



Appendix 1

ADJUNCT TO 5.1 – PUBLIC QUESTIONS STATUS UPDATE

Response to public question taken on notice at the ordinary meeting of Council on 27 April 2022

Ordinary Meeting of Council

Wednesday 25 May 2022 at 7:00pm

Queenscliff Town Hall



18 May 2022

mg:do

██████████
President of the QCA

Via email: ██████████

Dear ██████████

PUBLIC QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

I am writing in response to the public question that was taken on notice at the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Wednesday 27 April 2022. The public question reads as follows:

The QCA welcome new Councillor Isabelle Tolhurst to Council and wish her well representing her community.

The QCA asks for clarifications relating to the long awaited and presumably now being revised version of the Marine and Coastal Management Plan.

Importantly as way of background - It is currently referenced on the agenda as *Major Initiatives*- Complete development of Marine and Coastal Management Plan. A version of the M&CP was actioned by Council Officers and tabled some months ago and subject to a series of community recommendations, corrections, expansions and improvements. Given the expertise and quality of many of the submissions a question now relates to the new draft budget allocation of -

- \$210,000 for Development of a marine and coastal management plan (carry forward from 2020– 21 budget) * Please NB (Should read 2021-22 budget) (The 20-21 Budget is not on website as Appendix 4 April 23 2020 as it documents an unrelated Local Law and needs rectification and correction on the website)

The 2021-22 carry forward was \$196,000 for development of Marine and Coastal Management Plan.

Q . Can it be assumed that no allocation of the initial \$196,00 from the operating expense reserves was expended compiling the recently tabled M&CP and yet has been increased a further \$14,000. Or are there other explanations of what has happened to this important plan, how the previous version was funded and its current status given Council or its officers have proposed works or planned projects on coastal reserves without an updated M&CP to guide such works?



Further to the above, I provide the following advice.

Council expended \$11,000 from the Coastal and Marine Management Plan project budget during the current 2021 – 2022 Financial year.

By way of background, Council had allocated \$40,000 to the development of the Coastal and Marine Management Plan in 2017/18 and another \$181,000 in 2018/19. These funds were kept in a reserve account.

This was a total allocation of \$221,000 held in a reserve account.

The Coastal and Marine Management Plan project was then identified as an operating initiative and new project in the 2020-21 budget with a funding allocation of \$196,000.

Following this allocation in the 2021-21 budget, \$25,000 remained in the reserve account.

In this year's draft budget this reserve amount has been added to the unspent 2020-21 operating budget - \$185,000 - and has become a proposed budget allocation of \$210,000.

The draft Coastal and Marine Management Plan that was prepared during 2021, and placed on public notice, was prepared internally by Council officers. The officer time for this work was funded through the existing operational budget for the Place Directorate.

The current status of the Coastal and Marine Management Plan is that it is a draft document that will be subject to revision following and in response community consultation and the forthcoming release of the State Government guidelines for the preparation of Coastal and Marine Management Plans.

Yours sincerely

Martin Gill
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER