

Submission in Response Parks Victoria Report.

This submission includes sourced information which supports the continuation of the use of Belfast Coastal Reserve for human, horse and dog activities. The explanation of differences between levels of horse training are also covered as is the explanation of equine exercise physiology and what that means from a horse trainers understanding

According to the following website, <http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/species/Thinornis-rubricollis>, the habitat of the Hooded Plover in Victoria occur on beaches with large amounts of beach-washed seaweed. Densities are lowest on narrow, steep beaches, where there are few or no dunes, and where human activities are most intensive. In the south-west, they also occur on inland salt lakes. Although the Hooded Plover is non-migratory, there is little detailed information regarding its movements within Australia. Local movements to salt lakes immediately behind beaches occur in winter in the east. In the west, they move from the coast to salt lakes some distance inland in winter.

On the surface, this information leads one to conclude that the birds move inland and even though they do not migrate any distance, they leave the beach in winter. Allowing people, dogs and horses on the beach at this time of year should therefore have no bearing on the survival of the Hooded Plover.

According to http://www.swifft.net.au/cb_pages/hooded_plover.php the population estimates for south-eastern Australia vary up to 3000 birds (EA 2000) with counts in Victoria between 334-538 birds (Weston 2003), 550 (Ewers *et al*, 2011) and 565 adults in November 2012. Studies indicate a decline in the order of 12 - 13% per year (Birdlife Australia 2014). Research supported by Birdlife Australia used remote cameras to monitor 81 nests across the Victorian coast, with 38 clutches failing and 26 being successful. The main causes of nest failure were foxes, ravens and magpies.

There is no mention of people, horses or dogs as main causes of nest failure and yet the outcome of the Draft Parks Victoria report states that people, dogs and horse need controls.

In a Victoria Parks management paper, it was stated that Parks Victoria was responsible for managing 76.1% of the state wide Hooded Plover population. A report by Birdlife Australia (2014) found that in three of the five consecutive breeding seasons over which monitoring occurred (2006/07-2010/11), breeding success (standardised as the number of fledglings per pair) was lower on Parks Victoria managed coastline than for pairs on non-Parks Victoria managed coastline.

According to the report on the Hooded plovers “*..if the population (Hooded Plovers) relied on breeding success of pairs in isolated or inaccessible sites then fecundity would only be half of what was achieved with Management*” (Maguire, Cullen and Mead, 2017).

Given the increased ‘regulatory’ suggestions to control people-based activity in the very areas where the breeding rate is double that of ‘less tamed’ areas, it seems that the Science actually suggests we continue the current management regime and class the current management framework as being successful.

“..Warrnambool to Yambuk had an increase of 69% in the number of hooded plovers recorded (2011 study)” P18.

This increase within the monitored areas (not the inaccessible or remote) further supports the argument that additional regulation may not be required.

The current Parks management framework has recorded an increase in Hooded Plover numbers under the extensive list of human related ‘threats’. In order to class the population outcomes as successful or unsuccessful there needs to be better collection and analysis of data. This should clearly outline Hooded Plover population targets within a given timeframe. This information should be made public and should result from known and measurable targets from similarly used beach areas.

As far as the natural environment of the Hooded Plover is concerned, *“The factors driving the presence of Hooded Plovers on the Victorian coast were: 98% Reef, 92% foredune and 89% dune”* [P27](#).

Since the reef is only affected by sea levels this statistic reinforces the observation that the destruction of the foredune through the misguided ‘stabilisation’ program has had a dramatic effect on a primary breeding site of the Hooded Plover. Since the foredunes have all but disappeared and the ‘flat’ beach is subject to inundation and wind action it is highly likely, that without intervention, the successful breeding rates will fall. Ignoring the past ‘conservation’ mistakes, the report suggests that the rising sea-levels could be combatted by:

“Raising seaward side nest sites on rocky berms with artificial platforms of tractor tyres and sandbags” [P157](#).

Surely the very nature of conservation of an area is in direct contrast of this type of “management”? In fact, the whole concept of conservation appears to be “at a single moment in time”. Holding back nature.

The following information has been taken from the submission from [redacted] because of its importance to my submission.

Threats

“Many Tables in the document are misleading. The report focuses on human related ‘Threats’ as though they are the major threats to the Hooded Plover, it appears for convenience that most of the statistics exclude the actual major threats of sea, wind, foredune, gulls, ravens, foxes, magpies etc. comprising around 85% of the total threat to the Hooded Plover (See [Table 1 - Appendix 1](#)) and, instead, simply include selected people related threats. As an example, the overall horse threat is measured at 0.77% of all threats (op cit), in [Table 11, P76, Belfast](#) Horses are noted as 17% and dogs off-lead as 19% of observed threats (ignoring natural threats). Compounding this confusion [Table 13 P78 Belfast](#) lists horses as 66% and dogs off-lead as 32% in terms of the ‘main threats’ (ignoring both natural events and general recreation). This type of presentation does nothing to assist in the understanding of the real threats to Hooded Plovers.

The report also appears to harbour a self-fulfilling prophesy, many of the observations in the report only occur where the beach is easily accessible and people are prevalent and thus, the measurements of threats and breeding successes are highly localised and may not be relevant to overall breeding rates. Particularly the ‘natural’ breeding rates.”

Table 1 - [Managing the hooded plover in Victoria \(2014\)](#) Parks Victoria

CAUSE OF FAILURE	% OF FAILURES	% OF IDENTIFIED FAILURES
Unknown	42.03%	
Tide	25.91%	44.70%
Fox	6.91%	11.92%
Person	5.95%	10.26%
avian predator	4.22%	7.28%
strong winds/buried	4.03%	6.95%
Dog	3.26%	5.63%
predator - unidentified	3.07%	5.30%
Abandoned	1.73%	2.98%
horse	0.77%	1.32%
raven	0.38%	0.66%
vehide	0.38%	0.66%
rain/storm washout	0.38%	0.66%
cat	0.19%	0.33%
gull	0.19%	0.33%
heat	0.19%	0.33%
magpie	0.19%	0.33%
roll out	0.19%	0.33%

Horses

Thoroughbred horse trainers and training methods

Horse trainers are qualified as either owner trainers or trainers who are professionals. Owner trainers are able to train horses which they own or which they part own. This stage of training is an intermediary step for trainers to prove their skills and knowledge before they are able to be registered as professional trainers and earn their living from training horses for others.

It is in the trainers' best interests to ensure the longevity of the horses' racing career or useful life after racing. To do this the training regime that most trainers follow is to work horses as youngsters to ensure muscle, bone and tendon development and strengthening. This is where working horses on the beach comes in as sand is an excellent surface on which to work.

Sand is rarely too hard on which to work. Often sand closer to the shore is wet and harder than sand that is further up the beach. This softer sand is harder for horses to work on which increases the fitness of the horse but puts strain on the tendons and joints of the distal limb particularly if over worked.

Development of strong tendons prevents the development of the tendon bowing which can have the effect of putting horses out of racing or performance for up to 6 months.

Performance horse training

Competition horse riding is growing in popularity particularly with young girls. This is a very favourable activity for teenagers and keeps them fit and gives them responsibility for the health and wellbeing of their charges.

There is little difference between the training of an athlete for racing and an athlete for other performance activities.

Recreational riding

Adult and child horse riders who use the beach for pleasure are more likely to travel at different paces along the beach depending on the fitness of the mount. Having read different reports (Weston 2003) and somewhere else that I did not record, there is contradicting information that the Hooded Plover leaves the nest when there is quick movement past the birds and then conversely they leave the nest when slow movement occurs. If this could be clarified, it would assist in better management of horses moving along the beach.

It would make sense that if a horse is ridden at a walk along the water line, the birds would have time to move out of the way when the vibrations of the horses' hooves are detected. The management of pace of horse riding could be effected with the use of poles to mark the nesting birds and this information being brought to riders' attention at the point from which they set out for their beach ride. A program of rider education would be appreciated by all.

Human health and the interaction between humans and dogs

People live and stay active in a variety of ways and choose to carry out these activities with loved ones. According to Schofield, Mummery & Steele (2005- Dog ownership and human health-related physical activity: an epidemiological study) the presence of a dog in the household may benefit the health of the owners. One reason appears to be through the increased physical activity of the owner regularly walking their dogs.

The dog population has grown exponentially in the past 10 years and many people living in the regional areas enjoy the company of their animals to the point of their becoming "family". To exclude a family member from an enjoyable family activity would be wrong on so many levels. For many, older Australians, they do not take up activities when the activity is carried out in isolation.

“..achieving sufficient physical activity and walking were 57% to 77% higher among dog owners compared with those not owning dogs ($P < .05$). Dog ownership was independently associated with physical activity and walking. Actively encouraging more dog walking may increase community physical activity levels (Cutt, Giles-Corti, Knuiman, Timperio, and Bull, 2007 Understanding Dog Owners’ Increased Levels of Physical Activity: Results From RESIDE).

There is also research to demonstrate that dogs promote social interactions. According to Wood, Giles-Corti et al. (2007 More Than a Furry Companion: The Ripple Effect of Companion Animals on Neighborhood Interactions and Sense of Community)

“ Companion animals (pets) exemplify the affinities possible between humans and nonhuman animals. Evidence documenting a diversity of emotional, physical, and therapeutic benefits of pet guardianship (ownership) substantiates sentimental anecdotes from pet owners. Although the literature focuses primarily on the "one to one" benefits accruing from interactions with pets, this paper explores the potential role of pets as facilitators of social interactions and sense of community. The paper uses triangulation to synthesize findings from qualitative and quantitative research undertaken in three Western Australian suburbs. The qualitative data derive from 12 focus groups and quantitative data, from a survey of 339 residents. In both qualitative and quantitative research, pet ownership positively associated with social interactions, favor exchanges, civic engagement, perceptions of neighborhood friendliness, and sense of community. Pets appeared to ameliorate some determinants of mental health such as loneliness. Findings suggest pets have a ripple effect extending beyond their guardians (owners) to non-pet owners and the broader community. Given the high rates of pet residency in neighborhoods, there is merit in further considering the nexus between pets and community health and well-being.

From the research there is a definite correlation between human activity and socialisation with the ownership of a dog. The focus of Hooded Plover management must therefore take account of this important aspect due to well-being of the increasing aged population of the coastal region of Warrnambool to Port Fairy.

The following is taken from the submission by _____ because of its importance to my submission.

Risks classes

1. The ‘risk chart’ combines recreational horses and uncontrolled dogs as though they have the same effect, both labelled as ‘extreme’. This is not evidence based and not supported by the research. The effect of the ocean/wind is ‘extreme’ everything else is relatively minor (including dogs).

The dynamic environment

- 2. Despite noting the ‘dynamic nature of the dune system’, the paradoxical efforts to ‘stabilise and conserve’ is focused on ‘eroded dunes’ surely the natural outcome of dynamism.*
- 3. The use of phrases like ‘prevent erosion’ and ‘natural regeneration’ is really code for plant spinifex grass instead of marram grass, both to bring back the native vegetation (unnaturally) and to unmercifully (for the shore birds) stabilise the dunes and create a vertical retreat in the face of the ocean rather than the natural slope of the fore dune, the preferred habitat of the hooded plover.*
- 4. The conflict embedded in this proposal is actual a war on nature and refers to ‘rising sea levels... higher storm surges’ P40 with estimated retreat of the beach in the last 150 years of 0.1-0.3 metres per year (more in the next 150 years) either way that suggests a retreat of 15-45 metres, wider than the current beach in many places. Again, planting spinifex grass,*

picking up manure and preventing hoof prints, is unlikely to have the desired effect.

In summary:

1. **Do** consider relocation of birds in high use areas to more isolated locations.
2. **Do** add permits for large groups of horse riders.
3. **Do** let recreational horse riders continue to use the beach with additional education and permanent signage.
4. **Do not** block existing dune tracks that provide access to the beach.
5. **Do not** promote stabilisation of the fore dune areas.
6. **Do not** ban controlled dog walking or rec horse use to any beach area between Warrnambool and Port Fairy.

Belfast Coast Management Plan: - Individual Submission / Survey

Name:

Signature

Email Address:

Post Code :

Age Range : 47

Gender : MALE

Is this submission to be treated as Confidential : NO

How often do you use the Reserve : DAILY

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 YES

West of Killarney Beach to Port Fairy YES YES

East of Killarney Beach to The Cutting YES YES

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 THE PARK GREEN ZONE REMOVED

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.

YES IT IS. FOR EXERCISE & MENTAL WELLBEING

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 DEFINITELY

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

DO THEY SHOULD NOT BE BANNED

Do you wish to add any further comments:

1

WE WISH FOR THE BEACH TO CONTINUE AS THEY WAY IT ALWAYS WAS. FREE AND OPEN TO EVERYONES USE

Belfast Coast Management Plan: - Individual Submission / Survey

Name:

Signature

Email Address:

Post Code :

Age Range : 50 to 60

Gender : Female

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)

swimming and exercising.

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

It is important to be able to access a great part of the beach for enjoyment and health

Which part of the Reserve do you use most frequently:

Killarney Beach monthly

West of Killarney Beach to Port Fairy monthly

East of Killarney Beach to The Cutting monthly

West of The Cutting towards Warrnambool monthly

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

With animals, cultural and recreational.....
.....

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

I would like no change to the access to the Reserve. The Reserve should not be closed or access limited.....
.....

How important is the Cultural Heritage of the Reserve to you? It is important to retain local cultural heritage for those visiting this area

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

I would like to see more work on pest plants and feral animals – I see no evidence of domesticated pets or horses negatively impacting birdlife.....
.....

How important is the ability to enjoy recreation activities to you

Extremely important.....
.....

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

My regular walk on the beach is important for my physical and mental wellbeing. Also recreational activities like swimming represent a major benefit of living on the coast.....
.....

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

I strongly believe that the current use of the reserve 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).

I believe that recreational activities should be allowed throughout the whole reserve.....
.....

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

No. Restrictions on Killarney beach work well in peak periods when the beach is very crowded with tourists.....

Do you wish to add any further comments: Focus on the eradication of feral pests ie rabbits, foxes and cats.
.....

Thursday, March 15, 2018

Belfast Coastal Reserve Management Plan Submission

‘you don’t know what you’ve got until it’s gone’

. It’s conservation is of utmost importance to myself and the community, I don’t think many people realize how significant the coast is to themselves, and to Warrnambool as a whole, to see it slowly degrade due to the commercial and economic motives of horse racing would be a catastrophic.

Although the usefulness of the beaches for horses and horse training isn’t lost on me, it cannot be justified when considering the possible impacts the activity could have on the environment. I’m not talking about immediate impacts, but long term. Towns with beautiful surroundings are no longer the norm, but the exception, and Warrnambool is certainly the exception. Efforts need to be made now, to ensure that 10-20-30 years down the track we have allowed ourselves the chance to still live in an area proud to have maintained and conserved out beautiful coastline. If its a question of ‘we’re unsure if horse training will or will not negatively effect the environment long term’, then do NOT take the chance, it’s not worth the risk, the risk of a horse being able to run a few seconds quicker in a billion dollar racing industry? Or our coastline?

I believe the general population (myself included at times) becomes desensitized to the area we are living in. The fact remains however we live an area of absolute BEAUTY, our coastline is nothing short of spectacular, and one that is inherently Australian and Victorian, we unfortunately take it for granted, and under no circumstances should economic, commercial, or other motives be placed higher than the sustainability of these environment, after all they are commercial and economic drivers inadvertently in many different ways.

I implore parks Victoria to think long term about the consequences of horses on our beaches. The racing industry is wealthy and powerful, having worked in it myself I know the lengths people are willing to go to to win a race. Please use rational when making these decisions, racing is prolific at local and state arms of government, unfortunately therefore we cannot trust those voted in to represent us (as is there obligation) as there is a serious conflict of interest.

Sincerely,

Belfast Coast Management Plan: - Individual Submission / Survey

Name:

Signature

Email Address:

Post Code :

Age Range : 40 to 50

Gender : Female

Is this submission to be treated as Confidential : No

How often do you use the Reserve : 3 times per fortnight

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)

Walking, swimming, walking time

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

Very important. We are extremely lucky to have this in our back yard. Mental health/physical health/family time

Which part of the Reserve do you use most frequently:

Killarney Beach several times a week

West of Killarney Beach to Port Fairy

East of Killarney Beach to The Cutting several times a week

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.

I would like no change to the access to the Reserve. The Reserve should not be closed or access limited.....
.....

How important is the Cultural Heritage of the Reserve to you? Not much.....
.....

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

Natural environment – yes. Plovers are very annoying.....
.....

How important is the ability to enjoy recreation activities to you

Extremely important.....
.....

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

My regular walk on the beach is important for my physical and mental wellbeing. Also recreational activities like swimming represent a major benefit of living on the coast.....
.....

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

I strongly believe that the current use of the reserve 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).

I absolutely believe that recreational activities should be allowed throughout the whole reserve.....
.....

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

No. Restrictions on Killarney beach work well in peak periods when the beach is very crowded with tourists.....

Do you wish to add any further comments: Focus on the eradication of feral pests ie rabbits, foxes and cats.

Foxes and plovers seem to be a problem.....
.....

Belfast Coast Management Plan: - Individual Submission / Survey

Name:

Signature

Email Address:

Post Code :

Age Range : 65 to 75

Gender : Female

Is this submission to be treated as Confidential : No

How often do you use the Reserve : 7-10 times per week

.....

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

Drive, walk, ride a bike

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)

Walking the dog, social interaction

.....

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

Essential for physical/mental health. Companionship/exercise with dog

.....

.....

Which part of the Reserve do you use most frequently:

Killarney Beach several times a week

West of Killarney Beach to Port Fairy several times a month

East of Killarney Beach to The Cutting several times a week

West of The Cutting towards Warrnambool several times a month

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

Recreational with friends and pets. Conservation.....

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

I would like no change to the access to the Reserve. The Reserve should not be closed or access limited.....

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

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

Natural environment – yes. Plovers are very annoying.....

How important is the ability to enjoy recreation activities to you

Extremely important.....

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

My daily exercise is to walk my dogs on the beach. Also recreational activities like swimming and walking on the beach represent a major benefit of living on the coast.....

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

I strongly believe that the current use of the reserve 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).

I absolutely believe that recreational activities should be allowed throughout the whole reserve.....

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

No. Restrictions on Killarney beach work well in peak periods when the beach is very crowded with tourists.....

Do you wish to add any further comments: Focus on the eradication of feral pests ie rabbits, foxes and cats.

Foxes and plovers seem to be a problem.....

Belfast Coast Management Plan: - Individual Submission / Survey

Name

Signature

Email Address:

Post Code :

Age Range : 50 to 60

Gender : Female

Is this submission to be treated as Confidential : No

How often do you use the Reserve : 2 times 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)

Dog walking, exercising, family time at the beach

.....

.....

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

It is very important to both my physical and mental health. These activities are key elements of my life and I derive much enjoyment from responsibly using the reserve.

.....

.....

Which part of the Reserve do you use most frequently:

Killarney Beach weekly

West of Killarney Beach to Port Fairy weekly

East of Killarney Beach to The Cutting monthly

West of The Cutting towards Warrnambool weekly

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

With animals and recreational.....
.....

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

I would like no change to the access to the Reserve. The Reserve should not be closed or access limited.....
.....

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

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

I would like to see more work on pest plants and feral animals – I see no evidence of domesticated pets or horses negatively impacting birdlife.....
.....

How important is the ability to enjoy recreation activities to you

Extremely important.....
.....

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

My regular exercise is to walk my dogs on the beach. Also recreational activities like swimming, represent a major benefit of living on the coast.....
.....

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

I strongly believe that the current use of the reserve 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).

I believe that recreational activities should be allowed throughout the whole reserve.....
.....

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

No. Restrictions on Killarney beach work well in peak periods when the beach is very crowded with tourists.....
.....

Do you wish to add any further comments: Focus on the eradication of feral pests ie rabbits, foxes and cats.
.....
.....

Belfast Coast Management Plan: - Individual Submission / Survey

Name:

Signature

Email Address:

Post Code :

Age Range : 30-40

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)

Walking, swimming and family time at the beach

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

It is important for my health and relaxation options. This is such a beautiful area for timeout from work.

Which part of the Reserve do you use most frequently:

Killarney Beach several times a month

West of Killarney Beach to Port Fairy several times a month

East of Killarney Beach to The Cutting once every six months

West of The Cutting towards Warrnambool once every six months

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.

I would like no change to the access to the Reserve. The Reserve should not be closed or access limited.....
.....

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

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

Protection of natural environment and bird life is important.....
.....

How important is the ability to enjoy recreation activities to you

Of high importance.....
.....

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

Yes. I love the sea, the quiet nature of the place. It is relaxing, being in a stressful job.....

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

I strongly believe that the current use of the reserve 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).

I believe that recreational activities should be allowed throughout the whole reserve, as it has been used by the whole local community.....
.....

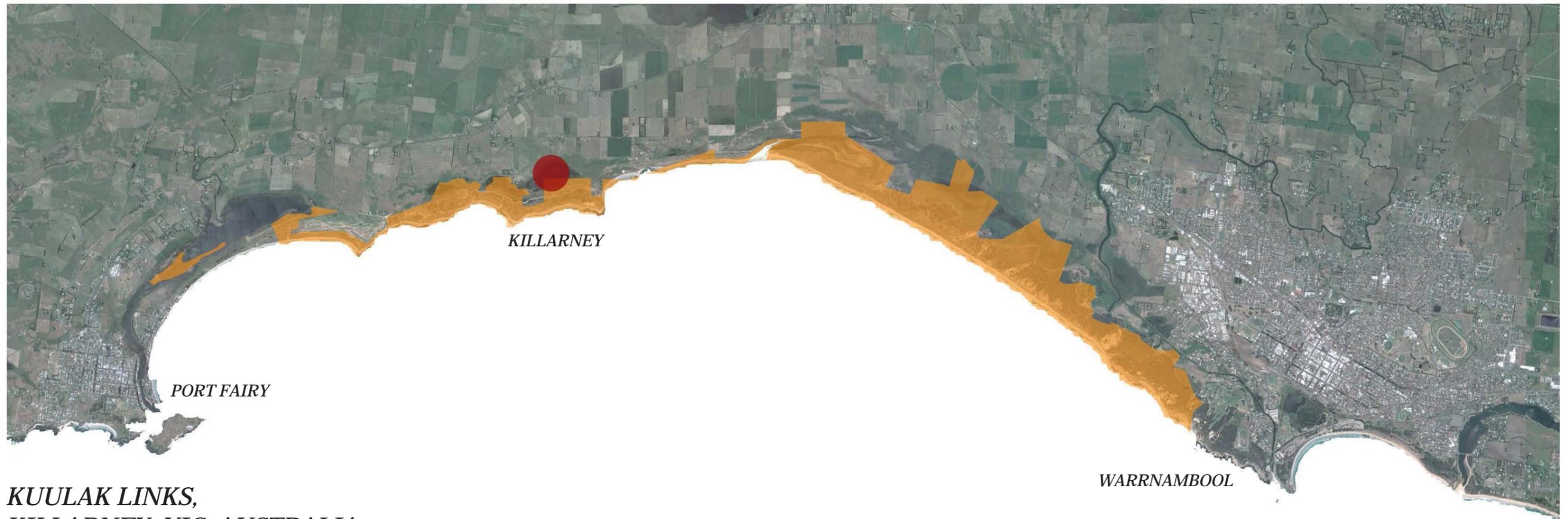
If you believe dogs and horses should be banned – which areas should they be banned from:

No. Restrictions on Killarney beach work well in peak periods when the beach is very crowded with tourists.....

Do you wish to add any further comments: Focus on the eradication of feral pests ie rabbits, foxes and cats.

.....
.....

BELFAST COASTAL RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN



KUULAK LINKS, KILLARNEY, VIC, AUSTRALIA

This submission is underpinned by the belief that the Belfast Coastal Reserve has the potential to be a major driver for tourism in Western Victoria, especially for the regional towns of Warrnambool and Port Fairy. The Coastal Reserve arguably includes the most natural site for a links course* in Australia. (ref Daley, Links Golf, 2000) The suitability of the site lends itself to a minimalist design approach that will produce a world class course for a minimal budget. The golf course would have a footprint of approximately 20 hectares which represents approximately 2% of the coastal reserve but it has the potential to generate considerable funds that could be allocated to managing the coastal reserve.

Golf began in Scotland over 500 years ago at St Andrews on very similar coastal land and golf has proven to be a wonderful custodian of these unique ecosystems. Further the introduction of an environmentally responsible golf course would be welcomed by the traditional owners of the land in that there would be no impact on coastal middens and other cultural artifacts due to the low impact of the design and construction process which would follow the GEO (Golf Environment Organisation) Guidelines for Sustainable Golf Development. GEO is the world's peak

* Links course - golf played on dunes formed by wind

body for sustainable golf development and now has a global network of golf organisations, practitioners and scientists working together to change the way golf development is delivered. The author was an active and passionate member of the working party that produced the Guidelines and was the first accredited member of GEO in the Asian Region.

In recent years Tasmania has led Australia in the development of quality golf tourism facilities and now boasts 4 golf courses in the top 10 courses in Australia ie Banbougale Dunes, Lost Farm at Bridport and Cape Wickham, Ocean Dunes on King Island. All of these courses are on the coast and utilise land managed by Parks Tasmania. At least 6 more golf courses are being planned on Tasmania's coastline to capture this burgeoning global market. The majority of the golfers/tourists supporting Tasmania's new courses are Victorians with an estimated 30,000 Victorian golfers making regular dedicated trips to Tasmania to play golf. Given that the average spend per golfer is significant the industry is now a key driver for tourism in Tasmania. It is predicted that this will continue to rise significantly over the next decade.

Victoria has traditionally been at the forefront of golf in Australia and boasts high quality golfing regions including the Melbourne Sandbelt and the Mornington Peninsula. Sandbelt includes traditional private membership courses that have limited public access whereas the Mornington Peninsula courses are a mix of traditional membership courses and public access courses. Victoria has yet to develop remote courses to satisfy the golfing tourism market.

The Great Ocean Road and western Victoria enjoy a spectacular coastline which is ideal for golf development and the Belfast Coastal Reserve is arguably the most appropriate place to start. Together with the Peterborough Links, The Warrnambool Golf Club and the Port Fairy Golf Club it would become a world class public access golfing destination well supported by the established infrastructure of Warrnambool and Port Fairy.

BELFAST COASTAL RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN



PROPOSED VIEW



EXISTING VIEW

*KUULAK LINKS,
KILLARNEY, VIC, AUSTRALIA*

* *Kuulak* - aboriginal for sand from sea

06th March 2018

Attention:
Parks Victoria
Moyne Shire Council
Warrnambool City Council

RE: Belfast Coast Community User Group: Letter of request for amendments to the Belfast Coastal Reserve Draft Management Plan and outline of systems of Self-Regulation.

A: Statement of Requests.

As representatives of the user groups of the Belfast Coast Reserve Community, we hereby request the following changes to the Belfast Coastal Reserve Draft Management Plan:

1. Areas on the plan marked as a conservation zone be removed and replaced with a conservation-recreation zone, allowing the continuation of existing recreational activities.
2. The current recreational activities of dog walking and recreational horse riding be permitted throughout the Reserve.
3. Hobby racehorse trainers including adjoining landholders be permitted to exercise horses in moderation consistent with historical horse training on the Reserve.
4. The current recreational activities of windsurfing and kitesurfing be permitted at Port Fairy Lough and Rutledge Cutting
5. The restoration of safe access to the Mahogany Trail and Towilla Way.

B: Statement of Self-regulation.

As representatives of the user groups of the Belfast Coast Reserve Community, we hereby submit the following self-regulation systems to support the management of users within the Belfast Coastal Reserve:

6. Warrnambool Trail Horse Riders Club riders comply with the code of conduct as per DSE File. Ref/SP. Ref: SP443020. (Appendix 1)
7. Recreational horse riders promote the code of conduct outlined in Appendix 1 and comply with all conditions outlined by signage installed on the Reserve.
8. Hobby racehorse trainers including adjoining landholders adhere to the self-regulation conditions outlined in Appendix 2.
9. Local dog owners promote the "dogs on lead" system when applicable and as required by any Belfast Coastal Management Plan and comply with all conditions outlined by signage installed on the Reserve.

C: Signature Section.

Representatives signed for on behalf of Belfast Coastal Community User Group :

Traditional Owner

Framlingham Community

Signature:

Date

7/3/18

South West Owners, Trainers and Riders Association (SW)

Signature

Date

7/3/18

Signature:

Date

9/03/2018

Historical Hobby Horse Trainers.

