



## **Appendix 4c**

### **16.3 Draft Policy - CP054 Victoria Park**

*Victoria Park Submissions*

# **Ordinary Meeting of Council**

Wednesday 24 August 2022 at 7:00pm

Queenscliff Town Hall

**Draft Victoria Park Policy - Consultation submissions**

- Support for aspects of the draft policy, but seeking modification
- Do not support the policy and objection to the proposal to close camping sites
- Do not support the policy and seek end of camping in Victoria Park
- Generally Support the policy

Submitter	Submission	Support
Submitter 1	<p>Having looked closely at the proposed plan by Council to redevelop Victoria Park after its devastation by a severe storm event I am very disappointed to see that camping remains a feature of the park at certain limited months of the year. I find this undesirable for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Council policy on global warming should include the planting of as many trees as possible – allowing space for camping prevents this from occurring in the park. In addition there is what appears to be a devastated permanent camping area in the park at the recreational reserve end of the park. This should be removed and no permanent spaces should be permitted.</li> <li>- If the rationale for allowing camping in Victoria Park at certain times of the year is a financial one I would suggest that it is high time that Golithly caravan park take up the slack by upgrading the facilities and disallowing permanent caravans and camping sites. Personally I think it is outrageous that Council continues to allow permanent caravans to remain on camping sites as, amongst other factors, this reduces the opportunity for others in the wider community to visit and stay in the Borough.</li> </ul> <p>In relation to the replacement of trees, shrubs and grasses in the park I am very disappointed that exotic species are to be included. It would be truer to the region we live in to plant Indigenous species for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Better growth rate and survival - hardier</li> <li>- Less watering and upkeep</li> <li>- The provision of wildlife habitat</li> <li>- An opportunity to showcase to the local and wider community how to have success in their gardens in a warmer and drier climate.</li> </ul> <p>Finally I would strongly recommend that Council consult with the Bellarine Catchment Network and the Swan Bay Environment Association regarding the use of Indigenous species in the revegetation of Victoria Park.</p>	Partial
Submitter 2	<p>Please stop sending these suggestions for feedback. Point Lonsdale Toc H is a PRIME example of why I will never give my time providing feedback ever again. I spent ages on my submission and now look at it. Eyesore. EXCELLENT JOB WITH THE NEW FERRY TERMINAL THOUGH!!</p> <p>LOOKS FAB-BLOODY-TASTIC :) VERY PROUD!! More of this please. Much much much much more.</p> <p>More vibrancy &amp; youth, the geriatrics have had their say. Time for change, and a voice for the next generation/s.</p>	N/A
Submitter3	I would like to see as many camp sites retained as possible. The town needs a tourist boost and a majority of the sites have repeat campers.	No
Submitter 4	<p>I have read the report regarding camping at Victoria Park and would like some answers to the following questions.</p> <p>What is considered Low impact camping?</p> <p>Is it not possible to move bookings around so that people that have these low impact camping set ups can be moved to the low impact sites and the others are made available to people like us that have lost their sites?</p> <p>Why did council completely disregard any obligation to provide alternative sites for people that have booked for specific times?</p> <p>It may seem a minor grievance to council, but my family had four sites booked for our annual family holiday over New Year and early January. As we all work in construction that is the only time we can all get together. Now three of our sites are completely gone and we can only get bookings for mid January by which time most of the family will be back at work. We have tried to book in other towns but have not been able to get anything. We have paid large fees for fairly basic amenities for decades and feel more than a little angry to be treated in this manner.</p> <p>If council had been more attentive to the needs of the park in recent years I doubt very much if this problem would have arisen. There has been absolutely no consultation with campers and complete disregard for the fact that we come and support the businesses in the town year after year.</p>	No

Submitter 5	<p>The storm in 2021 certainly wreaked havoc on Victoria Park causing irreparable damage to many of the older, established trees. It is great to see that work is being done to ensure the integrity of the trees so that many of them can be saved and that they don't become a further danger to any of the people who use the park. My husband and I visited the park last weekend to see how the management project is progressing. We noted that quite a number of trees had either been removed or trimmed back significantly. It is certainly a big job.</p> <p>The site that we camp on over the summer backs onto Mercer Street and has been designated a red zone. It states that planting and revegetation is to occur in this area. We are of course devastated that we will no longer be able to spend our holidays in Queenscliff. We love our time at the park, meeting up annually with people from all over the state. It is our 'Christmas holiday community' and we look forward to catching up with them for a few short weeks each year. As a general rule, we are an older clientele, with many of us having brought our own children camping over the years and now our grandchildren. All of the campers around our area have always been respectful of the local neighbours and very respectful of the trees and environment around us.</p> <p>As you will be very much aware, we along with dozens of other families, pour significant revenue into the town's economy. Places like the Bowling Club, the Shortland Bluff kiosk, the IGA supermarket, local eateries and local businesses (including the Caravan Park) will be decimated by the significant decrease in clientele. With the economy struggling at the moment, I have no doubt that you will increase the site fees on the remaining camping areas - and whilst that may increase the council's coffers, it will not keep local businesses afloat. I'm wondering what your plan is for them? Hopefully they are not collateral damage because fauna is considered more important than their livelihoods.</p> <p>I am hoping that you may at least consider the following proposal for the 2022-2023 Christmas/Summer camping period:</p> <p>Hold off the planting and revegetation process until 2023. This gives time for all lopping, coppicing, stump grinding in the area to be completed and cleared as appropriate. It will also give disturbed soil a chance to resettle.</p> <p>Allow campers who have paid their \$200.00 deposits and who meet the vehicle restrictions (as outlined in the email sent on 12/05/2022) to take up their bookings. Given that the arborists will have completed their work, the risk elements will be mitigated.</p> <p>Above all else, what this proposal does is allow people to say goodbye (to 'family tradition', to Queenscliff, to their camping family). After all, in amongst all of these plans is a human element.</p>	No
Submitter 6	<p>I believe in policy documents being succinct but the skeletal nature of this draft policy creates uncertainty and does nothing to allay concerns about the future of Victoria Park. The framework should reference and acknowledge additional principles. I accept some of my observations might be more readily relevant to a plan than a policy document, however I have decided to include them here in my single response.</p> <p>I would suggest following completion of the current works in August, the Council stakes out the proposed zoned areas within Victoria Park as described in the policy and invites the community to come and inspect the areas, promoting discussion and perhaps raising further ideas for consideration. Positive, active engagement in the short term is essential.</p> <p>The policy should identify what it wants to achieve. One of the main concerns is the use of the word 'appropriate' for plant selection and should never be used in a policy document:</p> <p>Apart from dual use, what level of amenity value is being aimed for in terms of the revegetation? This is a clouded issue as far as the policy is concerned. Canopy cover is mentioned, but what about understorey and shrubs and grasses? (Absence of lawns within vegetation zones is assumed.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· There is no mention of attracting wildlife (birds, bees etc), back to Victoria Park. Surely this is a principle the Council is aiming to achieve?</li> <li>· The policy mentions the planting of exotic trees. Why? What is the Council's thinking behind this? Is it to replace removed exotics with the same species or is there another guiding principle?</li> <li>· Does replanting need to accommodate the expectation of increased storms as a result of climate change?</li> <li>· Does Council agree, in principle, with recommendations in the report 'Restricted camping Recreation Reserve and Victoria Park Tree Risk Assessment 2022 Update' such as: During this time where trees are deemed to be a higher risk than what is acceptable, the option of moving the campers to another site and excluding the public from accessing this area would be preferable rather than removing the tree.?</li> <li>· Should the policy include interim measures such as temporary fences to keep campers out of vegetation areas, installation of nesting boxes etc?</li> <li>· Should the policy aim to support the arborist's recommendations and otherwise use the data as a base for detailed, regular inspections and action? Should the policy improve management by actively prioritising vigilance over watering and weeding programs?</li> <li>· Should the policy identify educational opportunities associated with the upgrading of the Park?</li> </ul> <p>I think the policy should acknowledge the already high community interest in the Park by identifying groups and recent publications.</p>	Partial
Submitter 7	<p>We are writing in response to the latest draft.</p> <p>We understand the need to close a few sites, but the sites that have been marked as restricted seem overkill as vans using these sites do not impact on vegetation.</p> <p>Common sense dictates that larger vans are accommodated on the larger sites.</p> <p>Our site,119, is the largest in the park and we requested this site so our van would fit comfortably without having any impact. The site behind us is also large and in the previous draft they were both included in the unrestricted zone after consultation with park management, which unfortunately has not happened this time. Would it be possible for sites to be viewed both with council and park management.</p> <p>We do not understand the time restriction imposed on the sites as they have always been open 1st December to end of April and we have camped here for 30 years and the sites have always been well maintained by the campers.</p>	No

