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VEAC Submission Coastal Reserves – Notes:

We compliment VEAC on its very detailed and comprehensive Draft Report on the Assessment of Victoria's Coastal Reserves and offer the following comments and recommendations.

As members of Belfast Coastal Reserve Action Group Inc., we will generally focus our comments on Belfast Coastal Reserve as this is the area of Coast most familiar to us.

Chapter 2

The LCC Corangamite Area Final Recommendations, September 1978, as amended by Order in Council dated 4 December 1979 and 22 January 1980 for Section J The Coast – Coastal Reserves Uses- (purposes and objectives) and in particular for the area J2 – “The Coastal frontage from Lady Bay, City of Warrnambool to Griffiths Island Port Borough of Fairy – J2 Zones 1 to V appropriately describe what should be the uses for these area of Belfast Coastal Reserve.

Zone VI Kelly's Swamp: whilst the recommended uses were seen to be adequate in the 1970's, today the significant wetland and estuarine values are not properly described. Use of Kelly's Swamp should reflect the importance of this area for resident and migratory shorebirds as well as habitat for the rare and endangered Orange Bellied Parrot.

Furthermore, the Recommendations, J2 Zone 1, includes by description all the beach front land; e.g., “the coastal frontage land, swamps and dunes, except those specifically referred to under other zones be used to:

- (i) conserve flora and fauna
- (ii) maintain the stability of the coastal dune formation
- (iii) provide for low intensity recreational activities such as walking and picnicking
- (iv) provide access through the dunes to the Zone II beach frontage at points defined by the managing authority etc,
- (v) protect areas of archaeological significance, especially the shell midden and camp deposit sites from Belfast Lough to Killarney beach.

These recommendations are appropriate for this coastal area. However, it should be noted that the area of beach between Golfies car park (west of the Port Fairy golf course) to the Port Fairy town boundary was excluded from the July 2018 Belfast Coastal Reserve Management Plan. This section of East Beach has a relatively (for Belfast Coastal Reserve) wide section of beach area which is an important nesting and feeding zone for resident and migratory species. This area,

together with Griffiths Island needs to be included formally in Belfast Coastal Reserve to ensure it comes under the same regulations as for the Belfast Coastal Reserve Management Plan.

We would recommend that the emphasis for uses of the Belfast Coastal Reserve be given precedence to the ecological, environmental and cultural aspects over the “provision of opportunities for informal recreation associated with the enjoyment of the coastal environment”.

The protection of the coastal reserves from non-marine and coastal dependent uses needs to be highlighted. For example, the licencing of commercial race horse training is non-dependent, non-conforming and highly invasive use on open beaches. In the areas set aside in the “Management Plan” for horse training, beach nesting shorebirds such as Hooded Plovers, Red-capped Plovers, Pied and Sooty Oyster-catchers nest occupy sections of beach all along the whole reserve. This activity, whilst not an exclusive use during the times allotted, does prevent others from safely using the allotted beach areas of what essentially is public open space!

Chapter 3.

Depending on the values and assets of the coastal reserve(s), reservation should be specifically drafted to ensure the protection and enhancement of those values to direct that any uses under any plan of management are consistent with the reservation status. This consequently enables the posting of regulations to protect those values.

Chapter 4.

Attached is a list of bird species of conservation significance for Belfast Coastal Reserve (pages 94-95 Belfast Coastal Reserve Management Plan July 2018, Appendix 3 – Fauna species of conservation significance)

Chapter 5.

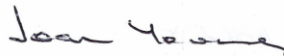
There are increasing pressures on Belfast Coastal Reserve mostly consequent to increasing human use.

1. Increased focus on development of tourism opportunities is exploiting the natural resources of the coast and needs to be considered in the context of protecting and preserving the values of the coast. There is a limit to what fragile coastlines can sustain from increased human activities.
2. The invasion of race horse training is a major emerging issue which unfortunately the State Government seems to sanction over protection of habitat and beach ecology – not to mention being an interfering activity on the beaches to other beach users.
3. Increased dog walking, particularly off leash is threatening beach nesting birds as well as disturbing resident and migratory species.
4. Unauthorised off-road vehicle and motor cycle use.
5. Invasive weeds such as *Arthrotheca populifolia* (Cape beach Daisy) and *Thinopyrum junceiforme* (Sea Wheat-grass) are infesting areas along the coast and are a threat to shorebird nesting habitat.

Chapter 7.

Sea level rise, consequent to Global Warming is becoming evident with increased tides, storm surges causing aggravated erosion along the open beaches. There have been in the last 10 years significant erosion requiring heavy armament along the township beaches in Port Fairy and the open beaches. In our long association and residence at Port Fairy we have witnessed the erosion of the beaches of Belfast Coastal Reserve exposing the nightsoil dept and tip site which spilt significant volume of household waste onto the beach as well as nightsoil cans, amongst other things, from the nightsoil depot. Whilst there have been works to barrier these two locations, it is expected that this will be further aggravated in future years with any increase in armaments causing further loss of beach and habitat.

Finally, it is vitally important that the recognition of the values of coastal reserves are recognised in the final report and designated reservation status applied to all coastal reserves accordingly.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Young', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joan Young', written in a cursive style.

John & Joan Young
On behalf of BCRAIG Inc.

Appendix 3 – Fauna species of conservation significance

Victorian Biodiversity Atlas records for fauna species of conservation significance in the planning area

Scientific Name	Common Name	Conservation Status in Australia (EPBC Act)	Conservation Status in Victoria (Advisory List)	FFG Act Listed
<i>Neophema chrysogaster</i>	Orange-bellied Parrot	Critically Endangered	Critically endangered	Listed
<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Curlew Sandpiper	Critically Endangered	Endangered	Listed
<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>	Eastern Curlew	Critically Endangered	Vulnerable	Listed
<i>Eubalaena australis</i>	Southern Right Whale	Endangered	Critically endangered	Listed
<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	Blue Whale	Endangered	Critically endangered	Listed
<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	Leathery Turtle	Endangered	Critically endangered	Listed
<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>	Lesser Sand Plover	Endangered	Critically endangered	
<i>Botaurus poiciloptilus</i>	Australasian Bittern	Endangered	Endangered	Listed
<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Red Knot	Endangered	Endangered	
<i>Thalassarche chrysostoma</i>	Grey-headed Albatross	Endangered	Vulnerable	Listed
<i>Sternula nereis nereis</i>	Fairy Tern	Vulnerable	Endangered	Listed
<i>Thinornis rubricollis rubricollis</i>	Hooded Plover	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Listed
<i>Thalassarche cauta</i>	Shy Albatross	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Listed
<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	Humpback Whale	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Listed
<i>Thalassarche melanophris melanophris</i>	Black-browed Albatross	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	
<i>Pachyptila turtur</i>	Fairy Prion	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	
<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	Bar-tailed Godwit	Vulnerable		
<i>Arctocephalus tropicalis</i>	Subantarctic Fur Seal	Vulnerable		
<i>Mirounga leonina</i>	Southern Elephant Seal	Vulnerable		
<i>Gelochelidon nilotica macrotarsa</i>	Gull-billed Tern		Endangered	Listed
<i>Oxyura australis</i>	Blue-billed Duck		Endangered	Listed
<i>Egretta garzetta nigripes</i>	Little Egret		Endangered	Listed
<i>Stictonetta naevosa</i>	Freckled Duck		Endangered	Listed
<i>Ardea intermedia</i>	Intermediate Egret		Endangered	Listed
<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	Grey Plover		Endangered	

Scientific Name	Common Name	Conservation Status in Australia (EPBC Act)	Conservation Status in Victoria (Advisory List)	FFG Act Listed
<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	White-throated Needletail		Vulnerable	Listed
<i>Lewinia pectoralis pectoralis</i>	Lewin's Rail		Vulnerable	Listed
<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Common Greenshank		Vulnerable	
<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Ruddy Turnstone		Vulnerable	
<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Common Sandpiper		Vulnerable	
<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	Pacific Golden Plover		Vulnerable	
<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	Marsh Sandpiper		Vulnerable	
<i>Anas rhynchotis</i>	Australasian Shoveler		Vulnerable	
<i>Biziura lobata</i>	Musk Duck		Vulnerable	
<i>Aythya australis</i>	Hardhead		Vulnerable	
<i>Ardea modesta</i>	Eastern Great Egret		Vulnerable	
<i>Falco subniger</i>	Black Falcon		Vulnerable	
<i>Engaeus sericatus</i>	Hairy Burrowing Crayfish		Vulnerable	
<i>Anseranas semipalmata</i>	Magpie Goose		Near threatened	Listed
<i>Larus pacificus pacificus</i>	Pacific Gull		Near threatened	
<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	Caspian Tern		Near threatened	
<i>Haematopus fuliginosus</i>	Sooty Oystercatcher		Near threatened	
<i>Chlidonias hybridus javanicus</i>	Whiskered Tern		Near threatened	
<i>Calidris alba</i>	Sanderling		Near threatened	
<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	Pectoral Sandpiper		Near threatened	
<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	White-winged Black Tern		Near threatened	
<i>Nycticorax caledonicus hillii</i>	Nankeen Night Heron		Near threatened	
<i>Platalea regia</i>	Royal Spoonbill		Near threatened	
<i>Phalacrocorax varius</i>	Pied Cormorant		Near threatened	
<i>Phalacrocorax fuscescens</i>	Black-faced Cormorant		Near threatened	
<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	Glossy Ibis		Near threatened	
<i>Circus assimilis</i>	Spotted Harrier		Near threatened	
<i>Dromaius novaehollandiae</i>	Emu		Near threatened	
<i>Pelecanoides urinatrix</i>	Common Diving Petrel		Near threatened	