Signature: ..

Date

7/3/2018

Signature

Date

7/3/2018

Warrnambool Trail Horse Riding Club (WTHRC)

Signature: Date 7.3.18
Signature: Date 7.3.18
Signature: Date 7.2.18
Signature: Date 10.3.18

Local & Surrounding Residents – Recreational Horse Riders

Signature: Date 10-03-2018

Rundell's Mahogany Trail Rides Warrnambool.

Signature: Date 9/3/18

Windsurfers and Kitesurfers

Signature: Date 10/3/18
Signature: Date 7/3/18
Signature: Date 7-3-18

Towilla Way Residents

Signature: Date 7/03/18
Signature: Date 7-3-18

User Group: Local & Surrounding Residents – Dog Walkers.

Signature: Date 10/3/2018
Signature: Date 7.3.18
Signature: Date 7.3.18
Signature: Date 8.3.18
Signature: Date 10.3.18
Signature: Date 8.3.18
Signature: Date 9.3.2018
Signature: Date 9/3/2018

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

**19. Councillor Notice of Motion –
Beach – Restricted Access**

Horses on Killarney

moved, **seconded** that Moyne Shire Permit the South West Owners, Trainers and Riders Association (SWOTRA), restricted, regulated and controlled access to Killarney Beach (between the boat ramp and a point 600m west of the boat ramp) for the exercise and rehabilitation of Moyne Shire based horses subject to the following conditions:

1. Trainers must be members of SWOTRA.
2. Training is only permitted on Killarney Beach from 1 February to 15 December, excluding Easter weekend and Folk Festival long weekend holiday.
3. Horses are only to walk, trot and/or canter on beach between dawn and 10am daily.
4. Annual fee of \$100 per permit to be paid by SWOTRA to Moyne Shire.
5. SWOTRA must provide Moyne Shire with details of trainers' name, contact details and the number of horses intending to use the beach.
6. A daily log must be kept by trainers using the beach and made available upon request to Moyne officials.
7. Each trainer is permitted a maximum of 2 horses on the beach or in the water per day.
8. A maximum of 6 horses be permitted on the beach plus up to 4 horses in the water at any one time.
9. Horses must only walk, trot and/or canter at the water's edge.
10. Horses are not permitted on the soft sand.
11. Permit must be displayed in trainers' vehicle at all times.
12. All horses, floats and equipment are to be removed from the car park by 10:30am.
13. Access to the beach is only permitted via the boat ramp.
14. Horses must work in pairs, at a minimum of 50 metres between pairs.
15. Riders must produce a copy of the Permit authorising their use of the beach when requested by a Moyne Shire officer.
16. Horses are not permitted in the dunes under any circumstance.
17. Horses must be kept at least 20 metres from other beach users.
18. Riders must be courteous and respectful towards other beach users and avoid confrontation.
19. Horses must be under effective control at all times.
20. Horses must wear saddle cloths clearly identifying the relevant trainer.
21. Riders must wear approved Racing Victoria gear at all times.
22. Only trainers subject to this Permit, or their direct employees may be in control of horses at the car park or on the beach.
23. Any permit holder operating on the beach must maintain a public liability insurance policy to the value of \$20 million (this is mandatory for all licensed trainers).
24. All manure must be removed from the car park, access track and beach, as well as excess urine being washed from car parks.
25. Horses are not to be tethered to public infrastructure including fences.
26. Any incident involving, horse, trainer, rider or the public is to be reported immediately to the Moyne Shire on
27. Breach of any of the above conditions will result in one written warning being

issued to the permit holder. Any additional breach may result in the issue of an infringement and the permit being cancelled without further notice.

28. Permits will be issued with preference to rate-paying trainers based in the Moyne Shire.

29. Permit may be cancelled or conditions amended by the Council at any time under delegated authority.



Warrnambool Planning and Heritage Group Inc

“Providing a resident voice on planning
and heritage issues in Warrnambool”

Submission Belfast Coast Reserve Management Plan

Our general comments are:

1. There is an extraordinary contradiction within the draft plan. The plan outlines the various threats and risks to the natural and cultural values of the reserve and recommends strict controls on where and how recreational uses are to be managed in the future to mitigate these threats and risks. At the same time, it seems totally illogical that there is a recommended expansion of commercial racehorse training in parts of the reserve.
2. Recreational horse riding and commercial racehorse training are very, very different activities and often the plan appears to seek to confuse these activities and to downplay the intensity and impact that commercial racehorse training has on the values of the reserve. This includes the safety and enjoyment of people using the reserve.
3. It is increasingly difficult to understand how the support for the racing industry that is inherent in the plan is relevant, desirable or even worthy of being considered in the management of the reserve. All the justifications used by the racing industry for using the dunes and beaches in the reserve do not stack up against protecting the values and visitor experience to the reserve. There is a government funded sand training track at the Warrnambool racing club and one of the main trainers using the beaches has also built his own sand track at Maldon. The economic justification for allowing commercial racehorse training on any section of the reserve – i.e. that the racing industry is of regional economic importance - does not in any way justify the trashing of the values of the reserve. It also disallows consideration of the regional economic importance of tourism, which for Warrnambool generates more than half of the total economic output of 3.3 billion.
4. Recreational uses need to be all much better managed than they are now with some activities banned all together (such as sand dune boarding, jet skis, hunting, off road vehicles, trail bikes) that have a significant impact on the environmental values. There does also need to be a well-supported community education campaign to enable more in our local community to understand the values of the reserve so that people feel proud of this rich cultural and environmental wonderland so

that protection belongs to all. Dog should not be allowed off leash with the first part of the hooded plover breeding season (August to end of November).

5. We disagree with the plan's recommendation that the fragmented management across the reserve be continued. We would like to see the reserve become a park under the National Parks Act with a link to Tower Hill as a further tourist destination where people can visit and see the plants, animals and birds while also learning about and enjoying the cultural heritage of the area.

6. It actually seems insulting to Traditional Owners and the community groups and volunteers who have provided stewardship and spent many hours planting, weeding, monitoring and protecting endangered birdlife to suggest they can 'work with users and community groups to reduce impacts from both authorised and illegal access on the fragile coastal dune systems' while one of the authorized activities is commercial racehorse training that alone and of itself is an extreme risk to the cultural heritage and environmental values of the reserve.

Yours sincerely

Warnambool Heritage and Planning Group

Belfast Coast Management Plan: - Individual Submission – in addition to my earlier post

As part of my further submission I would like to submit two parts.

- A. Individual Survey – Personal comments and personal experience
- B. Public Petition – Community comments and community experiences
- C. Joint Letter – Belfast Coast Community Users Group – Letter of Common Requests.

Part A: Individual Survey – Personal Comments and Personal Experiences

Name:

Email Address:

Post Code :

Age Range : Adult

Gender : Female

Is this submission to be treated as Confidential : NO

How often do you use the Reserve : Daily – Every day

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

I drive to the basin to swim

– and ride on the beach

I walk down via Towilla Way and Gormans Road

I ride my bike

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)

From Gormans Road we will ride to Killarney Beach, or East to Levies. The connectivity and ability to take long rides is very important.

We have had dogs and I have fond memories of and running behind me in my beach training circuit from Gormans to Towilla Way and home.

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

We are a very fit and healthy family. We love the outdoors and we love the lifestyle down here in Killarney.

Riding horses is such a natural pastime to undertake down here – the beach and the horse is a natural connection.

Access to the beach and the continuation of these activities is extremely important to our family's lifestyle. It is extremely important to all of us to enjoy the beach with our animals.

Which part of the Reserve do you use most frequently: I access the beach mainly from Killarney boat ramp through to Levies. –I enjoy the long horse rides from Gormans towards Warrnambool. And Gormans to Killarney Beach.

When I walk to the beach I access it via Towilla Way –

My favourite morning walk/run/ride is the loop around Towilla Way and Gormans Road – I get a refreshing mix of farmland and beach.

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

My area of interest is recreational and particularly with an animal.

Beach riding and walking the dog are the best for my family's health and well-being.

I like the beach to be clean and free from litter – our family is always collects rubbish – especially when we were down there with our dogs. The local community seems to be of the same opinion. The beaches have improved dramatically over the last decade. Far less rubbish on the beaches than there ever was.

The bird life is abundant, and very relaxing to be amongst. The birds seem to have become quite domesticated over the years. They are hardly disrupted when I pass by.

The beaches have changed over the years. The marram grass has caused the sand dunes to cause cliffs and mountains rather than the undulating sand hills. Many of the burial sites and midden sites are buried deep below the sand dunes. Riding / training horses over Hoon Hill for example, has no effect on the burial sites underneath.

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

Current Conservation Zone vs Mills Reef.

Public Access has historically always been via Killarney Beach, The Basin, Towilla Way, Gormans and The Cutting, it has never been via Mills Reef beach. Dog walkers do not go onto the beach via the Mills Reef track at the Golf Course.

The existing road accesses to the beaches via The Basin, Towilla Way, Gormans Road and The Cutting, allows easy and obvious access for people. People will continue to use these access points with animals regardless of any restrictions (conservation zone). It will be a nightmare for Parks Victoria to manage and a public relations disaster. Recent conversations with the local dog walkers at Gormans Road – lead me to think that people will continue to walk their dog despite any no-go zone. People do not want to go to a 'no-go' point such as Mills Reef beach track – they will continue to use the car parks they have always used. It will create conflict and dissention in the community if you close down these areas to the dog walkers and recreational horse riders.

Alternative Conservation Zone – Mills Reef Beach area.

Access to Mills Reef by contrast is less public. The golf course reduces the public access entry points. Historically, this entry point is not used by the majority of dog walkers. **This area would be much easier to manage as a Conservation Zone.** Not many dog walkers do a loop from Mills Reef to Golfies for example. You do not see people walking along Woodbine Road from the Golf Course to Golfies – where you see a lot of people walking along Survey Lane with their dog – to do the loop from the Basin to Gormans or to The Cutting. Further to this.

Many district people from Koroit and around will drive to The Basin, Towilla Way, Gormans Road or to The Cutting to walk their dogs. **They do not drive to Golfies – or to Mills beach to walk their dogs.**

Holiday makers may walk to Port Fairy from Killarney Beach – but this is only for a couple of weeks over the holiday season, and for the majority of the year the locals will walk their dogs at The Basin, Towilla Way, Gormans or the Cutting

I believe that a smaller Conservation Zone could be inserted in the Mills Reef beach area – Bounded by the Golf Course. The reduction in the connectivity would have less impact in this smaller conservation zone area – as recreational horse riders do not often ride to Port Fairy East beach. Whereby; in contrast, many recreational riders will ride from Levies to the Cutting or from Gormans to Killarney Beach and back.

Mills Reef Beach area is home to nesting Hooded Plovers – and the absence of cliff faced sand dunes provide for a more conducive breeding habitat, which can be more successfully zoned off from horses and dogs.

Further to this, the activities of the golf course disrupt foxes in the area. Closing off the beach to dog walkers and recreational horse riders will not completely close off the human activity, as golfing on the golf course dunes will continue. Without some form of human disruption – the foxes will thrive in the densely grassed sand dunes.

The following photographs were taken recently by

and the

sand dunes.

Foxes are a huge threat to the bird life in the area.



I believe that Parks Victoria should be able to increase regulations and restrictions to ensure that conservation of the natural environment is maintained in its current healthy state.

May I suggest the following increase in regulations in a conservation-recreation zone:

1. Strict dogs on leads policy during hooded plover breeding season.
2. Increased Dog Signage and explanatory signage at Rutledge Cutting, Gormans, Towilla Way and the Basin.
3. Horse riders signage to be to outline such conditions as :
 - Horses must slow to a walk when travelling near others people.
 - Vegetation must not be damaged for any reason.
 - Horses are not permitted to be ridden up or down sand dunes unless utilising existing designated beach access tracks.

Further to this, the beaches are an important resource for the local community, and particularly to ride a horse. There are very few places to ride free from roads – in the area.

The connectivity is extremely important for horse riding – and also dog walking.

By inserting a conservation zone in the middle of the reserve – removes the connectivity of horse riding and dog walking. This would diminish the resource to the community significantly.

I note that I have a very quiet horse that I can take out on the roads. I also note that, whilst horses have right-of-way on the roads, it would be very dangerous for both the horse and on-coming traffic for me to ride along the highway to Port Fairy. But it is definitely an option for me, iĀ the eĀeĀt I ĀaĀ't take that loĀg Āide oĀ the ĀeaĀh.

How important is the Cultural Heritage of the Reserve to you?.....I have been in recent communication with one of the Traditional Owners of the area; is a wealth of knowledge. I have come to understand that the landscape has changed significantly since white settlement. Many of the burial sites and middens have been covered by metres of sand. The dunes are different – the marram grass has changed the landscape completely.

As peā ŌoĀĀeĀts – the cultural heritage and community use needs to interact in an inclusive way. He is comfortable with a Light Green zone – and believes that the heritage component of the area can co-exist effectively with the current community recreation use under tighter regulations.

As a traditional owner, sees the importance of taking a practical approach, work in with the community to meet current community expectations of use, and allow the traditional owners to monitor that use.

states that the landscape has completely changed over the generations. The burial sites and midden sites are deep below the sand dunes. Therefore the ĀaiĀs of a ĀpĀĀtiĀeĀĀĀoĀĀ eĀt aĀeĀot due to heĀt age values.

states that training horses over the sand hill will not affect the burial site below.

Allow the horse training at big baldy and hoon hill – invest in infrastructure – all the race horse industry to have a vested interest in keeping the area strong and controlled.

He believes that it is now more important to work with the community in a cohesive manner, where the traditional owners monitor the reserve.

He believes if you remove the people from the reserve, then you lose that important community investment. The community currently look after the reserve, they remove rubbish, they report injured wildlife – they provide a guardianship of sorts. Removing the people will be removing an important protection resource.

also believes that it is extremely important for the community to show self-regulation:

The Race Horse Industry has worked hard to set up a list of conditions of training.

The trail riders have an agreement in place with the DSE to use the reserve.

More detailed educational and instructional signage can be placed at access points along the reserve.

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

I live in and around the environment as a matter of lifestyle. Unlike people living in inner city suburbs, I am very familiar with how the environment co-exists with the population and demographics down here. The environment is strong. There is considerable bird life – the birds will be disturbed by people walking just as easily as being disturbed by a person walking a dog or a person riding a horse. In fact I believe the birds are more relaxed with animals around. I have watched two pairs of plovers over the past few months. They do not seem to be bothered by me – however they are struggling against the tides washing up each night. The tidal are now well up at night and the pair seem to have disappeared.

WheĀ I Āal k, ĀuĀ oĀĀĀde aloĀg the Ā ateĀ'sedge, the birds hardly move – they are very use to me – and definitely not bothered by my presence.

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

I believe strongly that The Dark Green (Conservation) Zone be replaced with a Light Green (Conservation-Recreation) Zone.

Outdoor exercise and participation in lifestyle recreation activities is the essence of life. Being fit and healthy in a fit and healthy environment is the essence of life.

I have a thorough knowledge of the need to adopt a healthy life involving long term passive recreational pursuits. The beach environment provides the area to participate in a wide range of healthy activities. Walking the dog or riding the horse is extremely important to me as part of my list of long term passive recreational pursuits.

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

As a local resident, it would be extremely devastating for me and my family to have any restrictions on access to the beaches currently outlined in the conservation zone. It would create anxiety and would be detrimental to my health and wellbeing.

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

Yes I do. I believe that Parks Victoria can invest in better signage to ensure that any tighter regulations in the Light Green Zone are clearly visible to the public.

I believe that Parks Victoria could investigate a more seasonal regulation regime – which could be clearly identified through visible signage.

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 that Parks Victoria should be able to implement increased controls in a Recreation-Conservation Zone throughout the whole reserve, without the need to insert a Conservation Zone into the Park.

If you believe dogs and horses should be banned – which areas should they be banned from: -No I do not believe dogs and horses should be banned.

Do you wish to add any further comments: YES

Towilla Way Access Needs to Be Retained

Towilla Way was part of a plan of sub-division. People have purchase properties in the area because of the access to the beach via Towilla Way. The effect on the lifestyle and emotional wellbeing of the people would be significant if this was closed off. Towilla plays a large part of the life of the community – The Basin – Towilla Way trail. Not to mention the claims for adverse effect to property value.

The Mahogany Trail (Old Coach Road)

The mahogany Trail is an important recreation resource in the area. Many recreational horse riders use this track to ride enjoy the trail that it offers. It is particularly important for riders in the winter months. It is currently been zoned off in the dark green zone – so this is another reason why it is important to allow recreation throughout the whole of the reserve. RuAdell's Mahogany Trail Rides relies on this trail as a crucial part of their business.

Guardianship – Community monitoring

If you remove the people from the beaches, as you would if you removed dog walking and recreational horse riding, you will remove the people from the beaches.

Without this vested community interest, the beaches will deteriorate.

At the moment, the people monitor the natural wildlife. Any injured animals are reported. People collect rubbish.

has commented that if you remove the people from an area, then no body is monitoring the area. Vandals can come in and destroy certain parts and nobody knows about it.

Maintaining a community presence in the area is also an important as a fox controlling measure. Foxes live in the sand dunes. They are opportunistic feeders and will eat anything they can find. The shore nesting birds are particularly vulnerable.

Motor Bikes

It goes without saying that the current ban on motor bikes or any type should continue. Motor bikes in the sand dunes are obviously a breach of regulations and should be appropriately policed. The whole community should not suffer because of the actions of a few delinquent motor bike riders.

Hobby Horse Trainers and Large Commercial Horse Trainers

The Hobby Horse Trainers who use the beach – usually do so for light to moderate exercise. They are essentially equivalent to recreational horse riders.

I will often stop and chat to the local trainers walking, trotting or cantering on the beach. They have no impact and should be allowed to continue as they have done historically.

A well-resourced designated area is required to cater for the Larger Commercial Horse Training enterprises.

With appropriate investment in infrastructure of car parks and road access for example, these areas can accommodate for the high intensity horse training.

states that Horse training on Hoon Hill can be set aside for Race Horse training.

Larger enterprises should be lobbied to contribute financially to the development, and subsequently retain a vested interest in overall management and maintenance of the area.

Further to this, if an appropriate facility was developed in this area, then the large commercial horse training enterprises will have no need to travel to other areas of the beach.

This will essentially return the Race Horse Training to the level of the historical use, and this would eliminate much of the conflict in other areas of the Reserve.

Part B: Public Petition – Community Comments and Community Experiences

To follow the public petition including signatures, postcodes of signatories and comments from people.

The community has strongly voiced their opinions of removing the dark green (conservation zone) and replacing it with a light green (conservation-recreation) zone, to continue to allow dog and horses on the beaches from Killarney through to Warrnambool.

Their comments are genuine, and are predominantly made by local district people.

Part C: Joint Letter – Belfast Coast Community Users Group – Letter of Common Requests.

I wish to formally submit the following letter from the Belfast Coast Community Users Group – Letter of Common Requests

This letter is compiled by representatives of the community who use the reserve for recreation activities.

The group has recently come together to express a united voice in an attempt to demonstrate community unity.

The group has outlined essential underlying requirements for the management plan.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of my submission.

Kind regards,

Australia	28-02-18
Australia	01-03-18
Australia	01-03-18
Australia	03-03-18
UK	03-03-18
Australia	04-03-18
UK	04-03-18
Australia	04-03-18
Australia	04-03-18
Australia	04-03-18
Canada	04-03-18
Australia	04-03-18
Australia	04-03-18
Canada	04-03-18
Australia	04-03-18
UK	04-03-18
Netherland	04-03-18
Australia	04-03-18

PART B - Public Petition - comments

change.org

Recipient: Victorian State Government

Letter: Greetings,

Stop the Government Control Over your Recreational Space –
Reclaim Your Beaches.

Comments

Name	Location	Date	Comment
		2018 02 06	Beaches are for everyone
		2018 02 06	It's a good recreational pastime walking our dogs along the waterfront good for human and your dog (on lead and cleanup if they have a toilet stop) (please make it law for the people to cleanup after themselves more importantly)
		2018 02 07	Makes me angry and sad Responsible dog owners who enjoy a walk and maybe even a swim with their dogs on the beach are not the problem we need to be worrying about I also loved a ride on my horse along the waters edge. Us humans destroy our beaches and our oceans not our animals. Maybe we should look at that!
		2018 02 07	Our family, horses and dogs have used these beaches for years, are rate payers in the shire and are respectful of the land and natural animals.
		2018 02 07	The beaches are for everyone, we are rare payers we deserve to use the beach like everyone else which includes taking our horses and dogs down to the beach
		2018 02 07	Government doesn't again bans something else that they don't understand. Let them be free to swim and play
		2018 02 07	Because everyone has rights
		2018 02 07	Commercial horse training on the reserve does need to be regulated/controlled but to ban activities just bureaucratic overkill. Public spaces should be available for responsible public use.
		2018 02 07	Great way to keep active Victorians healthy.
		2018 02 07	This is discriminatory!
		2018 02 07	I love the beaches for our horses & dogs.
		2018 02 07	<p>the ability to ride on the beach, either directly via access off the road or by driving to Goremans Lane or Karney.</p> <p>Runde's Mahogany Trail rides as a sole reliance on beach access as a vital part of the business.</p> <p>ride down to the beach or walk our dog at many of the beaches outlined in the plan. We are always mindful of being sensible about pace, aware of other uses and of the need to stay well clear of fenced off hooded plover nesting sites and we do an induction to advise our guests of these conditions of using the beach as we</p>

Name	Location	Date	Comment
			as provided regarding the native birds and the need for protection. To remove our ability to use the beach as a recreational area for riders and dog owners is an infringement of liberty, a gross omission from the original plans outlined and we will have huge impact
		2018 02 07	This will lower my property value, and will force me to have to drive to another location for access (green gas emissions). Walking dogs on the beach is great exercise
		2018 02 07	I love living near the coast, and it should be for everyone to use! There is nothing more enjoyable than riding at the beach or watching your dogs have the time of their lives. We do this with RESPECT for our environment, despite what some may think!
		2018 02 07	I support the residents choice.
		2018 02 07	It is imperative that we be allowed responsible recreational use of the Belfast reserve.
		2018 02 07	Punishing the MANY horse and dog people to please the minority of stupid whingeing idiots.
		2018 02 07	
		2018 02 07	YES to respectful recreational activity on the Belfast Coastal Reserve and NO to high impact commercial racehorse training.
		2018 02 07	It is public and not minority
		2018 02 07	Because leaves the beaches for recreational use as they have always been horses on race track where they belong
		2018 02 07	The beach is the perfect place for dogs to safely be exercised on the lead.
		2018 02 07	The beach is a public place and can and should be open to anyone. Rules need to be in place to make it enjoyable for all users. Develop good rules instead of closing it. Keep certain areas free from public and others open. Balance it out. Thanks
		2018 02 07	Pot can are just a bunch of morons and I really hope everybody remembers this when election time comes.. IDIOTS..!!!

Name	Location	Date	Comment
		2018 02 07	I am signing this because its not right that the anyone should stop people with their dogs walking or horses riding along this beach they do no harm
		2018 02 07	I feel as an Australian citizen I have a constitutionally right to walk on a beach, dog/dogs, horse/horses, I do not believe this should be thought of as a privilege, although I do think we are "privileged" in Australia, I feel the same way about the mountains, we are lucky to live in such a beautiful, bountiful country, I have a great deal of respect for all things in nature and I believe in conservation, so that we may all live alongside each other!! be they human or animal!!
		2018 02 07	Send the race horses back to warrnambool and problem solved I am so surprised to see how unsafe worksafe are in regards to this issue of racehorses in public space Worksafe absolutely hammer the building industry, the retail industry and manufacturing but obviously can't get out of bed early enough to witness the unsafe environment that does on occasion exist at the Golfies car park
		2018 02 07	We should be able to use the beach equally horse riding, surfing, walking with/out dogs, swimming. Provide facilities to accommodate a ...
		2018 02 07	Bad owners shouldn't spoil their responsible owners!
		2018 02 07	I have a horse & dogs I am a responsible owner who respects the environment & love taking them to the beach.
		2018 02 07	I believe the beaches for everyone. More pollution coming from metro areas than country Vic
		2018 02 07	I'm a responsible dog owner and horse rider and believe those who are not should be penalised. Not the responsible ones.
		2018 02 07	A couple of bad eggs should ruin it for the whole population! I spearfish and I access beaches a lot and notice 99% of pet owners are responsible and that majority of idiots can make your blood boil but not to ban everyone who has followed the rules and show respect.
		2018 02 07	Don't think it should be open solely for the horse racing industry to be on the beach but can't see why they cannot be there from 5 to 9 am local horse only and recreational horse at any time like everyone else, Karney's is a dirt sand beach anyway! As far as the Hooded plovers go they have nested in the medium strip on raglan parade are we going to stop cars going past!
		2018 02 07	I have walked dogs and ridden horses on Southwest beaches. I keep to the wet sand and only use established walk tracks. If you want people to love and

Name	Location	Date	Comment
			appreciate and look after our beautiful coastline they have to be able to connect with it.
		2018 02 07	Beaches are for everyone, certain times of the year there hardly used, horses train early in the morning before most people are even up and pony clubs stick to non swimming beaches, nothing like taking your dogs for a swim
		2018 02 07	Dog and horse owner
		2018 02 07	Get rid of the dark green zones, make them light green, keep beach access for recreational users AS IT IS and should be!
		2018 02 07	This is the most ridiculous suggestion I have heard. Department Statistics show that the average Australian Family consists of Husband, Wife, one child and dog or Cat. The dog is part of the Australian Family and beach belongs to families. Next you will be wanting to ban children.
		2018 02 07	The proposed ban to dog walkers and recreational horse riders is a disgrace when you're allowing race horses on the beach. I'm a responsible dog owner who has been visiting the Belfast Coastal Reserve for years. In that time I've often come across recreational riders and other responsible dog owners, many who are regulars and do the right thing. Sadly there is a very small percentage who do the wrong thing, but a number of regular visitors I've seen one Parks Victoria ranger. The signage re: the hooded plovers are small, faded, dated and often fallen over. It's a wonder that people don't pay attention to them, and with no attendance, education and enforcement from Parks Victoria the responsible 1% continue unchecked. Locking us out is not the answer, many of us care for the area, report wildlife in trouble, pick up rubbish, report blatant wrongdoing and genuinely want to do the right thing. If anyone in the area wants to get some more action happening please contact me. I'm keen to help!
		2018 02 07	The cutting is the ONLY beach I can walk my dog! Not all dogs are able to be around other dogs.....mine can't as he gets too excited, which is why I walk him alone. I am very mindful and careful as to where he goes so as to not to interfere with any wildlife and clean up after him if needed.
		2018 02 07	the beach is there to be enjoyed by all
		2018 02 07	I love walking my dog on the beach!
		2018 02 07	I love to walk my dogs on the beach at KILLARNEY. We are responsible dog owners and appreciate the beaches as natural, recreational spaces that can be shared by all. I want the areas marked dark green in this proposal changed to light green. How did an issue about racehorse access (big gambling business) suddenly become a pet walking issue

Name	Location	Date	Comment
			(family business). Wrong on so many levels. Promote healthy living and outdoors in the South West. Shame on you Vic gov.
		2018 02 07	My Dad told me we all have the right to access beaches and public waterways for fishing and other recreational pursuits and was once free for all residents to farm for the common good of all people. Taking any of these rights away that harm no one is draconian. And I will always oppose such moves.
		2018 02 07	I live in the area and it will adversely affect all the local families
		2018 02 07	I ride horses
		2018 02 07	Please register your opinions by completing a submission via the Parks Victoria official link: https://engage.vic.gov.au/belfast Only the numbers through the portal will fix the stuff up.
		2018 02 07	I believe our beaches should be free for all our use not a select few. We are a democracy.
		2018 02 07	I don't go where my dog can't go
		2018 02 07	I love walking my dogs at the beach. The government should be more focused on other issues around Warrnambool rather than stopping people enjoying themselves at the beach.
		2018 02 07	The beaches are for everyone, we can all share our natural recreation areas.
		2018 02 07	We've in this beautiful area to enjoy the beach. Dogs, horses and all.
		2018 02 07	What next stop the kids from building Sand Castles, grow some Bass Government, plenty of Beach/ Coast for all to enjoy
		2018 02 07	If it's to be left up to me.....The beaches and coastline are for all to enjoy, the natural coastline erosion causes more harm to the dunes than the humans and animals. Let's all enjoy it while it's still there! We are becoming a very civilized world 📍
		2018 02 07	I agree that commercial horse training on beaches needs to be restricted, and that dogs should be on leads in hooded puppy breeding season but I think the potential adverse effects recreational riders too much.
		2018 02 07	It's completely bullshit that I can't walk my dog on a beach or ride a horse@