Submitter 8	<p>We welcome the initiative taken by Council to involve the community in this consultation process. We believe that involving the community in a positive manner is a step forward and will hopefully put an end to the aggressive and ill informed campaign being waged from certain quarters.</p> <p>We welcome the context setting for the policy and the explanation of the action following the storm damage. We would like to see further attempts to build on this explanation and policy context setting in other 'educative' forums as the restoration of Vic Park continues.</p> <p>We also welcome the clear statements in the draft policy pointing to the importance of revegetation action and look forward to seeing this in action. Vegetation reserves (RED ZONES) and restricted camping areas (GREEN ZONES) We would like to see the northern most GREEN ZONES removed and added to their surrounding RED ZONES. Why? It would increase the size of the vegetation areas Prevents any dispute about the GREEN/RED ZONE borders that seem inevitable with these 2 island GREEN ZONES and therefore reduce any policing of these borders. The lost camping fees revenue could be made up by increasing the cost of camping across the remaining Vic Park camping areas.</p> <p><b>Caravan/RV size</b> Caravan sizing is more often than not still measured in feet and certainly amongst old time caravanners the measurement refers to the length of the van body. Our own caravan is described as a 17' caravan on our insurance documents but that length does not include the draw bar. The overall length of our caravan is roughly 6.5m. The point is the definition 'low impact camping' needs to be more clearly specified or there will be constant disputes between campers and park management. Furthermore 'low impact' needs to be defined in terms of grey water release from whatever campers are 'living' in during their visit. As a final comment on camping at Vic Park, we are aware that there have been protests about restrictions on their freedom to camp etc by regular campers, some of whom have been coming to Queenscliff for many years. As long time campers/caravaners we believe that the first responsibility of any camper is to look after the wonderful environment Australia provides for such outdoor recreation. It is therefore appropriate to remind all those who have and wish to camp at Vic Park of their obligations to protect if not enhance the environment they are privileged to use. They always retain the right to holiday elsewhere. limits on air conditioning/ power use could also be considered as part of a more sustainable approach that could also have a positive impact on costs.</p>	Partial
Submitter 9	<p>WHY DOES THE COUNCIL TRY TO FIX WHAT IS NOT BROKEN</p> <p>IF THE COUNCIL DOES NOT WANT SHOPS IN QUEENSCLIFF , JUST TELL THEM ,</p> <p>NOT SEND THEM BROKE</p> <p>THERE ARE TOO MANY PEOPLE WITH NO IDEA ABOUT QUEENSCLIFF</p> <p>QUEENSCLIFF LOCAL PEOPLE , WE HELP PEOPLE , NOT TRY TO WRECK THE TOWN</p> <p>GIVE THE CARAVAN PARKS BACK TO THE PEOPLE THEY NEED IT</p>	No
Submitter 10	<p>Thank you for sending a copy of your proposal in relation to our site at the caravan park in Queenscliff, to say we are devastated is an understatement and are quite confused as to why you are now zoning a large component of our beloved holiday destination as no camping. We know a number of trees are unsafe, and are very happy that you have taken the action to have these removed, but to close a large section of the park seems a massive step, have alternatives been considered?</p> <p>We have been camping in our spot, which is now in the red zone, for 11 years and made wonderful friends, it has become a holiday that our entire family cherish and look forward to each year. As you know Covid affected us all in many different ways and knowing that our Queenscliff holiday destination was going to be there for us, kept us and our kids going through those tough times.</p> <p>This holiday means more to us each year than you know, it is a place where my kids can explore a beautiful foreshore, meet up with their yearly friends and most importantly are not sitting inside on their devices or worrying about their homework.</p> <p>We are fully supportive of keeping our beautiful Queenscliff park as untouched as possible, initially we were informed we could keep our spot as we own a single axel caravan and have now been informed that it is not possible at all. Our deposit was taken upon check out and is still being held, yet I was recently informed if we want a new site, which we are more than happy to do, we are number 58 on the list, how does this happen when you are getting rid of 30 sites. Why are we not prioritised? I was promised a site and to be so far down on the list is unfair when I have been camping there for 11 years.</p> <p>Given you have not met with WorkSafe and Department of Water, Land, Environment and Planning and you have already proposed to remove a number of camping sites, this seems unfair. You have not offered any alternatives, we are happy to move and be accommodated elsewhere.</p> <p>We hope that you read our response and really take note of the affect this change is having on a community of people who gather each year, much like a family and have wonderful bonds, this is our community for 5 weeks a year. Surely there must be something that can be done to assist us all on achieving the best outcomes for all.</p>	No
Submitter 11	<p>I refer to Victoria Park draft management policy and would like to make the following submission for consideration by Council.</p> <p>I note an arborist report has been completed, however has a Biodiversity Assessment been undertaken to determine what biodiversity value each tree/ patch of vegetation actual has. Tree value should be weighted more on the biodiversity assessment rather than the arborist report. This is a typical assessment that would be considered if this was a proposed development site.</p> <p>The area abuts the Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO) and therefore additional plantings and vegetation would likely increase the bushfire risk in this area. This will create further issues and restrictions on the park moving forward. I suggest a bushfire assessment should be prepared for the existing and proposed conditions, to assess if the additional/ uncontrolled vegetation will create additional risks.</p> <p>The area is not in an Environmental Protection Overlay or similar, and therefore there should not be a statutory obligation to avoid all vegetation.</p> <p>Consideration should be given to additional tree removal beyond the high risk areas, particularly along Mercer Street to create more sites available for use. I also support replacing trees removed, but in targeted areas that create a better fit for the park.</p> <p>If Council moves adopt the current strategy, it will create a concerning precedent that would most likely cause camping in Royal Park Point Lonsdale to be banned completely if guided by the same assessment criteria.</p> <p>Council should be using this opportunity to create a Masterplan for the entire park rather than just assessing camping areas.</p> <p>I am a user of the park with my family and I am a qualified civil engineer who is very familiar requirements of the planning scheme. I feel this proposal is being driven by reaction to the WorkSafe order, rather than long term vision for the park.</p>	No

