoria - Non-Confidential Submissions to Draft Belfast Coastal Reserve Management Plan 2018

Belfast Coast Management Plan: - Individual Survey Submission	
Name: <span style="background-color: black; color: black;">[REDACTED]</span>	Is there a specific change that you want made to the Draft Proposal.
Signature: <span style="background-color: black; color: black;">[REDACTED]</span>	I would like to see the reserve remain as it currently is where you can enjoy a number of activities without restriction
Email Address: <span style="background-color: black; color: black;">[REDACTED]</span>	How important is the Cultural Heritage of the Reserve to you? Cultural Heritage is important as it's a huge part of our local community's history
Post Code: <span style="background-color: black; color: black;">[REDACTED]</span>	How important is protection of the Natural Environment and Bird life to you
Age Range: 17	It's important to protect the natural environment and bird life however I believe this can be done as a recreation/conservation area
Gender: M	How important is the ability to enjoy recreation activities to you
Is this submission to be treated as Confidential: NO	It's very important as a healthy life style and being able to utilise the BCR for recreational activities helps me to enjoy dog walking and horse riding activities
How often do you use the Reserve: On a regular fortnightly basis and often weekly in the warmer months	Is your Personal Health and Wellbeing associated with your use of the Reserve? If so in what way.
How do you Get to the Reserve: . Walk, Drive, Ride a Bike, Ride a Horse	Yes
Drive	Do you believe that the current use of the reserve that allows for both Recreation and Conservation should continue?
What do you mainly use the Reserve for: (For example: Bird watching, Swimming, surfing, kitesurfing, windsurfing, snorkelling, horse riding, dog walking, fishing, boating, camping, family time at the beach with or without a pet)	Yes - Most definitely
Dog walking, swimming, horse riding, fishing and leisure activities with my family and friends it's a great place for exercising to help keep fit and healthy	Do you believe that Recreational Activities should be allowed throughout the Whole Reserve, or do you believe that certain areas should be set aside for conservation only (Eg. No Dog and No Recreational Horse Areas).
How important is it to you to be able to continue these activities within the entire Reserve?	I believe the reserve should be left as a recreational/conservation reserve and the dark green zone on the draft management plan be all changed to light green zone
Very important, it's a place I enjoying visiting and it helps with my social and emotional wellbeing	If you believe dogs and horses should be banned - which areas should they be banned from:
Which part of the Reserve do you use most frequently:	No I don't believe they should be banned
I frequent all areas listed.	Do you wish to add any further comments: The BCR is one of very few places locally you can walk your dog or enjoy a leisurely horse ride, there have never been any reported incidents involving horses or dogs as most reserve users are very respectful of each other. It would be very disadvantageous to change the reserve to mostly conservation areas. Why change something that has for many many years been a place of recreation for people to enjoy.
Killarney Beach	
West of Killarney Beach to Port Fairy	
East of Killarney Beach to The Cutting	
West of The Cutting towards Warrnambool	
What is your area of Interest (For Example: Conservation, Recreational, Cultural, With Animals - Horses or Dogs)	
I enjoy being able to use the reserve for recreational activities which includes dog walking, running, horse riding and enjoying the splendour of our beautiful coast line	



## Parks Victoria - Non-Confidential Submissions to Draft Belfast Coastal Reserve Management Plan 2018

Belfast Coast Management Plan: - Individual Survey Submission	
<p>Name: _____</p> <p>Signature: _____</p> <p>Email Address: _____</p> <p>Post Code: _____</p> <p>Age Range: <u>40</u></p> <p>Gender: <u>F</u></p> <p>Is this submission to be treated as Confidential: <u>NO</u> <u>NO</u></p> <p>How often do you use the Reserve: On a regular fortnightly basis and often weekly in the warmer months</p> <p>How do you Get to the Reserve: <u>Walk, Drive, Ride a Bike, Ride a Horse</u></p> <p><u>Drive</u></p> <p>What do you mainly use the Reserve for: (For example: Bird watching, Swimming, surfing, kitesurfing, windsurfing, snorkelling, horse riding, dog walking, fishing, boating, camping, family time at the beach with or without a pet)</p> <p><u>Dog walking, swimming, horse riding, fishing and leisure activities with my family and friends it's a great place for exercising to help keep fit and healthy</u></p> <p>How important is it to you to be able to continue these activities within the entire Reserve?</p> <p><u>Very important, it's a place I enjoy visiting and it helps with my social and emotional wellbeing</u></p> <p>Which part of the Reserve do you use most frequently:</p> <p><u>I frequent all areas listed.</u></p> <p><u>Killarney Beach</u></p> <p><u>West of Killarney Beach to Port Fairy</u></p> <p><u>East of Killarney Beach to The Cutting</u></p> <p><u>West of The Cutting towards Warrnambool</u></p> <p>What is your area of interest (For Example: Conservation, Recreational, Cultural, With Animals – Horses or Dogs)</p> <p><u>I enjoy being able to use the reserve for recreational activities which includes dog walking, running, horse riding and enjoying the splendour of our beautiful coast line</u></p>	<p>Is there a specific change that you want made to the Draft Proposal.</p> <p><u>I would like to see the reserve remain as it currently is where you can enjoy a number of activities without restriction</u></p> <p>How important is the Cultural Heritage of the Reserve to you? Cultural Heritage is important as it's a huge part of our local community's history</p> <p>How important is protection of the Natural Environment and Bird life to you</p> <p><u>It's important to protect the natural environment and bird life however I believe this can be done as a recreation/conservation area</u></p> <p>How important is the ability to enjoy recreation activities to you</p> <p><u>It's very important as a healthy life style and being able to utilise the BCR for recreational activities helps me to enjoy dog walking and horse riding activities</u></p> <p>Is your Personal Health and Wellbeing associated with your use of the Reserve? If so in what way.</p> <p><u>Yes</u></p> <p>Do you believe that the current use of the reserve that allows for both Recreation and Conservation should continue?</p> <p><u>Yes – Most definitely</u></p> <p>Do you believe that Recreational Activities should be allowed throughout the Whole Reserve, or do you believe that certain areas should be set aside for conservation only (Eg. No Dog and No Recreational Horse Areas).</p> <p><u>I believe the reserve should be left as a recreational/conservation reserve and the dark green zone on the draft management plan be all changed to light green zone</u></p> <p>If you believe dogs and horses should be banned – which areas should they be banned from:</p> <p><u>No I don't believe they should be banned</u></p> <p>Do you wish to add any further comments: The BCR is one of very few places locally you can walk your dog or enjoy a leisurely horse ride, there have never been any reported incidents involving horses or dogs as most reserve users are very respectful of each other. It would be very disadvantageous to change the reserve to mostly conservation areas. Why change something that has for many many years been a place of recreation for people to enjoy.</p>

## Parks Victoria - Non-Confidential Submissions to Draft Belfast Coastal Reserve Management Plan 2018

**Belfast Coast Management Plan: - Individual Survey Submission**

Name: [REDACTED]

Signature: [REDACTED]

Email Address: [REDACTED]

Post Code: [REDACTED]

Age Range: 43

Gender: Female

Is this submission to be treated as Confidential: NO

How often do you use the Reserve: On a regular fortnightly basis and often weekly in the warmer months

How do you Get to the Reserve: Walk, Drive, Ride a Bike, Ride a Horse

Drive

What do you mainly use the Reserve for: (For example: Bird watching, Swimming, surfing, kitesurfing, windsurfing, snorkelling, horse riding, dog walking, fishing, boating, camping, family time at the beach with or without a pet)

Dog walking, swimming, horse riding, fishing and leisure activities with my family and friends it's a great place for exercising to help keep fit and healthy

How important is it to you to be able to continue these activities within the entire Reserve?

Very important, it's a place I enjoy visiting and it helps with my social and emotional wellbeing

Which part of the Reserve do you use most frequently:

I frequent all areas listed.

Killarney Beach

West of Killarney Beach to Port Fairy

East of Killarney Beach to The Cutting

West of The Cutting towards Warrnambool

What is your area of interest (For Example: Conservation, Recreational, Cultural, With Animals – Horses or Dogs)

I enjoy being able to use the reserve for recreational activities which includes dog walking, running, horse riding and enjoying the splendour of our beautiful coast line

Is there a specific change that you want made to the Draft Proposal.

I would like to see the reserve remain as it currently is where you can enjoy a number of activities without restriction

How important is the Cultural Heritage of the Reserve to you? Cultural Heritage is important as it's a huge part of our local community's history.

How important is protection of the Natural Environment and Bird life to you

It's important to protect the natural environment and bird life however I believe this can be done as a recreation/conservation area

How important is the ability to enjoy recreation activities to you

It's very important as a healthy life style and being able to utilise the BCR for recreational activities helps me to enjoy dog walking and horse riding activities

Is your Personal Health and Wellbeing associated with your use of the Reserve? If so in what way.

Yes

Do you believe that the current use of the reserve that allows for both Recreation and Conservation should continue?

Yes – Most definitely

Do you believe that Recreational Activities should be allowed throughout the Whole Reserve, or do you believe that certain areas should be set aside for conservation only (Eg. No Dog and No Recreational Horse Areas).

I believe the reserve should be left as a recreational/conservation reserve and the dark green zone on the draft management plan be all changed to light green zone

If you believe dogs and horses should be banned – which areas should they be banned from:

No I don't believe they should be banned

Do you wish to add any further comments: The BCR is one of very few places locally you can walk your dog or enjoy a leisurely horse ride, there have never been any reported incidents involving horses or dogs as most reserve users are very respectful of each other. It would be very disadvantageous to change the reserve to mostly conservation areas. Why change something that has for many many years been a place of recreation for people to enjoy.



**Belfast Coast Management Plan: - Individual Survey Submission**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Age Range: 35 - 40

Gender: M.

Is this submission to be treated as Confidential: N

How often do you use the Reserve: monthly

How do you Get to the Reserve: .. Walk, Drive, Ride a Bike, Ride a Horse

What do you mainly use the Reserve for: (For example: Bird watching, Swimming, surfing, kitesurfing, windsurfing, snorkelling, horse riding, dog walking, fishing, boating, camping, family time at the beach with or without a pet)

How important is it to you to be able to continue these activities within the entire Reserve?

Very

Which part of the Reserve do you use most frequently:

Killarney Beach ☒

West of Killarney Beach to Port Fairy \_\_\_\_\_

East of Killarney Beach to The Cutting \_\_\_\_\_

West of The Cutting towards Warrnambool \_\_\_\_\_

What is your area of interest (For Example: Conservation, Recreational, Cultural, With Animals - Horses or Dogs)

Is there a specific change that you want made to the Draft Proposal.

No banning of non-Racehorses.

How important is the Cultural Heritage of the Reserve to you?

Very

How important is protection of the Natural Environment and Bird life to you

Very

How important is the ability to enjoy recreation activities to you

Very

Is your Personal Health and Wellbeing associated with your use of the Reserve? If so in what way.

enjoy beach riding.

Do you believe that the current use of the reserve that allows for both Recreation and Conservation should continue?

Yes.

Do you believe that Recreational Activities should be allowed throughout the Whole Reserve, or do you believe that certain areas should be set aside for conservation only (Eg. No Dog and No Recreational Horse Areas).

Possible conservation only areas. I think it's important recreational horse riding is maintained.

If you believe dogs and horses should be banned – which areas should they be banned from:

Dogs perhaps if not on lead.

Do you wish to add any further comments:



Belfast Coast Management Plan: - Individual Survey Submission

Name: ..

Signature....