Name	Location	Date	Comment
		2018 02 07	Post to be a free country load of shit that s leave what we got left alone
		2018 02 07	Closure would preclude local and owners from the very thing that brings them to the area. The importance of healthy activities for young and old alike promotes a healthy lifestyle. Without access to these areas, locals are required to drive (yes get in the car and burn fuel) to do what should be freely available locally
		2018 02 07	The proposal is unacceptable
		2018 02 07	Council obviously lacking common sense!
		2018 02 07	People and their rubbish do more damage than riding a horse or walking a dog
		2018 02 07	Leave the beaches as they are.
		2018 02 07	Recreational horse riders are common sense conservationists
		2018 02 07	Great exercise for humans and dogs together enjoying nature.
		2018 02 07	This is so important for me and my dogs to be able to walk along these beaches we don't have a very big backyard and are very respectful of the environment. It's therapeutic for myself and my dogs and I think this is a ridiculous plan. It actually infuriates me. The BCRs can coexist with my dogs they would usually in the wild, where they would face more issues, my pups are well trained and I watch them at times. What a joke stop trying to pay god!
		2018 02 07	There are other ways to better protect our coast & the protection of bird nest areas other than a flimsy bit of rope & a pole. Have you seen the coastline a dog or horse didn't cause that. Lets try other methods such as horse poo bags. I am a responsible dog owner that picks up my dogs faeces, why shouldn't horse riders? Ban people from parking on the beach at the boat ramps for boat unloading only. Put a gate to the entrance thereby discouraging night messengers & campers. I am a forming access points on to the beach through the sand dunes along that stretch thereby offering more protection. Banning horse riders & dog owners is NOT the 1st point of action or the best result. We should be encouraging people to get out into our great outdoors not ban or exclude groups of people. Lets try penalising/educating the people that do the wrong thing and NOT just slap a blanket ban on our beaches. Remember I'm a taxpayer and I vote.
		2018 02 07	Beaches are for all to enjoy

Name	Location	Date	Comment
		2018 02 07	We love walking along these beaches with our families and dogs.
		2018 02 07	Beaches are for all to enjoy and should be shared by all those who choose to visit them, including those with horses or dogs.
		2018 02 07	Very surprised at the science from another government department (Worksafe) Happy to hammer the building industry, the retail industry and manufacturing industry yet can't get out of bed early enough go and witness and report on the unsafe workplace of horse training activities at the golfies car park
		2018 02 07	It's right
		2018 02 07	The Beachs are for everyone !
		2018 02 07	My dog loves the beach! It should be open to everyone.
		2018 02 07	The beach is for all creatures great and small. Ban humans if your going to ban anything!
		2018 02 07	It's a safe beach for everyone to enjoy why change it?
		2018 02 07	I don't believe the evidence in the draft supports the reasons why horse riding should be banned. I've ridden along the beaches and within the dunes for years and would like to see this continued for generations to come.
		2018 02 07	Leave our beaches alone
		2018 02 07	Because I use this beach to walk my dogs, it's good exercise for them and me and I would like to keep freedom or do we move to South Australia where we are more welcome.
		2018 02 07	The beach should be for everyone to use, in all facets of enjoyment and exercise. We often go to the beach. We are very respectful of the environment, so please make it a (light green) conservation recreation zone.
		2018 02 07	Beaches should be there for everyone. Pet owners, horse riders and walkers!! The areas with hooded pavers are fenced and have signage so people know not to let the dogs or horses near that area. Soon we will be banned from walking on any beach. About time the Victorian government spent the right time fixing real issues.
		2018 02 07	This is my backyard. I should be able to walk my dog there whenever I choose.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
		2018 02 07	We have enjoyed riding our horses and walking our dogs along these beaches for years and years and we should be able to continue to do so. They are there for everyone to enjoy
		2018 02 07	I love our beaches and want people to enjoy them in lots of different ways. Banning these activities is not the best outcome
		2018 02 07	I have an intimate knowledge of that marine area and of horses and ecology and am aware that animals are the least part of the problem except the human animal which pollutes the area.
		2018 02 07	There is enough beach for everyone and being a recreational rider we do no harm we stay away from the fenced off areas. This is very unfair to everyone that has been going to these places and the reserves and enjoy it.
		2018 02 07	I have enjoyed walking my dogs on these beaches many times. I would consider holidaying elsewhere if I could not do this... shame on whoever thought of this.
		2018 02 07	To many rules in Australia. People pets are just as important as a friend and companion
		2018 02 07	Please allow our animals on our beaches I have spent time watching the horses in the water & they enjoy it so much as our dogs do too.
		2018 02 07	People need to stop smoking & allow everybody, human or animal to use the beach, harden up people! After a everybody takes a punt don't they, so without training on beaches & in the water our horses would not be racing or recovering! Step up!
		2018 02 07	We have been able to share this beach harmoniously why change something that is already working. Each day I go down to this beach I see there is wildlife plenty, dogs walking and enjoying a swim, horses as so respectfully using the space a beautiful environment with enough to share.
		2018 02 07	The Beach is for all users not just a mandated few
		2018 02 07	Dogs and horses should have a right to swim and enjoy the environment just like humans. And with a responsible human present should not cause any concerns to the environment
		2018 02 07	Dogs are part of most families don't understand why anyone would want to ban them from beaches, majority of pet owners are responsible in cleaning up after their pets and this activity gives both owner and dog much pleasure. Why should a minimum amount of pet owners spoil a family festivity.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
		2018 02 07	Can out aw any more norma th ngs?
		2018 02 07	Because we do ook after our beaches & they are for everyone to enjoy. It s what makes v ng here so n ce.
		2018 02 07	I wa k my dog on beaches as t shou d be my r ght. I m a respons b e dog owner. I have a prob em w th peop e who don t ke dogs. What next???
		2018 02 07	There's noth ng wrong w th a ow ng peop e and the r an ma s freedom to wa k the beaches the rest of us do!
		2018 02 07	If owners cean up after the r horses and dog then I rea y don t understand what the prob em w th them be ng on the beaches s. Dogs and horses ove the beaches too, my dog abso ute y oves the beach and he oves chas ng the waves.
		2018 02 07	My dog needs to and ves wa k ng on the beach
		2018 02 07	I don t agree w th the government, share the beaches
		2018 02 07	I abso ute y ove wa k ng my 2 dogs on the beach every day wh ch I have done for n a cond t ons and I th nk as a dog owner we have r ghts as we we are not ask ng to be on the beach where the flags are and we respect the m tat ons over the tou st per od
		2018 02 07	I'm s gn ng because hav ng the freedom to horse r de or wa k our dogs a ong these wonderfu beaches a ows (and attracts) fo k from many d fferent areas to exper ence our g or ous country and enjoy the outdoors. I wou d be heartbroken f th s cho ce was den ed. We a respect the beauty, we a shou d be ab e to enjoy the exper ence
		2018 02 07	They make the beach as ong on ead br ng t on say xo
		2018 02 07	Not on y do I wa k my dog on the beach, we a so have a young race # beach work s a mportant part off tra ng and ma nta n ng soundness
		2018 02 07	I over ook the sa d reserve, fera cats and foxes do more damage to a an ma s around th s area wether domest c or nat ve. I ve been wa k ng the d str ct beaches a my fe w th my dogs , we eave on y footpr nts #
		2018 02 07	I ove us ng the beach w th my horses and dog s. Its a free open pub c space why cant we share the space w th the other b rds and an ma s and humans.
		2018 02 07	I. Fee . Deep y about th s
		2018 02 07	Th s government on y cares about the m nor ty and not the major ty. They shou d be work ng on po ut on w th our

Name	Location	Date	Comment
			beaut fu beaches not bann ng an act v ty wh ch Is as been around for years!
		2018 02 07	The beach s for everyone/th ng.
		2018 02 07	Our bert es are so denuded now. NO MORE PC.
		2018 02 07	Thank you for h gh ght ng the var ous po nts you have n the above pet t on.
		2018 02 07	I wa k my dog on the beaches when I'm over there
		2018 02 07	S ck of more and more of our country be ng den ed to us. We are encouraged to be act ve yet any chance of enjoyment s be ng removed.
		2018 02 07	We shou d be ab e to wa k our dogs and access these beaches ke we have a ways done. I agree to ru es n not ru n ng dunes ect but come on the ocean does more damage. As for the p overs they have surv ved for hundreds of years and w cont nue to surv ve.
		2018 02 07	Th s has been a ong t me tra n ng ground for horses of many d sc p nes. It shou d stay open to recreat ona users. If your c os ng the beaches to horse s wh ch are a veh c e governed by road aws, then your c os ng the beaches to a 4wd, ATV, SUV and B kes.
		2018 02 07	It s the r ght th ng to do
		2018 02 07	I ove see ng the dogs and horses on the beaches
		2018 02 07	Do.not.be dece ved.mot.counc s.state.and.Austrs an.government.fo.not.have.your. nter g ve.the..a.n ghtmare.t mes.are.chang ng
		2018 02 07	Th s s just a wrong
		2018 02 08	S ck of nanny state bu dh t
		2018 02 08	th s s so wrong!!!!
		2018 02 08	I ove wa k ng my dog on the beach and t s gett ng more and more m ted.
		2018 02 08	My dog oves to sw m at beach
		2018 02 08	Best moments n t me are the memor es grow ng up w th r d ng on the beach. I a so take the dogs to the beach
		2018 02 08	Th s and peop e pay for and own co ect ve y and h stor ca y.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
		2018 02 08	The beach should be a recreational facility for all in the community not just something to admire from a distance. Restricting recreational use significantly impacts the health and wellbeing of those in the local community.
		2018 02 08	I'm signing this as it's ridiculous what the government plans. We should be able to walk our dogs or just us walking along the beach.
		2018 02 08	This area should remain available for public recreational use. It appears that it's seen to be more acceptable to allow commercial racehorse training than to let the general public use it for low impact activities such as dog walking.
		2018 02 08	I take dogs to the beach and have taken horses and want to be able to keep taking them
		2018 02 08	I believe our beaches should be available to all responsible riders and dog owners we have a right to use open spaces in a responsible and considerate way
		2018 02 08	Not coastal areas deserve the right too have their pets in The R Beaches
		2018 02 08	I want to take an evening stroll along the beach with my family and our dogs.
		2018 02 08	All dogs, horses and people should be allowed on the beach. The beach is a fun place for all.
		2018 02 08	Beaches are for all. Be inclusive.
		2018 02 08	I'm signing this because this shouldn't even be a problem! Let the animals walk the beaches with their owners! It's good exercise for everyone.
		2018 02 08	I love walking my dogs on the beach main reason that I go to the beach
		2018 02 08	I love walking my dog on the beach.
		2018 02 08	Gangstar
		2018 02 08	It restricts a healthy festive
		2018 02 08	I don't believe this should be closed
		2018 02 08	Even one loves the beach
		2018 02 08	I love walking my dog on the beach.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
		2018 02 08	Peop e have a r ght to access pub c beaches and use them for recreat ona purposes.
		2018 02 08	I be eve dogs and horses shou d be a owed on the beaches I can understand that they cant have horses and dogs on every beach as peop e need to have space too but there s room for both on the beaches
		2018 02 08	Thea beach s a pub c fac ty that shou d be enjoyed by a part es be t human or an ma . As ong as a users are respons b e shou d not be a prob em. No d fferent than the bush, shared w th mounta n b ke r ders, motor b kes, horse r ders, wa kers and runners. I have been r d ng for a my fe and have never come across any ncos derate person n the bush a respect ng each others pass ons. Motor b kes s ow down or turn off motors or pu over wa t ng pat ent y for horse r ders to pass. We w a ways have the few but ets be sens b e th s s everyones each not just a govern ng body that th nk they have the power to d ctate who and who cannot enjoy nature.
		2018 02 08	I be eve I shou d be ab e to wa k my dogs at the beach on eads.
		2018 02 08	I want dogs, our can ne compan ons, to safe y & respectfu y roams have beaut fu beaches a space for a , not just race horses & the r owners!
		2018 02 08	I enjoy wa k ng my dogs free y wh st under contro
		2018 02 08	Respons b e dog owners shou d have the same r ghts as everyone e se to wa k a ong the beach! And there are ots of us, who spends ots of money and have ots of votes!
		2018 02 08	We don't want a po ce state..郎
		2018 02 08	Th s po cy has had a terr b e outcome n G pps and. It s pushed horse r ders out on to roads where acc dents happen w th terr b e consequence due to unsafe car dr vers. An ma s are part of our fam es and share our ves. How can tak ng my dog on a eash to the beach be out awed? What s next? Parks?
		2018 02 08	I'm s gn ng because the beach s a wonderfu p ace to wa k your dog. It's a great p ace for your dog to soc a se and get exerc se n the water and n the sand.
		2018 02 08	Need more dogs on beaches.
		2018 02 08	My dogs ove the beach we eave no mess
		2018 02 08	From the ook and content of the book ets been handed out at recent pub c events t appears that the government has been p ann ng th s Be fast Coasta Reserve for some t me. They have consu ted the trad tona owners, oca coun c s, eco og sts, horse tra ners, orn tho og sts but neg ected to

Name	Location	Date	Comment
			<p>even do a ma drop n the etter boxes of the oca s who use the area more often than a the other nterest groups put together. The beach s wonderfu and shou d be respons bly accessed and used. The s gnage n the area makes t qu te c ear wh ch areas and under what cond t ons peop e, dogs and horses can share the areas. I wa k on the beach e ther s de of K arney 3 4 t mes a week, a year round and on y once have I seen a Park Ranger. If you are go ng to have regu at ons and s gnage then po ce them.Sure, ook after the flora and fauna but I wou d suggest many of the br ds who nest on the beach are at the mercy of mother nature because dur ng h gh t des and swe s from the Antarct c the beaches often see the t da</p>
		2018 02 08	<p>My fam y enjoy the beach w th the r dogs. Lots of games and fun. Govt s a k joy!</p>
		2018 02 08	<p>We can a share!</p>
		2018 02 08	<p>I am shocked that the oca res dents were not to d about the proposed draft subm ss on by Parks V ctor a.</p>
		2018 02 08	<p>I am amazed at how many peop e I meet who have no dea about the draft p an of bann ng dogs and recreat ona horses from th s stretch of coast. Th s s such an mportant ssue, p ease pass on th s news to everyone you know. Don t forget to have your say by go ng to the nk that has put n her comment above, here t s aga n https://engage.v.c.gov.au/be fastTh s needs to be done by 16th March.Hard cop es of the survey are a so ava ab e from Moyne Sh re and a so from WCC for those who prefer to do th s by hand.Do not hes tate to vo ce your op n ons to Moyne Sh re as we , wr te to them and et them know that you do not approve.Th s stretch of beach has a ready been made a Coasta Reserve to protect and support flora and fauna, abor g na s tes and recreat ona act v t es, so why the change?A b anket ban s absurd and unnecessary. Let us enjoy our favour te beaches by a ow ng us to do what we ove.Most peop e do the r ght th ng and for those who don t, why not educate and ra se awareness of how</p>
		2018 02 08	<p>A so Parks V ctor a have a &quot;L sten ng Post&quot; so that the pub c can ask the r quest ons and fi the surveys by hand f they w sh. Koro t Street, Warrnamboo , between 10am and 1pm. Th s nformat on can be found at Parks V c webs te. https://engage.v.c.gov.au/be fast</p>
		2018 02 08	<p>Sorry, the &quot;L sten ng Pos:&quot; s th s Saturday.</p>
		2018 02 08	<p>R d ng on the beach s a very spec a once n a fe t me exper ence wh ch most equestr ans dream of. They can t take that away.</p>
		2018 02 08	<p>Beaches be ong to everyone!</p>

Name	Location	Date	Comment
		2018 02 08	I BELIEVE YOU SHOULD REMOVE THE DARK GREEN (CONSERVATION ZONE) AND REPLACE IT WITH A LIGHT GREEN (CONSERVATION RECREATION ZONE)
		2018 02 08	Respons b e dog owners and the r dogs do no damage to des gnated beaches and have just as much r ght to be there as any other peop e.
		2018 02 08	I m s gn ng because I don t want an Orwe an future for our ch dren. Recent y watch ng the amaz ng mov e "V for Vendetta" as we as read ng Margaret Atwood s "A Handma d s Ta e" many years ago, t s ch ng y surrea how we are be ng goaded and m s ead nto a dystop an future n wh ch we as the peop e w be utter y contro ed. I m not a consp racy theor st.... I m just read ng the many warn ng s gns. PROTEST PEOPLE
		2018 02 08	So for Park V ctor a now fam es wa k ng on the beach are a treat to the env ronment and oca fauna, and I thought that the huge amount of foxes, hawks, eag es together w th t des wou d be the prob em for b rd s eggs a d on the beaches. But I m just an uneducated country boy, uck y these good guys n Me bourne w educate us.
		2018 02 08	IThe Be fast reserve s n much better shape than t was ago. The w d fe & vegetat on have mproved dramat ca y n the ast sand dunes are now stab e & fu y cover w th nat ve vegetat on as we as boxthorn. Maybe remove the boxthorn & a ow the dogs & horse access!!!
		2018 02 08	Country fo k use the Beach as a Beach v The Government, who use the beach for the r own po t ca agenda.
		2018 02 08	Country fo k use the beach as a beach .. v ..The Government, who use the beach for the r own po t ca agenda.
		2018 02 08	Horses do not damage beaches nor harm w d fe. They are under contro and be ow the h gh t de mark
		2018 02 08	Th s s r d cu ous to deny th s joy to an ma s and the r owners. There s noth ng more ca m ng than watch ng an an ma enjoy the beaut fu env ronment!
		2018 02 09	I m s ck of the government s underhanded tact cs.
		2018 02 09	We have been do ng t for years, another freedom be ng sto en
		2018 02 09	The beaches are for everyone.
		2018 02 09	I ove to wa k my dog on the beach t wou d be sad oss for everyone who are just try ng to be hea thy and fit espec a y the e der y

Name	Location	Date	Comment
		2018 02 09	I fee that as long as the dog owners pick up after their dog, there's nothing wrong with dogs on the beach.
		2018 02 09	I have 2 dogs and I believe they should be allowed to go to the beach if they want to!! Most decent people with dogs are very aware of other people and respect everyone when their dogs are at the beach.
		2018 02 09	Just to let you know that the location of tomorrow's (Saturday) "Listening Post" with Parks Victoria officers will be outside Target, Korot Street, between 10am and 1pm. Hope you can attend and ask your questions and submit your submissions in person if you prefer that way. All the best.
		2018 02 09	It's a political nightmare this bloody country too many doggoes and lazy pen pushers with no idea
		2018 02 09	I
		2018 02 09	The beaches are for everyone. Horses exercising on the beach are not only a tourist attraction but part of the bigger tourism attraction to the Warrnambool area over the Warrnambool racing season, bringing many hundreds of thousands of dollars to the area.
		2018 02 09	The government has to stop trying to take away from the people of Victoria, what they and people before them have done for years
		2018 02 09	a dude!
		2018 02 09	I am incensed that my celebrities are being ignored!
		2018 02 09	One day I want to walk my dog on the beach
		2018 02 09	Cause my b g s s sad so! Beach therapy is for a being kind x
		2018 02 09	Everyone has the right to enjoy the beaches, surfers, walkers, swimmers, horse riders and dog walkers! Not just the greens, why should they get a the say!
		2018 02 09	I promise to walk my dog on the beach
		2018 02 09	I love this Beach. This place is for everyone 💎
		2018 02 10	I've been walking my dogs there for . No one will stop me!
		2018 02 10	Reduction saw.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
		2018 02 10	I love riding on the beach.
		2018 02 10	A most 1,000 have a ready signed, fantastic effort, please share and invite your friends to support this petition, if your friends are not on facebook, you can also share and support this by sharing to your friends via email as well as other social media options. This is definitely a numbers game, please also go to the Parks link and do the survey by 16 March. https://engage.vic.gov.au/belfast
		2018 02 10	Local recreation riders and dog walkers are aware of the environment and the need to be careful. More info needs to be given to tourists where they are allowed to walk the roads on/off leash. We've in the country where you would expect to be allowed to participate in things like horse riding but when the rail track was done from Port Fairy to Koroit no accommodation was made for horse riders and as beach access (for recreation riding) now being eroded?
		2018 02 10	We are supposed to be in the lucky country!
		2018 02 10	I support historic racehorse activities, recreation riders and dog walkers. Sad that BCRAAG ignored the social aspect of sustainability...
		2018 02 10	I've taken my dogs to this beach for years!!
		2018 02 10	We and our dogs would be devastated if they could not walk on the beach. They are always under control and not at all a problem. We always clean up after them.
		2018 02 10	Pets are our children. They have the right to be with us on our walks. Nobody should deny our family time
		2018 02 10	I HAVE 2 obedient dogs, who love to swim. I always pick up after them. I pay my tax, and dog registration, but see very little in return. There are very few places to exercise dogs in that area.
		2018 02 10	I utilise Mahogany Track for the opportunity to ride on the beach. It's a big tourist draw and a rare opportunity that I would like to see preserved.
		2018 02 10	The beach should be free for horse riding and other recreation activities that don't exploit the environment
		2018 02 10	I have been on a ride and the gress conducting them were very considerate of where we were able to ride etc. Their honesty was considerate of the environment.
		2018 02 10	also a recreation rider in the area myself, it would be sad to see restrictions in the area. We have always used tracks already present, never making new ones, and respect the environment and bird nesting areas especially along the beach.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
		2018 02 10	Mahonany Tra R des respect the env ronment and have been n operat on for a ong t me, they have been serv ng Warrnamboo commun ty and prov ded recreat ona horse rd ng for years. It wou d be such a shame f they were unab e to funct on as norma and d sa ow the commun ty to share th s wonderfu exper ence n such a spec a p ace.
		2018 02 10	Im a dog owner and dogs ke beaches n summer
		2018 02 10	We need to keep th s country a free p ace to enjoy! If they are not caus ng harm then why stop t.
		2018 02 10	I know how frustrat ng and fr ghten ng t can be gett ng chased/barked at by dogs, so we need to a ow certa n areas for dogs and certa n areas for horses. Dogs need to be under contro by owners to enab e th s to occur proper y.
		2018 02 10	Recreat ona r ders are fu y aware of the r respons b ty to the env ronment they use they do not damage t so shou d not be pena sed wh ch s what th s eg s at on s do ng
		2018 02 10	Why wou d you ban horses and dogs and peop e wa k ng on our beaches. Government dont know what they are ta k ng about.
		2018 02 10	
		2018 02 10	We need to be more act ve ..
		2018 02 10	I ve nearby and want to be ab e to wa k my dog. It s our beach to do that
		2018 02 10	Abso ute y r d cu ous..... horses and dogs have the r ght to be on the beach next go ng to ban humans?????????
		2018 02 10	Access to the beach for recreat ona enjoyment horses, dogs, fam es s a centra part of why we ve here and peop e enjoy v s t ng.
		2018 02 10	I comp ete y w th what th s pet t on stands for & I abso ute y ove the freedom of be ng ab e to r de horses n our natura env ronment.
		2018 02 10	I m sogn ng because I am s ck and t red of se f r ghteous peop e want ng pub c p aces just to themse ves. They th nk they are above everyone e se!!
		2018 02 10	I ke to wa k my dog on the beach and don't want th s freedom curta ed.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
		2018 02 10	Govt boffin in Spr ng St have no idea what happens th s s de of West Gate. Pass ve recreat ona users do not damage the env ronment.
		2018 02 10	I w sh to r de on beach, and hope that t s open to everyone n the future
		2018 02 10	We're a becoming too restr ct ve by far! We used to enjoy 5am ga op ng greyhounds on a beach at ow t de good for them and good for us. We shared the beach at that t me w th racehorses who were hav ng a canter out and a sw m w th hand ers. Other parts of the wor d don't restr ct n the same way as Austr a. Our freedoms are be ng ser ous y eroded.
		2018 02 10	"THAT YOU WANT TO REMOVE THE DARK GREEN (CONSERVATION ZONE) AND REPLACE IT WITH A LIGHT GREEN (CONSERVATION RECREATION ZONE)....
		2018 02 10	Because dogs are members of our fam y, and ove the beach just as much as we do.
		2018 02 10	The beach s for a & for a sports !
		2018 02 10	There has to be a better comprom se for everyone to enjoy the beach.
		2018 02 10	get rea guys. some peop e s pets are the r fam y
		2018 02 10	I m s gn ng because horses too need to b ab e to be free to go a ong thr beaches
		2018 02 10	Th s s a r d cu ous dea the beaches are the greatest andmarks of Austr a. There shou d be no restr ct ons for beach goers wa k ng the r dogs. F nes shou d be n p ace for owners who don t c ean up after the r pets. But other than that dogs and horses are no threat to the future of our ove y beaches
		2018 02 10	I enjoy wa k my dog a ong the beach and r ver they don t go anywhere near the b rd (scared of them) they ove sw mm ng at the beach. I a so ove surf at the cutt ng. I th nk they w have a tough t me po c ng th s.
		2018 02 10	I ove tak ng our horses and dogs to the beach
		2018 02 10	What started out as a sma group of horses just us ng the water at Lady Bay for recovery has turned nto a monster. When arr v ng for a beach wa k now, v rtua y the who e car park s fu of trucks and horses. I've even been v rtua y forced off the beach because be ng a h gh t de there was no rom for me and a ga op ng horse. Guess who ended up hav ng to go n the water. It wasn't the horse. P ease stop whoever s try ng to ra road these changes through. If they go through, t w mean the end of the surf coast festy e for res dents and rate payers.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
		2018 02 10	I trust that everyone us ng the beach does respect & have regard for the area .enjoy ng the area w th my an ma s s my greatest joy
		2018 02 10	I enjoy tak ng my dogs and horses to the beach. They're part of my fam y and there are so few beaches we can enjoy w th them. There are numerous non dog and horse beaches. Why can't we have a sma area for ourse ves.
		2018 02 11	Dogs are a part of many fam y s ves, and you have to a ow some recreat ona p ces for these fam es to wa k the r dogs and exerc se the r horses. Th s s not a nanny state..
		2018 02 11	An ma s need there beaches to
		2018 02 11	I th nk everyone shou d be ab e to use our beaches. Inc ud ng horse tra n ng. I th nk f we mp emented t mes for some act v t es, ke horse tra n ng and areas set as de for d fferent act v t es. I th nk th ngs wou d be so much better when we work to together nstead of be ng se fish and want ng everyth ng for our se fish ways. Dogs may need to wear muzz es, f there are other dogs n the r v c n ty. ust to be on the safe s de.
		2018 02 11	Our beaches are our beaches,who the he do the Government th nk they are,for chr st sake eave t a one,everyone has the r ght to use our beaches, horse r d ng, wa k ng the dogs, sw mm ng,who b oody care we a have the r ght to do what we want, eave horse r d ng on the beaches a one
		2018 02 11	I m s gn ng because I have be r d ng and n th s t me I have r dden on the beach a ong s de many tour sts from a over the wor d shorten ng the area that s ava ab e to r de n w make the area h gher n traffic and do more damage to the area not to ment on that t cou d make t more dangerous and that t cou d put peop e, the env ronment, horses, Runde s bus ness and the tour sm ndustry n danger! Horses are do ng ess damage than the motorb kes and 4wds that I ve seen fly ng through the dunes
		2018 02 11	I th nk a breaches shou d be open to pub c. Unfortunate y our s y tt e p overs never know where they are go ng to ay. They w certa n y et you know f you are near them. Dogs horses a owed so ong as under contro and the r poos p cked up.
		2018 02 11	Because t s v ta to the hea th of the commun ty.
		2018 02 11	The rac ng ndustry does wonderfu th ngs for our oca economy. And I'm a respons be dog owner who wou d ke to wa k my dogs on ead a year round at the beach.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
		2018 02 11	If horses are ridden at waters edge, dog walkers are responsible and all beach users show respect for others and common sense applies, there shouldn't be issues. No one group of users should have priority over another.
		2018 02 11	Dogs are family members who love the beach as much as we humans. As long as humans are responsible dog owners & clean up the mess they should be allowed on some beaches.
		2018 02 11	Yeet
		2018 02 11	I want to still be able to walk my dogs along these beaches and will keep my dogs away from nesting areas.
		2018 02 11	<p>I'm signing because I think it's wrong to not let us walk our dogs and ride our show horses on the beaches. It's a free world! Being a horse and dog owner myself, I feel we should have the right to ride our show ponies on the beach and in the water! It's great exercise for the horses and is great for them to go to new places. It's so great to get horses with injury in the salt water.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">It's my</p>
		2018 02 11	It's getting that way you won't be able to do anything with your animals
		2018 02 11	I want to have the freedom to ride my horses and walk my dog on this beach. Respectfully
		2018 02 11	I can
		2018 02 11	<p style="text-align: center;">And I am completely devastated that</p> <p>I wouldn't be able to walk my dog on the beach, I am a responsible dog owner and my dogs just splash in the water. Back on the lead and into the car, never near the dunes. The foxes and snakes cause a lot of damage.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">I will be beyond</p> <p>devastated if this goes ahead.</p>
		2018 02 11	Responsible dog owners should be able to bring their dogs to the beach
		2018 02 11	I'm an animal lover
		2018 02 11	Starting to become a nanny state
		2018 02 11	Responsible animal owners have rights too!