Submitter 12	<p>1.The campers have maintained the quality of the natural vegetation and the poor state of the Moonahs are a function of their age and lack of maintenance.</p> <p>2.I am concerned about the limited access and hazards that it brings to the areas marked red. Is this area to be fenced without any community benefit.</p> <p>3.The businesses and township in Queenscliff are becoming a ghost town as a function of the reduction in the caravan Park sites. I cannot understand that the new netball courts took valuable campsites and that the council did not take over the old ones in the bowling club that remain dormant . These could have been converted into camping sites as a replacement for those taken.</p> <p>4.There is more than ample sites in the town to establish new garden areas including the old high school site and along Gellibrand Street. To strangle the Queenscliffe retailers is poor. Over the past 2 years 5 prime retail shops have remained vacant and major development sites have remained idle. Ten years ago when all camp sites were open retailers were queuing for shops.</p>	No
Submitter 13	<p>Firstly the residents and council haven't realised yet they need to take responsibility for the inactions and no management to the park .</p> <p>This is not a war against council and greenies . This was about getting a safe park to enjoy for All people to use . Due to council not actioning requests from arborists this is what happens .</p> <p>We are moving to next level with this campaign and that is getting the 30 sites reopened .</p> <p>This is crown land was lawfully instructed to be used for a garden ( jungle) area camping .</p> <p>I have that in writing .</p>	No
Submitter14	<p>Firstly can I say that I am happy that the council are now acting on the issues that have plagued Victoria Park for many years</p> <p>The pruning and re-planting of trees is well overdue, and is a problem that should have been rectified many years ago</p> <p>What I am concerned about, and please let me state that I have been a camper at the park for just on 25-years, is the loss of sites that are occurring because of this work. I struggle to understand why, with the changes, such a large part of the park is being closed down, from my understanding this will be a permanent thing?</p> <p>Many of the highlighted red areas do not have trees, or vegetation, that needs to be removed, trimmed or managed. These are areas that campers, locals and the vegetation can live in harmony. I believe this needs to be reviewed and looked at closely</p> <p>I understand the need to re-invigorate the park and to plant new trees and vegetation, something that should have happened many years ago when the first reports came out regarding the park. If these actions were actioned at the time, I believe the Park would have survived and thrived</p> <p>Can you please explain why, the areas in RED have been chosen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What significance do these areas hold, if any</li> <li>- In regards to replanting, why the campers and re-vegetation cant work/live in harmony together</li> <li>- Will these areas be re-opened again, and if so, what is the timeframe for this?</li> <li>- What is the economic impact to the town of Queenscliff, not only @ Christmas but throughout the year?</li> <li>- What does this mean for the businesses inside your community?</li> </ul> <p>I believe your project is a great one for both the community and visitors to your area and will benefit the Park in the long run, but I also believe that some of the areas in question are being closed/shut down for no reason</p>	Partial
Submitter 15	<p>I am responding to the initiation to submit input on The Victoria Park Policy in my capacity as a long-term resident of Queenscliff. (My family first settled in Queenscliff in1855, and members of our family have lived here ever since.)</p> <p>I submit this with a heavy heart. The opportunity to consult with the community has come too late. So much destruction to so many beautiful trees happened so quickly. So little information , so much secrecy, so many questions from the community, and so few answers from the Council.</p> <p>The invitation from Council to seek Community input in Vic Park Policy was published on 28th July 2022, and although belated, was none-the-less welcome. But tonight I saw that Council has issued another invitation.</p> <p>It is dated 4.8.2022, and offers a "relaxing and tree-filled campground" for visitors to pitch a tent or park their caravans within Victoria Park, and details of booking dates and prices. Can't Council wait for the result of the Community consultation, at least?</p> <p>Camping and conservation of parkland and precious trees obviously cannot co-exist. Particularly when events such as a complaint from a "camper" to Work-Safe can set off a catastrophic series of events that saw the chain-sawing and removal of so many precious trees, and the loss of nesting sites and shelter of so many birds.</p> <p>"Heritage", "Conservation". "The Environment", apparently does not have any priority in decisions made over past years. It is extraordinary that Council does not employ a Heritage Advisor, for instance. And what of the Significant Tree Register? Lost opportunities and tragic outcomes.</p> <p>Council needs to start getting serious about protecting our Heritage and Environmental assets. And while all that is getting sorted out, close Victoria Park to campers and caravanners and start replanting and protecting what is left of our precious Vic Park.</p>	Partial
Submitter 16	<p>The 2019 storm caused such havoc due to long-standing neglect of the park. The ensuing devastation post WorkSafe might well have been minimised if there had been a tree management policy which had treated the trees as the valuable assets that they are - with the priority of safe retention by following earlier arborist's recommendations such as removal of dead branches, reduction of top-heavy canopies, coppicing, bracing, mulching, watering and strict prevention of root damage by vehicular traffic plus adequate exclusion zones for significant trees .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The policy and plan are disappointing in that council fails to recognise that camping and general public park use cannot coexist. The proposed 5 fragmented pockets of restricted camping (for 5 weeks over the peak summer season) are I suggest an unwieldy and confusing attempt to accommodate the two functions. How much income will be generated in particular by the 2 small pockets in the middle of the no camping zone.? Surely if dual use is persisted with a straight division based on the north/south road would be a better and more easily maintained and monitored solution.</li> <li>- The last expansion of sporting facilities in the RecRes, which took out over 40 camp sites, plus the lack of widely expected current day standards for camping in the current 4 camping areas which limits what can be charged, have put unreasonable pressure on Victoria Park to produce income. A better solution would be to upgrade Golightly Park to its full potential. This would produce far more income than fiddling with Victoria Park sites.</li> <li>- The current system whereby returning campers can book the same site year in year out and which engenders a misplaced sense of ownership of "their family's site" should be abandoned</li> </ul> <p>We must all remember that it will take decades of commitment by council and the community for Victoria Park to recover, if ever.</p>	Partial