Email Address:

Post Code:

3280

Age Range:

38

Gender:

F

Is this submission to be treated as Confidential:

NO

How often do you use the Reserve: On a regular fortnightly basis and often weekly in the warmer months

How do you Get to the Reserve: . Walk, Drive, Ride a Bike, Ride a Horse

Drive

What do you mainly use the Reserve for: (For example: Bird watching, Swimming, surfing, kitesurfing, windsurfing, snorkelling, horse riding, dog walking, fishing, boating, camping, family time at the beach with or without a pet)

Dog walking, swimming, horse riding, fishing and leisure activities with my family and friends it's a great place for exercising to help keep fit and healthy

How important is it to you to be able to continue these activities within the entire Reserve?

Very important, it's a place I enjoying visiting and it helps with my social and emotional wellbeing

Which part of the Reserve do you use most frequently:

I frequent all areas listed.

Killarney Beach

West of Killarney Beach to Port Fairy

East of Killarney Beach to The Cutting

West of The Cutting towards Warrnambool

What is your area of interest (For Example: Conservation, Recreational, Cultural, With Animals – Horses or Dogs)

I enjoy being able to use the reserve for recreational activities which includes dog walking, running, horse riding and enjoying the splendour of our beautiful coast line



**Is there a specific change that you want made to the Draft Proposal.**

I would like to see the reserve remain as it currently is where you can enjoy a number of activities without restriction

**How important is the Cultural Heritage of the Reserve to you?** Cultural Heritage is important as it's a huge part of our local community's history

**How important is protection of the Natural Environment and Bird life to you**

It's important to protect the natural environment and bird life however I believe this can be done as a recreation/conservation area

**How important is the ability to enjoy recreation activities to you**

It's very important as a healthy life style and being able to utilise the BCR for recreational activities helps me to enjoy dog walking and horse riding activities

**Is your Personal Health and Wellbeing associated with your use of the Reserve? If so in what way.**

Yes

**Do you believe that the current use of the reserve that allows for both Recreation and Conservation should continue?**

Yes – Most definitely

**Do you believe that Recreational Activities should be allowed throughout the Whole Reserve, or do you believe that certain areas should be set aside for conservation only (Eg. No Dog and No Recreational Horse Areas).**

I believe the reserve should be left as a recreational/conservation reserve and the dark green zone on the draft management plan be all changed to light green zone

**If you believe dogs and horses should be banned – which areas should they be banned from:**

No I don't believe they should be banned

**Do you wish to add any further comments:** The BCR is one of very few places locally you can walk your dog or enjoy a leisurely horse ride, there have never been any reported incidents involving horses or dogs as most reserve users are very respectful of each other. It would be very disadvantageous to change the reserve to mostly conservation areas. Why change something that has for many many years been a place of recreation for people to enjoy.



Belfast Coast Management Plan: - Individual Survey Submission

Name: .....

Signature .....

Email Address: .....

Post Code: 5280 .....

Age Range: 39 .....

Gender: F .....

Is this submission to be treated as Confidential: NO .....

How often do you use the Reserve: On a regular fortnightly basis and often weekly in the warmer months.....  
.....

How do you Get to the Reserve: . Walk, Drive, Ride a Bike, Ride a Horse

Drive .....

What do you mainly use the Reserve for: (For example: Bird watching, Swimming, surfing, kitesurfing, windsurfing, snorkelling, horse riding, dog walking, fishing, boating, camping, family time at the beach with or without a pet)

Dog walking, swimming, horse riding, fishing and leisure activities with my family and friends it's a great place for exercising to help keep fit and healthy .....

How important is it to you to be able to continue these activities within the entire Reserve?

Very important, it's a place I enjoying visiting and it helps with my social and emotional wellbeing .....

Which part of the Reserve do you use most frequently:

I frequent all areas listed.

Killarney Beach .....

West of Killarney Beach to Port Fairy .....

East of Killarney Beach to The Cutting .....

West of The Cutting towards Warrnambool .....

What is your area of interest (For Example: Conservation, Recreational, Cultural, With Animals – Horses or Dogs)

I enjoy being able to use the reserve for recreational activities which includes dog walking, running, horse riding and enjoying the splendour of our beautiful coast line .....



**Is there a specific change that you want made to the Draft Proposal.**

I would like to see the reserve remain as it currently is where you can enjoy a number of activities without restriction

**How important is the Cultural Heritage of the Reserve to you?** Cultural Heritage is important as it’s a huge part of our local community’s history

**How important is protection of the Natural Environment and Bird life to you**

It’s important to protect the natural environment and bird life however I believe this can be done as a recreation/conservation area

**How important is the ability to enjoy recreation activities to you**

It’s very important as a healthy life style and being able to utilise the BCR for recreational activities helps me to enjoy dog walking and horse riding activities

**Is your Personal Health and Wellbeing associated with your use of the Reserve? If so in what way.**

Yes

**Do you believe that the current use of the reserve that allows for both Recreation and Conservation should continue?**

Yes – Most definitely

**Do you believe that Recreational Activities should be allowed throughout the Whole Reserve, or do you believe that certain areas should be set aside for conservation only (Eg. No Dog and No Recreational Horse Areas).**

I believe the reserve should be left as a recreational/conservation reserve and the dark green zone on the draft management plan be all changed to light green zone

**If you believe dogs and horses should be banned – which areas should they be banned from:**

No I don’t believe they should be banned

**Do you wish to add any further comments:** The BCR is one of very few places locally you can walk your dog or enjoy a leisurely horse ride, there have never been any reported incidents involving horses or dogs as most reserve users are very respectful of each other. It would be very disadvantageous to change the reserve to mostly conservation areas. Why change something that has for many many years been a place of recreation for people to enjoy.



Belfast Coast Management Plan: - Individual Survey Submission

Name: ..

Signature

Email Address:

Post Code: 3280

Age Range: 18

Gender: m

Is this submission to be treated as Confidential: NO No

How often do you use the Reserve: On a regular fortnightly basis and often weekly in the warmer months

How do you Get to the Reserve: . Walk, Drive, Ride a Bike, Ride a Horse

Drive

What do you mainly use the Reserve for: (For example: Bird watching, Swimming, surfing, kitesurfing, windsurfing, snorkelling, horse riding, dog walking, fishing, boating, camping, family time at the beach with or without a pet)

Dog walking, swimming, horse riding, fishing and leisure activities with my family and friends it's a great place for exercising to help keep fit and healthy

How important is it to you to be able to continue these activities within the entire Reserve?

Very important, it's a place I enjoying visiting and it helps with my social and emotional wellbeing

Which part of the Reserve do you use most frequently:

I frequent all areas listed.

Killarney Beach

West of Killarney Beach to Port Fairy

East of Killarney Beach to The Cutting

West of The Cutting towards Warrnambool

What is your area of interest (For Example: Conservation, Recreational, Cultural, With Animals – Horses or Dogs)

I enjoy being able to use the reserve for recreational activities which includes dog walking, running, horse riding and enjoying the splendour of our beautiful coast line



Is there a specific change that you want made to the Draft Proposal.

I would like to see the reserve remain as it currently is where you can enjoy a number of activities without restriction

How important is the Cultural Heritage of the Reserve to you? Cultural Heritage is important as it’s a huge part of our local community’s history

How important is protection of the Natural Environment and Bird life to you

It’s important to protect the natural environment and bird life however I believe this can be done as a recreation/conservation area

How important is the ability to enjoy recreation activities to you

It’s very important as a healthy life style and being able to utilise the BCR for recreational activities helps me to enjoy dog walking and horse riding activities

Is your Personal Health and Wellbeing associated with your use of the Reserve? If so in what way.

Yes

Do you believe that the current use of the reserve that allows for both Recreation and Conservation should continue?

Yes – Most definitely

Do you believe that Recreational Activities should be allowed throughout the Whole Reserve, or do you believe that certain areas should be set aside for conservation only (Eg. No Dog and No Recreational Horse Areas).

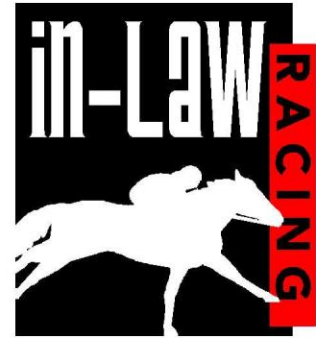
I believe the reserve should be left as a recreational/conservation reserve and the dark green zone on the draft management plan be all changed to light green zone

If you believe dogs and horses should be banned – which areas should they be banned from:

No I don’t believe they should be banned

Do you wish to add any further comments: The BCR is one of very few places locally you can walk your dog or enjoy a leisurely horse ride, there have never been any reported incidents involving horses or dogs as most reserve users are very respectful of each other. It would be very disadvantageous to change the reserve to mostly conservation areas. Why change something that has for many many years been a place of recreation for people to enjoy.





Wednesday, 14 March 2018

Manager  
Parks Planning  
Parks Victoria  
Level 10, 535 Bourke St  
Melbourne VIC 3000

To whom it may concern,

**Re: Warrnambool Beach Training Support Submission**

As an owner of horse/s trained in Warrnambool, the opportunities beach training presents as well as the relaxed country environment the district has to offer is the key reason why I will continue to support the continuation of horse training in the region.

In-Law Racing has previously sent horses to this region for their training and we currently have one in work at the moment.

If this opportunity was not available, the opportunities for these horses would become limited, thus there would be potential for them to retire from racing all together. This would have huge effect on the local horse trainers, horse numbers would decrease as well as taking away the opportunity for any return to continue to fund future horses to be trained in the region.

The opportunity to train horses on Levy's Beach and the dunes is critical for the ongoing success of horse training in Warrnambool which I am fully supportive of.

Regards,





Geelong Field Naturalists Club Inc  
ABN 55 481 179 265  
PO Box 1047  
Geelong, Vic, 3220

13<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Manager, Park Planning,  
Parks Victoria,  
Level 10, 535 Bourke Street  
Melbourne,  
VIC 3000

## **Submission on Belfast Coastal Reserve Draft Coastal Management Plan January 2018**

To the Manager, Park Planning,

The Belfast Coastal Reserve Draft Coastal Management Plan (CMP) is a well-prepared detailed document and we appreciate the opportunity to provide comment on it.

We are highly supportive of the proposed Conservation Zone, with a focus on protecting the habitat values and minimising disturbance to breeding birds and roosting and foraging migratory shorebirds.

However, we are firmly of the view that the proposal to continue racehorse training within the Reserve is unacceptable. Use of the Reserve for commercial racehorse training is incompatible with the stated aims of the CMP, which is to protect and enhance the outstanding cultural and natural values of the Reserve. Furthermore, any commercialisation of land that is reserved for conservation, recreation and public purposes is completely unacceptable. We urge you to amend the draft CMP to prohibit commercial racehorse training.

The Reserve is a precious and fragile coastal landscape that has significance for all Victorians, and beyond. The draft CMP does a good job of outlining the values of the Reserve and it's unnecessary to recite those attributes here. However, we would highlight the following points:

- The Reserve is critical habitat for endangered species and has a rich array of environmental values which must be protected as a priority.
- The Reserve is valuable for its undeveloped, wild character. These are qualities that are increasingly rare in a rapidly urbanised world. While it might be easy to underestimate these qualities in the here and now, it's important for coastal planning to take a long-term, broad perspective and recognise the true value of this undeveloped, wild coastal landscape.
- The Reserve is highly valuable for the rich cultural heritage of the Gunditjmara and Eastern Maar Peoples. The protection of Indigenous cultural values is integral to the sound environmental management of the Reserve.
- The Reserve provides a natural buffer against the impacts of climate change, such as storm surges, erosion and sea level rise. The resilience of this coastal strip must be strengthened to ensure that the Reserve can continue to fulfil its function as a buffer. Stressors on the environment need to be reduced not increased.



