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11 November 2019

Victorian Environmental Assessment Council
Level 39, 2 Lonsdale Street
MELBOURNE
VIC 3001

Dear Sir or Madam,

Re: Feedback on Assessment of Victoria's Coastal Reserves

Thankyou for the opportunity to attend your feedback session at Lakes Entrance on the 24th of October 2019 in relation to the above Draft Report. Please find our response below using the suggested questions as part of the Report on page 7.

Chapter 2

a) Do the purposes and objectives for coastal reserves appropriately reflect current and future values and uses?

No comments provided

b) Do you have any suggested changes to or comments on VEAC's technical definition of coastal reserves?

No comments provided

c) Do you have any suggested changes to or comments on VEAC's maps of coastal reserves?

No comments provided

d) How can we best prepare for changes to land tenure boundaries of coastal Crown land resulting from the effects of climate change?

Localised erosion is becoming increasingly evident over time, with loss of primary dune systems and fringing vegetation from wave action undercutting and changing water levels experienced in our Shire. Further research utilising available modelling and future predictions could highlight areas of increased vulnerability for targeted management works.

Working towards diminishment of agency confusion by firming up consistent agency response, supported by scientific and financial support to assist predicted high impact areas.

High water boundary on property titles needs to be reviewed to address coastal erosion with these boundaries moving as the costal high-water mark moves. There are two types of properties titles that can be utilized in Victoria. Unfortunately, around the Gippsland Lakes, many of the title boundaries are fixed and therefore now extend into the Gippsland Lakes. This will continue to be an issue as the lake system is impacted by climate change.

e) What is the best way to provide clarity and certainty for landowners and managers along the coastline?

There is a need for clearer role responsibilities amongst agencies and for these responsibilities to be appropriately funded by the Victorian government, so the responsibilities are actioned. For the Gippsland Lakes alone there are over 10 agencies with some form of responsibility for the Gippsland Lakes – this is confusing for users of the park.

Chapter 3

a) Should all coastal reserves be reserved for specific purposes?

The majority of coastal land included in this assessment is denoted as public purpose within East Gippsland Shire. These areas do range from being highly recreational areas such as mown foreshores to highly biodiverse systems with the same legislative controls for these diverse land uses.

Increasing pressure from focused tourism, nature based recreation and aesthetic management will in time provide a negative cumulative impact to the ecological benefit promoted through these activities. Associated infrastructure could be limited in association with the environmental, cultural or other value through development of a specific coastal zoning system encompassing the diverse land use.

Areas abutting townships or settlements should always be zoned for Public Purpose need to cater for some light recreation use and tourism use through better access, interpretation and allowance of commercial operations into these areas to run eco-tourism type ventures.

Chapter 4

a) Are there any additional uses or values of coastal reserves that should be reported or included in the inventory?

No comments provided

b) Are there other ways to present the information that would assist land managers with planning and decision making?

No comments provided

Chapter 5

a) Are there other important trends or emerging uses of coastal reserves?

Nature based tourism is increasing over time as the desire increases to have more interaction with coastal reserves. There needs to be opportunities that respect the type and scale of these activities in reference to the impacts on the natural values of coastal reserves and their associated environmental and cultural value. This is in part due to the number of opportunities closer to urban coastal reserves, where the tourist population and accommodations are mostly located. A zoning system where the underlying land classification cannot be changed, would be able to highlight areas of significant environmental value could be the areas primary 'use'.

Chapter 7

a) Are there other climate change datasets that should be considered when assessing coastal reserve values at risk from the impacts of climate change?

Infrastructure impacted by Climate Change should be recorded in data sets that identify both infrastructure used to manage impacts (seawalls etc) and infrastructure likely to be impacted (utilities in foreshores etc).

Yours sincerely



KATE ALLEN
Environmental Projects Officer