Submitter 17	<p>Improving equity of access in our local parks.</p> <p>In addition to providing feedback to the recently released Victoria Park Policy document, the following comments might also be considered in the next iteration of the Coastal Management Plan. I support the broad thrust of the feedback that has been provided by both PLCA and QCA as it relates to the recently released Draft Policy for Victoria Park.</p> <p><b>Vegetation</b> A large number of moonah have been removed from Victoria Park, and it would be preferable that a similarly large number of moonah are included in the replacement plantings.</p> <p><b>Safety</b> Generally, camping takes place in the high temperature/bush fire danger season. While it is acknowledged that in the 1930s the idea of camping on Crown Land was to provide for an economical family holiday, that proposition now needs to be reviewed by both Council and the State Government.</p> <p>Adjoining property owners face enormous costs with insurance in these Bushfire Overlay zones. To have camping, and in some instances, caravans or structures that have been devoid of maintenance or upgrade across many decades; dangerous, and subject to years of salt corrosion of parts, adjoining high net value residential property, costly to replace community facilities, and irreplaceable heritage buildings (Fort Queenscliff), needs to be reconsidered.</p> <p><b>Victoria Park Safety</b> Those spaces now marked as green, within Victoria Park, while retaining a little of the revenue that would be applicable to those sites, the sites do not provide a fast and efficient exit from the site in case of emergency. It could be argued that the sites backing on to the kitchen facilities are a little easier to evacuate, but certainly the high sites would be slower/difficult. There must be a standard applicable to the subject of evacuation of camping grounds.</p> <p><b>The Recent Tourist Park Consultancy</b> The recent consultancy, that has been made public, but feedback and discussion not advanced - proposes a \$7m plus revamp of three camping locations. An upgrade of Golightly Park is supported and with careful marketing could provide year round usage and revenue for Crown Land reserves. But the idea of spending \$7m plus across three sites, each with a short season, and where there is duplication of facilities, and a "make do" approach to retain what originally was low coast camping on the coast, but which now requires more stringent legislative and safety regulations, needs a review.</p> <p>It would be preferable to develop a new site for camping, inbound to the Borough, on the left, corner of Bellarine Highway and Fellows Road. My recollection is there was a parcel of irregular shaped land in there that could be retained in the ownership of the Borough for the longer term, but would provide income in a location more appropriate now than on the foreshore.</p>	Partial
Submitter 17 cont...	<p>My feedback relates largely to equity of access to our parks - be it Victoria Park, the Queenscliff Recreation Reserve, or Royal Park in Point Lonsdale. From my own experience across many decades, raising my own children and grandchildren,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the outdoor kitchen/shelter with Point Lonsdale's Royal Park has been well used for larger family gatherings in the outdoors,</li> <li>- when, either the size of the group, or the weather of the day, requires an outdoor venue, shelter and cooking facilities.</li> </ul> <p>such facilities adjoining a fenced oval provides excellent safety for young children, and a sports or play area.</p> <p>with significantly increased population and car traffic in the Borough/Point Lonsdale, a safe/fenced space is a most useful addition. It is only too easy for a small child to break from a group and wander into what is now a much greater level of local traffic.</p> <p>In this regard, there has been recent observation from local PL parents, that in the park opposite the shops, there is no fence to limit the chance of small children moving to the edge of the cliff, and to a fall below. Obviously parental vigilance is required at all times.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- more recently, the pandemic has highlighted even further the need for greater equity in our outdoor spaces, to enable those groups of young and old alike, who wish to meet and socialise on special occasions, but prefer not to be confined to indoor spaces (for health and other reasons). Think children's parties, club meetings, birthdays, funerals.</li> <li>- Royal Park has been accessible, but does require something of an expedition from the car park to the shelter which in the longer term might be remedied.</li> <li>- the outdoor camp kitchen at the Queenscliff Recreation Reserve is almost if not fully 100% for the use of camp patrons. It is not a necessarily easy solution to allow this space to be used by local residents, but surely a booking service for that space (or similar), might be achievable, and provide equity of access to local ratepayers in the off season. The Rotunda in Queenscliff is useful, but for gatherings with small children, is not the safest possible location.</li> </ul>	Partial
Submitter 18	<p>Let's see more indigenous vegetation</p> <p>Ok... the trees in Vic park are wonderful.</p> <p>But as they die, perhaps we could replace them with species indigenous to the area.</p> <p>Sad though their demise is, perhaps we could take some steps toward repairing the damage our forebears inadvertently caused, by replacing these magnificent trees with species more endemic to our area, and perhaps provide some habitat to birds and other animals that belong here.</p> <p>Just some thoughts.</p>	Partial
Submitter 19	<p>My wife and I were most disturbed by the seemingly wonton destruction of vegetation in Victoria Park. The loss of mature Moonahs was especially distressing. It is critical that replanting takes place right now, taking advantage of the moist soil conditions that we have at present. If a plan of the original planting of the park can be found, this should be used as a guide for the replanting, but replacing like for like may be the best plan in the absence of the original plan. SBEA has many very knowledgeable and capable folk who can be called upon both to advise and to help with replanting.</p>	Yes
Submitter 20	<p>My submission for feedback for Victoria Park future: Only that replacement trees and vegetation are locally indigenous.</p>	Yes

Submitter 21	<p>It is with a heavy heart that I am writing to the council today</p> <p>After seeing a post on the 'The RIP' Facebook page and then contacting the Tourist Park, I was saddened to be informed that I no longer had a camp site at the Queenscliff Tourist Park for the upcoming 2022/2023 Holiday season. This means that December 26th 2022 will be the first boxing day in 25 years that I will not be heading to Queenscliff for a holiday with my husband, children family and friends. This is not only a holiday for me but a chance to refresh and rejuvenate my mind and body for the year ahead in a wonderful environment that I have shared with nature for over 55 years. This will also be the first time in over 60 years that a member of my family will not be camping at Queenscliffe over the Summer holidays.</p> <p>I once had someone tell me that if I was going to write a letter of complaint that I should take the emotion out of the complaint. However, in this case that is not possible when something you have known or done every year for 55 years has been taken from you.</p> <p>Four Generations of our family have camped at Queenscliffe Tourist Park making lifelong friends. My Grandparents first camped at Queenscliff in 1956. I had great delight in introducing my husband to Queenscliff and watching my children grow into young adults spending summers here in a community orientated campground where friends and fellow campers would always be keeping an eye out for others no matter how young or old. They grew up learning about and embracing a love for the local environment that the park has to offer. We felt blessed to have the beach so close, the facilities of the local sporting clubs to use for sport and social activities. I grew up attending CSSM (now SUFM) and my children also attended SUFM and in the later years Theos and to go on and become involved as leaders. I remember the New Year's Eve Street parties near the Post office, walking along the pipe to the rocks when it was still in place, the old kiosk amongst many other early era memories. Each year we look forward to the sunsets, the rockpools, the waves, walks around the bluff and getting an ice cream on the way home, Lawn bowls campers cup, balmy nights sitting amongst the trees/nature with our friends, being woken by possums and birds at night and early mornings. Over the years I have seen many changes in the town and the camping ground, however this is one change that astounds me.</p> <p>Back in 2009 there was a draft plan proposed to give some long overdue attention to the trees and to guide the management of the trees for the next ten years. As part of this plan, it was recommended to remove a significant number of trees in Victoria Park and establish a 'Moonah Reserve'. During this process I lost the site I had occupied for 11 years since 1998, site number 95. I was lucky enough to be able to relocate to site number 90, where my family and I have continued to holiday for 3 weeks of the year. Site 90 is adjacent to site 95 which was turned into a garden bed as part of this 'Tree Management, Removal and Replacement Strategy'. At this time, in 2009/2010, I accepted that the site was to be used to rejuvenate the vegetation. However, I am sorry to see that as at January 2022 there is little or no sign of any 'Moonah' plants on this site/area, it has not been maintained and over the years has become full of weeds and overgrown plants. Also, there were a number of trees identified in that proposal that would be retained with intensive management. Since then, there seems to have been very little maintenance done to the trees until last year when council was forced to take action following storms in October.</p> <p>In May of 2018 I attended a meeting to be informed of the 'Queenscliff Recreation Reserve and Victoria Park Master Plan' This was a draft plan to provide a total product offering which included but was not limited to, increase access to, occupancy of and revenue from council managed parks, improve aging facilities so they met the current day caravan and camping standards and requirements, minimize environmental impacts and ensure the plans limit removal of existing significant vegetation and improve future vegetation planning and management. Again, no action was taken to accommodate any of the suggestions in the plan.</p>	No
Submitter 21 cont...	<p>Now bring on 2022. Before finishing up my time at the park last year I placed a \$200 deposit for a future booking for the 2022/2023 season and what was to be my 25th year of camping with my husband and children and the 55th year of camping with family and friends. However not sure why we are asked to make a future booking with deposit if it is not going to be honoured.</p> <p>In May I received an email from the Queenscliff Tourist Park advising 'The site you have booked for your stay during the 2022/23 camping season is affected by this new restriction. A Queenscliffe Tourist Parks staff member will call you in the coming days to discuss your camping plans for your booking, including whether your plans include a vehicle that is now restricted under this new policy'. I was contacted and I met the criteria so at this stage I still had a place to enjoy my holiday. However, I was saddened to hear that some of my friends had lost their site as trees were deemed to be unsafe.</p> <p>After receiving another email late May advising of the temporary closure of the Victoria Park due to rectification and replanting of trees, I was hopeful that the sites closed to family and friends would be open again for the upcoming season. However that was not to be the case but instead in August we received another email advising us that it's time to 'shape the future of Victoria Park' and councillors have endorsed a new draft Victoria Park policy for consultation....again. By now I am feeling extremely frustrated, angry and stressed over the whole mis-management of trees impacting the safety of the public and lack of communication from the BoQ as to the future of the camping ground for the 2022/2023 season. At least in the past years when proposed plans have been drafted, we have been given notice that our place to holiday may no longer be available, however this time around that has not been the case and with only 4 months away for peak season, the possibility of finding another camp elsewhere is unlikely.</p> <p>If previous strategies had been implemented and trees and vegetation had been maintained over the years, I don't believe that another plan would be on the table and the public would be enjoying access to the entire Park. It is stated in the current plan 'that the policy sets out the principles Council will use to manage Victoria Park to protect the environmental values and enhance the amenity of Victoria Park for all users and Victoria Park will remain dual use, a public park and place for campers.' As 50% of the park has been identified as being reserved for vegetation with no camping or public access allowed, I don't understand how the proposed plan is of benefit to the whole community and visitors alike and therefore meeting the principles.</p> <p>When looking at the map for the proposed Draft Tree Planting Policy I can't help but think someone with their own self agenda just got out their crayons and coloured the map in 3 colours without really thinking about how the closure of the red areas would affect the community. There are several sections of garden beds within the red area, that are already in place that can be rejuvenated and maintained without closing the section to the public. Also, I am not sure how the areas of 'green restricted camping' in the top left-hand corner of the park are to be accessed if there is no access allowed to the red area. Not planned or thought through properly...</p> <p>I ask council to reconsider the current proposal and look at an alternate way that Victoria Park can be kept open to the public and campers alike while maintaining and rejuvenating the current garden beds in place.</p>	
Submitter 22	<p>Thank you for your advice of this draft policy and opportunity to comment.</p> <p>It seems a fair way of managing the park in terms of protecting the vegetation and the use by campers and caravans. However the diagram is unclear as to which areas will be retained as a park accessible to the public, including those areas in red on the diagram once the regeneration has occurred.</p> <p>One of the original intents for this park was that it was a place for the public (local community) to enjoy and it is not clear how its use as a public park will continue into the future.</p>	Partial