Under the hierarchy of principles set out in the *Victorian Coastal Strategy 2014*, the first priority of coastal management is “to ensure the protection of significant environmental and cultural values” (p29 VCS 2014). The third item in this hierarchy of principles refers to use of the coast and states that “natural coastal resources are a limited and valuable public resource, and if developed or used, this should be done wisely and deliver proven net community and public benefit for current and future generations”.

We do not support commercial horse training in the reserve. There are extreme risks to threatened species, habitat, cultural heritage sites, and public safety. An alternative sand track and pool was built in 2017, and several trainers are using the sandy soil in their paddocks. Training of racehorses is not dependent on the coastal environment. It is inconsistent with the principles of the Victorian Coastal Strategy to allow such use in the Reserve. If the CMP was to allow commercial racehorse training, this will set a disastrous precedent for the whole of the Victorian coast, undermining the standards and principles of coastal management.

Introducing a complex system of permitted usage with different zones and time periods would require expensive reinforcement by way of education and enforcement. Some of the endangered species in the Reserve are present year-round and would require enforcement and education programs to run all year. We know that such things are beyond the budgets of State Government these days and it is ludicrous to be proposing such a system of permits when there is no capability or intention to back up the regulations with the necessary elements of education and enforcement.

The Reserve has particular significance as bird habitat. The Reserve is critical habitat for the Eastern Hooded Plover. When BirdLife Australia reviewed the breeding success of Hooded Plovers in the Reserve, they found 44% of sites had not produced fledglings in five breeding seasons of monitoring. Their findings show that sites were under extreme pressure from horses, off-leash dogs, illegal vehicles, as well as weeds and foxes.

The narrow, rocky beaches are subject to high pressure from horses and dogs which are squeezed into this narrow zone. This area happens to contain one of the densest populations of Hooded Plovers known – for example, there are 28 Hooded Plover breeding sites within the proposed Conservation Zone, which comprises 43% of the onshore Reserve, not to mention 24 Red-capped Plover and two Pied Oystercatcher breeding sites, plus one of five priority locations for Orange-bellied Parrots, plus internationally significant habitat for Sanderling and Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, and nationally significant habitat for Ruddy Turnstones and Double-banded Plovers.

The proposed Conservation Zone should be free of dogs and horses to alleviate pressures on these birds. Another 57% of the reserve would still be available for dogs (a designated off-leash beach plus bird areas as on-leash) and recreational horse-riding (with a permit system following strict conditions). It is critically important that adequate resources are allocated for education, community engagement and enforcement to ensure that people adhere to the rules for use of the beach. Implementation of the rules must not be left purely to the good will of the public and the hard work of community volunteers.

The Geelong Field Naturalists Club and other community conservation groups work collaboratively across Victoria. Volunteers regularly come together from across the State to share ideas and work towards conservation goals. Together, we are bringing about positive change for threatened species such as the Hooded Plover. The Belfast Coastal Reserve is one area that has been the hardest to achieve successful top-down support for conservation of the Hooded Plover because the Reserve has had no gazetted regulations, no management plan and therefore volunteers in that area have reached a limit to the success of their actions. Bottom-up efforts need to be met by top-down support in order to achieve the CMP's goals of protecting and enhancing the natural and cultural values of this precious Coastal Reserve.

Yours Sincerely,

A rectangular white box used to redact a signature.A rectangular white box used to redact contact information.

Wednesday, 14 March 2018

Manager  
Parks Planning  
Parks Victoria  
Level 10, 535 Bourke St  
Melbourne VIC 3000

To whom it may concern,

**Re: Warrnambool Beach Training Support Submission**

As an owner of horses trained in Warrnambool, the opportunities beach training presents as well as the relaxed country environment the district has to offer is the key reason why I will continue to support the continuation of horse training in the region, both financially and with my patronage.

The industry provides great opportunities for the people of the region and supports the ongoing spirit of the town. It is a great pleasure to enjoy the horses training on the beach and provides a point of difference in the training methods of my horses, than those that are city based.

If this opportunity was not available, the opportunities for these horses would become limited, thus there would be potential for them to retire from racing all together. This would have huge effect on the local horse trainers, horse numbers would decrease as well as taking away the opportunity for any return to continue to fund future horses to be trained in the region.

The opportunity to train horses on Levy's Beach and the dunes is critical for the ongoing success of horse training in Warrnambool which I am fully supportive of.

Regards,

## Belfast Coast Management Plan: - Individual Survey Submission

Name: **Warrnambool Trail Horse Riders Club (WTHRC)**.....

Email Address:

Post Code: **3280**.....

Is this submission to be treated as Confidential: **No**.....

How often do you use the Reserve: **Every 6 months**.....

How do you get to the Reserve: .. Walk, Drive, Ride a Bike, Ride a Horse

**By car or by car with float attached, some members may use a horse truck instead of a float but generally floats are used.**.....

What do you mainly use the Reserve for: (For example: Bird watching, Swimming, surfing, kitesurfing, windsurfing, snorkelling, horse riding, dog walking, fishing, boating, camping, family time at the beach with or without a pet)

- recreational horse riding (club rides and pre-rides)
- socialising
- photographing the scenery

How important is it to you to be able to continue these activities within the entire Reserve?

**It is very important.**

**Beach conditions change dramatically at times making certain parts or a certain direction impassable.**

**Club ride plans may start from Killarney and head either west or east depending on the tide conditions and depending on any naturally occurring hazards blocking beach access tracks.**

**Also a club ride may start at Levy's Warrnambool and members may ride to Killarney and then on to Port Fairy. Any re-zoning would restrict and shorten the club rides significantly.**

Which part of the Reserve do you use most frequently:

**Killarney Beach**

.....

**West of Killarney Beach to Port Fairy**

.....

**East of Killarney Beach to The Cutting**

.....

**West of The Cutting towards Warrnambool**

**ALL OF THE ABOVE.**.....

What is your area of interest (For Example: Conservation, Recreational, Cultural, With Animals – Horses or Dogs)?

Form No:	IMS-F-005	Version no:	V20170202
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WTHRC's main interest is a recreational horse ride in the BCR which includes a social gathering for members after the ride in the form of a club bbq at the Killarney camping ground facilities.

*Is there a specific change that you want made to the Draft Proposal?*

Yes. WTHRC Members would like to see the dark green zone that is marked for the conservation zone to be changed to a light green zone to be a recreational conservation area so that the club can continue as it has done since its inception in 2011 and as other recreational horse riding clubs have done in the past before WTHRC commenced.

WTHRC is only one local club in the area, there are other trail riding clubs that are under the same banner of The Australian Trail Horse Riders Association (ATHRA) that visit the BCR for their own club rides from time to time.

WTHRC would like the BCR to remain as it is now due to the fact that there are no alternative tracks to ride other than the beach between Baldy Hill and Killarney.

According to the plan, there will be congestion and over-use of the areas where recreational riders would be allowed. Also carparks are presently very small, with more car parks set to be closed off, this will increase the burden on the existing car parks.

WTHRC notes that Parks' slogan "Healthy Parks Healthy People" would not be an accurate reflection of what will result in the reduction of recreational activities.

*How important is the Cultural Heritage of the Reserve to you?*

WTHRC rides follow the main access tracks and respect the culture of the first Australians and their heritage sites at all times. Permission to ride is sought from land owners and land managers prior to a ride by the Ride Planner.

*How important is protection of the Natural Environment and Bird life to you?*

WTHRC and all other ATHRA club members pledge to follow the ATHRA's code of conduct when they sign their membership forms. Please see a standard membership form for your information and note the reference to the Code of Conduct.



First Issue Date:	10 December 2011	Authorised by:	Director Communication and Marketing
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THIS FORM IS FOR CLUB USE ONLY AND DOES NOT NEED TO BE SENT TO ATHRA

Club Name											
Applicant's Name								DOB (mandatory)			
Street Address								Postcode			
Postal Address <i>(If different to above)</i>								Postcode			
Contact Details	Home				Work				Mobile		
	Email										
Membership Fees	Adult Fee		\$								
	Junior Fee (Under 18)		\$								
	Social Fee (Non-Rider)		\$								
	Senior Fee (80 and over)		\$								
	Child Fee (Under 5)		\$								
	Family	Family Fee		\$		Adult	Junior	Social	Senior	Child	
		Names of other family members included in this package									
	Associate		\$		Associate's ATHRA No						
Name of Associate's primary ATHRA Club											
<p>I hereby apply for membership/ renewal of membership of the above mentioned Australian Trail Horse Riders Club (ATHRA) affiliated Club. I understand that as a member of the Club I am also a member of ATHRA and that I am bound by the <u>Rules and Regulations of the Club and ATHRA's Code of Conduct</u>. I agree to abide by the Rules and Regulations of the Club and ATHRA's Code of Conduct, and I understand that my membership of the Club and ATHRA is conditional on my signing the ATHRA Risk Warning &amp; Liability Waiver Form (or my guardian or parent signing the Parental Consent &amp; Indemnity form where appropriate) upon joining or whenever renewing my membership:</p>											
Applicant's signature								Date			
Parent/ Guardian's Signature <i>(If Applicant is U18)</i>								Date			
Parent/ Guardian's Name <i>(Please print)</i>											
Return completed application form to the Club Secretary at:											

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY - Enter relevant club fee and total below						
The ATHRA Fee Component applies for the year ending 31 December 2016:						
ATHRA Fee Component		Club Fee Component			Amount Payable	
Adult	\$100	plus	\$		equals	\$
Junior (Under 18)	\$40	plus	\$		Equals	\$
Social (Non-Rider)	\$30	plus	\$		equals	\$
Senior (80 and over)	\$60	plus	\$		equals	\$
Child (Under 5)	\$20	plus	\$		equals	\$
					<b>Total payable</b>	<b>\$</b>

"The ATHRA Code of Conduct, specifically the Environmental Rules, has evolved and grown since the Code was first drafted. The Environmental Rules have been formulated after consultation with staff from Park Victoria, and other experts in the environmental field, and after research on many of the topics." Mr Alan Salter, Regional Manager Western Victoria, ATHRA Insurance Coordinator and ATHRA Board Member.

*How important is the ability to enjoy recreation activities to you?*

WTHRC members enjoy going on a monthly club ride which is held on the fourth weekend of the month. The ride planner will try to incorporate a short ride and a long ride to suit all members' abilities. Rides also invite the members' families to attend by joining in at lunch spots and bbq's and other gatherings. This creates and encourages the members, their families and their friends to be active and involved. We already know that Victorians have lower exercise levels and have been identified as a Victorian Government health priority. WTHRC supports the recreation activities of its members and their families and friends. WTHRC's members' ages are from 5 to 80. WTHRC offers a family membership subsidised fee to encourage whole families to be members, memberships may be full riding memberships or social memberships.

*Is your Personal Health and Wellbeing associated with your use of the Reserve? If so in what way.*

Yes, WTHRC's members have enjoyed riding in the BCR since 2011 on organised club rides. Due to its close location to the members' place of residence, the BCR is only a short drive which makes for a shorter drive with minimal stress allowing more time to spend riding and socialising. This is an important aspect of our members' well being which leads to good health.

*Do you believe that the current use of the reserve that allows for both Recreation and Conservation should continue?*

Yes. The reserve status ensures that recreational activities can take place whilst flora and fauna are respected and enjoyed.