Name	Location	Date	Comment
		2018 02 11	Let the use of the beach be free to everyone 📌📌
		2018 02 11	a ready be eves SA wou d b a better p ace to ve, due to V c be ng over regu ated.
		2018 02 11	To support the beaches for non commerc a pet recreat on. I am a so concerned there s probab y another deve opment agenda bur ed under a th s current change.
		2018 02 11	I have a dog that I wa k regu ar y on the beach. It both re eves my da y stresses and a ows me to exerc se a arge dog ! The reason I ve by the seas de s to be ab e to use t!!
		2018 02 11	Horses shou d not be banned from the beach
		2018 02 11	Everyone shou d be ab e to enjoy our beaches, not just the b rdwatchers, b ock ng OUR beaches and access paths s noth ng more than pander ng to a very sma group who on y care about the r own op n ons
		2018 02 11	We are os ng our r ghts to enjoy our oca env ronment.
		2018 02 11	Why ban th s sort of th ng. Peop e need to be out wa k ng for hea th. As ong as peop e are cean ng up the r dog mess then what's the ssue
		2018 02 11	enjoy a beach r de on a hot day and we a so enjoy wa k ng the dogs and be ng act ve . Take th s away and then ask yourse f why so many k ds are ns de nfront of tab ets and computer games and tv screens and not outs de exp or ng beaches w th the r fam ys and be oved pets ...
		2018 02 11	Th s s a beach our fam y uses regu ar y and we we come horses and dogs to share the env ronment respectfu y together.
		2018 02 11	I agree th s s happen ng n many p aces, t has a ready been ost n many p aces.
		2018 02 11	I agree We have a ways been to d by Parks to r de be ow the h gh water mark and t w be ok.
		2018 02 11	Runde s s a fantast c estab shment and I w sh that a the oca s wou d g ve themse ves a treat to go and have a ove y r de though the var ety of scenery these r des offer. Good uck Runde s.
		2018 02 11	It wou dn t surpr se me
		2018 02 11	Because a ways wa k my dog on the beach when we go away. I a ways cean up after h m. And ts good for the r hea th..

Name	Location	Date	Comment
		2018 02 11	All dogs need this!
		2018 02 11	Banning animals from the beach is ridiculous. Sometimes the only place an animal owner can take their pet to cool down on a hot day
		2018 02 11	There are limited places that equestrian enthusiasts can safely ride horses as urbanisation has taken over.... riding along side of roads has become more dangerous as many drivers don't slow down completely ignoring the safety of riders and horses. The connection between horses & humans is important to maintain & very few riding schools exist but Runda provides a great outdoor activity for everyone to enjoy the experience of horses & they need to be able to access the beach!
		2018 02 12	I live at the beach and we have been locked out of parts of our bush so don't take the beach away please.
		2018 02 12	It's a stupid idea, and I still take my dog to the beach
		2018 02 12	Because we should not be allowing a commercial enterprise to destroy our natural environment. Let them train on a sand track purpose built. The same as other trainers use that don't have stables near a beach
		2018 02 12	Beaches are for everyone
		2018 02 12	It's not fair
		2018 02 12	Most horse type people thought it was good when 4wd and bikes get banned from areas maybe now you can see that it starts with vehicles then you are next I hope you can keep your access buddy police state
		2018 02 12	We all have a right to enjoy our fair country
		2018 02 12	Recreation riders must be able to go both East and West from Karney beach. Many months of the year when the tides are higher it's almost impossible to ride west further than Karney beach as horses cannot get through the rocks at higher tides. Safer for everyone if can choose to go eastward from Karney where beaches are wider and can ride at the water's edge, not up in the soft sand. Karney to The Cutting needs to be permitted for Recreation Horse Riders.
		2018 02 12	Change the dark green Conservation Zone to the no-go zone for horses to light green and allow Recreation Horse Riding at the water's edge. The planned restrictions for Recreation Riders actually only offers a small stretch of beach, determined by the tides. (daytime high tides enforces greater restrictions). In the proposed Map 5 Recreation Horse Access the dark green Conservation Zone should be changed to a light green: Conservation and Recreation

Name	Location	Date	Comment
			Zone and allow Recreational Riders access to the beach from K arney beach to The Cutt ng.
		2018 02 12	Because care.
		2018 02 12	I enjoy the area where I ve, this ncudes beach wa ks w th my dogs that I a ways keep under contro . I am conscous of w d fe a ong the coast and a ways try to do the r ght th ng, t s so d sappo nt ng that we have to start a pet ton to be heard but un ted we w hopefu y make a d fference. Rev ew the green zones.
		2018 02 12	I be eve we a shou d be ab e to enjoy our coast w th our fam y and our dogs are part of that!
		2018 02 12	I run my dogs on the beach, and we as res dents seem to be the ones be ng restr cted as to where we can take our an ma s
		2018 02 12	Beaches shou d b ab e to be enjoyed by a users. Not just a sma group of the popu at on
		2018 02 12	t wou d be more appropr ate to enforce the p ck ng up of horse and dog dropp ngs by owners. p us you w never stop stray dogs on the beach.
		2018 02 12	Sad, we oved wa k ng our dog down at K arney Beach.
		2018 02 12	It's a breach of our c v bert es. I don't r de a horse or own any dogs however I be e ve there s noth ng wrong w th hav ng them share our beaches, th s s just another attempt at cash ng n and tak ng more \$\$\$ from us
		2018 02 12	The dogs and horses just ove to use one of our most wonderfu natura resources . They do not do any harm and are not destruct ve . It s mportant that our pets ,who are an mportant part of our fe get ots of exerc se and so many p aces are un necessary y be ng c osed off . Pets are a va uab e part of our everyday fe . I have never seen a fam y pet m sbehave . I have seen ots of ch dren who behave very bad y Keep the beaches open
		2018 02 12	I wou dn't ke our beaches shut down e ther for horse r d ng. If they c ose one then they w c ose more and have a flow on effect.
		2018 02 12	Dog ssues w get worse and worse f owners aren t a owed to exerc se and soc a se the r dogs. They w end up n backyards not be ng a owed to do anyth ng and cause more and more ssues because they become anx ous stressed and aggress ve.
		2018 02 12	thanks for s gn ng, cou d you a so p ease go to Parks V c survey at https://engage.v c.gov.au/belfast Lodg ng your support there w go d rect y to Parks who s tak ng the

Name	Location	Date	Comment
			survey and numbers will count in this one. Please do so by 16 March.
		2018 02 12	thanks for signing, could you also please go to Parks Vc survey at https://engage.vic.gov.au/belfast Lodging your support there would direct to Parks who's taking the survey and numbers will count in this one. Please do so by 16 March.
		2018 02 12	Riding a horse on the beach is an incredibly fun thing to do
		2018 02 12	I can't believe they would want to change this! Please sign this petition, friends!
		2018 02 12	I have used these beaches and all the dogs I've owned have loved the experience!
		2018 02 12	The beach should be for everyone's recreational use. People enjoy taking their pets to the beach. We have too many rules and regulations now. What a Nanny state we have become. Leave the beaches for all to enjoy. It's pretty easy to have horse and dog areas or times in sections of the beach.
		2018 02 13	People have a right to enjoy the rangelands in an environment that they love.
		2018 02 13	They have already done this on the peninsula and that should be revoked not rolled out to more places until no one can ride their horse or walk their dog without paying a fee A for future revenue raising I'm sure.
		2018 02 13	I like taking holidays near places where I can take my horses beach riding
		2018 02 13	I know the Parks Victoria submission process on the r: ... https://engage.vic.gov.au/belfast pages not easy to decipher. But that's just another one of the r managerial ve techniques to control the conversation. Please make a comment just a simple one would do. You don't need to fill out all the pages just state that you want to "Change the Dark Green Conservation Zone into a Light Green Conservation Recreation Zone". ... Of course add your own bits but the only way your opinion will count is if you make a submission.
		2018 02 13	I know the Parks Victoria submission process on the r: ... https://engage.vic.gov.au/belfast pages not easy to decipher. But that's just another one of the r managerial ve techniques to control the conversation. Please make a comment just a simple one would do. You don't need to fill out all the pages, just state that you want to "Change the Dark Green Conservation Zone into a Light Green Conservation Recreation Zone". ... Of course add your own bits but the only way your opinion will count is if you make a submission.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
		2018 02 13	Because dogs can be the only reason some ppl can leave the house
		2018 02 13	I have horses & dogs
		2018 02 13	I have horses and dogs they love the water good exercise for us and them #
		2018 02 13	Walking along Towalla Way through to Karney Beach. The closure of the Towalla Way and other areas along the coast would be a disaster to the locals and holiday makers along with many people fishing along the coast. The dark green conservation zone should be removed with a light green conservation zone.
		2018 02 13	There's nothing better than a walk on the beach
		2018 02 13	A dear friend lives riding on the beach and I don't see any reason for this to change
		2018 02 13	It's preposterous.
		2018 02 13	It's stuffed up wanting to ban our animals from beaches how bloody stupid GREENIE FKING DOO GOODERS at work stuffing up Australia.
		2018 02 13	Some dogs and horses also utilize the beach. Mahogany Horse Trails are cruelty free and treating animals (horses or not) worth absolute respect and help people gain knowledge! Dogs have the time of the rivers pay on beaches and digging in the sand and swimming in the ocean. By banning these were increasing obesity in animals (even some humans) and as a possible effect people's mental health! People find the beach relaxing and resort to it when stress involves taking the beloved dog for a calm relaxing walk, which is usually fun and relaxing!!!
		2018 02 13	Dogs have rights too
		2018 02 13	I've never had a dog that doesn't love the beach...
		2018 02 13	Beaches for animals & horses & dogs don't do anymore damage than people & Povers are surviving very well
		2018 02 13	They are safer on a beach than anywhere so why not let them. Plus walking a dog brings you fitness and the same for horses. It's like saying us as the public can't drive cars on the road because it's unsafe for the riders that do the wrong thing so why don't you punish everyone and not let them drive a car on the road.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
		2018 02 13	Our dogs love the beach. We are locals who should be able to enjoy taking our dogs with us for a walk. It's safer than the roads and Tower Hills out of the question.
		2018 02 13	I WANT TO REMOVE THE DARK GREEN (CONSERVATION ZONE) AND REPLACE IT WITH A LIGHT GREEN (CONSERVATION RECREATION ZONE)... I have enjoyed this sacred beach part of the world, either with my doggo chasing the waves or on horseback, exercising them while respecting the amazing environment I am so lucky to live in. Believe that humans are intelligent enough to know how to use the beach and keep it open for families, tourists and locals to enjoy with our animals, and while continuing to look after the natural, amazing environment... given we want the coastal habitat to remain as is
		2018 02 13	I love the beach and what it has to offer. The beach should be a place for all to use, love and enjoy. Preventing people from walking the dog on a lead does not promote health and fitness. Leave our beach alone!!!!!!
		2018 02 13	used the beach my entire life. The beach should be for all to enjoy. Hands off our beach!!!!!!
		2018 02 13	We are doing no harm.. if we can't enjoy our downtime with our dogs horses kids.. WCV how much depression / anxiety / weight loss / general health medication will cost the government
		2018 02 13	runs horse riding is one of the best places left in the world that offers the experience to everybody of safely riding a horse along the beaches and the staff are always informative about native flora and fauna. the proposed conservation zones will affect the people who come from all over the world to get their ticked off their bucket list
		2018 02 13	I think we have every right to walk our fur babies wherever we like
		2018 02 13	They should be allowed on the beach
		2018 02 13	They will ruin runs horse riding!!!
		2018 02 14	Because we want the freedom to take my dog/horse to these areas you are back banning us from
		2018 02 14	Why do they need to ban horses and dogs. Government and local beaches should be open to all of us to enjoy our environment.
		2018 02 14	Beaches are for all ...

Name	Location	Date	Comment
		2018 02 14	
		2018 02 14	I have reviewed the plan. I am very suspicious that this is merely attempted off another proposal. Not once have they drawn on non based statistics or actuarial studies to suggest the effectiveness of other methods that witness the spectacular hooded plovers to flourish. I ride my horse on the beach and being high up, have seen predatory birds aka seagulls take the eggs in these zones. Where is there provision through controls and risk management for seagulls taking the eggs and chicks? What about hutsches on the beach to deter foxes, there are none. Historically this has proven successful on the Be ar ne Pen nsu a for these birds. The current roped off areas technically are not legal and are a hazard unto themselves. I often see these blown over to which could crush the nest of one of these plovers and tangle the eggs of another animal or human. Where is mention of use of an incubator to hatch chicks like they do throughout Australia and overseas for the preservation of other species? See my link below.
		2018 02 14	I like horses
		2018 02 14	We need more places to walk out animals
		2018 02 14	It appears Australia is the land of the great outdoors unless of course if you happen to own a dog or a horse!! Maybe the people who are trying to ban the use of public property by people who wish to spend time there with their animals should try to sometimes. They would also be looking after the environment they are pretending to protect by reducing the amount of paper they keep us from writing these ridiculous ones!!!
		2018 02 14	I enjoy taking my dog for a walk on the beach. We do no harm! I am over all the restrictions that are put on people that own dogs.
		2018 02 14	I'm sick of horses being banned from beaches especially when we act responsibly.
		2018 02 14	Let these people enjoy our beaches, with their horses & dogs,
		2018 02 14	Because we do no harm and our dogs love the freedom
		2018 02 14	Dogs on leashes should be allowed anywhere at any time.
		2018 02 14	The beach should be there for everyone to use no matter what all the commissioners say is everyone's right to use the beach for whatever

Name	Location	Date	Comment
		2018 02 15	I used to LOVE go ng to beach w th my horse after pony c ub ra y's and just too coo of when I got my own car and float.
		2018 02 15	As a respons b e dog owner just pena se the peop e that can t or refuse to contro the r dogs or p ck up after them. Not a of us.
		2018 02 15	I want to be ab e to wa k my dog on the beach w thout break ng the aw.
		2018 02 15	
		2018 02 15	The beaches be ong to everyone
		2018 02 15	I hate that V ctor a s becom ng a Po ce State . Leave these Beaches for Recreat ona use for Horses and Dogs.
		2018 02 15	I be eve beach's shou d be used by any one so ong as the beach and other uses respect each other. Dogs and horses have a r ght to use the beach!
		2018 02 16	I wa k my dogs n th s area and have done for the past I am a respons b e owner p ck ng up after ourse ves and stay ng away from the nest ng s tes! I hard y th nk t's fa r to say I'm not ab e to enjoy the beach anymore w th my pets!
		2018 02 16	Why can't we use our beaches and enjoy them respons b y w thout government d ots and councc morons destroy ng our peace and qu et. Keep pets and horse on the beaches. That means more peop e enjoy ng the great outdoors
		2018 02 16	Peop e do more damage to the env ronment and beaches than horses and dogs do. M ght aswe just ban peop e wh e ur at t!
		2018 02 16	The peop e mak ng these dec s ons probab y don t own a horse or dog
		2018 02 16	R d cu ous and exc us ve! B g d fference between dogs under contro and strays or Fere cats.
		2018 02 16	Why don t you powers that be concentrate on what you e ected to do , and stop nterfer ng n th ngs that shou dn t concern you. Leave the beaches and peop e and creatures that use them we a one.
		2018 02 17	My r d ng and dog wa k ng was a ways done w th respect and care for the env ronment. Wh ch s more than I can say for some of the two egged beach goers!
		2018 02 17	We wa k our dog respons b y and shou d be a owedto do so.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
		2018 02 17	We wa k our dog respons b y and shou d be a owed to do so.
		2018 02 17	Led to be eve that t was about horse r ders, on y to read the sma pr nt and rea se t nc uded peop e wA k ng the r dogs too. I m s gn ng because of dec etfu ack of transparency, I have a spec a p ace for bu sh t art sts
		2018 02 17	R d cu ous bann ng peop e and the r horses and pets, when they are not the threat. The government / councc s tak ng th s too far!
		2018 02 17	Remember the 70 pengu ns k ed by foxes just 6 months ago
		2018 02 17	Pub c beaches be ong to a , just remember to c ean up the mess for both 2 & 4 egged!
		2018 02 18	Because t emp oys a ot of peop e n warrnamboo
		2018 02 18	Dogs shou d be a owed on Beach s as ong as owners are p ck ng up the poop, peop e are more hass e at the beach tter ng. Have more b ns ava ab e, how about that
		2018 02 18	The dogs ove the beach too! It s who esome hea thy excerc se for owners and puppes a ke and can be done respectfu y and respons b y.
		2018 02 19	What??? Every day my g r fr ends and I wa k our dogs on oca beaches. Keeps us fit and hea thy.
		2018 02 20	
		2018 02 22	There are beaches su tab e for dogs and horses and wa kers. Prov ded peop e p ck up dog poo there s utter joy st watch ng happy an ma s w th respons b e owners
		2018 02 23	Th s beaut fu area shou d be respected and enjoyed by a Remember ng to take your rubb sh home
		2018 02 23	We a own the beaches and most peop e respect them a sma m nor ty spo th ngs for everyone.I want peop e to be ab e to wa k the dogs on the beach, r de the r horses and most of a the rac ng fratern ty br ngs m ons of do ars nto our commun ty and they w not a ow our beaches to be ru ned they have comm tted too much money nto the r bus nesses and a the r sa ar es are spent n the South West w n w n for everyone
		2018 02 23	There s enough space for b rds, peop e and the r pets. Crowd ng us a on to one beach, wh ch w a most certa n y resu t n remov ng dog access once t gets too busy, s a s edgehammer to crack a nut. Fam es need to go to the spaces, teach the r ch dren how to use them respons b y and to respect w d fe. Cutt ng peop e off from nature s counter product ve, they forget how to be together w th

Name	Location	Date	Comment
			<p>t. U t mate y peop e w move away from th s area, to a p ace where they can take the r dogs to the beach on a hot day. ast y, to suggest that fam es and the r pets are n any way respons b e for the reduct on n b rd numbers, compared to the ntroduct on of foxes, the oss of hab tat, p ast c po ut on n the ocean, dw nd ng food supp es and a host of other th ngs wh ch need to be eg s ated around s nsu t ng. Peop e have been car ng and nvo ved recent y he p ng to c ear beaches of nurd es, report ng ssues w th w d fe when they see them on the beaches, and do ng a they can to he p b rds. Im d sgust</p>
		2018 02 24	<p>t depr ves us of our r ght to recreate respons b y n our own commun ty comp ete y exc ud ng the oca s of our area. At the same t me endors ng the w shes of a very sma segment of the popu at on wh ch st nks of se f nterest nformat on has been wr tten amb guous y w th a trag c d sc a mer of accuracy. Not good enough!</p>
		2018 02 24	<p>V ctor a s fast becom ng extreme y pet unfr end y w th so few p aces ava ab e and humans make more mess than an ma s</p>
		2018 02 25	<p>I be eve a Austra ans have the r ght to use our beaches for recreat ona purposes nc ud ng dog wa k ng fish ng, sw mm ng, horse r d ng and genera exerc se. Th s s why I th nk the dark green conservat on zone shou d be removed and rep aced w th a ght green conservat on recreat on zone</p>
		2018 02 25	<p>I be eve that peop e shou d be ab e to use the beaches n a respons b e manner and not be banned from them. The beach s a free beaut fu env ronment where we shou d be encourag ng peop e to go a year round to wa k and enjoy outdoor act v tes good for menta phys ca and sp r tua heath.</p>
		2018 02 26	<p>I be eve horses and dogs shou d be a owed to use the beaches for recreat ona use</p>
		2018 03 01	<p>Peop e enjoy the env ronment n d fferent ways. We run, wa k dogs, ook for treasures, keep fit n fresh a r, r de our horses, cyc e our b kes, adm re sunsets and va ue nature. Po t c ans and bureaucrat c dec s on makers seem to be happy to surrender to oud vo ces from m nor tes, rather than find ng a way to ba nce the nterests and e sure pursu ts of a . Horse r ders tend to be at the bottom of the st when t comes to those who are ser ous y heard. I wonder f th s s because many r ders are o der, are fema e, are not used to be ng str dent n the face of unjust y harsh exc us on dec s ons.Recreat ona horse r ders a over V ctor a are fac ng decreased r d ng areas... th s means that those of us who are aware, are voca and have fr ends who support us need to be more OUT THERE.</p>
		2018 03 03	<p>Horse r d ng a ong the beach between Warrnamboo and K arney has tt e to no affect on the env ronment as</p>

Name	Location	Date	Comment
			<p>most of the rdng s done on the hard sand closer to the waters edge.If th s area s c o sed off t wou d put Runde s Mahogany Tra R des out of bus ness.Th s bus ness shou d be fu y supported as t prov des a wonderfu serv ce to the surround ng commun t es n tour sm and teach ng ch dren horse and fe sk s and n the process deve op ng n peop e a ove for our env ronment,wh ch s a far more ong term susta nab e way to manage our pub c and rather than ock ng t up</p>
		2018 03 05	<p>I am comp ete y aga nst forb dd ng access to the beach to horses, dogs and any ad hoc human access. K arney beaches are used, and have been used for years successfu y by both humans and an ma s a ke. A though conservat on s very mportant, and we shou d a ways cons der the env ronment and the mpact that we have n ut s ng our amaz ng natura spaces, there a so needs to be an e ment of common sense nvo ved. Shutt ng down the beach comp ete y to recreat ona horses and peop e wa k ng the r dogs on eads goes aga nst what out commun ty wants. Yes we need to be carefu as to how we use the beaches and respect the natura hab tat, but th s current draft management p an needs to be drast ca y a tered to a gn to commun ty sent ment.</p>
		2018 03 07	<p>There s enough beach there for a users. It doesnt need regulat ony</p>
		2018 03 07	<p>Ch out et us wa k some dogs</p>
		2018 03 08	<p>Remove the dark green zone and rep ace t w th the ght green</p>
		2018 03 09	
		2018 03 11	<p>K arney beach has been used by oca s for centur es they are very m ndfu of the need to share t w th the w d fe.</p>
		2018 03 11	<p>The best th ng about th s beach s that t s horse and dog fr end y</p>

PART C - Joint Letter - Belfast Coast Community Users Group

06th March 2018

Attention:
Parks Victoria
Moyne Shire Council
Warrnambool City Council

RE: Belfast Coast Community User Group: Letter of request for amendments to the Belfast Coastal Reserve Draft Management Plan and outline of systems of Self-Regulation.

A: Statement of Requests.

As representatives of the user groups of the Belfast Coast Reserve Community, we hereby request the following changes to the Belfast Coastal Reserve Draft Management Plan:

1. Areas on the plan marked as a conservation zone be removed and replaced with a conservation-recreation zone, allowing the continuation of existing recreational activities.
2. The current recreational activities of dog walking and recreational horse riding be permitted throughout the Reserve.
3. Hobby racehorse trainers including adjoining landholders be permitted to exercise horses in moderation consistent with historical horse training on the Reserve.
4. The current recreational activities of windsurfing and kitesurfing be permitted at Port Fairy Lough and Rutledge Cutting
5. The restoration of safe access to the Mahogany Trail and Towilla Way.

B: Statement of Self-regulation.

As representatives of the user groups of the Belfast Coast Reserve Community, we hereby submit the following self-regulation systems to support the management of users within the Belfast Coastal Reserve:

6. Warrnambool Trail Horse Riders Club riders comply with the code of conduct as per DSE File. Ref/SP. Ref: SP443020. (Appendix 1)
7. Recreational horse riders promote the code of conduct outlined in Appendix 1 and comply with all conditions outlined by signage installed on the Reserve.
8. Hobby racehorse trainers including adjoining landholders adhere to the self-regulation conditions outlined in Appendix 2.
9. Local dog owners promote the "dogs on lead" system when applicable and as required by any Belfast Coastal Management Plan and comply with all conditions outlined by signage installed on the Reserve.

C: Signature Section.

Representatives signed for on behalf of Belfast Coastal Community User Group :

Traditional Owner

Framlingham Community

Signature:

Date

7/3/18

South West Owners, Trainers and Riders Association (SWO)

Signature:

Date

7/3/18

Signature: :

Date

9/03/2018

Historical Hobby Horse Trainers.

Signature: .

Date

7/3/2018

Signature:

Date

7/3/2018

Warrnambool Trail Horse Riding Club (WTHRC)

Signature: Date 7.3.18
Sign: Date 7.3.18
Signature Date 7.2.18
Signatur Date 10.3.18

Local & Surrounding Residents – Recreational Horse Riders

Signature: Date 10-03-2018

Rundell's Mahogany Trail Rides Warrnambool.

Signature: Date 9/3/18

Windsurfers and Kitesurfers

Signature: Date 10/3/18
Signature: Date 7/3/18
Signature: ... Date 7-3-18

Towilla Way Residents

Signatures Date 7/03/18
Signature: Date 7-3-18

User Group: Local & Surrounding Residents – Dog Walkers

Signature: Date 10/3/2018
Signatu Date 7.3.18
Signature: Date 7.3.18
Signature: Date 8.8.18
Signature: Date 10.3.18
Signature: Date 8.3.18
Signatu Date 9.3.2018
Signature: Date 9/3/2018

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

19. Councillor Notice of Motion – , Horses on Killarney Beach – Restricted Access

moved, seconded that Moyne Shire Permit the South West Owners, Trainers and Riders Association (SWOTRA), restricted, regulated and controlled access to Killarney Beach (between the boat ramp and a point 600m west of the boat ramp) for the exercise and rehabilitation of Moyne Shire based horses subject to the following conditions:

1. Trainers must be members of SWOTRA.
2. Training is only permitted on Killarney Beach from 1 February to 15 December, excluding Easter weekend and Folk Festival long weekend holiday.
3. Horses are only to walk, trot and/or canter on beach between dawn and 10am daily.
4. Annual fee of \$100 per permit to be paid by SWOTRA to Moyne Shire.
5. SWOTRA must provide Moyne Shire with details of trainers' name, contact details and the number of horses intending to use the beach.
6. A daily log must be kept by trainers using the beach and made available upon request to Moyne officials.
7. Each trainer is permitted a maximum of 2 horses on the beach or in the water per day.
8. A maximum of 6 horses be permitted on the beach plus up to 4 horses in the water at any one time.
9. Horses must only walk, trot and/or canter at the water's edge.
10. Horses are not permitted on the soft sand.
11. Permit must be displayed in trainers' vehicle at all times.
12. All horses, floats and equipment are to be removed from the car park by 10:30am.
13. Access to the beach is only permitted via the boat ramp.
14. Horses must work in pairs, at a minimum of 50 metres between pairs.
15. Riders must produce a copy of the Permit authorising their use of the beach when requested by a Moyne Shire officer.
16. Horses are not permitted in the dunes under any circumstance.
17. Horses must be kept at least 20 metres from other beach users.
18. Riders must be courteous and respectful towards other beach users and avoid confrontation.
19. Horses must be under effective control at all times.
20. Horses must wear saddle cloths clearly identifying the relevant trainer.
21. Riders must wear approved Racing Victoria gear at all times.
22. Only trainers subject to this Permit, or their direct employees may be in control of horses at the car park or on the beach.
23. Any permit holder operating on the beach must maintain a public liability insurance policy to the value of \$20 million (this is mandatory for all licensed trainers).
24. All manure must be removed from the car park, access track and beach, as well as excess urine being washed from car parks.
5. Horses are not to be tethered to public infrastructure including fences.
6. Any incident involving, horse, trainer, rider or the public is to be reported immediately to the Moyne Shire on
7. Breach of any of the above conditions will result in one written warning being

issued to the permit holder. Any additional breach may result in the issue of an infringement and the permit being cancelled without further notice.