Submitter 23	<p>I have the following questions:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Have many campsites have been terminated from the park?</li> <li>- Can you define what is meant by the phrase Open length 6.5metres?</li> <li>- If an independent arborist finds that a tree or trees are dangerous, what is the council policy?</li> </ul> <p>The park has been used by holiday makers since 1937, in my opinion, they should be allowed to use the park in the same way as they have been able to do without any change.</p> <p>How much revenue is going to be lost as a result of these changes? How does the council plan to recoup this lost revenue?</p> <p>The banning of larger caravans means that the number of occupants will be reduced and that will cut out families. These holiday makers spend money in the town and surrounding areas. How does the council plan to recompense local business owners for lost income?</p> <p>I suggest that the Council maintain the existing number of camping sites and allow normal sized caravans to use the park.</p> <p>I live nearby to the park and believe me hardly anyone goes there.</p> <p>I get the impression that a small group of residents want to limit access to the park which I believe will be to the detriment to the majority</p>	No
Submitter 24	<p>After seeing a proposed plan for the caravan park (Victoria Park) I could not believe the restrictions they want to implement.</p> <p>I first stayed in the park in 1961 with my parents, grandparents and brothers &amp; sisters. It was a great place to spend Christmas &amp; Easter holidays. We stayed there for many years and made many friends.</p> <p>After my wife &amp; I married we had an opportunity to buy a house and have been rate payers now for over 45 years. Our children &amp; grandchildren now look forward to holidays in Queenscliff.</p> <p>With not many houses to rent during summer I believe that restricting camping in the park will be detrimental to the town. It would be a backwoods step as the town is slowly dying. So many empty shops already. The town needs holiday makers spending in shops, cafés, hotels and restaurants.</p> <p>Tourism needs to be encouraged not discouraged. The local businesses need help to survive after the last 2 years of Covid lockdowns.</p> <p>There is also the economic dollar value to the council in camping fees.</p>	No
Submitter 25	<p>I just want to give some feedback on the plans for Victoria Park.</p> <p>My family has been camping in Victoria Park in excess of 50 years and would like to continue to do so.</p> <p>I am quite sad about the block out of a lot of the camp sites and feel with lack of campers the township is going to suffer quite considerably with the lack of custom over their busiest period.</p> <p>There will also be quite a drop in revenue for the council with the block out of camp sites.</p> <p>I understand the concerns of the minority in regards to the trees but feel if this had of been managed correctly and dangerous trees taken down when required and new ones replanted we would not have this issue.</p> <p>With the current environment and cost of living an affordable holiday for families may not be available if the plan goes ahead as stated.</p> <p>Hopefully there can be an outcome that can meet half way and keep everyone reasonable happy.</p> <p>Thankyou for the opportunity to respond and give some feedback.</p>	No
Submitter 26	<p>In response to Council's Draft proposal on Tree Management Victoria Park I make the following points;</p> <p>There should not be any camping in Victoria Park. Campers do not offer anything to the Borough and I would like Council to fully disclose how much they actually cost us ratepayers of the Borough.</p> <p>Victoria Park is just that, a park, not a caravan park! Campers have no place in the park. Council needs to be brave and get rid of this anomaly, campers in the centre of town!</p> <p>Are there any campers in Central Park New York? No!</p> <p>How many campers are in The Geelong Botanical gardens? None!</p> <p>Campers should be in caravan parks, that is where they belong.</p> <p>A hybrid park, some trees, some caravans is a poorly thought through proposal. Council need to bite the bullet and see this as an opportunity to stop camping in the centre of town and restore Victoria Park to being a park full of trees and plants. One does not want to be dodging campers as they enjoy the ambience of a well planned park.</p> <p>If Council see the campers as so essential to the Borough and can prove to the ratepayers that these people actually contribute to the finances of the Borough then relocate these camping sites to Council property on Murray Road.</p> <p>I await some sensible decisions from Council on this issue.</p>	Partial



Submitter 27	<p>Please withdrawn any proposal to further reduce camping sites within the camping park. Sites have already been lost within Victoria Park and compounded by those sites lost to asphalt parking bays at the West end of the football oval.</p> <p>Generations of camping families are firmly entrenched within Queenscliff due to many decades of camping. Not only have strong relationships been developed with fellow campers but also with local community members. The campers;</p> <p>Promote and support Queenscliff Local clubs Shop locally Attend events Attract and constantly invite others to also enjoy Queenscliff Provide strong financial benefits.</p> <p>Many campers over the decades have taken up permanent residency in the area, reconfirming their strong affiliation with Queenscliff which was developed during their special years as campers.</p> <p>Its devastating to here from family campers today who will no longer have sites or will have restricted sites under the current proposal. They are heartbroken, yet have begun looking at other options and bookings with the City of Greater Geelong (namely Portarlington, St Leonards and Indented Heads). The BOQ benefits outlined above will be transferred to the larger neighbouring municipality.</p> <p>Victoria Park has been established as a camping precinct for many decades. Its in the ideal location for attracting visitors to Queenscliff, with easy access to beaches and the town centre which are all within easy walking distance. Campers support the current flora and fauna within Victoria Park - always have and always will as its treated like a 2nd home. To substitute camping sites to further plants will greatly impact many families; lives, traditions and connection to the land.</p> <p>It's not uncommon for my family and friends to occupy up to 10 sites over summer or during the Easter break.</p> <p>If BOQ has long term plans to establish gardens within its boundaries, please consider other alternatives sites such as; the front Beach foreshore park, old high school site, train station and yacht club grasslands...</p> <p>Kind regards 49 years of camping as a permanent and seasonal camper who would like to continue on camping into my 6th and 7th decades.</p>	No
Submitter 28	<p>The proposed zoning of areas within Victoria Park shows that the council accepts that trees and campers must be separated. This will only work if present and future councils are firmly committed to this policy and there are assurances that Work Safe will accept that zoning, where trees can be allowed to grow to maturity and live long uninterrupted lives, is a valid operational model for camping in Victoria Park. It would be a far more certain and better outcome to not compromise camping and parkland by trying to mix the two, rather keep the two functions totally separate. This can only be achieved by making Victoria Park a designated park, as it was originally intended, and moving the campers elsewhere – completely off site.</p> <p>There could be a plan made to phase out camping over time to lessen the impact on long term campers and the financial return from Victoria Park for this purpose. This would allow a staged approach for regeneration of Victoria Park and development of camping facilities elsewhere. The camping phase-out plan could look like steady reduction in:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Areas available for camping</li> <li>2. Sites available in camping areas</li> <li>3. Use of each camp site (vehicle number and size, number of people, type of camping equipment)</li> <li>4. Availability of powered sites</li> <li>5. Roads through the park</li> <li>6. Repeat booking by same campers in same sites</li> </ol> <p>As a first step, camping should be confined to a very restricted and fenced off area. Then a layout plan for Victoria Park as a botanical park could be made, followed by replanting and redevelopment of park infra-structure, the latter of which should be minimal. The aims should be to make Victoria Park a show piece of the town as a botanical reserve, an enjoyable area for residents and visitors and a safe home for native birds. This process could be seen as already started with funds from the Queen's Jubilee Grant. All regeneration should be complete (and campers permanently gone) within ten years.</p>	Partial
Submitter 29	<p>The current Council plan to continue camping and caravanning in the park is opposed.</p> <p>The proposed plan would continue camping and caravanning into the future and lose the opportunity for all time for Queenscliff to have an attractive vegetated parkland in the centre of the historically listed town area.</p> <p>Many successful Victorian country towns, established in the same period as Queenscliff, have successfully retained their Botanic Gardens with these being very popular with residents and tourists.</p> <p>The Council's draft plan is a mixed bag of spots for specialized camping, vegetated areas out-of-bounds, and a large area of the park available for mixed camping. This proposal would present some difficulties in management and of vegetation restoration and would confirm the park as a major camping and caravanning area.</p> <p>Council is urged to cease all camping in Victoria Park and seize the opportunity to restore the park to a passive recreation area for the benefit of local residents and tourists. (The park currently serves the camping community for 5 months of the year with recreation values for passive recreation lost during this period for locals and tourists).</p> <p>An increase in camping sites in Golightly Park and some development of currently unused space in the recreation reserved areas could provide a significant number of extra camping sites in the Borough.</p> <p>The opportunity for Council, with support for planning and planting from the local community to establish a rehabilitation and vegetation renewal plan for a Victoria Botanic Park must not be lost.</p>	No
Submitter 30	<p>I wish to register my objection to the plans regarding Victoria Park in Queenscliffe.</p> <p>For many years I have camped at the ground, and in recent years have become disillusioned by the lack of communication around booking sites. It has been disappointing that the number of sites has been reduced with little communication around it. Every year a group of us book sites together, and this year that was unable to happen. We camp there as varying times throughout the year - Christmas, easter, the Music Festival, and casually.</p> <p>The removal of sites began long before the weather events of 2021 as well - I camped on a site that was removed as a camping site, yet the staff were most accommodating in moving me to another site at the time, something that hasn't happened in recent years.</p> <p>Phone calls to the park go unreturned or unanswered, when trying to book a site the park is either full or a very long waitlist.</p> <p>If the sites are able to be reopened, then we will be back, however at this point in time my friends and I are extremely disappointed to be looking at other parks. Sadly, the community feel of the park is now gone, and feels unwelcoming to visitors.</p>	No