*Do you believe that Recreational Activities should be allowed throughout the Whole Reserve, or do you believe that certain areas should be set aside for conservation only (Eg. No Dog and No Recreational Horse Areas).*

**WTHRC members wish the Reserve remain as it is. Breaking up the BCR into zones where recreational riding cannot continue will be disadvantageous to holding club rides which will suit all riders.**

*If you believe dogs and horses should be banned – which areas should they be banned from?*

**WTHRC does not agree with banning dogs. Although WTHRC club rides do not permit dogs to accompany the ride, members and friends of the family do enjoy bringing their family dogs for the outing too. The dogs are under control of the members' family and friends and on leash when appropriate.**

**Do you wish to add any further comments? Yes.**

- **WTHRC would like Parks to keep all car parks open. Closing car parks would make it difficult for the members since members need more space, not less, due to the floats on the cars.**
- **WTHRC would like Parks to keep all tracks open and not close tracks without proper consultation with all BCR users. WTHRC would like Parks to restore the use of the old track that runs parallel to the dunes the whole length of the BCR. These old tracks (over 100 years old) are shown on maps as Government Road and are important tracks to WTHRC as a means of an alternate access point to the beach in certain conditions.**
- **In 2012 WTHRC put in a submission to Parks Victoria (DSE) to be allowed to organise club rides in National Parks and Reserves in south west Victoria. Permission was formally given to the club to do so. See below.**

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**DSE File Ref/SP Ref: SP443020**

**CONSENT FOR USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF COASTAL CROWN LAND SECTION 40 COASTAL MANAGEMENT ACT 1995**

**Crown Description: Cobboboonee Reserve 2018065, 2018064, 2018066, 2018063 Lower Glenelg National Park Reserve 0304732 Eumerella (Yambuk Coastline Reserve) Crown Allotment 6C & 2001, Hummocks Rd Port Fairy to Warrnambool Rail Trail Reserve 2013974 Belfast Coastal Reserve Crown Allotment D1 (P040403), 12J and Beach Street, Crown Allotment 7 Section A (P042238) & Basin Track Camperdown – Timboon Rail Trail Reserve 0511766 (P081065) Crown Allotment 9A and Reserve 2008771 Great Otway National Park Old Carlisle Track, Boggy Creek Track, Rapier Ridge Track & Tuckers Orchard Road**

**Local Name: Belfast Coastal Reserve, Warrnambool Foreshore Reserve, Cobboboonee Forest, Lower Glenelg National Park, Great Otway National Park, Port Fairy to Warrnambool Rail Trail, Cobden to Timboon Rail Trail**

**Consent for: WARRNAMBOOL HORSE TRAIL RIDERS CLUB – TRAIL RIDES**

Pursuant to Section 40(1) of the Coastal Management Act 1995, and as delegated by the Minister, I consent to the proposed use and development subject to the following conditions:

1. The use is to be carried out in accordance with the information and plans received on 13 January 2012 and further information received 13 August 2012 and 21 January 2013. 2. This consent is subject to the applicant obtaining all other relevant approvals including issuing of consents or permits from all or the relevant land managers and abiding by all associated conditions. 3. All persons involved must abide by the Australian Trail Horse Riders Association Code of Conduct at all times. 4. Warrnambool Horse Trail Riders Club is responsible for contacting the land manager prior to rides to check any seasonal road closures or other site specific information. 5. Horse riders must be aware of other visitors and respect the rights of those utilising the area, including slowing to a walk when travelling near other users. 6. Vegetation must not be damaged for any reason. Horses must not be tethered to trees or other vegetation at any time. 7. On formed roads, horses must always move to the verge of the road to allow vehicles to safely pass. 8. Horses are not permitted to be ridden up, down or on sand dunes unless utilising existing designated beach access tracks. 9. Any proposed amendments to the use including changes to the touring routes must be provided in writing to the Department of Sustainability and Environment and written approval obtained prior to any changes being implemented.

10. This consent will expire if the use is not commenced within 2 years of the date of issue unless an extension of time is applied for and granted by the Manager Environmental Planning, within 3 months of the expiry date.

Special conditions – Beach rides between September and April (inclusive) 11. Warrnambool Horse Trail Riders Club is responsible for contacting the land manager/s at least 1 week prior to any ride to confirm the ride date and route and for an assessment of the route conditions to be carried out. 12. A minimum 25m separation distance must be kept from marked/known Hooded Plover (*Thinornis rubricollis*) nests. In the assessment of the land managing authority, if there is not sufficient beach width for passage past a nest of at least 25m separation, the section of beach is to be excluded from the ride route. 13. Ride group size must be limited to maximum of 20 horses. 14. Groups must maintain a spacing of 20 minutes between ride groups. 15. Rides must be timed to coincide as much as reasonably possible with low tide. 16. All horses must travel on the hard sand on the water's edge. 17. Dogs are not permitted to accompany the ride group/s at any time.

DATE: 1 March 2013

---

**The organisation of WTHRC Rides:**

- Club rides are organised well ahead of time, with permissions sought from the land owners/managers, in this case from Moyne Shire and Parks Victoria. The guidelines and Athra's code of conduct is strictly adhered to both during the planning phase and the riding phase.
- A pre-ride is done to have an approximate expected time of the ride, track and beach conditions, lunch spots and hazards identified, plover nesting sites noted.



- Members are notified of the ride with a formal Ride Notice via email and members rsvp to register their attendance with the ride planner.
- A muster (an on-site meeting) prior to the ride is held. At muster, the ride planner, trail boss, stewards (1 steward : 10 riders), first aid, ride leader and drag rider meet with the riders.
- The ride planner, trail boss and stewards are all accredited with Athra and all ride personnel carry walkie talkies, mobile phones, a light first aid kit for both humans and horses. For extra visibility, ride personnel wear a high visibility vest.
- At the end of the ride, the ride personnel and riders meet for a post ride meeting where any incidents are noted, recorded and signed.

All members of WTHRC acknowledge and are familiar with the club's Code of Conduct.

Members have a membership card with name and membership number which they present when requested by a club official to prove their membership status. The Code of Conduct expects members to take care and respect the environment at all times and sets in place the rules and regulations on how the club must make the ride safe. Groups are kept to a manageable 20 riders at a time should there be a large number of riders (not often).

Both the landowner and hosts are covered by Athra's insurer and members enjoy 24/7 insurance at all times.

Club rides have been held on summer days when many others enjoy the beaches and ride past plover nesting sites, members show respect to other beach users and nature.

WTHRC welcomes new members and day members at all times.

WTHRC believes that trail riding has a very low impact on the environment.

WTHRC reminds its members that when out riding everyone must stay on the main access tracks and to always ride below the high water mark. This is also put in the Ride Notice that is sent to members prior to a ride and is also reiterated at muster on the day of the ride.

#### The Code of Conduct

**For more information on Athra's Code of Conduct**

**Vii. Summary page**

"Horse riding can impact dune health, cultural heritage, public safety and disturb beach-nesting birds. It is critical that the most significant areas for shorebird breeding are protected from disturbances including those from dogs and horses..."

**WTHRC would like to say members ride responsibly at all times.**

**Rides always use the main tracks to the beaches therefore do not go near any cultural heritage sites. Members ensure they are in "walk only" when approaching the public and "in stop" when necessary, retain the designated distance from plover nesting areas.**

**Page 3, para 1.6 "A range of community engagement opportunities took place from March 2017 through to September 2017 with an online project page including interactive map, surveys, public events, semi-structured interviews, targeted stakeholder workshops and site visits, consultation with Gunditjmara and Eastern Maar Traditional Owners. In total more than 230 people were engaged. The website received approximately 800 views, with 77 online surveys submitted and 54 comments added to the interactive map. Participants were dispersed across the south west region, with the majority from Port Fairy and Warrnambool."**

**WTHRC regrets that it was not consulted in the 2017 feedback from the public. Indeed recreational riders were not deemed to be affected.**

**WTHRC would like to be acknowledged as a historic user of the BCR along with the historic trainers. WTHRC would like to continue to use the full length of the BCR.**

**Thank you.**

## Submission template for Draft Belfast Coastal Reserve Management Plan

### About you:

Your name

Your Organisation (if relevant):

Postcode:

Email or Postal address:

**THIS SUBMISSION IS:** ☐ **NOT CONFIDENTIAL**      Date: 12/3/2018

### Your Comments:

**Please Note – The following information will be made publically available.**

Main reason for interest: *(such as local resident, visitor to parks, tourism operator, environmental interest, business operator, education interest, scientific interest)*

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Recreation and use: **Windsurfing , Kitesurfing, surfing**

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How often do you or your organisation use the reserve?

☐ **Daily**

How do you or your organisation mainly use the reserve?

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Walking or running                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Dog walking    | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Using the beach (swimming and surfing)</b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Horse riding   | <input type="checkbox"/> Horse training | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteering                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Camping  | <input type="checkbox"/> Hunting        | <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing/boating                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Picnicking   | <input type="checkbox"/> Birdwatching   | <input type="checkbox"/> Socialising                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): windsurfing Kitesurfing ,surfing |   |  |

Which part(s) of the reserve do you or your organisation most frequently use?

- ☐ **West of Killarney (Port Fairy side)**      ☐ **Between Killarney and Big Baldy**

### **About the vision- Belfast Coastal Reserve, 15 years from now....:**

How supportive are you of the vision for the Belfast Coastal Reserve?

- ☐ Very unsupportive

Comments: *(Your submission can be as short or long as you wish. Put comments under relevant headings corresponding to plan sections or strategies, noting page and paragraph numbers. Attach more pages if required).*

### **Key management theme #1: Cultural landscape and living heritage**

How supportive are you of the strategies for 'Cultural landscape and living heritage' included in the draft management plan?

- ☐ Very unsupportive

Comments: *(Your submission can be as short or long as you wish. Put comments under relevant headings corresponding to plan sections or strategies, noting page and paragraph numbers. Attach more pages if required).*

### **Key management theme #2: Healthy Country**

How supportive are you of the strategies for 'Healthy Country' included in the draft management plan?

Very unsupportive

Comments: *(Your submission can be as short or long as you wish. Put comments under relevant headings corresponding to plan sections or strategies, noting page and paragraph numbers. Attach more pages if required).*

### **Key management theme #3: Recreation and use**

How supportive are you of the strategies for 'Recreation and use' included in the draft management plan?

- ☐ Very unsupportive

**Addressed to: Page 59 Recreation and Use: Stated Goal. The Basin, Pelicans and Towilla Way beaches will support recreational activities which are managed to reduce their impact on natural and cultural values.**

**Access to Pelicans (Long Reef), Towilla Way and Gormans Lane**

They are a diverse group of people of all ages who have chosen to live in the Port Fairy/Warrnambool area because of its proximity and access to the ocean. Many of them meet on a daily basis to participate in many water activities in the Belfast Coastal Reserve. They surf mainly at Golfies and the Cutting; we windsurf and kitesurf in the ocean, the Belfast Lough and Rutledges Cutting



(saltwater swamp). They snorkel and scuba dive at the Basin (access from Towilla Way and Gormans Lane) and the Long Reef (called Pelicans on Parks Vic. map) with access via a marked primary track from the Basin road to Pelicans.

The current draft management plan seeks to create a conservation zone all along the Armstrong Bay beaches in South West Victoria. This conservation zone will have a huge, detrimental impact on their recreational choices, now and into the future, due to restriction of access to waterways.

These beach accesses are primary tracks that should remain open. These give access to the ocean and consequently support our recreational activities of snorkelling and Scuba diving.

Access to Pelicans (Long reef) has always been available from a primary track accessed from a small carpark located off the Basin road. This path is still reasonably well defined with some parts having duckboards covering sandy areas. The car park used to have approximately five parks that was generally sufficient for the usage. This carpark has now been partially overgrown with coastal wattle, not native to this area, and marram grass. This has reduced parking capacity. This path is important to Scuba Divers, Snorkelers with heavy equipment to carry, as it is the closest direct path to the Long Reef. Access along the beach from the Basin carpark or Killarney boat ramp carpark is a considerably longer distance.

