

## Discussion Paper - Built Environment

### Creating a vision for Bass Coast

Thinking about how our community, our towns and villages and our environment is changing, how often have you said, “Wouldn’t it be great if ...”? Well, now is the perfect time to share those thoughts with the rest of the Bass Coast community through Bass Coast Shire Council’s Guiding Bass Coast Towards 2030 Vision program.

What do you like most about living in Bass Coast? What is so special that you would like it protected for future generations and what would you like to see changed? Tell us what drew you to Bass Coast and what keeps you here.

Council wants to develop a shared view with the community about what Bass Coast should look like in 2030.

As well, we will need to think about some of the national and global issues such as what do we need as our population ages, about the impacts of climate change and the impact of change in telecommunications. How can Council and community groups show leadership and influence other decision-makers in these areas?

It is important for as many people as possible to have their say. The more feedback Council collects, the better understanding Council will gain on what the community sees as essential to a sustainable and diverse Shire.

How does this help in the formation of the vision? Your ideas will be the starting point for developing a shared view of the long-term priorities for Bass Coast.

The priorities will be a key reference point for the Council, community and other levels of government in planning and decision-making.

Discussion papers have been prepared for a number of themes outlining challenges and opportunities. These aim to inform and encourage discussion and debate. The themes are: the environment, the built environment, lifestyle, local economy and leadership.

This paper focuses on the theme of built environment.

### The Built Environment

#### Reflecting on our present – imagining our future

We are experiencing the “sea change” phenomenon. We can all understand the appeal of Bass Coast’s beaches and lifestyle. Add to this affordable housing, available land for development and our proximity to Melbourne via improving roads and highways. No wonder the Shire experienced population growth of 7.2 per cent over the five year period from 2001 to 2006. This was significantly greater than the Gippsland region and Victoria.

This sudden population growth, combined with the continuing appeal of Bass Coast for holiday makers, is placing increased pressure on our urban centres to expand and greater demand on community facilities and infrastructure.

A community survey, Your Vision for Bass Coast, conducted by Council in November 2007 noted a number of concerns. These include:

- Loss of character and atmosphere due to increasing subdivisions and development in the Shire;

- Limited availability of public transport. As a result, the community is dependent on private cars which are environmentally unfriendly and expensive to run;
- Lack of car parking in the major townships. This problem is worse during the holiday season when visitor numbers are high;
- The high cost of maintaining and upgrading unsealed roads. There are over 400 kms of unsealed road in the Shire, about half located in residential areas;
- Poor coverage or non-existent broadband services and telecommunications; and
- Ageing or inaccessible community facilities. Some community members have to travel a long distance to access a swimming pool or a chemist.

## **Please have your say about Bass Coast's built environment in 2030**

Now Council is looking to take the process to the next step, with Guiding Bass Coast Towards 2030. Council is very interested in your point of view and wants your comments and feedback. Thought provoking questions include:

- Describe how you think Bass Coast's urban centres should look like in 2030?
- How will urban development impact on our rural and coastal areas?
- What needs to be planned for our rural areas? How do we maintain and preserve these areas?
- What methods of transport will we use?
- How will we heat and cool our homes?
- What technology can we use to be sustainable?
- What will be the main form of communication?
- What must we preserve for our children and their children?

## **There are a number of ways for you to have a say. You could:**

- Call Ella at the Vision Information Desk on (03) 5671 2747 and provide your ideas over the phone;
- Complete and return a Guiding Bass Coast Towards 2030 survey available from all Council service centres;
- Complete the survey available at [www.basscoast.vic.gov.au](http://www.basscoast.vic.gov.au) - Council's website.

Guiding Bass Coast Towards 2030 is for the whole community not just Council. Your feedback will ensure that the vision enshrines the views of the community, service providers and local businesses. It will reflect who we are now and what we want "our place" to look like in the future. It is therefore important that you participate in the process and voice your aspirations. Together we will shape the future of Bass Coast.

## **Further Information**

If you would like more information please contact the Vision Information Desk on (03) 5671 2747 or visit the Council's website [www.basscoast.vic.gov.au](http://www.basscoast.vic.gov.au). Regular updates around the development of the Vision will be published in the Bass Coast Shire Updates in the local newspapers.