

# Your Western Port Ward Update

Welcome to the final edition of the Western Port Ward Update for this term of Council.

Tuesday September 22<sup>nd</sup> is Nomination Day and from noon on the date Council goes into caretaker mode.

The September Ordinary Meeting of Council was the final decision-making forum for this council.

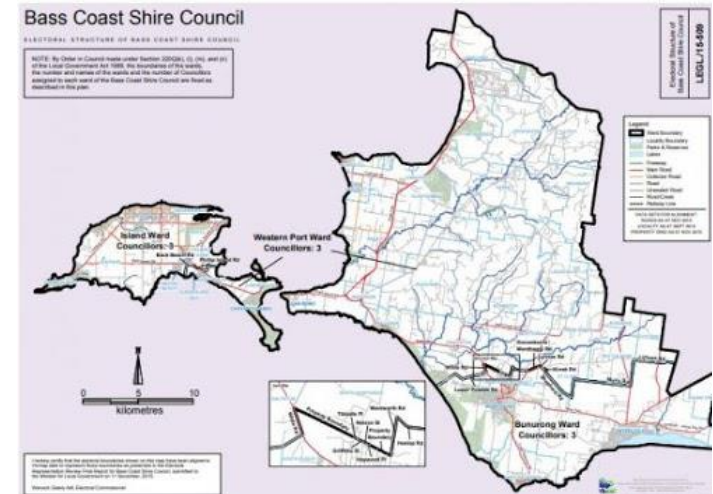
There will be an Ordinary Meeting in October and this will only be for administrative purposes. The minutes and video of the September meeting is available at:  
<https://www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/about-council/council-meetings#ordinary-meetings>

*Cr Geoff Ellis, Cr Clare Le Serve, Cr Bruce Kent  
Your Western Port Ward Councillors*




We would like to acknowledge Australia's First Peoples, who for thousands of years faithfully cared for this Land, the Waterways and the Sea.

We respectfully acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Elders who have gone before us, as well as the emerging leaders of tomorrow and thank them for their wisdom and guidance as we walk together.



**Keep finding creative ways to connect.**

Through COVID-19 and beyond, we're here for you.

Ready to help 24/7.  
 **13 11 14**

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## Your Western Port Ward *Update*

### Surf Beach Turbine: "How can this happen here? How can we stop this?"

I don't know what the record for public questions at Council meetings is, but I reckon the community of Surf Beach have rightly set a PB. The August maelstrom continued into our September meeting with questions being received right up to the cut off time.

When responding to the questions, CEO Ali Wastie acknowledged the high level of community concern generated by the threatened wind turbine. "We are taking the feedback from the community extremely seriously. Council officers have requested further information from the landowner to ascertain whether a planning permit may be required." she said. Council officers need some time to assess the additional information.

"I have personally contacted the landowner and requested that construction of the turbine does not proceed until this assessment has been made." Ms Wastie asserted.

"The size of the turbine does not trigger a planning permit as it is under 11 metres. A building permit is not required as it is not attached to a building. This advice has been double checked and triple checked and has been confirmed by the Victorian Building Authority. They have also confirmed that the turbine is an unclassifiable structure and therefore exempt from regulations."

The EPA can only make an assessment on the turbine once it has been constructed. It is impossible to ascertain noise impact beforehand. The site is also outside the RAMSAR boundary wetlands.

In August Ms Wastie advised that she had written to the State Government to highlight the lack of guidance within the State standard controls and requested amendments to planning schemes so Council can oversight and review domestic wind turbines. A response has not yet been received from the department.

Shire Mayor, Brett Tessari, has personally taken this issue up with the Minister for Local Government, the Hon Shaune Leane.

"Minister Leane doesn't have the power to intervene. He is helping our community by calling other Ministers to see how they can assist us." Mayor Tessari said.

Watch this space.

One of the highlights of the last four years are Citizenship ceremonies. It's so great to officially welcome newcomers into Bass Coast. We recently held our first on-line ceremony.

It was a precious moment, very special, and we are going to back that up with a physical gathering of our new Citizens once the appropriate stage of restriction is achieved.

One thing that barely got a mention from anyone over the last week was #Equalpayday.

Perhaps because there is not a lot to celebrate? On average women must work an additional 59 days a year to earn the same as men.

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## Your Western Port Ward *Update*

### ESTABLISHING A CULTURAL HERITAGE, FLORA AND FAUNA RESERVE ON THE EASTERN SIDE OF WESTERN PORT

#### Motion

##### That Council:

1. That Council Officers prepare a report to inform Bass Coast Shire Council advocacy for a Cultural Heritage, Flora and Fauna reserve on the eastern side of Western Port. Officers to consider relevant Victorian National Park Association reports and investigations.
2. If required, Council will then create a strategy for such advocacy.
3. Name of this potential reserve to be decided by the Cultural Heritage Stakeholders.

#### Background by Councillor

Nil.

#### Officers Comments

Officers will engage with appropriate representatives from both State and Federal Government including DELWP and Parks Victoria to understand the process to establish the most appropriate reserve that reflects a Cultural Heritage, Flora and Fauna reserve, including environmental and planning requirements, and can provide this information in a future Councillor Briefing or Council Report to inform Councillors.

This information, along with appropriate engagement with potentially impacted stakeholders, is necessary prior to determining the advocacy strategy if Council wishes to proceed.

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Cr Geoff Ellis, Western Port Ward  
Dated: 16 September 2020

**CARRIED**

We'd like to humbly thank the people of Western Port Ward for the last four years.



Bruce Kent



Clare Le Serve



Geoff Ellis

Speak  
kindly to  
yourself.  
You're  
always  
listening.



 Lifeline

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