

September 2023

# Community Update

## **BELLARINE DISTINCTIVE AREA AND LANDSCAPE (DAL) SIGNED**

I am very excited to announce in August the Minister for Planning Sonya Kilkenny released the final Statement of Planning Policy (SPP) for the Bellarine Peninsula. Within this policy, the Bellarine Peninsula has been declared a 'distinctive area and landscape' (DAL) under the Planning Environment Act 1987.

This policy locks in protected settlement boundaries for all townships on the Bellarine Peninsula, ensuring that the landscapes and natural beauty of the Peninsula are protected for future generations.

My predecessor, the Hon. Lisa Neville, worked tirelessly alongside the Bellarine community to safeguard the unique aspects of our region and we now have a comprehensive 50-year policy in place for the Bellarine. A plan that not only prioritises environmental preservation but also seeks to protect our iconic townships.

This policy was prepared together with Traditional Owners, the Wadawurrung, the Borough of Queenscliffe, and the City of Greater Geelong with significant public consultation.

To see the township boundaries and more information you can search Bellarine Distinctive Area and Landscapes online and visit the [engage.vic.gov.au](https://engage.vic.gov.au) website.

## **COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO ROAD SAFETY**

As chair of the Legislative Assembly Economy and Infrastructure Committee, I recently conducted two days of public hearings for an inquiry into road safety behaviours on vulnerable road users.

Road safety is something we all have a part in, and I greatly appreciated the opportunity to be able to hear from a wide range of witnesses and professionals to determine how we can improve road safety for our wider community.

The Bellarine has not been immune to serious accidents and fatalities. Accidents occur from a variety of factors, but evidence from the inquiry is showing that drivers are engaging in more risky behaviours, such as speeding, drug driving, running red lights and not wearing a seatbelt.

I'll continue to update the community as we work towards the final report into this inquiry.

## **NORTHERN BELLARINE AQUATIC AND LEISURE CENTRE**

Stage Two concept designs for a state-of-the-art indoor aquatic centre have now been approved.

I'm pleased to be able to secure State funding for this project, with \$20 million in the recent 2023/24 State Budget, to match the \$20 million from the Federal Government.

I would like to say a very big thank you to the members of the North Bellarine Aquatic Community Advisory Committee who worked incredibly hard on the Stage Two Design.

When we listen to the community and put them at the heard of decision making, better outcomes are achieved.