28. Permits will be issued with preference to rate-paying trainers based in the Moyne Shire.

29. Permit may be cancelled or conditions amended by the Council at any time under delegated authority.

Draft Belfast Coastal Reserve Management Plan

Submission by BirdLife Australia, Suite 2-05, 60 Leicester St, Carlton VIC 3053

BirdLife Australia is Australia's largest, not-for-profit bird conservation organisation, committed to the conservation of over 200 threatened native bird species through multi-species, landscape-scale adaptive management programs.

Formed through the merger of Birds Australia and Bird Observation and Conservation Australia (BOCA) in 2012, BirdLife Australia offers the combined skills and experience of the two longest-running bird conservation organisations in Australia. BirdLife Australia consists of 31 local branches nationwide which engage with the local communities, special interest groups, reserves and observatories to make positive contributions to the wellbeing of Australian birdlife. From this reach we now have over 12,200 members across the nation, as well as a further 120,000 supporters who provide BirdLife Australia with the capacity to undertake its conservation and research.

BirdLife Australia has an extensive program of research and conservation including:

- Migratory Shorebirds Program guided by a national, multi-stakeholder Conservation Action Plan 2017 (formerly known as the Shorebirds 2020 program). This operationalises the Australian Government's Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds 2015 and includes addressing priority threats to sites within Australia (primarily from recreation and development), developing management plans for sites of national and international significance, resolving key knowledge gaps, and working with partners to reduce threats in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. A major component of this project is monitoring changes in migratory shorebird populations within key sites in Australia (Hansen *et al.* 2018).

- National Beach-nesting Birds (BNB) Program, developed to address the severe impacts of recreational activities on beaches and coastal habitat changes on the breeding of Australia's resident beach-nesting shorebirds. BirdLife has led recovery efforts for the Hooded Plover (*Thinornis rubricollis*) across Victoria and South Australia including establishment of best practice monitoring (Hansen *et al.* 2018) and nest/chick site protection protocols (Maguire 2008), extensive training and recruitment of volunteers, research in to new recovery techniques, formation of 12 Friends of Hooded Plover groups, targeted education and community behaviour change guided by research, support and coordination toward strategic, national goals, leading recovery team meetings, and review of threat and bird data to adapt management and investment over time. We also have a multi-state leg flagging program where we are seeking to overcome knowledge gaps and collecting genetic samples to better understand gene flow and identify sensible units of management. For four decades, we have coordinated a population census across the entire eastern mainland population (Vic, SA and NSW), enabling us to track trajectory changes and trends in threats. We host a national conference bringing together all participants in recovery across the country and hold an annual recovery meeting to review progress toward recovery goals and prioritise actions.

This multi-faceted project uses an evidence-based, adaptive management approach to engage community volunteers and coastal land managers in monitoring and on-ground threat mitigation to directly improve the trajectory of the population. Census data have revealed an increase in the population that correlates directly with implementation of BirdLife Australia's recovery project. Leg flagging has enabled us to identify the reoccupation of beaches where the species had been absent for a decade or more, and subsequent successful breeding. Analysis of breeding data has revealed a tenfold increase in the probability of successfully fledging young at sites where there is active investment in mitigating human-based threats. These sites contribute between 50-80% of the fledglings produced in Victoria each season, which has accounted for the detected increase in the

population trajectory. The BNB Program has been active within the Belfast Coastal Reserve (BCR) from its inception in 2006 and established a local community group 'Friends of the Hooded Plover Far West Victoria' in 2010.

- BirdLife has been involved in the Orange-bellied Parrot (OBP) Recovery Program since its inception in 1983 and led the coordination of winter counts across the mainland range since 1984. The OBP mainland monitoring database, maintained by BirdLife Australia, includes band resightings, habitat and species data collected by over 1,300 registered observers and has formed the crucial baseline for our research mapping large-scale optimal habitat models, small scale habitat requirements and the efficacy of management interventions. BirdLife has worked with a large cross-section of community including government, private sector, local land holders and citizen scientists in training and engagement to improve our capacity to detect OBPs and optimise habitat condition. More recently funding allocations from _____ enabled BirdLife to review national survey techniques for OBP and trial new methods for remote detection. The _____ office has also tasked BirdLife with completing an exhaustive review of the Recovery Program to date, which will aid in prioritising urgent recovery actions and funding.

- Belfast Coastal Reserve is of global significance for the conservation of biodiversity as part of the Port Fairy to Warrnambool Key Biodiversity Area (KBA). The status of KBA is assigned to an area if it continuously meets the rigorous scientific standard set by the IUCN for KBAs <https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/46259>. KBAs will be part of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity in its post 2020 Framework where they will identify areas most worthy of protection and management for biodiversity values. As a signatory to the Convention the Commonwealth is obliged to support its implementation. The Hooded Plover population of Belfast Coastal Reserve and the Port Fairy to Warrnambool KBA is of global significance. Due to the threats through recreational activities and horse training in this location the entire KBA is currently one of only 19 KBAs in Australia listed as 'In Danger'. This listing puts it on par with Christmas Island, South East Tasmania, Murray Sunset, Hattah and Annuello KBAs where extensive destruction through mining, logging or wildfires have made this 'In Danger' status inevitable.

BirdLife Australia's work within Belfast Coastal Reserve

The Belfast Coastal Reserve contains critical habitat for several threatened bird species: the Critically Endangered Orange-bellied Parrot, Endangered Australasian Bittern, Vulnerable Hooded Plover, and significant populations of EPBC-listed migratory shorebirds including Sanderling (internationally significant site), Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (internationally significant site), Double-banded Plover (nationally significant site) and Ruddy Turnstone (nationally significant site). An additional ten nationally threatened bird species use the Reserve, and an additional 32 bird species listed on the Victorian Advisory List of Threatened Fauna, use the Reserve.

Since 2006, our staff and volunteers have been monitoring the threats present within the Reserve and have used the Hooded Plover as an indicator for the health of the Reserve for other resident and migratory shorebirds. Threats are intensifying in frequency and impact over time, and breeding success rates are regularly falling short of targets required to maintain the population trajectory over time (44% of pairs monitored over 5 breeding seasons did not produce young, Maguire *et al.* 2014). The Reserve holds the largest density of breeding Hooded Plovers in their entire eastern range (~12% of the Victorian population; 2.5% of the entire Eastern subspecies; BirdLife Australia 2014-2018 data), and while elsewhere in the species range, efforts have been made to strengthen regulations and mitigate threats, in the Belfast Coastal Reserve, high impact threats of racehorse training, trail bikes, off leash dogs, unregulated recreational horse riding and major coastal weeds, have been left unaddressed.

BirdLife Australia has been bringing together key land managers from across the different agencies within local (Warrnambool City Council, Moyne Shire) and state government (Parks Victoria, DELWP), and active community volunteers since 2006, through regular biannual workshops and annual recovery meetings. We hosted our 2014 National Beach-nesting Birds Conference in Warrnambool and Port Fairy and over 120 people attended from across Australia. We have advertised widely and held community talks and workshops in Warrnambool, Koroit and Port Fairy, school incursions, guided beach walks, dogs breakfast events, stalls at the Port Fairy Folk Festival, Moyneyana Festival and Warrnambool Summer Night Markets. The students of Port Fairy Consolidated Primary School and Gilson College have made chick shelters for use in the area, and have helped make awareness raising posters for display in the Port Fairy township. We have also done incursions with Koroit, Warrnambool East and St Patricks primary schools, involving these schools in our Postcard Partners program where we linked them with other schools around Australia to share knowledge about their local coast and its significance. The broader community have been very interested in learning more about the birds, and our most successful events have been in Port Fairy and Warrnambool. Events held in Killarney, such as dogs' breakfasts and guided beach walks, unfortunately have been poorly attended despite widely advertising among the local community.

Since 2008, after reviewing the first three years of data for the project, BirdLife Australia has been actively involved in advocating for the significance of the Belfast Coastal Reserve to be recognised and protected either through increased tenure and/or a strong regulatory framework that a Management Plan can provide. During this time, we have written to the Minister of Environment on several occasions flagging the increasing issues with horses in the Reserve, as well as logged this in the Actions for Biodiversity Conservation database. During the last decade, the intensity of horse and dog use has escalated, and Parks Victoria have had no enforcement capacity/authority to try to mitigate these impacts on threatened species in the Reserve due to the lack of regulations in place. Education approaches via community volunteers, signage and seasonal ranger patrols (in the last five breeding seasons, funded via Victorian Government funding streams and Parks Victoria) have been limited in the success that can be achieved due to the lack of enforcement capacity. Dogs off leash running through signed and fenced breeding zones of the Hooded Plover are a daily occurrence within the Belfast Coastal Reserve, and horses ridden above the high tide mark and accompanied by off leash dogs are also a common occurrence. Appendix 1 provides a snapshot of examples of this behaviour.

Our high-level of experience in leading community education and recovery actions for the Hooded Plover around Australia for over a decade has indicated that 'bottom-up' recovery actions for Hooded Plovers need to be met by 'top-down' support for long-term sustainability of on-ground mitigation strategies (protection of critical habitat and policy to mitigate threats) and in order to address the proportion of beach users who are unresponsive to an educational approach.

We believe it is critical to implement appropriate zoning and restrictions of recreational activities to achieve a balance within the Belfast Coastal Reserve, and to invest in mitigation of predator and weed impacts, monitoring and research, and community education. These are fundamental to the future preservation and resilience of the significant avifauna within this Reserve.

Background research on the Hooded Plover relevant to the Draft Management Plan

The Hooded Plover (*Thinornis rubricollis*) is the most threatened beach-nesting bird in south eastern Australia because it has the most restricted habitat range, being an ocean beach habitat specialist (Ehmke *et al.* 2016) and this habitat type is under severe pressure from a range of threats.

Threats and life cycle

The breeding season extends from August to March, but in western Victoria typically extends into late April (Weston 2000; Baird and Dann 2003; BirdLife Australia data). Hooded Plovers generally lay 1-3 eggs in a simple nest scrape on the beach above the high tide mark, foredune or dune, preferring open areas with sparse to no vegetation for nest placement to have a broad view of potential threats around them in order to minimise predator ambush. They appear to prefer to place nests by dead objects such as driftwood, seaweed or beach-cast debris in order to minimise depredation risk (Cribbin 2012). Incubation is for 28 days and they use passive nest defence and heavy camouflage of the eggs to reduce the chances of predation. Their nest defence strategy is to leave the nest when a predator approaches and stay distant from the eggs until the predator leaves and it is safe to return. If the adult remains away for too long or if disturbances are too frequent, the eggs can be exposed to harsh temperatures that lead to the death of the embryo inside (Welty 1982; Schulz and Bamford 1987; Bergstrom 1991; Schulz 1992) or can be exposed to other approaching predators (Flemming *et al.* 1988; Hanisch 1998). People using beaches for recreation pose a high disturbance threat to incubating birds, and some threats have been identified as having higher disturbance impacts, for example dogs off leash and static recreational activities (Weston and Elgar 2005a, 2007; Weston *et al.* 2011).

After hatching it takes 35 days until the chicks can fly. During this period, they are active on the beach needing to find their own food, being warned into hiding by calls from their parents. The chicks will run to cover and crouch until the perceived threat is gone and the parents call them out from hiding. The chicks require brooding in their first two weeks as they are unable to thermoregulate. They feed mostly at the water's edge and along the wrack line amongst beach cast seaweed. They commonly run from danger toward the dune and they crouch by or under shelter such as rocks, vegetation or beach debris.

Ground-nesting shorebirds are particularly vulnerable to having their cryptic chicks inadvertently crushed by humans. Furthermore, disturbance to brood-rearing parents can lead to the temporary abandonment of young, and as a consequence, an increase in depredation rates and thermal stress of chicks (e.g. Burger 1981, Flemming *et al.* 1988, Bergstrom 1991, Visser and Ricklefs 1993a,b, Weston and Elgar 2005). Chicks may also suffer from energetic stress, with high levels of disturbance, particularly from humans and dogs, often decreasing foraging time and increasing energy-expensive evasion/escape responses (e.g. Flemming *et al.* 1988, Beintema and Visser 1989, Burger 1991, Loegering and Fraser 1995, Lord *et al.* 1997, Weston and Elgar 2005). Low chick survival is a major contributor to the impoverished conservation status of many shorebird populations worldwide (e.g. Piping Plover *Charadrius melodus* US Fish and Wildlife Service 1996; Hooded Plover, Weston and Elgar 2005; New Zealand Dotterel, *C. obscurus*, Dowding and Davis 2007; Western Snowy Plover, *C. alexandrinus*, US Fish and Wildlife Service 2007).

Ameliorating threats to beach-nesting birds, while simultaneously maintaining human recreational access to beaches, is a challenge faced by conservation managers. While methods for improving hatching success, such as fencing, have been largely effective (Jimenez *et al.* 2001, Stoye 2001, 2002, Ikuta and Blumstein 2003, Wills *et al.* 2003, Murphy *et al.* 2003, Lafferty *et al.* 2006; Maguire *et al.* 2014), the precocial chicks of beach-nesting birds are more difficult to protect because although they are flightless, they are free-roaming and forage in areas most commonly used by

recreationists, specifically, close to the water's edge and wrack line (Mueller 1982, Schulz and Bamford 1987, Murphy *et al.* 2003, Weston 2005). Current approaches to chick management commonly involve the use of signage and regulations to reduce human disturbance. However, these have proved less successful than for egg protection, because management efforts tend to occur over larger sections of beaches, and so are less intensive. Thus, disturbance remains prevalent for chicks.

Appendix 2 provides a full list of threats to the species and ranks these in impact, including specifying which stage of the life cycle they impact (from a comprehensive threat review in Maguire 2008, Maguire *et al.* 2014).

Habitat requirements and ecology

Sandy beaches are characterised by a lack of primary productivity, and the infauna which form a major food source for shorebirds depend on energetic contributions ('subsidies') from marine systems such as stranded macrophytes (Kirkman & Kendrick, 1997; Schlacher *et al.*, 2008). Within the Reserve, the beach wrack is therefore a critical component of the food web. Investigation into the habitat requirements of the Hooded Plover has revealed that the species is highly selective of beaches with high invertebrate abundance and assemblages dominated by isopods (Cuttriss *et al.* 2015) and wrack deposits have been linked with higher invertebrate abundance/food availability for the species (Schlachler *et al.* 2017). The entire beach zone from the exposed reefs to the base of the dune forms the foraging zone for this species, with the area available for foraging changing with the tide cycle (i.e. reefs and lower beach are only accessible at times of low tide).

Hooded Plovers are highly selective of beach habitats that support their survival and reproductive needs, with marine and terrestrial parameters both playing a role in habitat suitability (Ehmke *et al.* 2016; Cuttriss *et al.* 2015). In particular, the amount of unvegetated dune and foredune, and the amount of intertidal and sub-tidal reef are positively associated with the presence of breeding territories (Ehmke *et al.* 2016). This essentially means that not any beach will do, but instead there are particular beaches along the coast which offer critical habitat for this species. Furthermore, Hooded Plovers occupy distinct territories when breeding (August-April), are highly defensive of these territories and show strong site fidelity (Weston *et al.* 2009). Breeding territories are on average 1km of beach (36.7 ± 5.7 ha), however these territories vary in size, with some parts of the coast having higher food availability and thus affording higher densities of territories (e.g. BCR, Maguire *et al.* 2014). Breeding territories overlap from year to year in all cases and the birds spend little time off their territories during the breeding season, lending strength to the contention that the territories are the core spatial unit of most ecological relevance for breeding Hooded Plovers (Weston *et al.* 2009). The high fidelity and constancy of territories confirm that ongoing management investment in these sites is warranted (Weston *et al.* 2009). Wintering, non-breeding sites are also selected non-randomly and used consistently over time (Weston *et al.* 2009). These sites do not necessarily overlap with breeding areas, and can include wetlands and near shore lakes (Weston *et al.* 2009). These are also critical habitat locations fundamental to the life cycle of the birds.

Leg flagging of birds within south west Victoria has revealed dispersive movements to the west, as far as the Port MacDonnell area in South Australia, and as far east as Torquay. These movements have been rare, and most dispersal events have occurred more locally within the coast between Discovery Bay and Warrnambool. We suspect local breeding success is therefore critical to sustaining the south west Victoria population. We have been able to discover that young that have fledged from the Reserve have established breeding sites in Port Fairy (e.g. RB a fledgling from Towilla Way Killarney in Feb 2014 is now a breeder at Port Fairy Griffiths Island confirmed in Jan 2018) and

Tyrendarra (JC a fledgling from Towilla Way Killarney in Feb 2014 is now a breeder at the Fitzroy River mouth, Tyrendarra confirmed in Jan 2016).

‘Moving the birds’ to low threat areas is not a recovery option for this species (high selectivity of habitat features, territorial and high site fidelity) as the birds would move back to their previous territories or new birds will move in to the sites due to their suitability. Furthermore, there are very few suitable beaches that are classified as low threat/remote in Victoria. Captive breeding is also not a feasible option as it does not tackle the threats facing the species, so that return to the wild would be purposeless, with the species then becoming reliant on captive rearing for continued persistence.

The beaches, dunes and estuarine system of the Belfast Coastal Reserve are Critical Habitat for the Hooded Plover (the *habitat* is used to meet *essential* life cycle requirements) as defined by the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999. The most effective (ecological and economic) recovery approach is to manage the species in situ, to mitigate the highest impact threats to return a balance to the birds’ breeding sites so that they can successfully breed, and to ensure long-term resilience through appropriate habitat management and protections/policy. It has been demonstrated that conservation in situ can be highly effective for minimal economic investment and has already resulted in tenfold increases in breeding success where implemented (Maguire *et al.* 2014).

Recovery and indicators of population health

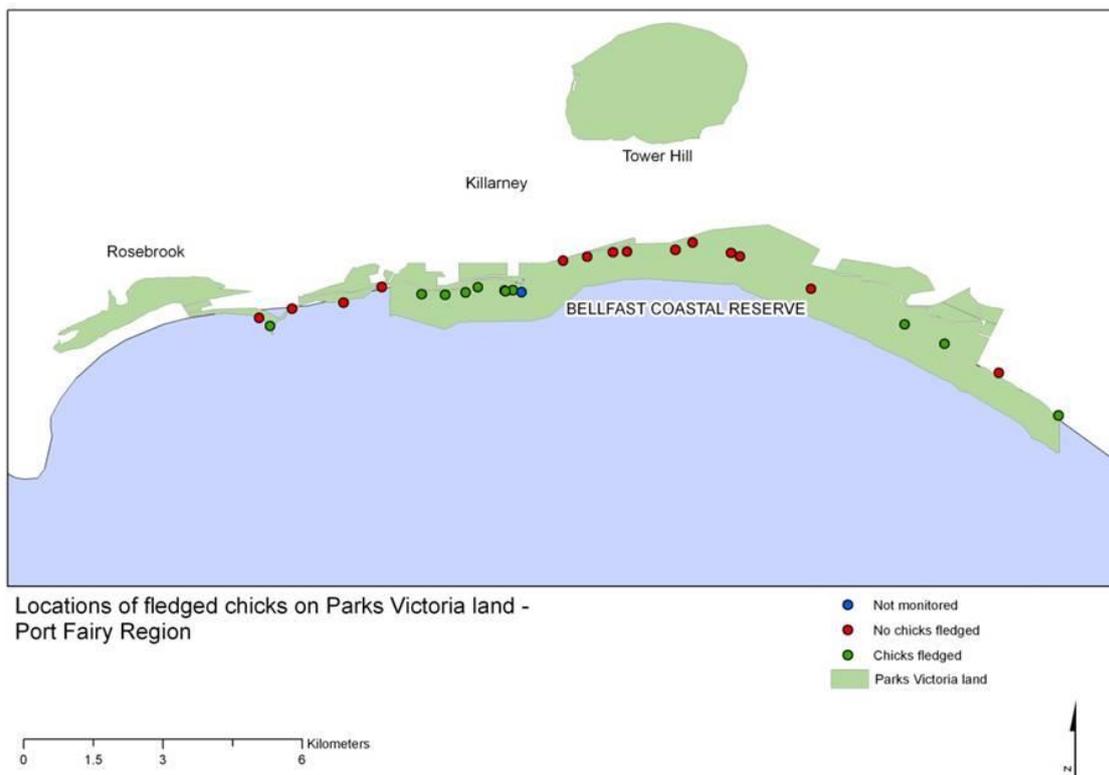
There are approximately 3000 birds in the Eastern subspecies of the Hooded Plover (Garnett *et al.* 2011). Biennial counts of Hooded Plovers have been undertaken since 1980, however became highly coordinated from 2006 onwards, enabling a population census of the entire eastern mainland range (Victoria, South Australia, NSW).

The population in Victoria has increased since the plummeting decline that was detected from the 1980s to early 2000s. This is a direct result of intensive effort in protection of breeding sites and working with land managers and policy makers to change regulations and improve coastal zoning, as well as education of beach users and increased patrols that has occurred since 2006 (Garnett *et al.* 2011; Szabo *et al.* 2012). The species was predicted to have an Endangered status in the absence of threat mitigation efforts (Szabo *et al.* 2012). While the trajectory of the population has altered from a decline to beginning to increase again, its numbers have not returned to pre-decline levels.

The BCR population has experienced a slight increase in the number of breeding adults over time (however note that there has been a loss of several breeding pairs in 2016-18). Adult numbers are not the sole indicator that we use to assess health of this species. On the Mornington Peninsula (MP) the population also increased from the late 1990s onwards. However, our analysis of thousands of breeding observation visits collected between 2006-2011 revealed that the MP and BCR populations are essentially acting as sinks (Maguire *et al.* 2014). The habitat has all the right physical features that attract the species in high numbers, so that as we improve breeding success rates within Victoria, we add more birds to the coast and the areas with the most suitable habitat increase in population numbers. If threats to their breeding success however, aren’t reduced in these areas, then the birds attempt to reproduce again and again, for a lifetime even, with no success. This is termed an ‘evolutionary or ecological trap’ (Schaeffer *et al.* 2002). Their presence in the population therefore does not contribute to sustaining the population and these sites are classified as ‘sinks’. On the MP for example, the population kept increasing and monthly counts were used to conclude

that the species must be doing brilliantly in this area. Once we started our monitoring of breeding success in 2006, we revealed that the fledgling rates were lowest of anywhere in the state and we directly correlated 'sink' territories (50% of sites) with the number of off leash dogs at these sites; it was the most compelling relationship of any threat type, including predators and beach users in general. Similarly, in BCR, 44% of sites were identified as sinks (Maguire *et al.* 2014, see Figure 1 below). This triggers alarm as the area has one of the highest density breeding populations and thus has potential to contribute greatly to the viability of not only the Victorian population but also to the entire eastern subspecies.

Figure 1: the distribution of successful (fledging chicks in at least one season) and unsuccessful sites (no fledglings over five seasons), across the Belfast Coastal Reserve. Note the clustering of red and green locations, suggesting that threatening processes are spatially clustered along this coastline.



Due to the lower human population base, and low numbers of beach users using the Reserve, BCR is predicted to have higher breeding success rates than our other key monitoring regions which are heavily impacted by high rates of beach use. However, it is not doing better, and even though numbers of breeding birds are slowly increasing, we are not seeing an increase in the number of fledglings being produced over time. In the 2016-17 season, there were only 13 fledglings and in the 2017-18 breeding season, we have had an all time low of only 6 fledglings to date in the BCR (note there are a few pairs still currently breeding in the Reserve, however flocking has started signalling most pairs have finished breeding for the season). Note this season is one of the worst on record, with no nests surviving from Basin East to Levy's beach, and no success from the permitted race horse stretch from Mills reef west to East beach Port Fairy.

The dominance of off leash dogs in the Reserve (due to lack of regulations and disregard of signed nesting zones; see comparative Table 1 for some key parks where we have had the most monitoring) and the presence of horses at around 66% of breeding sites (this would have changed since the 2014

report, and be greater now), are two major identified threats. Alleviation of these threats through restrictions and enforced regulations is required to improve breeding outcomes.

Table 1. Mean (\pm standard error) number of people and dogs on and off leash observed at Hooded Plover sites monitored within four parks across five seasons. Only parks with more than three Hooded Plover pairs monitored were included.

PARK (DATA PERIOD 2006-2011)	PEOPLE	DOGS ON LEASH	DOGS OFF LEASH	DOGS OFF/DOGS ON
Belfast Coastal Reserve (21 pairs, n=667)	3.15 \pm 0.45	0.16 \pm 0.02	0.67 \pm 0.05	4.19
Mornington Peninsula National Park (26 pairs, n=1422)	6.70 \pm 0.48	0.10 \pm 0.02	0.31 \pm 0.03	3.10
Kilcunda – Harmers Haven Coastal Reserve (10 pairs, n=330)	2.18 \pm 0.27	0.13 \pm 0.02	0.46 \pm 0.06	3.54
Cape Liptrap Coastal Park (3 pairs, n=172)	8.19 \pm 3.10	0.14 \pm 0.04	0.27 \pm 0.06	1.93

Within the Mornington Peninsula National Park, dogs have been banned for two breeding seasons (from November 2016), and this has proven highly successful. Fledging success rates were steeply declining in the park (average of 6 fledglings produced from 2006/07-2015/16). However, since the ban has been in place, fledging production has doubled (average of 12.5 fledglings 2016/17-2017/18)) and if compared to the three prior seasons (2013/14-2015/16), has tripled. Furthermore, pairs occupying sites on the Mornington Peninsula that were identified as having the highest frequency of off leash dog observations and as having no success in over a decade of monitoring have now successfully produced fledglings (Maguire *et al.* 2014; BirdLife Australia database 2016-2018).

The draft BCR Management Plan proposes banning dog access from 43% of the Reserve’s coastline to protect a significant number of breeding birds (and other species of resident and migratory shorebirds, waterbirds and Orange-bellied Parrots, see Figure 2). The remaining coastline outside of the proposed CONSERVATION ZONE also represents significant habitat for shorebirds (also see Figure 2), but in the spirit of co-existence, it is proposed that dogs will have off leash access to Killarney main beach and on-leash access to shorebird habitats at the eastern and western ends of the Reserve. It is highly recommended that these be closely monitored for compliance and breeding success data collected as an indicator of impact to review the effectiveness of this strategy.

Major comments with regard to the Draft Management Plan

- This Reserve has **local, statewide, national and international significance to several species and groups of birds.**
- BirdLife Australia show high support for actions taken to mitigate threats and to improve the protection of birds and their habitat within the Reserve.
- BirdLife Australia show high support for 43% of the onshore area to be protected in a CONSERVATION ZONE. This encompasses the area used by:
 - the Orange-bellied Parrot (Rutledges Cutting has been identified as one of five priority sites in Victoria for the species, Adams and Purnell 2016);

- the bulk of Hooded Plover breeding sites (28 of 44 breeding sites in total within the Reserve);
- the largest known winter flocking site for Hooded Plovers with flocks varying across the winter months from 20-61 birds (adults and juveniles), see Appendix 3;
- at least 24 red-capped plover breeding sites;
- 2 pied oystercatcher breeding sites, and;
- major roost and foraging sites for migratory shorebirds including internationally significant sites for Sanderling and Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, nationally significant sites for Ruddy Turnstone and Double-banded Plovers (New Zealand migrant, visits in our autumn/winter months).

The plan states (page 10), “the conservation zone covers the areas where the highest cultural and environmental values are found. The intention of this zone is to ensure a very strong management emphasis on protection of the environment and identified values. Recreation and nature-based tourism are permitted when managed in a way that is sensitive to the identified values.” We support this statement. Figure 2 reveals the high density of threatened bird sites within this zone.

- High support for the proposed CONSERVATION ZONE to be free of high impact threats including hunting, off-road vehicles, dogs, horses, camping, and dune boarding.
- High support for:
 - Cultural Heritage protection;
 - Joint management;
 - Education and interpretation;
 - Monitoring and research;
 - Rationalisation and closure of inappropriate beach access;
 - Dog control;
 - A permit system for recreational horse riding (in areas where this is sustainable);
 - Pest animal and weed control.
- BirdLife Australia does not support commercial race horse training within the Reserve, including permitting this activity within the CONSERVATION ZONE. Under the draft management plan, the length of beaches available to racehorse training would 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 or to review compliance and impacts of the commercial horse training on the Reserve’s natural and visitor values. The draft plan is permitting racehorses in to 750 metres of fragile dunes at Levy’s Beach where in the past they have caused severe dune erosion. The plan permits racehorse training within the Conservation Zone at Rutledge’s Cutting. This is incongruent with the recommendations of the conservation zone.