Submitter 31	<p>Further to recent meetings with Councillors and the Borough's invitation to make comment on the new Plan and Policy for Victoria Park I provide the following comments:</p> <p>1.I have lived opposite Victoria Park, which is a permanent Public Park located in Queenscliff's Botanic Gardens Urban Conservation Precinct, for some 40 years and have never seen this little gem of a park, which forms a green buffer zone to the Recreation Reserve, in such terrible condition.</p> <p>2.The parkland is clearly at the crossroads and currently in a very sorry state after months of tree stripping and removal works following the October 2021 storm, a succession of Council/CEO arborist reports and a series of PIN Notices orchestrated by a camper(s) and others. The real losers in this continuing saga are the residents and ratepayers of South Queenscliff and those who respect the heritage and environmental values Queenscliff has to offer.</p> <p>3.Given the level of tree destruction in Victoria Park my strong preference is for the inclusion of a new Policy "Vision" to replant and restore the entire parkland as a Public Park and relocate commercial camping/caravanning operations (permanent, seasonal and restricted) to other less sensitive parks. Recent events have demonstrated the "dual use" proposition for Victoria Park is essentially a continued alienation of much of this public parkland for commercial gain whilst destroying many of the environmental values of this much-loved park.</p> <p>4.What's clearly missing from the draft Policy and Plan is a Park Replanting Program that details Council's proposed \$40,000 revegetation and restoration plans for the parkland including how these are plantings are to be maintained and protected.</p> <p>5.Besides various heritage and environmental provisions that apply under the Queenscliffe Planning Scheme it's important that any plan for Victoria Park must consider the Botanic Gardens Urban Conservation Precinct Heritage Design Guidelines 2021 and the Heritage Policy Map 9 (which includes 7 important heritage buildings adjoining the park).</p> <p>These include under Conservation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Enhance the sheltered effect provided by the Gardens to houses in Mercer Street</li> <li>•Protect the Gardens landscape qualities from visual intrusive and inappropriate development</li> <li>•Retain the historic integrity of the precinct in any replanting program</li> </ul>	No
Submitter 31 cont...	<p>Under Landscapes, Gardens and Trees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Maintain the Gardens as a passive recreation area</li> <li>•Enhance the sheltered quality of the Gardens</li> <li>•Encourage the conservation of indigenous and exotic vegetation in the Gardens</li> </ul> <p>Note: The Botanic Gardens Urban Conservation Precinct Guidelines say nothing about camping and caravanning or dual usage of the parkland. Councillors should also read the Borough's original Queenscliffe Urban Conservation Study - Botanic Gardens Precinct pages 255 to 260 including Problems and Threats on page 257.</p> <p>Some Other Comments on Council's Latest Policy and Plan Proposals Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•The Policy needs to reference Victoria Park as a permanent Public Park and as a central feature of the Botanic Gardens Urban Conservation Precinct - Heritage Precinct HO 9 on page 1 – Context. It should also mention that the park is Crown Land and the Borough of Queenscliffe is the Committee of Management for the site.</li> <li>•The Vision should be to return the entire 1.6 hectare park to nature, restore the canopy and informal trees/vegetation layout, make it a public Botanic Park and an important green space at the entrance to the township rather than a hybrid caravan park.</li> <li>•Delete references to "dual use" on pages 1 and 2 - Park Management – dual use has led to the recent devastation of the parkland with a camper(s) initiating the recent PIN Notices that have seen the parkland fenced for months and stripped of trees and birdlife throughout 2022.</li> </ul>	
Submitter 31 cont...	<p>References to more arborists and Climate Emergency Response Plan be deleted and replaced with references to the upcoming Bellarine DAL/SPP and the CMMP. The CERP has been of no value to the park to date - references to "vegetation management policy" and "environmental regeneration actions" seem to be code for tree stripping and destruction. Also, what has happened to CERP's "restoring the canopy coverage" "protection of significant or mature trees" and "urban forests". Indeed, the progression of recent arborists reports, commissioned by Council/CEO from Sept 2021 to June 2022, which seem to have gotten progressively worse, have along with the WorkSafe PIN Notices, resulted in the widescale destruction of the park. Perhaps the reference on page 2 to a "qualified arborist" should be replaced with a local person with plant expertise who cares about conservation of the park.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Any new policy and plan for Victoria Park needs to be embedded in the upcoming Borough Coastal and Marine Management Plan (CMMP) to try and future proof it from future Council actions. The draft policy and plan has a potential shelf life of some 2 years, hardly time for any park regeneration.</li> <li>•Suggest the only way to allow restoration of the designated parkland vegetation reserves is to remove the camping/caravanning infrastructure.</li> <li>•Tree plantings also need to happen along the barren eastern boundary of the parkland where trees have been removed or lopped either side of the boundary fence.</li> <li>•Discourage the siting of a large new Telstra monopole communication tower next to Victoria Park.</li> <li>•Does the definition of "General Camping" include permanent camping/caravanning and makeshift annexes which currently occurs. The draft policy says nothing about addressing permanent camping or areas like Little Toorak in Victoria Park (or indeed a similar situation in the Recreation Reserve).</li> </ul>	