This is an existing primary track. It does not have high usage but its continued existence does provide support for the goal stated above. Having a single defined track does reduce impact on the environment.

We are

happy to assist Parks Vic. to clear vegetation that has grown over the carpark area.

The access tracks to the beach from Gormans Lane and Towilla Way also provide access to the ocean for snorkelling and scuba diving. This access is vital as they often have heavy gear to carry. These tracks have limited use from people participating in diving activities but have greater usage from recreational horse and dog walkers. **These primary access tracks should be maintained.**

**Addressed to page 57: Golfies will continue to be a key site for active recreation providing for a variety of uses including walking, horse and dog exercise, beach fishing and surfing.**

**Reposition of the carpark further inland ....separate parking for horse floats and general public.**

Golfies has been used for decades by anglers, surfers, swimmers, families, dog walkers, windsurfers and kite boarders. It is an important access to this "wilder" beach area. Many users carry heavy equipment such as fishing tackle, surfboards, windsurfing and kitesurfing gear and picnic gear. It is also a great spot for people to relax and is important for the mental health of the many user groups. Golfies car park's main attraction is its proximity to the ocean. Users have a parking place with direct viewing of the sea. Consequently, Golfies carpark should remain in its present location for recreational users.

The main wear and tear on this car park has occurred recently and has been caused by commercial horse trainers. If commercial horse riding is relocated to the proposed location at Levis Beach, horse floats will not use this carpark and it can remain in its present position as it has for decades.

**Golfies carpark should remain in its present location for recreational users.**

## **Key management theme #4: Managing in partnership**

How supportive are you of the strategies for 'Managing in partnership' included in the draft management plan?

- ☐ Very unsupportive

*Comments: (Your submission can be as short or long as you wish. Put comments under relevant headings corresponding to plan sections or strategies, noting page and paragraph numbers. Attach more pages if required).*

### **Key management theme #5: Research and monitoring**

How supportive are you of the strategies for 'Research and monitoring' included in the draft management plan?

☐ Very unsupportive

*Comments: (Your submission can be as short or long as you wish. Put comments under relevant headings corresponding to plan sections or strategies, noting page and paragraph numbers. Attach more pages if required).*

Submission template for

Draft Belfast Coastal Reserve Management Plan

About you:

Your name

Your Organisation (if relevant):

Postcode:

Email or Postal address

THIS SUBMISSION IS: ☐ NOT CONFIDENTIAL    Date: 12/3/2018

Your Comments:

Please Note – The following information will be made publically available.

Main reason for interest: (such as local resident, visitor to parks, tourism operator, environmental interest, business operator, education interest, scientific interest)

Recreation and use: Windsurfing , Kitesurfing, surfing

How often do you or your organisation use the reserve?

☐ Daily

How do you or your organisation mainly use the reserve?

☐ Walking or running ☐ Dog walking ☐ Using the beach (swimming and surfing)

☐ Horse riding ☐ Horse training ☐ Volunteering

☐ Camping ☐ Hunting ☐ Fishing/boating

☐ Picnicking ☐ Birdwatching ☐ Socialising

☐ Other (please specify): windsurfing Kitesurfing ,surfing

Which part(s) of the reserve do you or your organisation most frequently use?

☐ West of Killarney (Port Fairy side) ☐ Between Killarney and Big Baldy

Page Break

About the vision- Belfast Coastal Reserve, 15 years from now...:

How supportive are you of the vision for the Belfast Coastal Reserve?

☐ Very unsupportive

Comments: (Your submission can be as short or long as you wish. Put comments under relevant headings corresponding to plan sections or strategies, noting page and paragraph numbers. Attach more pages if required).



Key management theme #1: Cultural landscape and living heritage

How supportive are you of the strategies for 'Cultural landscape and living heritage' included in the draft management plan?

☐ Very unsupportive

Comments: (Your submission can be as short or long as you wish. Put comments under relevant headings corresponding to plan sections or strategies, noting page and paragraph numbers. Attach more pages if required).

Key management theme #2: Healthy Country

How supportive are you of the strategies for 'Healthy Country' included in the draft management plan?

Very unsupportive

Comments: (Your submission can be as short or long as you wish. Put comments under relevant headings corresponding to plan sections or strategies, noting page and paragraph numbers. Attach more pages if required).

Key management theme #3: Recreation and use

How supportive are you of the strategies for 'Recreation and use' included in the draft management plan?

☐ Very unsupportive

Addressed to: Page 59 Recreation and Use: Stated Goal. The Basin, Pelicans and Towilla Way beaches will support recreational activities which are managed to reduce their impact on natural and cultural values.

Access to Pelicans (Long Reef), Towilla Way and Gormans Lane

I have been using the Belfast Coastal Reserve  
It has been a mainstay of my physical and mental wellbeing.

We are a diverse group of people of all ages who have chosen to live in the Port Fairy/Warrnambool area because of its proximity and access to the ocean. Many of us meet on a daily basis to participate in many water activities in the Belfast Coastal Reserve. We surf mainly at Golfies and the Cutting; we windsurf and kitesurf in the ocean, the Belfast Lough and Rutledges Cutting (saltwater swamp). We snorkel and scuba dive at the Basin (access from Towilla Way and Gormans Lane) and the Long Reef

(called Pelicans on Parks Vic. map) with access via a marked primary track from the Basin road to Pelicans.

The current draft management plan seeks to create a conservation zone all along the Armstrong Bay beaches in South West Victoria. This conservation zone will have a huge, detrimental impact on our recreational choices, now and into the future, due to restriction of access to waterways.

These beach accesses are primary tracks that should remain open. These give access to the ocean and consequently support our recreational activities of snorkelling and Scuba diving.

Access to Pelicans (Long reef) has always been available from a primary track accessed from a small carpark located off the Basin road. This path is still reasonably well defined with some parts having duckboards covering sandy areas. The car park used to have approximately five parks that was generally sufficient for the usage. This carpark has now been partially overgrown with coastal wattle, not native to this area, and marram grass. This has reduced parking capacity. This path is important to Scuba Divers, Snorkelers with heavy equipment to carry, as it is the closest direct path to the Long Reef. Access along the beach from the Basin carpark or Killarney boat ramp carpark is a considerably longer distance.

This is an existing primary track. It does not have high usage but its continued existence does provide support for the goal stated above. Having a single defined track does reduce impact on the environment. Our group are also Scuba Divers. We are happy to assist Parks Vic. to clear vegetation that has grown over the carpark area.

The access tracks to the beach from Gormans Lane and Towilla Way also provide access to the ocean for snorkelling and scuba diving. This access is vital as we often have heavy gear to carry. These tracks have limited use from people participating in diving activities but have greater usage from recreational horse and dog walkers. These primary access tracks should be maintained.

Addressed to page 57: Golfies will continue to be a key site for active recreation providing for a variety of uses including walking, horse and dog exercise, beach fishing and surfing.

Reposition of the carpark further inland ....separate parking for horse floats and general public.

Golfies has been used for decades by anglers, surfers, swimmers, families, dog walkers, windsurfers and kite boarders. It is an important access to this "wilder" beach area. Many users carry heavy equipment such as fishing tackle, surfboards, windsurfing and kitesurfing gear and picnic gear. It is also a great spot for people to relax and is important for the mental health of the many user groups. Golfies car park's main attraction is its proximity to the ocean. Users have a parking place with direct viewing of the sea. Consequently, Golfies carpark should remain in its present location for recreational users.

The main wear and tear on this car park has occurred recently and has been caused by commercial horse trainers. If commercial horse riding is relocated to the proposed location at Levis Beach, horse floats will not use this carpark and it can remain in its present position as it has for decades.

Golfies carpark should remain in its present location for recreational users.

Key management theme #4: Managing in partnership

How supportive are you of the strategies for 'Managing in partnership' included in the draft management plan?

☐ Very unsupportive

Comments: (Your submission can be as short or long as you wish. Put comments under relevant headings corresponding to plan sections or strategies, noting page and paragraph numbers. Attach more pages if required).

Key management theme #5: Research and monitoring

How supportive are you of the strategies for 'Research and monitoring' included in the draft management plan?

☐ Very unsupportive

Comments: (Your submission can be as short or long as you wish. Put comments under relevant headings corresponding to plan sections or strategies, noting page and paragraph numbers. Attach more pages if required).





Wednesday, 14 March 2018

Manager  
Parks Planning  
Parks Victoria  
Level 10, 535 Bourke St  
Melbourne VIC 3000

To whom it may concern,

**Re: Warrnambool Beach Training Support Submission**

As a current member of the Warrnambool Racing Club, this letter is written to provide my support to the continuation of Beach training in Warrnambool.

I am very proud of the fact we have the beaches to offer this unique horse training opportunity, this for certain provides significant positive economic benefits to our local community, and employs many passionate people.

What we have is unique and something our community is proud of, as a result I am fully supportive of the continuation of horse training on our local beaches.

Regards,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted contact information]

## Submission for Draft Belfast Coastal Reserve Management Plan

### About you:

Your name:

Your Organisation (if relevant): several but all N/A

Postcode:

Email or Postal address:

**THIS SUBMISSION IS: X NOT CONFIDENTIAL**      Date: 13 March, 2018

### Your Comments:

**Please Note – The following information will be made publically available.**

Main reason for interest:

Environmental interest, parks visitor concerned about current government trashing parks

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How often do you or your organisation use the reserve?

☐ Daily   ☐ Weekly   ☒ Monthly

How do you or your organisation mainly use the reserve?

<input type="checkbox"/> Walking or running	<input type="checkbox"/> Dog walking	<input type="checkbox"/> Using the beach (swimming and surfing)
<input type="checkbox"/> Horse riding	<input type="checkbox"/> Horse training	<input type="checkbox"/> Volunteering
<input type="checkbox"/> Camping	<input type="checkbox"/> Hunting	<input type="checkbox"/> Fishing/boating
<input type="checkbox"/> Picnicking	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Birdwatching	<input type="checkbox"/> Socialising
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____		

Which part(s) of the reserve do you or your organisation most frequently use?

<input type="checkbox"/> West of Killarney (Port Fairy side)	<input type="checkbox"/> Between Killarney and Big Baldy
<input type="checkbox"/> East of Big Baldy (Warrnambool side)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not sure

### General comments

1. Your boxes to be ticked are too simplistic and seem to be biased with no option for a “very unsupportive” position but 2 “very supportive” options. The options are unduly simplistic because I usually support some of the goals/strategies but not always all of them.
2. Also, I generally support - cultural heritage protection; education and interpretation; monitoring and research; rationalisation and closure of inappropriate beach access; and dog control, but the draft plan is severely flawed because it attempts to entrench and expand an extremely environmentally destructive activity – racehorse training – at the expense of the environment, particularly the endangered Hooded Plover. The draft plan represents ecological vandalism.
3. According to the draft plan, the reserve is the most important Hooded Plover breeding area in Victoria. Racehorse training is even proposed for areas where Hooded Plovers have nested. This is nothing but ecological vandalism, which should never be allowed in any conservation reserve. The length of beaches available to racehorse training would, under the plan, be increased by 250% (from 2 km to 5 km) and the number of horses by 400% (from 65 to 256 each day). That represents 25% of the reserve’s beaches, with nothing in the plan to stop future expansion. The draft plan would allow racehorses back into 750 metres of fragile dunes behind Levy’s Beach and at Hoon Hill, where in the past they have caused severe dune erosion. The plan even recommends racehorse

training within the Conservation Zone at Rutledge's Cutting. This is all ecological vandalism of the highest order and the draft plan's risk assessment states that management will not change the risk. It remains – extreme.