Throughout the draft plan, damage caused by racehorses is referred to but the plan fails to address how increasing the area available to them will mitigate these impacts. Worse still, the plan’s risk assessment (page 29) reveals that the current proposed management plan won’t reduce the threat of this commercial activity. Prior to management plan implementation, the risk to coastal dune vegetation, cultural heritage, resident and migratory shorebirds from racehorse training is rated EXTREME. After the management plan is put in place, the rating remains EXTREME. In other words, no effort has been made to address the threat commercial race horse training poses to multiple values of the Reserve, including visitor safety, and instead, it has been expanded within the Reserve.

Since access was granted to commercial race horse trainers in 2016, there have been numerous breaches of licensing conditions, high risks to public (and volunteer) safety and the channeling of limited resources and state government staff in to surveillance and infrastructure. This has stretched local Parks Victoria and DELWP beyond capacity and taken already limited support and resources away from environment and visitor services. Expanding the number of training beaches will make conditions even harder to monitor and be costly to the local economy and values of the Reserve.

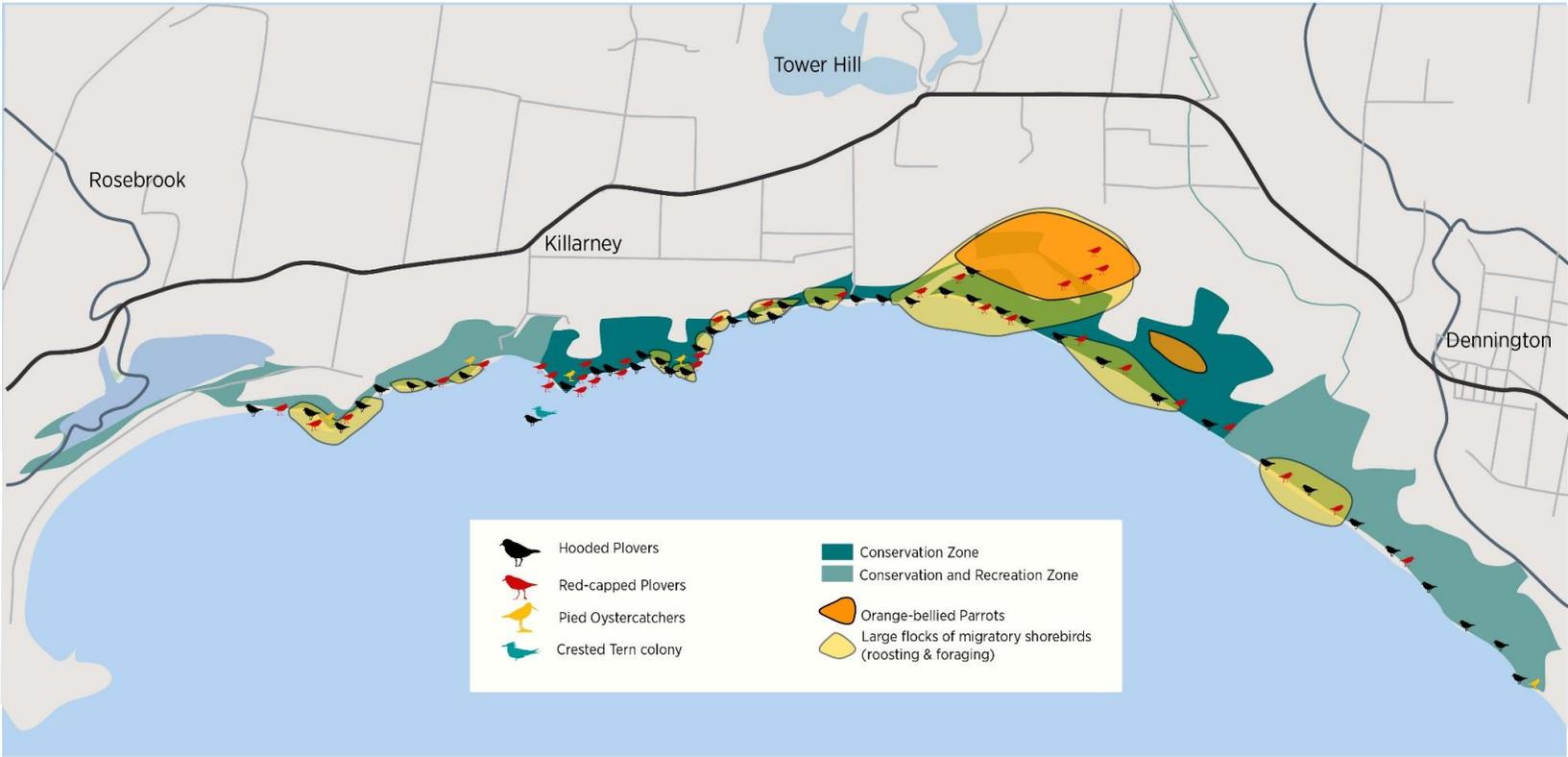
About the vision – Belfast Coastal Reserve, 15 years from now (page 7):

- We largely support the Vision statement, with the exception of the statement: ‘the location, timing and intensity of activities such as horse riding has been managed to avoid conflicts between uses, and to reduce the risk of damage to the environment and cultural sites’. Given the sensitivity of this coastal Reserve, its value to birds which are highly prone to disturbance and with highly camouflaged eggs and chicks, it would be more appropriate to avoid specifying horse riding in the vision for the Reserve’s future. The Reserve cannot sustain commercial racehorse training and the term ‘horse riding’ does not accurately reflect this commercial and high impact usage. The impacts of recreational horse riding are also high, increasing and challenging to manage. In future, it may become evident that the Reserve cannot sustain this activity. Throughout the plan there is repeated reference to the severe impacts that horses have on the Reserve’s natural, cultural and recreational values. Reference to this activity, in particular, should be removed from the vision statement and it should be kept broad to refer to appropriate management of recreational activities and balancing potential conflicts.
- The vision mentions the recovery of threatened species: ‘The area continues to provide important habitat and refuge for native species, particularly threatened migratory birds that breed and feed here.’ This is inaccurate as migratory shorebirds do not breed in Australia. Only resident shorebirds nest within Australia and the Reserve is indeed critical habitat for these species.

Key management theme #1: Cultural landscape and living heritage (pages 13-24):

- We strongly support the goals and strategies within this chapter of the draft plan including maintenance of geological features, recognising Traditional Owner and community connections to it, ensuring cultural landscape values are protected in heritage management, and establishing partnerships with Traditional Owners to protect and conserve heritage features.
- Page 22 states “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) to extremely high (four-wheel drive traffic and repeated horse traffic).” The proposed Conservation Zone would benefit these cultural heritage sites, with the exception of permitting racehorse training which conflicts with these values.

Figure 2. BirdLife Australia Shorebirds 2020 data and Beach-nesting Birds data from 2010-2018, and Orange-bellied parrot data from 2004-2014. The proposed CONSERVATION and CONSERVATION AND RECREATION ZONES have been displayed on the map.



- The statement “There are currently risks and impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage from existing authorised activities including recreational horse riding, licensed horse riding tours and licensed commercial racehorse training...Due to this, Gundijmarra Traditional Owners are not supportive of racehorse training” clearly demonstrates the stance of local Traditional Owners on racehorse training in the Reserve. We strongly support the right for Traditional Owners to protect their cultural heritage and to be directly involved in guiding the management of this Reserve.

Key management theme #2: Healthy Country:

- “The Reserve is home to over 50 species listed as threatened in the advisory lists maintained by DELWP”, “The Australian Government’s Threatened Species Strategy identifies 20 priority EPBC-listed bird species for conservation, four of which have been recorded in the Reserve: Orange-bellied Parrot, Hooded Plover, Australasian Bittern and Eastern Curlew” and “The area between Port Fairy and Warrnambool has been identified as a Key Biodiversity Area ... as defined by global scientific criteria”. These statements highlight the significance of the Reserve and is why We believe the proposed CONSERVATION ZONE is required.
- The Hooded Plover and Eastern Curlew are both species for which disturbance from recreation has been identified as a key threat and a high priority for mitigation. Objective 3 of the Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds 2014 is “Anthropogenic threats to migratory shorebirds in Australia are minimised or, where possible, eliminated”. Note the Eastern Curlew is particularly sensitive to disturbance, being a large shorebird and having one of the longest average Flight Initiation Distances (FID) of all the shorebirds (Glover *et al.* 2011).
The Australian Government’s Conservation Advice for the Hooded Plover specifies “Manage the use of (and access to) key beaches for recreation when plovers are breeding – e.g. **discourage or prohibit vehicle access, horse riding and dogs from beaches**; implement temporary beach closures; erect fencing to prevent people entering” as a key management action required.
This is further support for the CONSERVATION ZONE to reduce the impact of dogs and horses on the Hooded Plover and key migratory shorebird sites. It is also further support for the prohibition of commercial racehorse training in the Reserve which conflicts with threatened species management advice from the Australian Government.
- The plan states on page 27 for key management outcomes as “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”. The plan later contradicts this outcome in Table 6.1 by allowing commercial horse training, classified as an EXTREME Risk, within a CONSERVATION ZONE that has been identified as a priority section of coast for breeding Hooded Plovers.
- The strategy “reduce the impacts of fragmentation in dunes, foredunes and wetlands and prevent erosion” needs to include removing horses from the dunes and wetlands. These heavy, hard-hoofed animals are associated with increased rates of erosion (page 30).
- The plan fails to mention how threats of commercial racehorse training will be mitigated, monitored and evaluated in the ‘Habitat Protection Strategies’ table on page 32 although the plan labels the threat as EXTREME.
- We strongly support the goal “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’ on page 34. In particular, “to reduce disturbance to vulnerable fauna including migratory birds, shorebirds and Orange-bellied Parrot, and their habitat by implementing park zoning and access regulations”. The plan should explicitly state here that

access regulations will include prohibiting dogs and all horses from CONSERVATION ZONES. Furthermore, Hooded Plover should be specifically named in this particular strategy, as it is a primary indicator species for disturbance impacts.

- We strongly support the strategy to “protect Hooded Plover nests and chicks from trampling through erection of temporary fencing and signage around individual breeding sites across the Reserve (following best practice protocols)”. However, several points should be made here:
 - this is a task currently being carried out primarily by volunteers, estimated at over \$90,000 of in-kind volunteer effort on average per annum. In order for this to be sustainable in the long-term, volunteers need to be well supported, resourced and to have the support of a planning framework that addresses the threats that fencing/signage does not address (e.g. disturbance, off leash dogs entering fenced zones);
 - breeding areas along Levy’s beach currently aren’t fenced because of difficulties with access and transporting equipment;
 - some areas of beach are too narrow for fencing given tides can be high, and these will remain at risk of trampling;
 - chicks do not remain within a fenced area and while fences may be left up or reconfigured to ‘symbolise’ there are chicks in the area, the chicks will most likely be at the water’s edge or on the wrack line feeding, and thus, still at risk of trampling. Therefore, to effectively mitigate threats of horses and dogs, it is critical to have areas free of these threats.
- We strongly support the strategy to “undertake targeted Hooded Plover nest monitoring...use monitoring results to inform/adapt management of visitor activity”. This monitoring is shown to be one of the best indicators of coastal health more broadly (Schlacher *et al.* 2014), but also allows for an adaptive management approach to recovery of this threatened species, with capacity to identify changes to threat profiles and the effectiveness of investment in recovery actions. This monitoring allows for an early warning system to detect crashes in population numbers and is especially important for species that are long-lived where threats operate primarily on recruitment rates.
- As mentioned on page 13 “the dune systems of the Reserve have good capacity for dune retreat and redistribution of sand given there is limited infrastructure built directly in the primary dune”. This again highlights the value of this system in the long-term for species of beach-nesting birds as well as migratory shorebirds. It is predicted that areas of shorebird habitat are likely to be lost in the future due to rising sea levels associated with climate change. Thus the areas of coastline that have capacity for resilience and retreat would become of even higher significance to these species. Protection of this critical habitat is a priority at a local, statewide and national level. This lends further support for bolstering protection of the population of shorebirds using this Reserve, in particular the area within the CONSERVATION ZONE.
- This chapter does not discuss in enough detail the importance of habitat to migratory shorebirds, their vulnerability to disturbance, the value of specific habitat zones to particular species of migratory shorebirds (e.g. rocks to Ruddy Turnstones, ocean beaches to Sanderling and Double-banded Plovers, Wetlands to Sharp-tailed Sandpipers), the habitat requirements and value to Australasian Bittern, nor does it outline the rarity of Orange-bellied Parrot sightings on the mainland in recent years, yet that this site has been one of the few locations where OBPs have been sighted during the period of critical decline. We believe it is important to include information about these values to assist Reserve users in understanding the significance of the area and the need for regulations.
- The Reserve contains 30% of the EVC ‘Swamp Scrub/Aquatic Herbland Mosaic’, which is considered an Endangered EVC. This EVC is sensitive to trampling and disturbance. Note

“remnant native vegetation can be readily degraded by human, animal and vehicle disturbance...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” (page 30). This is further support for removing horses from the CONSERVATION ZONE where this EVC occurs around Rutledges Cutting, Saltwater Swamp and Kellys Swamp.

- The ‘Coastal Dune Scrub’ EVC accounts for 55% of the Reserve and is noted as being degraded by historical land use, rabbit grazing, trampling and Marram Grass invasion. However, the area between Rutledge’s Cutting and Warrnambool is highlighted as having “large and important populations of Spinifex on primary dunes”. It is this section of coastline where commercial racehorse training is being permitted and recreational horse riding. This is contradictory and conflicts with protecting the highest value remnants of this native Coastal Dune Scrub vegetation.
- Page 32 strategy to ‘undertake invasive weed management through: ...containing the expansion of Marram Grass’ is not an accurate nor adequate statement. Marram Grass and Sea Spurge have been identified as a major threat to the Hooded Plover and other beach-nesting birds, limiting habitat availability and degrading future habitat suitability. These weeds need to be better addressed by the draft management plan. In fact, the plan states “it is forecast that on current trends almost nothing of the indigenous flora will survive on these dunes unless invasive species are actively controlled, eliminated or contained” (page 30). Marram grass currently has invaded the full extent of the dune system within the BCR so that referring to limiting or containing expansion is ineffective and a negligible action. Following the recommendations of Cousens *et al.* (2013), “to tackle marram grass infestation of the coast around western Victoria as a whole would require enormous logistical and economic investment... Instead, targeting hooded plover territories for marram grass removal at a smaller scale with the aim of improving habitat would have outcomes that could be directly measured, and if effective, would relate weed control directly to improving biodiversity values of that investment”. Furthermore, a key recommendation of Cousens *et al.* (2013) was: “More scientifically rigorous studies of the main weedy/invasive species are needed; in southern Australia sea wheatgrass and marram grass would seem to be the most urgent of these. Where control is initiated, there should be more deliberate attempts to estimate the impacts of management action (and inaction). Critically, the response of dunes dominated by weeds to storm events needs to be quantified to enable managers to respond appropriately to coastal erosion”. We would like to see a strategy added that includes targeted rehabilitation of Hooded Plover breeding sites through control of the invasive weeds, Marram Grass and Sea Spurge.
- Reducing threats and impacts are a commonly used measure to build resilience to climate change within natural systems. Sea-level rise may reduce the width of beaches and intensify the impacts of horses on that habitat. The most obvious way to build resilience is to remove horses from this sensitive coastal system.
- Key threats to Hooded Plover breeding success on page 35 should include broader references and there are many published papers in peer-reviewed journals that could be used here. There has been an extensive review of threats in several publications that could be drawn upon (see dog and horse literature reviews in Appendix 4).
- Page 36 is a comprehensive summary of key research findings around the threats and the value of the Belfast Coastal Reserve to the Hooded Plover. The statement describing the reserve as “the highest priority for conservation and recovery of the declining Eastern mainland population” is an accurate statement.
- The strategy to ‘undertake biannual migratory shorebird, biennial beach-nesting bird counts and regular population monitoring. Use monitoring results to evaluate trends in predation and fauna populations’. Population counts are one indicator of population health and are important for tracking longer term trends. Adult survival is generally high and so changes to

population numbers are slow to respond. Immigration of birds from other areas does occur within the Hooded Plover population, so that increases in numbers of birds is not a direct measure of the area's success (Weston *et al.* 2009). Breeding success of beach-nesting birds is the most powerful indicator of health of the local population (Schlacher *et al.* 2014). Use of remote cameras at nests can identify nest predators and trends in their impact (Weston *et al.* 2017). It is recommended that this be incorporated in to the strategy for achieving the goal of reducing the impact of predation (page 34).

- Page 42 includes the strategy of “ensuring effective responses to emerging threats such as erosion risk to dunes, access and facilities”. This must be sympathetic to the needs of shorebird species within the Reserve and not conflict with habitat values. Certain erosion control methods have been identified as a threat to Hooded Plover and other beach-nesting bird habitat, such as brush matting (Maguire 2008).
- Page 39 mentions the establishment of ‘a volunteer intertidal reef habitat monitoring program’. Note this would require strict guidelines in order to minimise disturbance to the shorebirds and seabirds using these reefs, in particular during the nesting season of resident shorebirds.
- It is critical that the beach wrack within the Reserve is protected. There is no mention of the value of wrack in the current plan. The Management Plan should specify that wrack harvesting is not permitted within the Reserve. This is particularly relevant given the expansion of the wrack harvesting industry over the border on the Limestone Coast, South Australia, and the concerns over impacts to shorebird habitat as a result of this practice.

Key management theme #3: Recreation and use (pages 45-69):

- We strongly support many of the goals and strategies that relate to the recreational use of the Belfast Coastal Reserve in this chapter.
- Based on over a decade of threat monitoring in the Reserve and our social compliance data, BirdLife Australia strongly recommend the Minister adopt a CONSERVATION ZONE in the identified area of the BCR, namely between the Killarney Boat Ramp to East of Rutledges Cutting. The immediate area around Mills Reef is also of high significance and would also benefit from increased restrictions. The proposed zoning however offers the best co-existence approach to balancing threats to Threatened species within the Reserve.
- We strongly support the goal “Opportunities for a range of recreational visitor activities are provided with minimal impacts on natural values, cultural values and other users”. However, this relies on the proposed CONSERVATION ZONE being implemented, education and enforcement of dog leashing in the CONSERVATION AND RECREATION ZONES, and a permit system for recreational riders with strict conditions (see below).
- We strongly support the proposed location for the CONSERVATION ZONE. This encompasses the core area used by the Orange-bellied Parrot, the majority of Hooded Plover breeding sites (up to 28 of 44 identified sites within the Reserve), the largest known winter flocking site for Hooded Plovers, at least 24 red-capped plover breeding sites, 2 pied oystercatcher breeding sites, and major roost and foraging sites for migratory shorebirds including internationally significant sites for Sanderling and Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, nationally significant sites for Ruddy Turnstone and Double-banded Plovers (New Zealand migrant, visits in our autumn/winter months).
- We strongly support the prohibition of hunting within the Reserve.

Racehorse training

- We do not support access for commercial racehorse training. We strongly condemn the authorisation of beach use by horse trainers at Golfies, Rutledges Cutting and Hoon Hill/Levys beach.

- The draft plan recommends strict controls on where and how recreational uses are to be managed in the future, whereas commercial racehorse training will be expanded. This does not make sense. Table 6.1 Summary of activities proposes that commercial horse training will be allowed within the CONSERVATION ZONE at Rutledges Cutting. This contradicts the vision for the Reserve and the EXTREME assessment of risk that this activity poses to key values of the Reserve.
- A \$1.2 million synthetic sand track was opened in 2017 for horse trainers and therefore they will not lose their *competitive advantage* if this activity is removed from the Reserve.

to replicate the beach conditions. Instead, the EXTREME risks to the cultural, environmental and public safety assets could be mitigated by removal of this activity. Commercial racehorse training should not be occurring in critical habitat for threatened species. The latter can't be replaced.

- The statement "Riding of horses for recreational or commercial purposes was viewed as a threat to dune health, cultural heritage, shorebirds and public safety, especially if riders did not comply with regulations, codes of conduct or licence conditions" does not match the risk assessment table (page 29) that indicates, even with regulations in place, commercial racehorse training poses EXTREME risks to each of these key values of the Reserve. Even if horses, ridden recreationally or otherwise, are at the water's edge at low tide, there are still risks to the flightless chicks of the Hooded Plover, which feed on the exposed intertidal reefs, along the water's edge and wrack line. In the first few weeks after hatching, these chicks will crouch on the spot when approached by threats and this can be anywhere from the rocky platforms, water's edge to the upper beach or foredune. Riders will not be able to see these highly camouflaged chicks to avoid crushing them. Furthermore, the deep craters made in the sand by hooves are a hazard to chicks trying to run away from threats toward cover (Weston 2003). Disturbance by large numbers of permitted riders would have chicks in hiding for long periods, unable to access the waterline to feed.
- There is no mention of the low compliance of horse trainers under current license conditions nor any long-term plan for reviewing impacts and removing commercial horse training if conditions are breached and/or further evidence reveals this is unsustainable and damaging. There is a loose statement to "revoke licence for continual levels of non-compliance". We would question how 'continual' is defined: how many times are trainers permitted to revoke conditions and jeopardise threatened species, public safety and cultural heritage before their access is denied?
- In order for horse training on beaches to meet the Track Safety Guidelines for WorkSafe practice, it is a requirement to have separate access for horse entry and also for horses to be separated from the public on beaches. There would be a requirement for barriers, signage, first aid on-site, emergency plans and communications as identified in Track Safety Guidelines. These are costly and largely unfeasible in a beach environment. We would be disappointed to see the limited resources available for management of the Reserve allocated to maintaining a commercial enterprise that has high impacts on the Reserve's wildlife and environment.

Dogs in the Reserve

- We strongly support the goal of the draft management plan to restrict dogs in locations that are of high value to beach-nesting birds and other wildlife. The plan should ensure that the appropriate zoning for high conservation areas for beach-nesting birds, such as Hooded Plovers, are dog and horse free. The area between Killarney boat ramp and Big Baldy at Levys beach contains up to 28 Hooded Plover breeding sites (BirdLife Australia 2014-2018 data). This density of breeding sites is unprecedented and highly significant. There are alternative areas within the Reserve that are available and suitable for dog walking with less

impact on beach-nesting and migratory birds. For example, the CONSERVATION AND RECREATION ZONE between Big Baldy to the eastern end of Shelly beach Warrnambool contains up to 8 breeding sites.

- The high density of Hooded Plover breeding sites within the CONSERVATION ZONE warrants prohibition of dogs and horses to maximise the chance of the breeding pairs successfully producing fledglings. This would occur through directly reducing disturbance, incidences of crushing nests and predation of flightless chicks by dogs, and indirectly by enabling more widespread fox control in areas that are now dog free. It would also ensure limited resources are better channelled into protecting the integrity of this important natural area, and would reinforce the significance of the zone to locals and visitors. Within the Mornington Peninsula National Park, dogs have been banned for two breeding seasons (from November 2016), and the population has rebounded. Fledging success rates were steeply declining in the park (average of 6 fledglings produced from 2006/07-2015/16). However, since the ban has been in place, fledging production has doubled (average of 12.5 fledglings 2016/17-2017/18) and if compared to the three prior seasons (2013/14-2015/16), has tripled. Furthermore, pairs occupying sites on the Mornington Peninsula that were identified as having the highest frequency of off leash dog observations and as having no success in over a decade of monitoring have now successfully produced fledglings (Maguire *et al.* 2014; BirdLife Australia database 2016-2018). This is strong justification for prohibiting dogs from the CONSERVATION ZONE in the Belfast Coastal Reserve to improve breeding success of this threatened species.
- We strongly support prohibition of dogs in the proposed CONSERVATION ZONE as this will also allow for greater fox control to occur within this area, as currently baiting cannot occur adjacent to any walking tracks where dogs may be walked on-leash. This was one major benefit of prohibiting dogs within the Mornington Peninsula National Park, enabling a more effective fox control project, with benefits for a broad range of wildlife.
- We strongly support the plan's identification of a designated 'off-leash dog beach' on page 49. Providing locals and visitors with a designated beach to enjoy with their dogs provides an alternative to the high value CONSERVATION ZONE where dogs will directly negatively impact the breeding of multiple species of beach-nesting birds and disturb large flocks of roosting and foraging migratory shorebirds.
- We strongly advocate for the creation of a more inviting dog walker experience and facilities for dog walkers. We recommend a walking circuit could be created in the reserve that includes an on beach and off beach component. For example, this could potentially occur along the old vehicle track that runs between the Golf course access and the Killarney campground. If a circuit walk for dog walkers was created here, with a walk that included on-leash time on the beach and then a walk that returned via the old track on the dune, it would take pressure off the CONSERVATION ZONE, and would provide dog walkers with a more attractive alternative. Changes to regulations and access are met with more social acceptance when alternatives are presented (Maguire *et al.* *in press*).
- Currently, the proposed CONSERVATION AND RECREATION ZONES allow on-leash dog access and this is compatible with the conservation values of the zones, promoting a co-existence approach to balanced recreational use. These zones have lower densities of beach-nesting birds compared to the proposed CONSERVATION ZONE. However, compliance with dog leashing will still be critical to reducing lethal impacts to the 16 breeding sites of the Hooded Plover within the CONSERVATION AND RECREATION ZONES. Sixteen breeding sites still constitutes a significant proportion of the population of this nationally threatened species and under EPBC and Wildlife Act legislation, disturbance to these breeding birds is illegal. We strongly advocate for sufficient resources to be allocated to enforcement of the regulations in the Reserve.

Recreational horse riding

- We strongly support the proposed CONSERVATION ZONE as a horse free area.
- We strongly support the statement “while horse riders may be required to ride below the 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...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.” This is further support for no horses permitted in the proposed CONSERVATION ZONE which is very narrow. The geomorphology of the coast within the CONSERVATION ZONE consists of many rocky embayments, small headlands and a narrow beach that then opens out on to the estuary at Rutledges Cutting (see photos Appendix 5). Horses riding above the tide line along these narrow beaches and regularly cutting across each headland due to the multiple ‘pinch’ points, has been well documented during beach visits as part of the Hooded Plover monitoring program. We believe the avoidance of critical breeding habitat cannot be effectively achieved in this particular beach morphology (see photos in Appendix 1).
- We support the statement “close the beach to horse training and riding groups when Hooded Plover nests extend onto narrow sections of beach...or when climatic conditions or tidal conditions make access unsuitable”. This would deem the beaches around Rutledges Cutting in winter unfit for horse access due to the extreme tidal inundations and hazards to rider safety. This would also deem the beaches between Golfies and Gormans Rd primarily unsuitable due to their narrow width and the survival risk brought in to play by having nesting birds and horses (and also beach users including our staff and volunteers) in the same narrow zone. This lends further support for the proposed CONSERVATION ZONE.
- If recreational riders are permitted in the CONSERVATION AND RECREATION ZONES, we strongly support a horse riding permit system (free of charge) that includes a strict set of conditions, an agreement to abide by these including a shorebird induction, and tracking of compliance with these conditions. Within parts of the reserve, namely between Pelicans and Gormans rd, we have had to alter our best practice protocols for protecting nesting sites of the Hooded Plover, by pre-empting where the birds might nest and fencing these areas off before nests are found. This is because horses are riding along the upper beach in these stretches, and there is little sand that is left untrampled (see examples in Appendix 1). Unless small sections are fenced off, the birds would have nowhere to nest. This is sometimes successful but ultimately the birds need to decide where the best location is to place the nest that will maximise predator avoidance and tidal inundation. In the Levys section of the Reserve, nests are rarely fenced because of the difficulties in transporting fencing materials and regularly checking this more difficult to access section of the Reserve. This means it is critical that riders are not reliant on fenced zones to avoid crushing nests and instead permit conditions are necessary to mitigate risks.
- In addition, there are no restrictions in place to protect the highly mobile, flightless chicks of resident shorebirds that need to feed at the water’s edge, rock platforms and wrack line. Permit conditions for recreational riders in the CONSERVATION AND RECREATION ZONES will be critical to minimising chick mortality.
- In Kilcunda coastal reserve a permit system effectively ensures all riders undergo a shorebirds induction and follow strict conditions to minimise risk. Similar inductions and conditions have been set for small commercial trail riding groups (e.g. Gunnamatta Trail Rides on the Mornington Peninsula and Rundell’s Mahogany Trail Rides in Dennington) and compliance is closely monitored over time to ensure compliance. There have been incidences of non-compliance meaning the permit conditions need to be regularly enforced with the groups. This requires investment in monitoring and regular ranger liaison with the groups.

