

Media Release



27th September, 2006

COASTAL CROWN LAND INFORMATION SESSIONS IN LORNE GENERATE MUCH DISCUSSION

Forty people participated in recent discussions with the Great Ocean Road Coast Committee regarding two coastal crown land sites in Lorne. Three information sessions were organised by the Committee to discuss the potential development of the Point Grey and Slaughterhouse sites in Lorne.

Great Ocean Road Coast Committee's Executive Officer, Mr David Clarke, said "The information sessions were designed to gain local community perspectives on how the sites could be developed and managed in the future".

Of those who attended, the majority were permanent residents of Lorne, many of whom had a long history with Lorne.

According to Mr Clarke, "A number of ideas and concerns were raised at the information sessions in relation to the Point Grey and Slaughterhouse sites".

"Participants generally agreed that improvements were needed at the Point Grey site, with mixed views about the Slaughterhouse site".

Some of the uses explored at Point Grey included improving existing buildings or providing new buildings, retaining the existing restaurant and fish-coop, providing space for the Aquatic Club and other community purposes, better boating facilities, celebrating Lorne's heritage and improved car parking, recreation and coastal management.

The Slaughterhouse site was seen by some as having potential for cabin based accommodation, but others felt it should be retained as a natural environment. Education was also seen as a potential use, with links to the walking tracks in Queens Park.

"There were many views expressed about retaining the character of both sites, and ensuring any development is consistent with that character.

"Not surprisingly, participants were keen to ensure that community values are retained at the sites. Concerns were also expressed to ensure that financial aspects don't dominate decisions made by the Committee regarding the sites", said Mr Clarke.

Mr Clarke said "The Great Ocean Road Coast Committee considers both sites have potential to be redeveloped for a range of uses which build on their profile as community and tourism assets, whilst protecting their sensitive nature".

“With the new Lorne Pier set to open later this year, it is timely to consider the future of Point Grey”.

“The Committee is very keen to ensure that if the sites are developed, that there are substantial benefits for the community”, said Mr Clarke.

“The two sites are located on sensitive coastal crown land in prominent locations in Lorne, and so any proposed development will have to address a range of guidelines covering issues such as access, amenity, built form, infrastructure, traffic and sustainable development, to ensure an appropriate outcome is achieved”.

Further consultation is being undertaken with other organisations and stakeholders with an interest in the sites, including existing tenants at Point Grey.

The issues raised at the information sessions, along with feedback from other organisations and stakeholders with an interest in the sites, are currently being considered by the Great Ocean Road Coast Committee.

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