Racehorse training started wrecking the beaches in 2015. Since then there have been numerous breaches of licensing conditions, public safety has been compromised, and taxpayers have had to pay for enhanced Parks Victoria "management" of racehorses. Expanding racehorse training will only exacerbate the bad situation.

4. The draft plan claims on page vi of the executive summary that it is consistent with the 'existing strategies and guidelines of relevant governing bodies'. This is simply not true. It is inconsistent with the:
  - original and ongoing purpose of the reserve which aims to conserve coastal wildlife and cultural heritage, and support passive recreation and public education;
  - Victorian Coastal Strategy, which urges that coastal dune and beach systems be protected from damage and that any uses should be coastal dependent, which means they can only be carried out along the coast, which is not the case for racehorse training;
  - City of Warrnambool's planning scheme in which the Levy's Beach to Hoon Hill area is covered by a Public Conservation and Resource Zone, which lists the uses that are allowed with or without a permit. Any uses not listed are prohibited, and racehorse training is one of these.
5. The draft plan includes the LCC recommendations for the area which stated that the area should be managed for protection of the coastline, allowing for conservation, education and compatible recreation. Commercial racehorse training was not envisaged by the LCC as a valid use. It is not a recreation, and certainly not education and is completely incompatible with conservation. Furthermore, when the LCC was looking at the area, almost nothing was known about Hooded Plovers. In fact, the 1976 LCC Report on the Corangamite Study Area lists the Hooded Dotterel (as the Hooded Plover was then known) as occurring only in pasture and not coastal habitats. Had the LCC known then what we know now about Hooded Plovers, their recommendations could well have been much stronger on conservation. The draft plan fails to recognise our increased knowledge about hooded plovers and their endangered status and actually provides for poorer conservation management than envisaged by the LCC.
6. I am spending time preparing this submission in the hope that Parks Vic will demonstrate some concern for science and environmental protection and will not simply bow down to the Victorian government which is only concerned with appeasing their anti-environment friends, in this case the small group of commercial racehorse people.

### About the vision- Belfast Coastal Reserve, 15 years from now...:

How supportive are you of the vision for the Belfast Coastal Reserve?

X Unsupportive      Why are we given 2 "very supportive" options, but no "very unsupportive" option in the submission guide?

Comments:

Much of the vision is acceptable, but horse riding, particularly racehorse training, has no place in the reserve, due to its excessive environmental impacts, particularly on the endangered Hooded Plover. You **CANNOT** avoid conflicts between racehorse training and other users and the environment. To suggest otherwise is wrong and misleading. Horse riding should be deleted from the vision statement and racehorse training should be removed from the reserve.

### Key management theme #1: Cultural landscape and living heritage



How supportive are you of the strategies for 'Cultural landscape and living heritage' included in the draft management plan?

X Supportive

Comments:

I generally support the proposed strategies, particularly maintaining geological features and protecting cultural landscape values. However, the goals and strategies ignore the extreme risk to cultural heritage values from racehorse training

## Key management theme #2: Healthy Country

How supportive are you of the strategies for 'Healthy Country' included in the draft management plan?

partly Supportive      partly **Very unsupportive**

Comments:

The plan states (P. 27) "The protection of vulnerable fauna such as Hooded Plover will require reducing threats to these species through controls on the key impacting activities of dogs, horses and people." However, the plan provides absolutely no strategy for reducing threats to the Hooded Plover from horses. P. 29 of the plan indicates that racehorse training will present extreme risk to wildlife, cultural heritage values, and coastal habitats, even after management actions. You cannot have healthy country which is also used intensively for racehorse training.

One obvious method of reducing horse threats to Hooded Plovers is to allow horse use only below the high tide level, yet not even this is mentioned. The plan suggests that Hooded Plover nests and chicks can be protected from trampling "through erection of temporary fencing and signage around individual breeding sites across the Reserve". Since when have signs worked? – certainly not with dog owners who have regularly ignored those established to protect Hooded Plovers elsewhere. Since when have Hooded Plovers remained behind fences? These strategies are destined to fail, even according to the plan (P. 29).

I do support goals of maintaining and enhancing habitats, reducing the impact of pest species and visitors, better management of marine, lake and swamp habitats, and building resilience to climate change. Building resilience to climate change is usually considered to be accomplished by reducing threats to the environment, the most serious of which is racehorse training. Sea-level rise will reduce beach width and increase impacts of the horses on beach habitat and wildlife. Banning racehorse training is an important way of building resilience to climate change.

Jet skis have major impacts on birds and habitats yet there is no mention of banning them in all of the reserve. They should be banned in all parts of any reserve which are set aside for conservation purposes. They also conflict severely with most other users.

## Key management theme #3: Recreation and use

How supportive are you of the strategies for 'Recreation and use' included in the draft management plan?

☐ Very supportive      X Supportive of some      ☐ Not sure/Don't know  
☐ Unsupportive      X **Very unsupportive of all associated with racehorse training**

Comments:

I support many of the goals and strategies that relate to the recreational use of the Belfast Coastal Reserve in this chapter including increased enforcement, better management of vehicular use, dog walking and recreational horse riding, bans on dune boarding, hunting and off-road vehicles, reducing risks and improving safety, improving information, interpretation and education. But without the removal of commercial racehorse training, these goals will not be achieved.

This chapter tends to lump racehorse training together with recreational horse riding in a dishonest fashion, and downplays the impacts of racehorse training. I cannot support this treatment of racehorse training and cannot support the belief that one goal in this chapter—Authorised uses of the Reserve are managed to minimise the effect on values and visitors – can be achieved with regards to racehorse training as this is simply incompatible with the goals of the plan and the purposes of the reserve.

The draft plan recommends strict controls on where and how recreational uses are to be managed in the future, whereas racehorse training can be expanded. This is ridiculous and something I cannot support.

Section 6.5 seems to emphasise the local economic importance of horse racing, but it is unlikely that this can be all attributed to racehorse training in Belfast Reserve, and there is no economic assessment of the economic costs imposed by racehorse training. Therefore such a superficial and one-sided economic analysis, so loved by those who ignore environmental and social costs, is essentially meaningless.

Jet skis should not be allowed in reserve waters, including Belfast Lough, because of their disturbance to wildlife and other recreational users, and damage to shallow water habitats.

Dogs should not be allowed off-leash from 1 August to 30 November at Killarney Beach, coinciding with the first part of the hooded plover breeding season

#### **Key management theme #4: Managing in partnership**

How supportive are you of the strategies for 'Managing in partnership' included in the draft management plan?

- ☐ Very supportive      ☐ Supportive      ☐ Not sure/Don't know  
☐ Unsupportive      X **Very unsupportive**

Comments:

Although I support the first goal in this chapter of coordinated management of the Reserve, I do not support the strategies that aim to achieve it. Coordinated management of the reserve is very unlikely as the plan recommends retaining a fragmented management between the City of Warrnambool, Moyne Shire Council and Parks Victoria, all of which have different management priorities and all of which are subject to different political influences. The only way coordinated management can occur is to have one management authority in charge, and that should be Parks Victoria. The reserve should become a park under the National Parks Act.

I do not support the proposed 5 and 10 year reviews of implementation of the plan. These are too long a time frame for threatened species likely to be impacted by the plan. A one to two yearly review cycle is required.

#### **Key management theme #5: Research and monitoring**

How supportive are you of the strategies for 'Research and monitoring' included in the draft management plan?

- ☐ Very supportive      X Supportive      ☐ Not sure/Don't know

☐ Unsupportive      ☐ Very supportive

Comments:

I generally support this chapter's goal and strategies and the indicators to be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the management plan. However, the plan provides absolutely no strategy about how it will lower the extreme risk presented by commercial racehorse training (see table on page 29). All the research and monitoring in the world will not reduce this risk, so racehorse training should be removed from the reserve.



Tuesday, 13 March 2018

Manager  
Parks Planning  
Parks Victoria  
Level 10, 535 Bourke St  
Melbourne VIC 3000

To whom it may concern,

**Re: Warrnambool Beach Training Support Submission**

As an owner of horse/s trained in Warrnambool, the opportunities beach training presents as well as the relaxed country environment the district has to offer is the key reason why I will continue to support the continuation of horse training in the region.

I am , amazed at the amazing improvement that my horse has had since moving to the area, which leaves no doubt in my mind the positive effect and natural facilities the region has had

If this opportunity was not available, the opportunities for these horses would become limited, thus there would be potential for them to retire from racing all together. This would have huge effect on the local horse trainers, horse numbers would decrease as well as taking away the opportunity for any return to continue to fund future horses to be trained in the region.

The opportunity to train horses on Levy's Beach and the dunes is critical for the ongoing success of horse training in Warrnambool which I am fully supportive of.

Regards,

13/03/2018

**Prohibition of Windsurfing Kitesurfing and Surfing on the Belfast Lough and Rutledge's Cutting (saltwater swamp).**

I use the Belfast Lough and Rutledge's Cutting on quite a number of occasions per year. Both the Lough and Cutting are only waist deep so creates a safe environment for new learners as the Ocean is too dangerous to learn on at first.

I notice that Boating, Jet skiing and Yachting are allowed on these places but Windsurfing and Kiting are not. How does that make any sense?? Especially when it is too shallow for a motorised vehicle to go on the Lake.

Windsurfing and Kitesurfing on the Belfast Lough and Rutledge's Cutting are very passive activities with no environmental effect. The Lough and the Cutting are not used frequently and then only by a small number of enthusiasts.

I would also like to point out that in the Lough and Cutting there are no shellfish or living crustatians Due to the putrid mud on the bottom.

Windsurfers and Kite surfers do not clash with other user groups on the Lough or Cutting, as they are usually the only water user group on the Lough or cutting. They also keep these areas clean as they collect rubbish and care for the surrounds. Surely, Parks Vic should embrace this major positive effect.

I also would like to comment on the restrictions of walking our dogs on the beach. We are locals who live in this area and have for years enjoyed freely walking our dogs on the beaches, without doing any harm to the environment or native birds/wildlife. I feel that our freedom is being compromised. As Locals who live here, we care for the natural state of our beaches and act responsibly when walking our dogs on the beach.

I hope that Parks Vic amend the draft plan to allow windsurfing and Kitesurfing on the Belfast Lough and Rutledge's Cutting. Both groups do not have a negative effect on the environment.

Regards

**About the vision- Belfast Coastal Reserve, 15 years from now...:**

How supportive are you of the vision for the Belfast Coastal Reserve?

- ☐ Very supportive    ☒ Supportive    ☐ Not sure/Don't know  
☐ Unsupportive    ☒ Very supportive

Comments: (Your submission can be as short or long as you wish. Put comments under relevant headings corresponding to plan sections or strategies, noting page and paragraph numbers. Attach more pages if required).

Table 6.1 summary of activities

Motorised boats are permitted on the Lough, I have never seen a motorised boat on the Lough and don't believe they ever use it. Wind surfers often use the Lough and I believe do no harm in doing so. They are the only ones who do - surfers obviously don't there is no surf! Did the people who wrote this even visit the area??

I do intend to learn kite surfing and believe the Lough would provide a safe location for me to do so.

Vehicle access to the beach should not be allowed and in fact I don't think it is?

People should be allowed access to the entire area for walking, swimming and non motorised "hobbies". This means the management of the Park need to provide & maintain access walk ways - these prevent damage to the majority of the dune, an acceptable compromise. Your wishes to close such walkways are driven by lack of finance not best outcome!

Finally restricting access for dog walkers to one area will only concentrate needs to other areas



### Key management theme #1: Cultural landscape and living heritage

How supportive are you of the strategies for 'Cultural landscape and living heritage' included in the draft management plan?