- BirdLife Australia recommends the following conditions for recreational riders:
 - Restricted to water's edge, however there must be a restriction around times of tide because a water's edge restriction would still have horses in the nesting zone at times of high tide.
 - Rides should aim for times of low tide. Avoid times of high tide, including the 1-hour period before and after the high tide.
 - Only a walking pace to slow canter should be permitted.
 - Riders are to follow the water line and not cut across any corners.
 - No form of training, lunging, figure 8s, barrel racing, rolling, etc. Recreational riding needs to be formally defined in the plan.
 - No commercial activity.
 - An induction needs to be completed which includes rider safety, public risk management, and shorebird awareness.
 - Cap permit numbers annually.
 - Maximum of two horses abreast.
 - 6 or more horses in a group are categorised as an event, and extra rules apply.
 - Horses are to be ridden at least 10-15m from the base of the dune.
 - No trampling of native vegetation. Access to the beach must be along formal tracks.
 - No sulkies or horse-drawn vehicles.
- Page 51 states that recreational horse riders are principally individuals or small groups. This is not a true reflection of the trail rider groups that use the area and have attempted in the past to establish permanent and advertised trails for horse groups throughout the Reserve. These trail riding groups have 20 horses at a time riding in the Reserve. These numbers pose a significant risk to the birds, vegetation, dunes and cultural heritage sites.

Specific site details

- Section 6.4 addresses specific sites:
 - Golfies beach access:** We do not support commercial race horse training in this area. The section of beach and intertidal rocks around Mills Reef are of high migratory shorebird value as well as containing a high density of nesting sites of resident shorebirds (Hooded Plover and Pied Oystercatcher), which warrants mentioning here.
 - Golf course East beach access:** the old vehicle track heading east, that was closed off by Moyne Shire to prevent illegal vehicle access to the beach, could be converted in to a dog walking circuit. This would provide a circuit that would be appropriate in terms of minimising conflict with other Reserve users and sensitive wildlife, and providing an opportunity for a longer walk.
 - Killarney beach access and Camping reserve:** this could be linked with Golf course East beach access via the old vehicle track, to provide a dog walking path with appropriate, minimal infrastructure to provide a safe and pleasant dog walking experience (including dog poo bag dispensers). There are safe and structured carparks at either end to support this as an increased dog use area.
We strongly support the use of Killarney beach as a high visitor beach recreation area. This beach has lower value to wildlife than the adjacent beaches. This would be viewed as a sacrificial beach.
 - Basin beach access plus Pelicans and Towilla way:** it should be stated that this is a hotspot for shorebirds such as Sanderling and Ruddy Turnstone, in particular the threatened Hooded Plover, along this coastline. We strongly support the strategy to "prohibit dogs and horses from The Basin, Pelicans and Towilla Way beaches to protect Hooded Plover and other shorebird habitat", the strategy to "increase compliance patrolling" and to "reinstate bluestone rock barrier to limit illegal beach access by vehicles". The bluestone rock barriers have been highly effective in reducing the detection of vehicles in the Reserve when

comparing data before and after rock barriers were implemented (BirdLife Australia database 2006-2017).

Rutledges Cutting, Gormans Road carparks number 1, 2 and 3: reference is made to the value of the site for several species but this also needs to include the high value of this site to wintering Hooded Plovers, with the largest flock recorded here of anywhere in the species range. The statement “racehorse training was previously permitted eastwards from this site...but this is not permitted during the Hooded Plover season” is an irrelevant statement given this site is also of highest significance during autumn and winter months to wintering Hooded Plovers, migratory Double-banded Plovers and to nesting Red-capped Plovers from July to September. These species need to be mentioned in the description of this site as other sites have reference to species of significance. We do not support commercial racehorse training to licensed users in this highly sensitive estuary environment as it poses EXTREME risks to highly significant threatened species habitat, and public and rider safety.

Kellys Swamp Track west of Big Baldy: reference is made to “horse riding has both created new tracks and caused deep incising of existing tracks in several places”, again highlighting the damage done by horses to this sensitive coastal environment. We support removal of horses from this sensitive section of wetland and coast.

Kellys Swamp Track between Big Baldy and Spookys beach access: We do not support commercial race horing at Hoon Hill due to EXTREME risks to cultural heritage, dune erosion, shorebird habitat and public and rider safety.

Levys beach: We do not support commercial race horing at Levys beach due to EXTREME risks to cultural heritage, dune erosion, shorebird habitat and public and rider safety.

Additional comments

- The statement “there are however mixed opinions in the community about the ongoing impact of dogs and horses on the Reserve” sends a confusing message to readers. Evidence-based statements and published references about the threats posed by dogs and horses are not opinion and should not be categorised in the same way as uninformed and reactive opinions. The CONSERVATION ZONE is one of the most critical areas of habitat for a number of highly threatened and nationally significant species. Conservation advice from the Australian Government supports the removal of high impact threats, namely dogs and horses, from critical habitat.
- Page47-48: There are many undesirable activities that have occurred and still occur in the Reserve and a management plan will enable these to be clearly identified as inappropriate and prohibited. The Reserve has high rates of illegal camping occurring at Killarney boat ramp and Gorman’s road carparks, as well as sporadic presence of Abalone divers. Considerable investment has been made in tackling illegal vehicle activity in the Reserve including the installation of gates, bluestone barriers, large boulders at Gormans road access points, and intensive, highly coordinated compliance patrols that involved Victoria Police. These should be mentioned, as other recreational activities that have been historically unregulated are discussed, such as horse training, so perhaps by including mention of the historical issues in the Reserve, horse and dog groups won’t feel singled out.
- Illegal vehicle access, including by trail bikes, continues to be a problem within the Reserve and we support efforts to reduce this through maintenance and additions of bluestone barriers, signage, gates and enforcement patrols.
- Page 48-49 could include more of the social research about compliance of dog walkers (see section below). 43% of the onshore area has been chosen to be dog free and there is much research to support the need for this approach.
- Section 6.6 discusses Risks and Safety. We would like to advocate for Emergency Beach Number signs (yellow triangles mounted on posts) at access points for the safety of beach

users as well as our staff and volunteers who spend more than 3,000 combined hours per year in the Reserve.

- It is noted on page 65 that Hooded Plover density and fledgling success will be used as indicators. Density is a longer term measure, taking years to respond to damaging threats given species fidelity to sites and longevity. Fledging success is a strong indicator of health of the Reserve. We also recommend using nest failure rates which are likely to reveal levels of disturbance and impacts to the lifetime fitness of the birds (via high energetic costs of disturbance and loss of body condition). Energetic demands are high associated with the brood-rearing phase or replacement clutches that follow nest failure (Weston & Elgar, 2006; Bulla *et al.*, 2015; Yasue & Dearden, 2008). Brood-rearing Hooded Plovers lose condition and forage infrequently (Weston & Elgar, 2006). Thus, disturbance during brood rearing can be particularly damaging to lifetime fitness of the adult birds.
- Section 6.7 explores Information, interpretation and education. We strongly support better signage and interpretation, and a more consistent approach by land managers. We believe BirdLife Australia should be named as a Delivery Partner given our expertise in education and community engagement around shorebirds and beach-nesting birds. We think this section also needs to include ranger patrols and the opportunity for rangers to provide educational information to beach users. In recent years, a seasonal ranger has been employed to educate beach users about beach-nesting birds, and we advocate that this continues as it is critical for assisting beach users to understand the need for the CONSERVATION ZONE and the coexistence approach in the CONSERVATION AND RECREATION ZONES.
- Section 6.8 on Tourism should include more reference to highlighting the tourism value of the Reserve in terms of its unique avifauna. Similar to the attraction of the whales, penguins and shearwater colonies in adjacent parts of the coast, the Reserve offers high nature-based tourism value to the area.

Social implications and community perceptions

General beach use

Using data collected from 667 visits made during 2006-2011, most beach users in the Reserve were identified as walkers, with dog walkers, anglers, horse riders and surfers being the next most common recreational groups (Table 2).

Table 2. The main recreational activities people were observed participating in within the across 21 monitored Hooded Plover sites within the Belfast Coastal Reserve. In total, 667 visits over five seasons of data collection (2006/07 – 2010/11) detected 1,814 people.

Walkers	58.40% (1203)
Dog walkers	17.33% (357)
Anglers	12.14% (250)
Horses	11.02% (227)
Swim/Surf	4.22% (87)
Sitting/Sunbaking	1.99% (41)
Dune boarding	0.19% (4)
Jetski/Windsurfing	0.05% (1)
Quad Bike/4WD	0.05% (1)

Surveys of beach users who use the Belfast Coastal Reserve were carried out in spring and summer 2009/2010 as part of a bigger statewide survey by [redacted] from Gordon Institute of TAFE (Maguire *et al.* 2013). These surveys revealed that respondents (n=24) had high overall awareness of the hooded plover and many had first seen the species at Killarney. The biggest identified knowledge gap was around chick ecology and the need for chicks to roam and access the water's edge and wrack line (this was in line with statewide results, Maguire *et al.* 2015). Respondents were regular users (several times a week to several times a month), mainly using the reserve for walking and swimming/surfing, and 41.7% were dog owners. When asked to rate the effectiveness of a comprehensive list of management options for recovering Hooded Plovers, respondents thought regulations/restrictions would be the most effective (average=4.4, on scale of least effective 1 to most effective 5), specifically enforcement of regulations rated the highest (average=4.7) and 'no dogs' and 'no horses' restrictions rated the next most effective (average=4.5 and 4.6, respectively). On-ground options were ranked much lower (average=4.0, on scale of least effective 1 to most effective 5), and educational approaches even lower (average=3.5, on scale of least effective 1 to most effective 5). Respondents strongly agreed with hooded plover conservation being important to coastal biodiversity (average score=4.9, on scale of disagree 1 to agree 5) and strongly disagreed with the statement that the birds should move to a safer spot to nest (average score=1.4, on scale of disagree 1 to agree 5). These results from locals were similar to beach users from other parts of Victoria (Maguire *et al.* 2013).

Dog walker compliance

Significant investment in public education and the signing and fencing of protected zones around Hooded Plover nesting sites have not been as successful with dog walkers in the BCR compared to other parts of Victoria. This is in part thought to be due to the lack of regulations in place to support recovery efforts. There are four times as many off leash dogs observed in Hooded Plover breeding sites than on leash dogs and this is highest of any other park monitored (Maguire *et al.* 2014). Appendix 6 provides a record of interactions between volunteers and beach users during nest visits in the south west region. Recording the nature of the interaction or conversation, type of beach user and change in behaviour after a conversation is recorded by volunteers on their data sheets or in the online data portal. This reveals a range of positive and negative feedback to information about the birds. Overall for sites within south west Victoria, responses to educational information received a positive response and behaviour change in 46% of interactions with dog walkers and negative response/no change to behaviour in 54% of interactions with dog walkers. If we look at sites within the BCR alone, then 37% of interactions with dog walkers have been positive and resulted in behaviour change, while 63% have been negative and not resulted in behaviour change. This differs from the Victorian average, which is 75% for a positive response from dog walkers and 25% for a negative/no behaviour change response. Comments such as 'not their fault/needed some beach free of seaweed for dogs', 'foxes, gulls, crows and high tides were to blame for impacts on the Hoodies' and 'My dog isn't interested in birds (just wallabies)' suggest that a strong regulatory framework is needed to alter behaviours within around 60% of dog walkers.

Williams *et al.* 2009 revealed that while leashing of dogs can significantly improve conservation outcomes for Hooded Plovers, few dogs are leashed on beaches: 82% of 2,847 dogs on Victorian beaches, 1994–2008. In a survey of 385 dog owners across Victoria, exploring their sense of obligation to leash dogs on beaches, most dog owners saw no conflict between off leash dog exercise and wildlife conservation. In general, respondents considered their own dog to be much less of a threat to wildlife while they considered dogs in general to be a high threat. Dog owners were more likely to feel obliged to leash their dog when they believed other people expected dogs to be leashed.

Maguire *et al. in press* compared levels of compliance with dog regulations (3,516 checks, 69 ocean beaches) under six prevailing management regimes in Victoria, Australia. Compliance was low to moderate across all dog management 'types', but varied significantly. The highest compliance rates

were associated with 'no dog' areas. Despite poor overall compliance, dog regulations appeared to be associated with different rates of occurrence and relative abundances of dogs, suggesting they may effectively displace dog walkers, i.e. assigning suitable off leash dog areas can shift dog walkers away from more sensitive areas.

Analysis of threat records from signed Hooded Plover nesting sites within the BCR has revealed high numbers of dogs off leash observed in comparison to dogs on leash (0.16 dogs on leash per visit versus 0.67 dogs off leash per visit, see Table 1, 2006-2011 data) and these have continued to rise over time, with 0.35 dogs on leash per visit versus 1.47 dogs off leash per visit (n=973, Table 3).

Table 3. The total numbers observed during Hooded Plover site visits over five seasons, and average numbers per visit of people, dogs on leash, dogs off leash, horses and of these horses, those observed above the high tide mark.

	Season	People	Dogs on leash	Dogs off leash	Horses	Horses above HTM
Total	2017-2018	1339	122	674	185	83
Average	n=427	3.14	0.29	1.58	0.43	0.19
Total	2016-2017	957	56	649	372	204
Average	n=349	2.74	0.16	1.86	1.07	0.58
Total	2015_2016	149	9	79	47	16
Average	n=72	2.07	0.13	1.1	0.65	0.22
Total	2014_2015	444	18	152	-	-
Average	n=89	4.99	0.2	1.71	-	-
Total	2013-2014	100	35	39	31	16
Average	n=36	2.78	0.97	1.08	0.86	0.44

Horse riders

Table 3 above also shows the number of horses observed during Hooded Plover site checks, with 0.86 horses per visit over the past five seasons (note this is only a snapshot of use) and of these, around half are using the beach above the high tide mark.

The introduction of a permit system (around 2010/2011) for engaging with Rundell's Mahogany Trail Rides led to greater opportunity to meet with the group, provide education and the local ranger and BirdLife Australia would liaise each season with the group to reinforce permit conditions and understanding of the birds' needs. This dramatically changed behaviour of the group, whereby they had previously ridden in the dunes and on the upper beach within nesting territories, they slowly began to change their behaviour over time. It must be noted however that this group still breach their permit conditions to date, for example, taking larger groups in than authorised (see Mahogany Trail Rides Facebook post December 21st 2017). Monitoring and enforcing the permit is an ongoing task. Past efforts to hold information sessions with recreational trail riding groups have not been as successful. They have resulted in rangers and volunteers being intimidated and talked over, making it a challenging and unsafe environment for education. A permit system and investment in inductions with riders, liaison ahead of each season and compliance monitoring are all critical components of successfully changing this group's behaviour toward riding in the habitat of a highly threatened, disturbance-prone species.

In conclusion, while BirdLife Australia has evidence of improved beach user behaviour in areas where we have been most active and a resultant increase in breeding success rates, there have been multiple barriers identified to improving the social uptake of management interventions for the species in the BCR. These are:

- The lack of regulations within the reserve. Currently there is no capacity to adequately regulate high impact recreational activities in the reserve, nor to enforce these.
- Low compliance with dog leashing signage around critical breeding areas. Volunteers and BirdLife staff frequently observe off-leash dogs chasing nesting birds and running through nesting sites (see Appendix 1).
- Reports of beach user aggression and vandalism of fences and signs, as well as destruction of nests.
- Low awareness and ownership of the issue by high-impact beach user groups such as dog walkers and horse riders. This is despite investment in educational events, ranger patrols, access to publications about the species, and repeated exposure to educational messaging on signage. Unfortunately the public consultation phase for the Draft Management Plan has seen a small group of angry dog walkers and horse riders critiquing, denying and deflecting all evidence around threats posed to the Hooded Plover by dogs and horses. Denial of a problem acts as an immediate barrier to change within this group.

Key management theme #4: Managing in partnership:

- We strongly support the first goal in this chapter: “Coordinated management of the Reserve enables efficiencies in program delivery and is supported by consistent land status and regulations”. We however think that the strategies that aim to achieve this are flawed. The plan recommends retaining the fragmented management across the City of Warrnambool, Moyne Shire Council and Parks Victoria and leaving the Reserve under the Crown Lands (Reserves) Act. The Reserve should become a park under the National Parks Act due to its significant environmental, threatened species and cultural heritage values. This is a recommendation of the Victorian National Parks Association.
- We do not support the current 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. Ten years for example is the average longevity of a Hooded Plover, and if the plan has failed to protect this nationally threatened species, a ten year time frame could spell a lifetime of breeding failure for birds within the Reserve.
- We strongly support goals to ensure that “Traditional Owners caring for their Country is an integral part of the Reserve’s management” and that “Community skills, knowledge and assistance provide stewardship and help in that management”. However, if commercial racehorse training is retained inside the Reserve, their efforts would continue to offer a band-aid solution instead of tackling the source of threats. It is likely that community groups who have been rehabilitating the coastal environment within the Reserve, partaking in citizen science projects including bird monitoring, and who actively erect fences and signs around vulnerable Hooded Plover breeding sites, will be demoralised if this management plan does not adequately address EXTREME threats to the assets they invest heavily in protecting. For example, the Friends of the Hooded Plover invested 5,700 hours to volunteering in 2017 (across the entire region Warrnambool to Portland), which equates to around \$170,000 in in-kind investment.
- Page 74 mentions Friends of the Hooded Plover Far West Victoria. This could be expanded to:
Friends of the Hooded Plover (FoHP) Far West Victoria is a group of volunteers established by BirdLife Australia from 2010, who monitor the Hooded Plovers and other beach-nesting birds within the reserve, collecting data on their breeding success and carrying out a threat

assessment on each visit to breeding sites. This enables scientists at BirdLife Australia to evaluate breeding data in relation to the threat environment and investment into threat mitigation. The group set up protective signage and fencing around vulnerable nesting and chick sites as per best practice protocols and operate under multiple permit and ethics approvals given the sensitive nature of working with a threatened species. Volunteers with the group also educate beach users while out on the beach monitoring, as well as help at community events such as dogs' breakfasts and school visits/excursions. FoHP Far West Victoria work closely with land managers and with other FoHP groups across the Victorian and South Australian coast in an integrated recovery program for the Hooded Plover. The group were finalists in the Victorian Coastal Awards 2014 for their contribution to the Natural Environment and have been nominated for a Victorian Coastal Award for Biodiversity Conservation in 2018.

Key management theme #5: Research and monitoring:

- We strongly support this chapter's goal and strategies and most of the indicators to be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the management plan. However, the plan fails to explain how it will lower the EXTREME risk presented by commercial racehorse training revealed in the table on page 29.
- This section needs to also reflect the indicator species and monitoring that has been outlined in Chapter 5 (page 34) including biannual shorebird counts, biennial beach-nesting bird population counts, Hooded Plover breeding success monitoring coupled with site-based threat assessments. It should also be stated that all monitoring data needs to be adequately analysed, evaluated and management adapted to improve outcomes in target populations.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Draft Management Plan for the Belfast Coastal Reserve. If you wish to discuss any part of our submission in further detail, please contact BirdLife Australia National Office.

References

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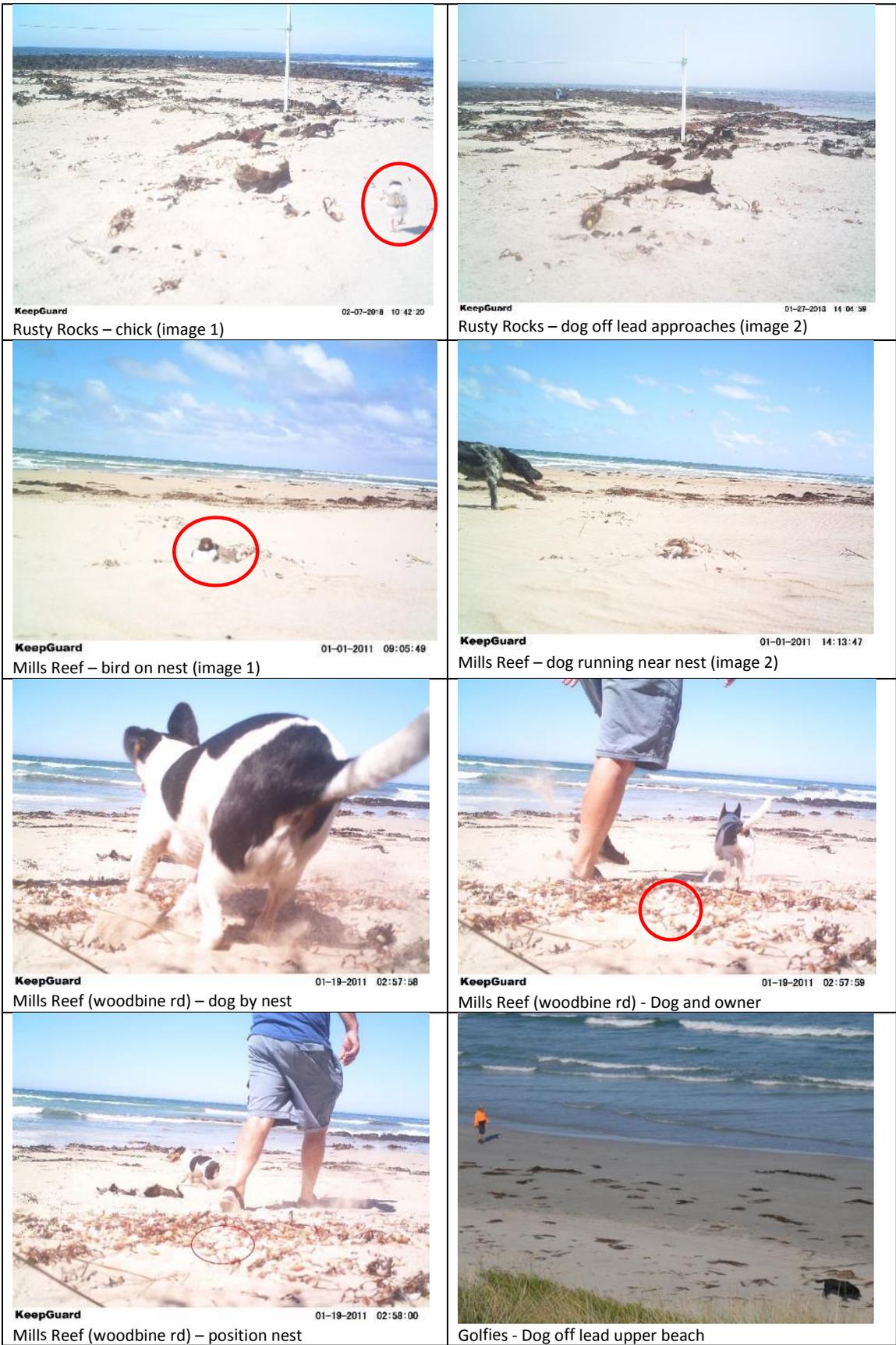
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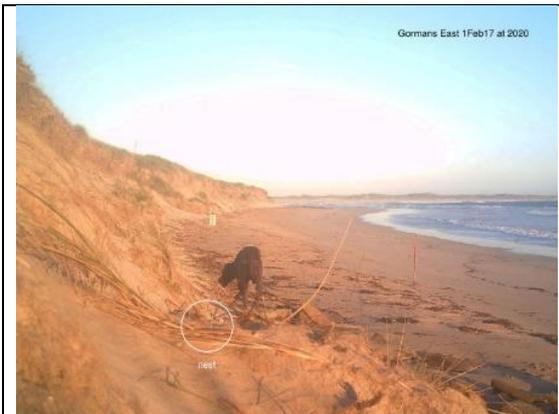
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Appendix 1. Photos of threats to Hooded Plovers with nests and chicks. The photos below include a selection taken by staff and volunteers, plus images from remote nest cameras (Scoutguard images) left in situ two metres from nests to monitor nest fates over the 28-day incubation period (permit # 10004991 (2009-2013), 10007212 (2014-2017) and current permit 10008428 (to Aug 2020)).

<p>Golfies – dog in fenced area</p>	<p>Golfies - dog in fenced area</p>
<p>Towilla – dog in fenced area</p>	<p>Pelicans – dogs off lead at point opposite fence</p>
<p>Pelicans – dogs off lead next to fenced area</p>	<p>Pelicans – dogs off lead next to fenced area</p>
<p>Pelicans – five dogs off lead, 1 on lead</p>	<p>Pelicans – dogs running, about to chase flock Sanderling</p>

	
<p>Dog approaching fence, owners in distance</p>	<p>Dog in fenced area, owners in distance</p>
	
<p>Gormans – dog off leash on water's edge, owner distant</p>	<p>Gormans – dog off leash enters nesting area</p>
	
<p>Gormans – dog off leash runs around nesting area</p>	<p>Gormans – dog off leash runs around nesting area</p>
	
<p>Killarney midway to Basin - Hoodie on nest (image 1)</p>	<p>Killarney midway to Basin - Dog runs over nest crushes 2 of 3 eggs (image 2)</p>





Gormans East



Campground west



Mills Reef – dog knocked camera



Mills reef – dog knocked camera near nest



Mills Reef – camera knocked over



Mills reef – different dog near camera



Mills Reef – dog near camera that was on nest

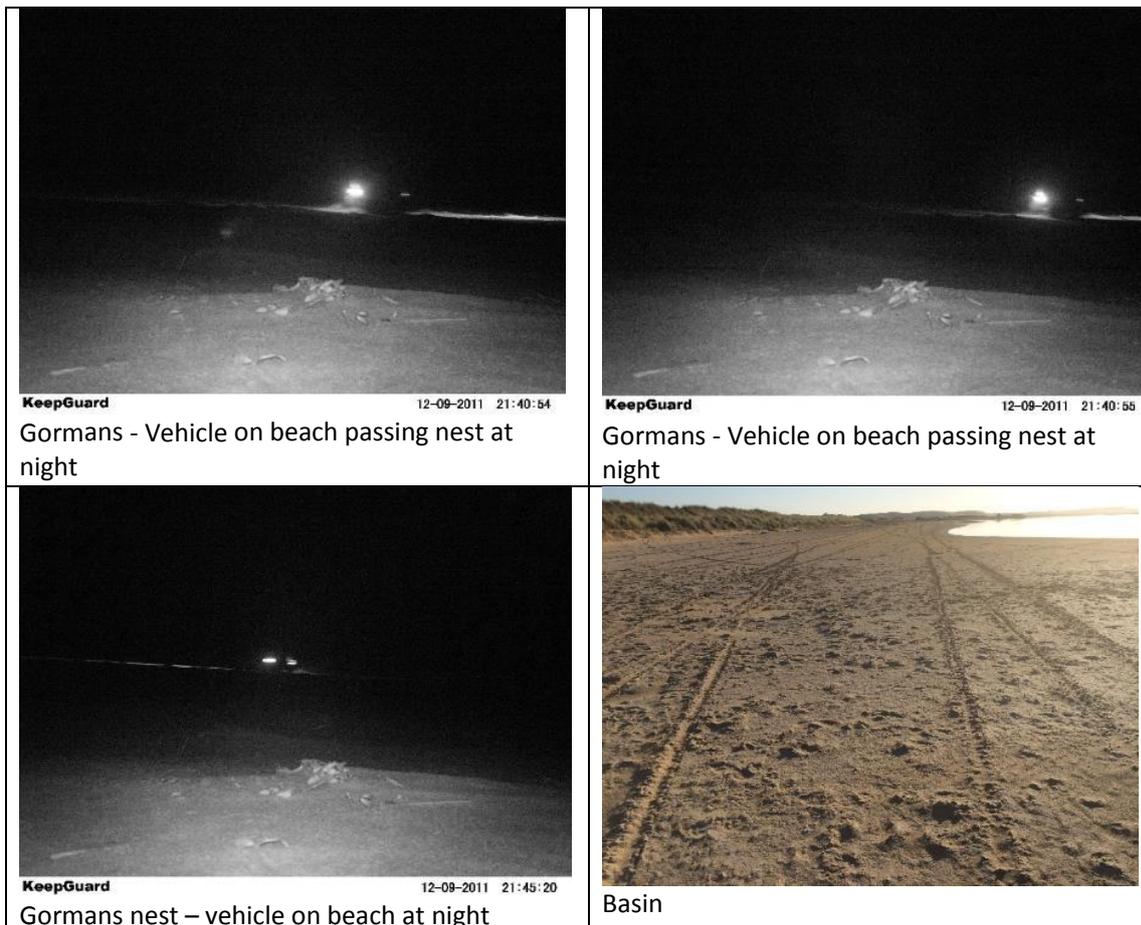


Basin point – dog at camera



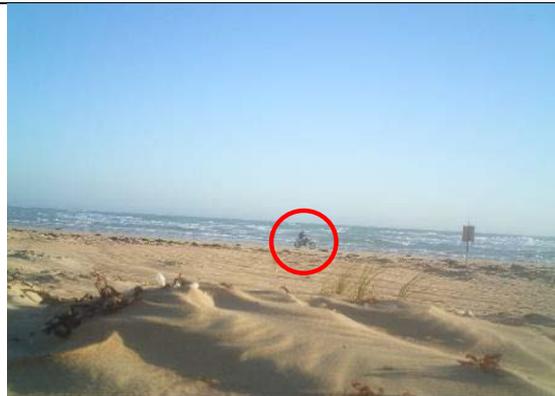


Photos of illegal vehicles/trail bikes on beach and of vehicle damage on beaches and dunes (taken by staff and remote cameras).





