

13th December, 2019

To: The Great Ocean Road Management Reform Project Director

I am writing to you on behalf of the Port Campbell Recreation Reserve Committee of Management.

The committee is composed of volunteer community representatives who are appointed by the Corangamite Shire Council for a fixed term to assist Council under Section 86 of the Local Government Act 1989.

At Desailly street, Port Campbell, 3269 we oversee the Recreation Reserve. This includes a hall, kitchen, showers, toilets, change rooms, meeting room, oval, enclosed playground and cricket pitch.

What is a bit different from many recreation reserves, is that we also manage and oversee quite a large 'bush style' camping area located above the previously mentioned assets. This has room for 10 - 12 powered sites and 60 unpowered sites. It also has a main facilities block consisting of toilets, showers, laundromat and outside kitchen facilities. This provide the only low budget accommodation option in Port Campbell. Also, because of the cost, it reduces the number of 'free campers' in and around the National Park.

The revenue raised from the camping ground enables the Committee of Management to:

- ensure that the community assets at the Recreation Reserve are very well maintained without having to constantly seek additional government funding.
- continue to upgrade the area for the community and other users.
- keep the cost of hiring the oval and other facilities low to encourage community groups and individuals to use the facility. If the cost was to be raised, many of the present groups would not be able to run their programs, which of course impacts the community. Community events are presently held without charge.

We understand that a new lead agency (The Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority) will be established in the next few years. We wish to make the following submission.

1. We wish to retain the current model of management of the Port Campbell Recreation Reserve. We hope that we can still operate under the new lead Agency.
2. We believe this model meets many of the objectives behind the establishment of the Authority. Already the community has a sustainable income to operate, maintain and improve the facility.
3. The Management Committee, ensure not only community ownership but has also developed a long-term vision for the future of the reserve. This has also meant many community members volunteer their time and energies to improve the area. This may not happen if the 'community' ownership is lost.

4. We believe it is imperative to maintain the camping ground as a low-cost bush setting. This attracts and supports visitors who are generally not well catered for along the Great Ocean Road.
5. In discussions it has been mentioned that the Camping ground **may** be annexed from the Recreation Reserve and leased out to a private operator. This is extremely concerning. History shows that when this happens prices increase significantly. It also means the nature of the facility changes.

It also immediately stops the availability of funding which currently is used to improve community facilities.

Finally, we hope that our concerns are considered when final decisions are being made. 'If it ain't broke, don't fix it'.

Yours sincerely



Committee member

On behalf of the Port Campbell Recreation Reserve Committee of Management.