- ☒ Very supportive    ☐ Supportive    ☐ Not sure/Don't know  
☐ Unsupportive    ☐ Very supportive

Comments: (Your submission can be as short or long as you wish. Put comments under relevant headings corresponding to plan sections or strategies, noting page and paragraph numbers. Attach more pages if required).

I agree with the idea of identifying burial sites etc and making access points in places which avoid intrusion and damage, this will require ongoing modification. I find it offensive that the aboriginal heritage is deemed to mean the spiritual relationship current descendants have with the coast is more important than my spiritual dependence on the coast. I enjoy the isolation it offers me for my own mental well being.

## Key management theme #2: Healthy Country

How supportive are you of the strategies for 'Healthy Country' included in the draft management plan?

- ☐ Very supportive    ☐ Supportive    ☒ Not sure/Don't know  
☐ Unsupportive    ☐ Very supportive

Comments: (Your submission can be as short or long as you wish. Put comments under relevant headings corresponding to plan sections or strategies, noting page and paragraph numbers. Attach more pages if required).

Previous research along the Eastern coast of Australia has identified Marram grass as the major cause of dune destabilisation. If this is true a massive replanting program of native grasses would be needed.

The other problem with shutting the park up for "conservation" is the large amount of rubbish which is washed in from the ocean onto the beach. This plastic represents a significant danger to wildlife and the people who currently use the beach play an important role in collecting & cleaning.

There are many foxes in the dunes which predatate the birds, again the people and dogs play a role in suppressing these.

The hooded plover sites can be marked & people will avoid those and monitor their dogs. Horses should be requested to stay at the foot of the dune - indeed they don't like the soft sand.

### Key management theme #3: Recreation and use

How supportive are you of the strategies for 'Recreation and use' included in the draft management plan?

- ☐ Very supportive    ☒ Supportive    ☐ Not sure/Don't know  
☐ Unsupportive    ☐ Very supportive

Comments: (Your submission can be as short or long as you wish. Put comments under relevant headings corresponding to plan sections or strategies, noting page and paragraph numbers. Attach more pages if required).

Definitely need to stop destructive vehicle access to the dunes @ Spookys beach

The commercial horse trainers should have a separate parking area out of the primary dune however it would be nice if people could still park their cars and walk the ocean at Golfers

The tip on the east beach Port Fairy is a major concern which I have not seen addressed. I assume it is in the "too hard & too costly" basket.

Finally I know many bird watchers living 100's of kms away have been very vocal, I doubt 10% of them have visited the area.



#### Key management theme #4: Managing in partnership

How supportive are you of the strategies for 'Managing in partnership' included in the draft management plan?

- ☐ Very supportive    ☒ Supportive    ☐ Not sure/Don't know  
☐ Unsupportive    ☐ Very supportive

Comments: (Your submission can be as short or long as you wish. Put comments under relevant headings corresponding to plan sections or strategies, noting page and paragraph numbers. Attach more pages if required).

It is good to support and assist voluntary groups but we must recognise that these groups do not always represent the views of the general populace. In fact in some cases their views are very narrow and self centred.

An example is the recent outcry over horse trainers using the beach. Many of the objectors just did not want the horses there, they then manipulate agendas using conservation as their argument.

### Key management theme #5: Research and monitoring

How supportive are you of the strategies for 'Research and monitoring' included in the draft management plan?

- ☐ Very supportive    ☒ Supportive    ☐ Not sure/Don't know  
☐ Unsupportive    ☐ Very supportive

Comments: (Your submission can be as short or long as you wish. Put comments under relevant headings corresponding to plan sections or strategies, noting page and paragraph numbers. Attach more pages if required).

Any changes need defined aims which can then be monitored.

This entire exercise seems to be a "reaction" to environmental activists objecting to horses on the beach. The aim - to appease a vocal minority while allowing horses on other beaches. Just let the horses under controlled conditions and leave them rest alone.

Belfast Coastal Reserve Draft Management Plan

Submission

### **Key management theme #1 Cultural landscape and living heritage (pp13-24)**

For management of the Belfast Coastal Reserve (the Reserve), I support engaging Traditional Owners and community connections in ensuring cultural landscape values and heritage features are not destroyed by commercial horse racing training on this fragile coastal reserve. Public beaches and coastal reserves are not the places for races horses to be galloping up and down the beaches. Didn't government ban cattle from the High Plains because of the damage to the fragile ecosystems there?

I quote and have highlighted significant information in the Draft Management Plan.

"There are several areas of the Belfast Coastal Reserve where Aboriginal cultural heritage is being negatively impacted by visitors, particularly related to dune access. This impact ranges from relatively low (foot traffic) through to **extremely high (four-wheel drive traffic and repeated horse traffic)**.

There is presently a lack of clear signage at many authorised access points informing park users of areas that they are prohibited from accessing with recreational vehicles, such as four-wheel drives and motorbikes, and with horses. **Over many years of repeated use**, a spider web of unauthorised tracks has informally established across many parts of **the sensitive dune system, impacting vegetation and environmental values and posing a risk from erosion and disturbance to surface and sub-surface archaeological deposit**. A key priority to protect and manage cultural and natural values will involve **preventing on-going disturbance** to unauthorised tracks to allow the natural regeneration of vegetation and dune stabilisation.

"There are currently potential risks and impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage from **existing authorised activities** including **recreational horse riding, licensed horse riding tours and licensed commercial racehorse training which** are being undertaken in the Reserve under a range of varying conditions. Each activity is currently undertaken in different ways and **may pose different risks**."

My point is how will increasing commercial horse training improve the existing mismanagement of Belfast Coastal Reserve? Existing authorised activities have already had an impact on sensitive dune system and on-going disturbance of middens and the Reserve's Aboriginal cultural landscape.

If the government is sincere about respecting Aboriginal cultural heritage, then it should not support commercial horse racing over what is a significant cultural heritage area. Haven't we destroyed enough already since white colonisation without further trashing this coastal reserve? Indeed, the very purpose of the reserve was to preserve cultural heritage and to conserve its coastal wildlife. By allowing



commercial horse training, the government will be placing commercial interests above Aboriginal cultural heritage.

## **Key management theme #2: Healthy Country**

“Remnant native vegetation can be readily degraded by human, animal and vehicle disturbance. For example, research has shown that low levels of horse trampling can cause a significant reduction in vegetation height with fewer plant species found on trampled sites (Dyring 1990).

The rate of soil stress is dependent on the amount of horse trampling and characteristics of soils, however, structurally unstable deposits such as dunes are more readily impacted by this process (Phillips and Newsome 2002). Deluca et al. (2001) and Wilson and Seeny (2009) determined that horses caused the greater degree of trail erosion as they loosen soils to a greater degree than hikers and motorcyclists, due to their relative weight and high exerted ground pressure. “

Horses have no place in the fragile ecosystem of the coastal reserve. Horse dung may also contain weed seeds and carry tetanus. The increasing impact of commercial horse training will only compound what is already being degraded by other forms of recreation. Even low levels of trampling by horses cause a significant reduction in vegetation height as stated in the first paragraph above according to Dyring's (1990) findings.

Hooded plovers and other shorebirds are at their most vulnerable during the nesting season. Since previous coastal mismanagement by the planting of marram grass has changed the reserve's dunes into much steeper formations, these shorebirds have no other option but to nest on the beaches.

I am also deeply concerned that by increasing access for commercial horse training and other recreational activities in the Reserve will further impact on the habitat of the critically endangered Orange-bellied Parrot as reported in the assessment below by BirdLife.

“A 2016 assessment reported by BirdLife International found the pressure on Orange-bellied Parrot populations is also very high between Port Fairy and Warrnambool, due principally to human intrusions and disturbance from recreational activities impacting the majority of the population (50-90%) and resulting in rapid to severe deterioration (BirdLife International 2017).

Many of the risks described for Hooded Plovers also threaten species such as the Orange-bellied Parrot. Dogs, vehicles and horses can displace wildlife, create disturbance and stress in animals, and cause direct and indirect wildlife mortality. “

My point is racehorses thundering up and down the beach would create even more disturbance and stress to local wildlife. We are also looking at an increase in horse trucks and floats parking in carpark bay areas and general noise which may impact on other stakeholders who wish to use the Reserve for their enjoyment and recreation.

“BirdLife Australia analysed Hooded Plover monitoring data from the 2006/07 to 2010/11 breeding seasons across 28 parks and reserves managed by Parks Victoria (Birdlife Australia 2014). Hooded Plover monitoring sites in the Belfast Coastal Reserve were found to be the most threatened in the State, particularly around Rutledges Cutting, The Basin and Levy's Beach.”

Should we be even discussing this submission when BirdLife Australia data shows that the Belfast Coastal Reserve's population of Hooded Plover is the most threatened in the State?

### **Key management theme #3 Recreation & use (pages 45-69)**

Let's not beat around the bush here. I think the above heading should read:  
Recreation and commercial use.

We are discussing allowing an activity that is not listed in the original City of Warrnambool's planning scheme between Levy's Beach to Hoon Hill area which is covered by a Public Conservation and Resource Zone. Where on the list of uses is commercial racehorse training mentioned? Commercial horse racing is big business and is part of the powerful gambling industry.

Commercial horse racing is neither passive recreation or part of public education. And going by recent findings by the Racing Appeals and Disciplinary Board, can we rely on the racing industry's integrity to do the right thing in protecting our coastal reserve's native flora and fauna?

"One of the most significant impacts of horses on beaches in the Reserve is the disturbance of beach-nesting shorebirds, their eggs and chicks during the breeding season. The Hooded Plover and several other shorebirds breed on the beaches from August to March. The total number and frequency of all horses on the beach contributes to the overall level of shorebird disturbance from a range of sources. While horse riders may be required to ride below the high-tide line on beaches to avoid nesting habitat or stay a distance away from marked nest sites, compliance with this guideline may be poor during a high tide (particularly spring-tides) when the area of available space on the beach can be limited and riders may advance higher on the beach into nesting habitat. It is therefore critical that the most significant areas for shorebird breeding are protected from disturbances including those from horses(p51)"

Can Parks Victoria guarantee that by allowing more horses in the Reserve will not further degrade fragile coastal habitat? The above paragraph does not give me any confidence that allowing racehorses in the Reserve will not impact on shorebird nesting sites. Therefore, I do not support a permit system for commercial horse training in the reserve (p51).

I also support dogs to be kept on a leash, especially during breeding and nesting season of the Reserve's shorebirds. Some dog owners are reluctant to comply with regulations restricting dogs on beaches (Morrington Peninsular Dog Access Study, p 50) My own experience with unrestrained dogs in rural areas is they can pose a significant threat around people, domestic animals and wildlife. I would prefer no dogs allowed in the conservation zone (p51). Monitoring of dogs on leashes and times allowed on beaches is just too difficult to police.

### **Key management theme #4 Managing in partnership (pages 71-75)**

I support the first goal of coordinated management of the Reserve, but the Reserve should be made a park under the National Parks Act. We have already lost one

significant park-Tower Hill which has been downgraded to a game reserve even though it was proclaimed Victoria's first National Park in 1892. Park mismanagement saw this unique area trashed by selfish local interests. It would be a pity to see selfish interests also trash Belfast Coastal Reserve.

I do not support the fragmented management of the Reserve. If this region could be proclaimed a National park and properly managed respectful of its cultural heritage and valued for its biodiversity.

## Conclusion

I support some elements discussed in the draft coastal management plan: cultural heritage protection, joint management, education and interpretation, monitoring and research, rationalisation and closure of inappropriate beach access and increased dog control. However, I do not support any commercial horse training activities in the Reserve.

