

March 2026

Community Update

Bellarine Bus Review

As the Bellarine continues to grow, it's vital that our transport network grows with it.

From Tuesday 3 March to Sunday 12 April, the Bellarine Bus Review will be open for community consultation. Local residents are invited to share their experiences and ideas through an online Engage Victoria survey, helping to shape a stronger and more accessible public transport system for our region.

The review will explore how bus services can better reflect changing travel patterns, support our growing suburbs, and provide smoother connections between towns, schools and workplaces.

Throughout March, a series of pop-up street stalls will be held across the region. These sessions are a great opportunity to get assistance completing the Engage Victoria survey and to share your experiences and suggestions for improving our local bus network.

This review delivers on funding secured in the Victorian Budget 2025/26 to strengthen public transport across regional Victoria. It also builds on the introduction of free public transport for Victorians under 18, helping ease cost-of-living pressures for families and making it easier for young people to stay connected. From the beginning of the year, weekend travel has also become free for Victorian Senior Card holders, with carers and Disability Support Pension recipients included from 1 February.

While these free public transport initiatives provide an important boost for families, young people, seniors and carers, there is still more to do to better connect our local communities. I look forward to hearing from the Bellarine community throughout this consultation period.

More information regarding the pop-up stalls and how to complete the online consultation is available via www.alisonmarchantmp.com.au/projects/bellarine-bus-review/

Bellarine Community Safety

Earlier this year, I attended the Coast Guard Queenscliff Open Day as part of its 50th anniversary celebrations. It was fantastic to see such strong community support, with many organisations coming together to share important safety information. Representatives from Water Police, Victoria Police, Ambulance Victoria, SES, CFA, local Surf Life Saving Clubs and the Australian Border Force were all in attendance, showcasing the vital role they play in keeping our community safe.

It was a pleasure to connect with so many local residents and mark this significant milestone together.

In February, the first Bellarine Community Safety meeting for 2026 was held, bringing together representatives from local police, Bellarine organisations and community associations.

The group provided updates on local issues and shared information about upcoming events and initiatives that support safety across the peninsula.

The Bellarine Community Safety Group is working to strengthen communication within our communities, ensuring residents and visitors are kept informed about local safety matters