Rutledges - Trail bike (photo)



KeepGuard 12-30-2011 19:54:06

Gormans nest - Trail bike at water's edge



Rutledges estuary



Rutledges estuary



Basin West



Gormans



Rutledges, tracks near nest (photo John Amor)



Rutledges



Towilla



Towilla



Rutledges



Levy's dune near Rutledges



Rusty rocks



Basin east



Basin east



Rutledges



Rutledges heading east along entire Levys stretch



Rutledges heading west



Basin east



This photo was taken by _____ at Rutledge's Cutting on 7/03/2018



Photos of horses ridden on upper beach/base dune within nesting zones and at Cutting edge (this location has been identified as the most valuable winter foraging site for Hooded Plovers), taken by







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Appendix 2. Summary of threats to Hooded Plovers, grouped as human-related threats and natural threats. Threats appear in order of impact. The impact of each is categorized as direct or indirect, and the life stage at which the threat operates is specified. The severity of impacts is rated as high, moderate or low, and further rated with a number from 1 (lowest) to 6 (highest). The spatial distribution, across the Victorian coastline, and the temporal distribution, over the next five years, is also included.

SOURCE OF THREAT	IMPACT (D= DIRECT, I=INDIRECT)	LIFE STAGE (H=HABITAT, S= ADULT SURVIVAL, R=REPRO. SUCCESS)	SEVERITY (RATING)	SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION	TEMPORAL DISTRIBUTION
<i>Human-related threats</i>					
Coastal development	Loss or modification of habitat (i); increases in predator numbers or predator use of habitat (i); increases in recreational pressure (i)	H, R	High (6)	Widespread	Constant
Oil spills	Oiling and death of chicks and adults (d); consumption of contaminated food items (d); reduction in food items (i); beach cleaning impacts of crushing/disturbing eggs/chicks (d, i)	S, R, H	High (6)	Highly localised	Stochastic
Vehicles on beaches – illegal access	Crushing of eggs or chicks (d); collisions with and death of adults and juveniles (d); disturbance (i); modification of habitat (i)	R, S, H	High (5)	Highly localised	Seasonal peaks
Weed: Marram Grass	Loss or modification of habitat (i)	H	High (5)	Widespread	Constant
Beach cleaning and kelp harvesting	Crushing of eggs or chicks (d); collisions with and death of adults (d); disturbance (i); loss or modification of habitat (i)	H, R, S	High (5)	Absent (PV beaches)	Absent (PV beaches)
Dogs off lead	Crushing of eggs or chicks (d); depredation of eggs or chicks (d); disturbance (i)	R	High (4)	Widespread	Constant
Introduced Foxes	Depredation of eggs, chicks or adults (d)	R, S	High (4)	Widespread	Constant
Recreationists – static activities (e.g. fishing)	Crushing of eggs or chicks (d); disturbance (i)	R	High (4)	Widespread	Constant, seasonal peaks

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SOURCE OF THREAT	IMPACT (D= DIRECT, I=INDIRECT)	LIFE STAGE (H=HABITAT, S= ADULT SURVIVAL, R=REPRO. SUCCESS)	SEVERITY (RATING)	SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION	TEMPORAL DISTRIBUTION
Superabundant native predators: Ravens	Depredation of eggs or chicks (d)	R	High (4)	Widespread	Constant
Horses	Crushing of eggs or chicks (d); collisions with and death of adults and juveniles (d); disturbance (i); modification of habitat (i)	R, H, S	High (4)	Localised	Constant
Stock (cattle, sheep, goats, camels)	Crushing of eggs or chicks (d); modification of habitat (i)	R, H	High (4)	Absent (PV beaches)	Absent (PV beaches)
Feral deer	Crushing of eggs or chicks (d); modification of habitat (i)	R, H	High (4)	Highly localised	Constant
Cats (feral and domestic)	Depredation of eggs, chicks or adults (d)	R, S	High (4)	Localised	Constant
Vehicles on beaches – SLSCs	Crushing of eggs or chicks (d); collisions with and death of adults and juveniles (d); disturbance (i)	R, S	High (4)	Localised	Constant, seasonal peaks
Weed: Sea Spurge	Loss or modification of habitat (i); increased likelihood of nest depredation (i)	H	High (4)	Localised	Constant
Weed: Sea wheat-grass	Loss or modification of habitat (i); increased likelihood of nest depredation (i)	H	High (4)	Localised	Constant
Dune stabilization works	Loss or modification of habitat (i)	H	High (4)	Highly localised	Constant
Recreationists – Mobile activities (e.g. walking)	Crushing of eggs or chicks (d); disturbance (i); modification of habitat (i)	R, H	High (3)	Widespread	Constant, seasonal peaks
Dogs on lead	Crushing of eggs or chicks (d); disturbance (i)	R	High (3)	Widespread	Constant
Superabundant native predators: Silver gulls	Depredation of eggs or chicks (d)	R	High (3)	Widespread	Constant
Superabundant native predators: Magpies	Depredation of eggs or chicks (d)	R	High (3)	Localised	Constant

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SOURCE OF THREAT	IMPACT (D= DIRECT, I=INDIRECT)	LIFE STAGE (H=HABITAT, S= ADULT SURVIVAL, R=REPRO. SUCCESS)	SEVERITY (RATING)	SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION	TEMPORAL DISTRIBUTION
Litter including fishing line	Entanglement and death of chicks or breeding adults (d); increases in predator numbers or predator use of habitat (i); disturbance to incubating adults (i)	S, R	High (3)	Localised	Constant, seasonal peaks
Driftwood removal	Crushing of eggs or chicks (d); disturbance (i); loss or modification of habitat (i)	H, R	High (3)	Localised	Occasional
Introduced rodents	Depredation of eggs and newly-hatched chicks (d)	R	Moderate (2)	Highly localised	Constant
Vehicles on beaches – land manager access	Crushing of eggs or chicks (d); collisions with and death of adults and juveniles (d); disturbance (i)	R, S	Low * (1)	Localised	Constant
Vehicles (air)	Disturbance (i)	R	Low (1)	Localised	Constant
Vehicles (water)	Disturbance (i)	R	Low (1)	Localised to launching sites	Constant
Natural threats					
High tides	Washing out eggs (d); drowning chicks (d); modification of habitat (i)	R, H	High (4)	Widespread	Cyclic, often influenced by storm surges (see below)
Storms and extreme weather	Washing out or burying eggs (d); egg/chick exposure (i)	R, H	High (4)	Widespread	Variable, often seasonally related
Avian predators: Ravens	Depredation of eggs or chicks (d)	R	High (4)	Widespread	Constant
Avian predators: Birds of Prey	Depredation of chicks or adults (d)	R, S	Moderate (4)	Widespread	Constant
Avian predators: Magpies	Depredation of eggs or chicks (d)	R	Moderate (2)	Localised	Constant
Avian predators: Gulls	Depredation of eggs or chicks (d)	R	Moderate (2)	Widespread	Constant

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Source of threat	Impact (d= direct, i=indirect)	LIFE STAGE (H=HABITAT, s= ADULT SURVIVAL, R=REPRO. SUCCESS)	Severity (RATING)	spatial distribution	temporal distribution
Avian predators: Other	Depredation of eggs (d); crushing of eggs (e.g. Emus) (d)	R	Low (1)	Localised	Constant
Native rodents	Depredation of eggs (d)	R	Low (1)	Highly localised	Constant
Reptilian predators	Depredation of eggs or chicks (d)	R	Low (1)	Highly localised	Seasonal peaks

Appendix 3. Photos of Hooded Plover flocks using Rutledges Cutting in winter (photos





Appendix 4 Reviews of dog and horse impacts relevant to beach-nesting birds and their ecology

Recreationists with dogs

In November 2012, 155 satellite trackers were placed on dog collars ('igotu' loggers) in a voluntary participation project comparing the movement of dogs in on-leash and off-leash areas along the Bellarine Peninsula and Surf Coast (Schneider 2013). On average dogs spend half an hour on the beach during a given walk, travel ~850 metres from an access point and in this distance, cover 2.5 kilometres of beach in their zigzag movements. On average, dogs run into the dunes from the beach 1.5 times per walk. A key finding of this study was that there was no significant difference in the space use by dogs on on-leash and off-leash beaches because on on-leash beaches the majority of dogs were off-leash (i.e. regulations were not effectively minimizing dog movements).

The greater use of the upper beach and dune means that there is a higher likelihood of dogs off lead crushing eggs and chicks and potentially depredating the eggs and chicks they encounter. Domestic dogs have been known to partially or entirely destroy shorebird nests, including those protected with symbolic fencing (e.g. Western Snowy Plover nests, cited in U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2007; experimental beach-located nests, Weston *et al.* 2012; Hooded Plover nests, pers. comm., pers. comm.; BirdLife Australia remote camera data 2010-2011).

The predatory impacts of domestic dogs are documented for birds worldwide, including devastating impacts on threatened species populations (Taborsky 1988; Diamond 1989; Genovesi and Duprae n.d. in Brickner 2000). Dogs have been observed eating Hooded Plover eggs (Hanisch 1998; pers. comm.), and eating model (quail) eggs from artificial nests mimicking Hooded Plover nests on beaches (Stojanovic unpublished data 2007; Weston *et al.* 2012; Cribbin 2012).

While records of chick fates are rare (as observers are rarely present when the chicks die), there have been five observations of chicks at different beaches being chased and killed by off leash dogs (Mornington Peninsula x 2, Fleurieu Peninsula x 3; BirdLife Australia database 2013-2018). In addition, necropsies on four Hooded Plover chick bodies have revealed dog attack and trauma/haemorrhaging as the cause of death (Deakin University unpublished necropsies 2014-2018). One of these necropsied chicks was the subject of a radio-tracking study where the Deakin University researcher, tracked the signal to a rubbish bin at the beach entry point, to find the body of the chick hidden at the bottom of the bin in a bag of dog faeces (2017). Unleashed dogs have also been observed killing Piping Plover chicks (Cairns and McLaren 1980; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1996) and New Zealand Dotterel chicks (Wills *et al.* 2003).

Domestic dogs are known to chase adult beach-nesting birds (Retallick and Bolitho 1993; Weston and Morrow 2000; pers. obsv.; pers. comm.), which can lead to prolonged absences from the nest or brood. Chasing and the unpredictable movement, proximity and speed (Burger 1986; Glover *et al.* 2011) of unrestrained dogs are traits that do not promote 'habituation', the process of wildlife learning to reduce response intensities or frequencies with increasing exposure to the stimulus (Lafferty 2001; Sastre *et al.* 2009). Rather, these attributes promote 'sensitization', or enhanced response frequencies or intensities with increasing exposure to stimuli (Glover *et al.* 2011).

Walkers accompanied by dogs often evoke greater responses from ground-dwelling birds than people alone (Sime 1999; Lord *et al.* 2001; Taylor *et al.* 2007; Sastre *et al.* 2009). Glover *et al.* (2011) showed that of eight shorebirds tested, stimulus type (walker, jogger, walker with leashed dog) significantly influenced Flight Initiation Distance (FID) of three species (another two approached significance). Excluding joggers, all three species had the highest FID when approached by a person

with a leashed dog, rather than by a walker. Lambert and Ratcliff (1979) and Taylor *et al.* (2005) suggest that it is likely that dogs are seen by ground-dwelling birds as much more of a threat than people, as dogs are more likely to catch and kill them or their chicks.

Western Snowy Plovers flushed more frequently and remained off their nests longer when a person was accompanied by a dog than when alone (Page *et al.* 1977). Adult Piping Plovers and their chicks ceased feeding 52 % of the time when dogs were within 50 m compared to 31 % when people were within the same proximity (Hoopes 1993). Hoopes (1993) also found that the response distance of Piping Plovers was greater for dogs (46 m) compared with people (23 m), and that the reacting birds moved more than double the distances and remained away from the nest longer when disturbed by dogs compared to people. Similarly, Yalden and Yalden (1990) found that breeding plovers in the United Kingdom flushed from the nest at greater distances when a walker was accompanied by a dog. Lord *et al.* (2001) studied the impact of three treatment types (walking, running or leading a dog) on northern New Zealand Dotterels and found that people who were accompanied by a dog caused the greatest level of disturbance in terms of flush distance, length of time away from the nest and distraction display intensity.

On Victorian beaches, 18-19% of encounters with Hooded Plover nests or broods (0.47 per hour) involved dogs (Weston and Elgar 2005a, 2007). The highest frequencies of Hooded Plover nest absences were in response to people accompanied by unleashed dogs (Weston and Elgar 2007). Hooded Plovers appear to respond with higher rates of nest absences in response to encounters with unleashed dogs compared to leashed dogs. Incubating Hooded Plovers left the nest in 21 % of encounters with leashed dogs, similar to that for encounters with walkers, while 38.4 % of encounters with a walker accompanied by an unleashed dog caused the incubating bird to leave the nest for as long as 30 minutes (Weston and Elgar 2007). Furthermore, unleashed dogs (with walkers) caused the brooding of chicks to cease on 51.4 % of encounters, compared with 33.3 % for leashed dogs (Weston and Elgar 2005a). This suggests that the birds differentially perceive the behaviour of dogs rather than their mere presence, and that off-leash movement is perceived as a greater threat.

Unrestrained dogs roam within coastal habitats perhaps more than any other stimulus type (except possibly raptors; Coombes *et al.* 2008). Of 380 coastal residents in south-eastern Australia, 36.8% owned a dog of which 93.6% took their dog to the beach (Maguire *et al.* 2011). On Australian beaches (90%, Weston and Elgar 2005a; 82%, Williams *et al.* 2009) or US beaches (93%; Lafferty 2001), the majority or at least a substantial proportion of dogs are unrestrained, and this includes areas where dogs are not permitted off-leash or at all, such as national parks (88%, 1991-98, Dowling and Weston 1999; 64%, Arnberger *et al.* 2005), recreation reserves (22%, Austria, Arnberger and Eder 2008), wetland reserves (100%; Antos *et al.* 2007) and buffers (68%, Weston *et al.* 2009). Walkers and joggers without dogs were most common on beaches in Victoria, Australia, where active Hooded Plover nests occurred (16.9% and 13.4% respectively), yet walkers and joggers accompanied by unleashed dogs occupied more levels of the beach. Thus, in at least many parts of the world, wildlife most frequently encounter free-roaming dogs regardless of prevailing local regulations (Natt and Weston 1995; Dowling and Weston 1999; Weston 2003; Lafferty *et al.* 2006; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2007; Weston *et al.* 2012).

Dodge (2003) revealed that 20 % of dog owners were non-compliant with Hooded Plover protective signage and fencing, and 99 % of this non-compliance was through not leashing their dog. In New Zealand, Bridson (2000) discovered that most people thought that dogs were a threat to breeding New Zealand Dotterels, including those that regularly walked their dogs at the beach. Between 68-78 % of respondents thought that dogs should be excluded from 'wildlife refuge' beaches, but largely because of the disruption this caused to their own recreational experience. More than 90 % of respondents believed in fining dog owners in breach of regulations, however, many thought that

only owners of 'big dogs', uncontrolled dogs or those caught chasing birds should be prosecuted (Bridson 2000). In her interviews with dog owners from coastal Victoria, Henry (2006) discovered that the majority of respondents did not feel obliged to leash their dogs at the beach. This was potentially explained by conflicting values about wildlife conservation, human recreation and dog access to beaches, the commonly held belief that people's own dog(s) are less of a threat to beach-nesting birds than dogs in general, and a strong belief that unleashed exercise is beneficial for dog health (Williams *et al.* 2009). Several external barriers to compliance were identified, including the social influence of beaches generally being perceived by the broader dog-owner community as a good place for unleashed dogs, lack of provision of information about the threats that dogs pose to beach-nesting birds, lack of, or at least lack of awareness, of designated off-leash areas and lack of enforcement. Enforcement of dog regulations on beaches by the managing agencies is often lax or non-existent (Weston 2003; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2007).

Recreationists on horses

Horses ridden on beaches and dunes can have direct impacts on the breeding success of beach-nesting birds (Maguire 2008). While most equestrian use of beaches occurs on the wet sand, during high tide periods, horse riders are forced to ride above the high-tide mark. Horses can crush nests if ridden above the high-tide mark or in the dunes; they can crush chicks, particularly if ridden swiftly along the beach, as chicks cannot move as quickly out of their path, and; they could potentially collide with and injure or kill adults. Excessive disturbance by horse riders can also contribute to nest failure through exposure of eggs and chicks to thermal extremes, predators and energetic stress. Horses, being heavy, hoofed animals, also have an impact on the physical habitat. If ridden in the dunes, they contribute to heavy erosion, and when ridden on the soft sand of the beach, leave craters that make chick navigation across the beach difficult (Weston 2003).

Horses have crushed and disturbed Western Snowy Plover nests (Point Reyes Bird Observatory unpubl. data; Page 1988; Persons 1995; Craig *et al.* 1992; Woolington 1985), and Snowy Plovers are consequently more likely to fly away from approaching horses (Page 1988; Lafferty 2001). Horses ridden along the base of the foredune have been observed to crush Hooded Plover nests in western Victoria (pers. obsv.). Furthermore, on horse beaches between Warrnambool and Narrawong VIC, only 7% of eggs have fledged chicks successfully (7 chicks from 96 eggs, 12 pairs). This is almost half that of horse-free beaches in this same section of coast (13 chicks from 99 eggs, 9 pairs; Maguire *et al.* 2014).

Horses trample beach infauna such as shellfish (Taylor *et al.* 2012). Only one study exists regarding this, from New Zealand and which investigated horses and Surf Clams. On average, horse riding resulted in 36.9% mortality within a single hoof print. Extrapolative modelling predicted that the long-term presence of horse riders (and vehicles) would be highly detrimental to shellfish. Shellfish, and other beach infauna, form important parts of food webs on beaches so processes which disrupt these constitute stressors to beach ecologies (Defeo *et al.* 2008; Schlacher *et al.* 2008).

Appendix 5. Photos of the beach habitat within Belfast Coastal Reserve which highlight how narrow the area is (photos).









Appendix 6. A summary of the interactions between volunteers and beach users recorded during monitoring visits and reported via the MyBeachBird portal to BirdLife Australia’s Hooded Plover database 2006-2018. Cells highlighted grey are within the Belfast Coastal Reserve. Detailed comments have been removed from this version for confidentiality reasons, but originals were supplied to Parks Victoria.

Site name	Year	Positive & Effective	Negative/behaviour unchanged	Type of user
Warrnambool Levys	2006-07	1		horse rider
Warrnambool Levys	2006-07		1	dog walker
Warrnambool Levys	2006-07	1		horse rider
Warrnambool Levys	2006-07		1	dog walker
Killarney Basin West	2007-08		1	dog walker
Killarney Pelican point	2007-08		1	dog walker
Port Fairy Mills Reef	2007-08	1	1	dog walker
Port Fairy Mills Reef west	2007-08	1		fishermen
Warrnambool Levys W	2007-08	1		horse rider
Warrnambool Levys W2	2007-08		1	horse rider
Warrnambool Levys W2	2007-08		1	horse rider
Warrnambool Levys W3	2007-08		1	horse rider
Killarney	2008-09	1		horse rider
Killarney Basin West 1st	2008-09	1		walker
Port Fairy Mills Reef West	2008-09		1	dog walker
Golf Ball Beach, Port Fairy	2009-10		1	dog walker
Killarney	2009-10	1		walker
Killarney	2009-10	1		dog walker
Killarney	2009-10		1	dog walker
Killarney	2009-10		1	dog walker
Rutledge Cutting	2009-10	1		school group
Rutledge Cutting	2009-10	1		walker
Rutledge Cutting	2009-10		1	dog walker
Rutledge Cutting	2009-10		1	dog walker
Rutledge Cutting	2009-10	1		dog walker
Rutledge Cutting	2009-10		1	dog walker
Rutledge Cutting	2009-10		1	dog walker
Rutledge Cutting	2009-10	1		walker
Rutledge Cutting	2009-10		1	dog walker
Rutledge Cutting	2009-10	1		vehicle
Rutledge Cutting	2009-10		1	dog walker
Rutledge Cutting	2009-10		1	dog walker
Boat Ramp West	2010-11	1		dog walker
Boat Ramp West	2010-11	1		sunbather
Killarney	2010-11	1		bird watchers
Mills Reef West	2010-11	1		shell collectors



Site name	Year	Positive & Effective	Negative/behaviour unchanged	Type of user
Old Log Beach	2010-11	1		dog walker
Killarney Boat Ramp 2 (east of point)	2013-14		1	dog walker
Killarney Camping Ground West	2013-14		1	dog walker
Killarney Pelicans	2013-14	1		dog walker
Tower Hill Gormans Rd Far West	2013-14	1		dog walker
Tower Hill Rutledges Cutting West Pt	2013-14	1		dog walker
Killarney Basin Boat Ramp (East)	2014-15		1	dog walker
Killarney Basin Rusty Rocks 2 (point)	2014-15		1	dog walker
Killarney Boat Ramp 3 (Point)	2014-15	1		dog walker
Killarney Camping Ground West	2014-15	1		walker
Killarney Camping Ground West	2014-15		1	dog walker
Killarney Camping Ground West	2014-15	1		bird watchers
Killarney Camping Ground West	2014-15		1	dog walker
Killarney Camping Ground West	2014-15		1	dog walker
Killarney Camping Ground West	2014-15	1		dog walker
Killarney Camping Ground West	2014-15		1	walker
Killarney Camping Ground West	2014-15	1		walker
Killarney Camping Ground West	2014-15		1	surfer
Killarney Camping Ground West	2014-15		1	dog walker
Port Fairy Mills Reef East (Golf Course)	2014-15	1		horse rider
Port Fairy Mills Reef East (Golf Course)	2014-15	1		dog walker
Port Fairy Mills Reef East (Golf Course)	2014-15		1	dog walker
Port Fairy Mills Reef Far West	2014-15	1		dog walker
Tower Hill Gormans Rd West	2014-15	1		dog walker
Tower Hill Gormans Rd West	2014-15	1		sunbather
Tower Hill Gormans Rd West	2014-15		1	dog walker
Tower Hill Gormans Rd West	2014-15	1		school group
Tower Hill Rutledges Cutting West Pt	2014-15		1	dog walker
Tower Hill Towilla East (Seachange)	2014-15		1	dog walker



Site name	Year	Positive & Effective	Negative/behaviour unchanged	Type of user
Tower Hill Towilla East (Seachange)	2014-15	1		horse rider
100m west of campground	2015-16	1		dog walker
Killarney Basin Rusty Rocks 2 (point)	2015-16		1	dog walker
Killarney Old Log Beach 1 (west end)	2015-16	1		walker
Killarney Old Log Beach 1 (west end)	2015-16	1		dog walker
Port Fairy Mills Reef East (Golf Course)	2015-16		1	dog walker
Port Fairy Mills Reef East (Golf Course)	2015-16		1	horse rider
Port Fairy Mills Reef Far West	2015-16	1		dog walker
Port Fairy Mills Reef West	2015-16	1		dog walker
Tower Hill Gormans Lane East	2015-16	1		dog walker
Tower Hill Gormans Rd West	2015-16	1		horse rider
Tower Hill Rutledges Cutting (mouth)	2015-16	1		dog walker
Tower Hill Rutledges Cutting (mouth)	2015-16		1	dog walker
Tower Hill Towilla East (Seachange)	2015-16	1		walker
Tower Hill Towilla East (Seachange)	2015-16		1	horse rider
Killarney W Camp Ground 1	2016-17		1	dog walker
Killarney Boat Ramp 1 (west of point)	2017-18		1	dog walker
Killarney Boat Ramp 2 (east of point)	2017-18		1	dog walker
Killarney Boat Ramp 3 (Sisters Pt)	2017-18	1		fishermen
Killarney Boat Ramp 3 (Sisters Pt)	2017-18		1	dog walker
Killarney E Midway	2017-18	1		nurdler (collecting nurdles)
Killarney E Reef Pt East Side (Old Log 2)	2017-18	1		dog walker
Killarney E Reef Pt East Side (Old Log 2)	2017-2018	1		walker
Killarney E Reef Pt East Side (Old Log 2)	2017-18	1		playing games/beach tent
Killarney W Camp Ground 1	2017-18	1		dog walker
Killarney W Camp Ground 2 (West)	2017-18	1		dog walker
Port Fairy East Beach (Golfies)	2017-18		1	dog walker
Port Fairy Mills Reef (Point)	2017-18		1	dog walker
Port Fairy Mills Reef (Point)	2017-18	1		dog walker

Site name	Year	Positive & Effective	Negative/behaviour unchanged	Type of user
Port Fairy Mills Reef East	2017-18		1	playing games/beach tent
Tower Hill Basin Boat Ramp (East Side 1)	2017-18	1		nurdler (collecting nurdles)
Tower Hill Basin Boat Ramp (East Side 1)	2017-18		1	dog walker
Tower Hill Gormans Lane West	2017-18		1	dog walker
Tower Hill Rutledge Cutting East 2 (Spinifex)	2017-18		1	dog walker
Tower Hill Rutledge Cutting East 3 Turnaround	2017-18	1		dog walker
Tower Hill Rutledge Cutting West Pt	2017-18	1		horse riders
Tower Hill Towilla East (Seachange)	2017-18		1	dog walker
Tower Hill Towilla East (Seachange)	2017-18	1		nurdler (collecting nurdles)
Warrnambool Levys E Shellys	2017-18	1		nurdler
Warrnambool Logans beach	2006-07	1		dog walker
Warrnambool Logans beach	2006-07	1		walker
Port Fairy time and tide	2007-08	1		dog walker
Port Fairy time and tide	2007-08	1		dog walker
Warrnambool Logans whale	2007-08	1		surfer
Port Fairy time and tide	2008-2009	1		walker
Warrnambool Logans Chows	2008-09	1		dog walker
Warrnambool Logans Saddle	2008-09	1		collecting firewood
Logans Beach	2009-10	1		dog walker
Logans Beach	2009-10	1		dog walker
Logans Beach	2009-10	1		fishermen
Port Fairy	2009-10	1		walker
Pt Fairy	2009-10		1	dog walker
Time and Tide 1	2010-11		1	dog walker
Logans beach	2011-12		1	dog walker
Point Richie	2013-14		1	dog walker
Port Fairy South Beach (Main)	2013-14	1		dog walker
Warrnambool Logans Platform	2013-14	1		dog walker
Warrnambool Logans Saddle 1	2013-14	1		dog walker
Warrnambool Logans Saddle 1	2013-14		1	dog walker
Goose Lagoon Ab Farm Drain Bay East 1 (Drain)	2014-15		1	walker

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Site name	Year	Positive & Effective	Negative/behaviour unchanged	Type of user
Point Richie	2014-15	1		dog walker
Warrnambool Hopkins Mouth East	2014-15	1		fishermen
Port Fairy Time and Tide 1 (main)	2015-16	1		dog walker
Port Fairy Time and Tide 1 (main)	2015-16	1		dog walker
Port Fairy Time and Tide 3 (far west end)	2015-16	1		dog walker
Port Fairy Time and Tide 3 (far west end)	2015-16	1		walker
Warrnambool Logans Quinns Access	2015-16	1		walker
Port Fairy South Beach (Powling St)	2016-17	1		walker
Port Fairy East Beach (Tip Site)	2017-18	1		dog walker
Port Fairy East Beach (Tip Site)	2017-18		1	dog walker
Port Fairy South Beach (Main)	2017-18	1		walker
Port Fairy South Beach (Powling St)	2017-18	1		walker
Port Fairy Time and Tide 1 (main)	2017-18	1		dog walker
Warrnambool Logans Platform East	2017-18		1	dog walker
Warrnambool Logans Reef	2017-18		1	Dog walker
Warrnambool Pt Ritchie	2017-18	1		dog walker
Warrnambool Pt Ritchie	2017-18	1		dog walker