The argument for supporting commercial horse training in the Reserve has been that it is good for the region's economy. The statistical trends show horseracing revenue is on the decline. According to the *Thoroughbred Daily News*, an aging demographic is responsible for the steady decline (Towers, 2017). According to one analysis by Woodbine Entertainment Group (cited in Towers 2017), wagering will be a fraction of what is today with most major punters over the age of 60. The decline is the result of negative growth in the 20-40-year age group. Another report by the New York Times (Liebman 2010) similarly supports the generation gap factor as well as added pressure from other gambling sources as being responsible for horseracing's decline. Statistically, the perceived economic benefit of commercial horse training is short term, but the negative impact on the Reserve will have long-term consequences, if not irreversible damage to a fragile coastal ecosystem.

Poker machines, as a source of revenue, generate income and employment opportunities for many local hotels and clubs. However, strict permits and limits are placed on poker machines to protect the wider community from the negative effects of gambling. Unlike the management of poker machines, permits issued to allow access to commercial racehorse training in the Reserve will be difficult to regulate and expensive to police.

Tourism generates an estimated \$200.127 million of Warrnambool's total economic output of 4.025 billion (WCC Economy Profile). Eco-tourism can help boost the economy in this region. Many overseas visitors are seeking an alternative experience away from crowded cities (p 58). Natural pristine habitats boasting a diversity of flora and fauna are becoming increasingly popular with both domestic and international visitors.

Land clearing and farming has drastically altered the natural landscape and has impacted on the region's biodiversity. The Reserve is still relatively remote and so has been an important nesting habitat for migratory and local shorebirds. If we increase the area available from 2km to 5km for commercial horse training (250%



increase), then Parks Victoria has failed in its duty as custodian to preserve the Reserve's Aboriginal cultural heritage and to conserve its biodiversity from being denuded by commercial interests. To even consider allowing racehorses within the conservation zone at Rutledge's Cutting is beyond belief. Horse riding impacts on both dunes and shorebirds as reported in the draft submission. Research by Drying (1990), Phillips and Newson (2002), Delueca et al. (2002), Wilson and Seeney (2009), all support the findings that horses over other forms recreational activities have the greatest impact on coastal habitats. Therefore, coastal habitats such as the Belfast Coastal Reserve, in my opinion, are unsuitable environments for commercial horse training activities.

Supporting an industry which is in decline is, in my opinion, a myopic short-term strategy lacking vision and accountability. Therefore, I question the validity of allowing commercial horse training in the Reserve without considering long-term financial viability or ecological sustainability. I can only hope that our Honourable Ministers Liliana D-Ambrosio and Luke Donellan are not wearing blinkers when deciding on the fate of our beautiful Belfast Coastal Reserve.

#### Sources:

Liebman, B 2010, The Rail, Reasons for the decline in horseracing, *The New York Times*, accessed 13 March 2018:

<<https://therail.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/06/06/reasons-for-the-decline-of-horse-racing/> >.

Towers, D 2017, This time, horseracing's aging demographic problem is very real, *Thoroughbred Daily News*, updated August 29, 2017:

<<http://www.thoroughbreddailynews.com/this-time-horse-racings-aging-demographic-problem-is-very-real/> >.

Warrnambool City Council, *Economy Profile*, accessed 13/03/2018:

<<http://www.economyprofile.com.au/warrnambool/tourism/output> >.

Tuesday, 13 March 2018

Manager  
Parks Planning  
Parks Victoria  
Level 10, 535 Bourke St  
Melbourne VIC 3000

To whom it may concern,

**Re: Warrnambool Beach Training Support Submission**

As an owner of horse/s trained in Warrnambool, the opportunities beach training presents as well as the relaxed country environment the district has to offer is the key reason why I will continue to support the continuation of horse training in the region.

we consider that the advantages offered by the close proximity to the beach provide an additional means of bringing, and keeping, our horse at peak fitness. Local trainers create a viable, sustainable and important industry that provides many employment opportunities of great importance to the area, both directly and indirectly.


We do not believe that the training of horses in the beach areas have any negative long-term environmental problems. Natural tidal movements take care of any possible damage that may occur from the ocean itself to the high-water mark. There is no evidence that horses are doing any more damage, long term, than normal fishing, pedestrian and fitness movements in the areas.

If this opportunity was not available, the opportunities for these horses would become limited, thus there would be potential for them to retire from racing all together. This would have huge effect on the local horse trainers, horse numbers would decrease as well as taking away the opportunity for any return to continue to fund future horses to be trained in the region.

The opportunity to train horses on Levys Beach and the dunes is critical for the ongoing success of horse training in Warrnambool which I am fully supportive of.

Regards,

Address as stated in letterhead




Tuesday, 13 March 2018

Manager  
Parks Planning  
Parks Victoria  
Level 10, 535 Bourke St  
Melbourne VIC 3000

To whom it may concern,

**Re: Warrnambool Beach Training Support Submission**


As an owner of horse/s trained in Warrnambool, the opportunities beach training presents as well as the relaxed country environment the district has to offer is the key reason why I will continue to support the continuation of horse training in the region.



If this opportunity was not available, the opportunities for these horses would become limited, thus there would be potential for them to retire from racing all together. This would have huge effect on the local horse trainers, horse numbers would decrease as well as taking away the opportunity for any return to continue to fund future horses to be trained in the region.

The opportunity to train horses on Levy's Beach and the dunes is critical for the ongoing success of horse training in Warrnambool which I am fully supportive of.

Regards,





## Submission template for Draft Belfast Coastal Reserve Management Plan

### About you:

Your name:

Your Organisation (if relevant): \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode:

\_\_\_\_\_

Email or Postal address:

\_\_\_\_\_

**THIS SUBMISSION IS:** ☐ **CONFIDENTIAL** ☒ **NOT CONFIDENTIAL** Date: 5//02/2017 \_\_\_\_\_

### Your Comments:

#### Please Note – The following information will be made publically available.

Main reason for interest: *(such as local resident, visitor to parks, tourism operator, environmental interest, business operator, education interest, scientific interest)*

We enjoy walking our dog on the beach. We understand the damage that dogs can do to fauna if uncontrolled and in sensitive areas are happy to walk with our dog on a leash. To block our dog from the coastal area is unnecessary . We have enough trouble enjoying the wilderness with our canine friend as we are also blocked from most national parks. We especially enjoy Port Fairy and surrounds because this is not at present the case!

How often do you or your organisation use the reserve?

☒ Daily ☐ Weekly ☐ Monthly ☐ A couple of times a year ☐ Rarely ☐ Never

How do you or your organisation mainly use the reserve?

<input type="checkbox"/> Walking or running	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dog walking	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Using the beach (swimming and surfing)
<input type="checkbox"/> Horse riding	<input type="checkbox"/> Horse training	<input type="checkbox"/> Volunteering
<input type="checkbox"/> Camping	<input type="checkbox"/> Hunting	<input type="checkbox"/> Fishing/boating
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Picnicking	<input type="checkbox"/> Birdwatching	<input type="checkbox"/> Socialising
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____		

Which part(s) of the reserve do you or your organisation most frequently use?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> West of Killarney (Port Fairy side)	<input type="checkbox"/> Between Killarney and Big Baldy
<input type="checkbox"/> East of Big Baldy (Warrnambool side)	<input type="checkbox"/> Not sure



[illegible]



## Key management theme #2: Healthy Country

### Key management theme #3: Recreation and use





## Key management theme #5: Research and monitoring

Wednesday, 5 September 2018

Manager  
Parks Planning  
Parks Victoria  
Level 10, 535 Bourke St  
Melbourne VIC 3000

To whom it may concern,

**Re: Warrnambool Beach Training Support Submission**

As an owner of horses trained in Warrnambool  
the beach training presents as the main reason  
Leg injuries and bone injuries are reduced by training  
on the beach rather than firm turf tracks . The region of Warrnambool is blessed with such  
beaches.

If this opportunity was not available, the opportunities for these horses would become  
limited, thus there would be potential for them to be  
or retire from racing all together. This would have huge effect on the local horse  
trainers, horse numbers would decrease as well as taking away the opportunity for any  
return to continue to fund future horses to be trained in the region.

The opportunity to train horses on Levy's Beach and the dunes is critical for the ongoing  
success of horse training in Warrnambool which I am fully supportive of.

Please take the time to fully understand the impact of removing this privilege of access to  
the beach.

Regards,

Tuesday, 13 March 2018

Manager  
Parks Planning  
Parks Victoria  
Level 10, 535 Bourke St  
Melbourne VIC 3000

To whom it may concern,

**Re: Warrnambool Beach Training Support Submission**

owns two horses trained in Warrnambool, the opportunities beach training presents as well as the relaxed country environment the district has to offer is the key reason why I will continue to support the continuation of horse training in the region.

we have found that the horses do not excel to their potential as quickly as horses that are trained on the beaches of Warrnambool.

If this opportunity was not available, the opportunities for our horses would have become limited, thus the only other option would have been for our horses to retire from racing all together. The loss of the ability to train horses on the beaches of Warrnambool would have huge effect on the local horse trainers, horse numbers would decrease as well as taking away the opportunity for any return to continue to fund future horses to be trained in the region.

The opportunity to train horses on Levy's Beach and the dunes is critical for the ongoing success of horse training in Warrnambool which I am fully supportive of.

Regards



Tuesday, 13 March 2018

Manager  
Parks Planning  
Parks Victoria  
Level 10, 535 Bourke St  
Melbourne VIC 3000

To whom it may concern,

**Re: Warrnambool Beach Training Support Submission**

that owns a horse trained in Warrnambool, the opportunities beach training presents as well as the relaxed country environment the district has to offer is the key reason why I will continue to support the continuation of horse training in the region.

It was with no hesitation that we transferred our horse to Warrnambool and he has excelled due to beach training.

If this opportunity was not available, the opportunities for this horse would have become limited, thus the only other option would have been for our horse to retire from racing all together. The loss of the ability to train horses on the beaches of Warrnambool would have huge effect on the local horse trainers, horse numbers would decrease as well as taking away the opportunity for any return to continue to fund future horses to be trained in the region.

The opportunity to train horses on Levy's Beach and the dunes is critical for the ongoing success of horse training in Warrnambool which I am fully supportive of.

Regards,

Manager  
Parks Planning  
Parks Victoria  
Level 10, 535 Bourke St  
Melbourne VIC 3000

To whom it may concern,

**Re: Warrnambool Beach Training Support Submission**

owner of horses trained in Warrnambool, the opportunities beach training presents as well as the relaxed country environment the district has to offer is the key reason why I will continue to support the continuation of horse training in the region.

If this opportunity was not available, the opportunities for these horses would become limited, thus there would be potential for them to retire from racing all together. This would have huge effect on the local horse trainers, horse numbers would decrease as well as taking away the opportunity for any return to continue to fund future horses to be trained in the region.

The opportunity to train horses on Levy's Beach and the dunes is critical for the ongoing success of horse training in Warrnambool which I am fully supportive of.

Regards,

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Manager  
Parks Planning  
Parks Victoria  
Level 10, 535 Bourke St  
Melbourne VIC 3000

To whom it may concern,

**Re: Warrnambool Beach Training Support Submission**

As an owner of horse/s trained in Warrnambool, the opportunities beach training presents as well as the relaxed country environment the district has to offer is the key reason why I will continue to support the continuation of horse training in the region.

I only send my horses to Warrnambool because of the beaches.

If this opportunity was not available, the opportunities for these horses would become limited, thus there would be potential for them to retire from racing all together. This would have huge effect on the local horse trainers, horse numbers would decrease as well as taking away the opportunity for any return to continue to fund future horses to be trained in the region.

The opportunity to train horses on Levy's Beach and the dunes is critical for the ongoing success of horse training in Warrnambool which I am fully supportive of.

Regards,