

What's happened so far

In August 2007, Geelong Council released a new draft Barwon Heads Structure Plan for public comment. The draft Structure Plan included an expansion of the town boundary for residential/commercial development, despite the fact planners had advised there should be no expansion.

Geelong Council received over 760 submissions from individuals and organisations in support of retaining the existing town boundary, reflecting the strong clear view of the community. In December 2007 the Geelong Council voted to retain the existing boundary in the final Structure Plan. The matter will go to a State Government-appointed panel hearing in 2008 where the Save Barwon Heads Alliance and the Geelong Council will present the case for retaining the current boundary against developers arguing for expansion. Once the panel have published their report, the matter will go to the Planning Minister for final sign-off.

We need your help

Join up to the Save Barwon Heads Alliance using the form overleaf to demonstrate your support for retaining the existing town boundary. We need your membership to provide strong evidence at the State Government panel hearing that the community is united in support of retaining the boundary.

Please help by making a donation using the form overleaf. Every bit counts. We need financial resources to pay for legal representation at the panel hearing and to cover associated expenses.

Join our email list for news and updates by emailing us at savebarwonheads@gmail.com

Keep checking our website

We will let you know what other actions will be required of the community in the forthcoming months.

www.savebarwonheads.org.au



SAVE BARWON HEADS

www.savebarwonheads.org.au

Contact us:

Gabrielle Nagle, President

ph 0407 319 940

Steve Wickham, Vice-President

ph 0438 866 603

Peter Nagle, Treasurer

Elissa Ashton-Smith, Secretary,

ph 0438 317 239

Email: savebarwonheads@gmail.com

Mail: PO Box 1039, Barwon Heads, VIC 3227

Our website: www.savebarwonheads.org.au



SBHA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND DONATION FORM

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE

EMAIL:

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

\$ 5.00

If you would like to make a donation, please indicate the amount here:

Total:

Signed: _____

Please make cheques out to: Save Barwon Heads Alliance Inc.

PO BOX 1039, Barwon Heads, 3227

or the Post Office Barwon Heads

Please return to:



Save Barwon Heads Alliance

was formed in July 2007 in response to a proposal to expand the Barwon Heads town boundary.

- Barwon Heads is not a designated growth area.
- City of Greater Geelong planners advise no expansion of the town boundary.
- Any expansion would set a precedent for urban sprawl along the entire western boundary through to Geelong.
- Any expansion would cause environmental degradation to internationally significant wetlands.
- Expansion would cause congestion, over-crowding and over-burdened services and infrastructure.
- State and Local Planning Policies prohibit township growth in sensitive coastal environments.
- State policy says open green rural spaces between coastal townships must be protected.

Our aim is to ensure that the existing town boundary is retained for the long term.

Geelong Council Planners state

"Rezoning and development of any parcel of land on the western fringe of the township has the potential to create an undesirable precedent along the whole western boundary of the township, with the prospect of further substantial urban growth to the extent that the village atmosphere of the township would be threatened and its centralised services and facilities seriously over-stretched.

...urban development outside of the existing boundary would irrevocably erode the 'village' atmosphere of the town and undermine the vision of the town in 2016, which aspires to be a place 'where human impact is managed to support the fragile natural surroundings.'" (Barwon Heads Structure Plan Dec 2007)

Barwon Heads is attractive to people for its unique character as a small coastal village located within a sensitive environmental and significant landscape setting. These important features need to be protected to ensure that the very essence of the town's attractiveness is not lost.

Retention of the boundary is important to help preserve the scenic and environmental qualities that are essential to the Bellarine tourism economy and to protect valuable environmental and cultural heritage sites which are long term public assets.

"It is a strongly held view in the local community that the established township should not extend beyond its current urban zoned limits at the western edge. This position arises out of a concern for the environmental qualities of the internationally recognised site and a desire to protect the landscape character of the wetlands area, rather than a purely 'anti-development' stance."

(Barwon Heads Urban Design Framework 2004)



The vision for Barwon Heads in 2016

"In the year 2016 Barwon Heads will be a unique, sustainable, residential and environmental hub; a landlocked community surrounded by pristine river, coast and wetlands. An intimate community which supports all age groups and provides a place of belonging for residents and visitors alike; where human impact is managed to support the fragile natural surroundings by:

- clearly defined limitations on urban development
- protecting and nurturing natural surroundings by managing human footprint
- supporting walking, cycling, fishing, sailing, surfing, swimming and generally enjoying what our coastal village has to offer in an environmentally sensitive way".

(Bellarine Peninsula Strategic Plan 2006–2016)