<p>Submitter 31 cont...</p>	<p>Aerial Photograph of Proposed New Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Aerial photograph doesn't reflect the current situation - much of the vegetation and trees have now gone or been stripped. True picture of a devastated parkland as of August 2022 is needed as an accurate starting point for any park plan or policy.</li> <li>•The plan is essentially a new caravan park master plan with some increased western areas set aside for "vegetation reserves" - probably to appease local people. The "economic imperative" seems once again to take precedence over the need to restore the entire park's environmental values. The plan as presented with 3 different commercial areas for: permanent/annualised caravans/annexes, 5 monthly camping/caravanning and 5 weekly "restricted" camping/caravanning areas, isn't bold enough to restore the natural values of the parkland.</li> <li>•Aerial Plan is fragmented, 5 green coloured pockets of camping west of the main north/south road is not good planning and should be removed and returned to parkland - revenues from these pockets for 5 weeks a year plus music festival weekend would not be great. Just get rid of these proposed camping pockets and return the whole area west and north of the main north/south road including the park's central core and the Mercer and King Street frontages to natural parkland. These commercial areas could be replanted, the park canopy restored and allow the entire central and western sections of the parkland to be rewilded, for everyone to enjoy including the birdlife.</li> <li>•The proposed yellow line (General Camping) along King Street is drawn incorrectly – the entire park frontage to King Street should be a red coloured "Vegetation Reserve" with the yellow line extending east/west from the rear boundary of the Music Festival office building and Toilet in a straight line to the Bowls Club fence line. Even the previous Council recognised the need for a conservation and vegetation zone along the entire King Street frontage to screen camping/caravanning activities (including car parking) along the main entrance into the historic township. The visual impact of the recent moonah removals and tree stripping along King Street needs to be greatly improved so it's especially important to replant and re-establish trees and a conservation zone along this section of the park.</li> <li>•Plan doesn't really address the main entrance to the park, the southwest end adjacent to the Mercer Street where all the moonah trees have been removed or decimated, the northeast corner of King Street, the Mercer Street road reserve extending into the park or the future of Little Toorak as a permanent/annualised caravan area (this area with caravans and annexes hasn't changed much in 30-40 years). The plan also needs to determine the future status of the Music Festival office building (Council owned former Infant Welfare Centre), which is firmly located in Victoria Park but somehow excluded from recent PIN Notice.</li> <li>•If camping/caravanning is to remain I would recommend restricting all camping/caravanning to 5 weeks a year to allow the Victoria Park to regenerate. Council should also introduce a ballot system for camping and caravanning in our parklands.</li> <li>•Also reduce the number of current access points in Victoria Park from 3 or 4 to just 2.</li> </ul>	<p style="background-color: yellow;">No</p>
<p>Submitter 32</p>	<p>I write to you, to request a rethinking of your draft policy for Victoria Park.</p> <p>You state in your draft policy, the storm event in Oct 2021 was the causative factor for the removal or lopping of trees within Victoria Park as they were deemed unsafe to the public by WorkSafe. The local Bellarine and Geelong community and those who use Victoria Park know this is not the complete or accurate account of why the trees have been deemed a risk to public safety. The trees have been unsafe for many years with limbs falling on caravans, annexes, tents and cars. Fortunately, no one has been seriously injured.</p> <p>The proposed policy indicates there will be further restricted camping sites and a loss of many sites. These proposed changes will not only impact the campers who cannot take their annual summer holidays with friends and family (noting many campers have been travelling to Queenscliff to enjoy all it has to offer for generations), it will also have a flow on effect to the town including shop owners and entertainment venues.</p> <p>I acknowledge the crown land which Victoria Park is located is beautiful and is a haven for both the local flora and fauna however there must be other solutions to keep all the key stakeholders happy.</p> <p>Personally, my family have been coming to Queenscliff caravan park for 50 years, summer holidays including the 10 days before Christmas, Easter, Anzac Day weekend and QMF. We have encouraged our family and friends to join us and enjoy Queenscliff and the Bellarine. Christmas dinner will definitely be different this year!</p> <p>I am curious has the Council considered other sites to create a 'botanical garden'? Could the Council think about using the old Queenscliff High School site overlooking Swan Bay. I would think this site would attract extensive birdlife being so close to the water. Also with such a 'plain canvas' the opportunities to create a beautiful garden with other tourist attractions including maybe a tea house or gallery must be seen as an investment for the future. This type of attraction would be an amazing entrance to Queenscliff and a warm welcome to tourists.</p> <p>Please consider all options before endorsing this policy. Please think about the families who have missed their annual summer holiday gatherings due to COVID and were so looking forward to returning to Queenscliff for Summer 2022/23. Please think about those families and friends who have created generational traditions camping a Queenscliff.</p> <p>Please reverse the decision to restrict camping in Victoria Park and reinstate the 30 sites.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my request and I hope to be back onsite at Victoria Park Queenscliff mid December 2022 with my family (we regularly book 3 sites and 2 cabins)!</p>	<p style="background-color: red;">No</p>
<p>Submitter 33</p>	<p>I cannot believe council is virtually closing the caravan &amp; camping ground down. I have been coming down to the facility for 30 odd years &amp; my wife for nigh on 45 years.</p> <p>Due to various reasons over the last decade we have often heard the park has a waiting list or not enough sites. Now, more sites are being lost.</p> <p>The opportunity to fish "out of swan bay boat ramp" which is being upgraded is getting less &amp; less due to the park being made significantly smaller. Lovely hotels, restaurants, swimming on the foreshore, music, art &amp; community festivals as well as our Easter ritual are all activities that we have enjoyed around Queenscliff over many years. Each year has gotten more difficult to be able to camp or caravan to the extreme that on some occasions we need to stay in Ocean Grove which is never our preference. Another huge negative is the fact that it is now increasingly more difficult to enjoy the footy on the oval on Easter Saturday. Having to travel, find parking etc are all aspects that will make us eventually just go to the Mornington Peninsula or Philip Island.</p> <p>Not happy you're driving us away</p>	<p style="background-color: red;">No</p>

Submitter 34	<p>I wish to provide comments on the proposed camping policy for Victoria Park Queenscliff:</p> <p>The scope of the review is not sufficiently broad. It should incorporate an alignment of site management in this precinct (i.e. including around the oval) with DELWP's 2017 directives for camping and caravanning on Crown land. The underlying concept sought by DELWP is a "equality of access". However, around the oval, as well as in the area contained in the draft policy, there are structures attached to caravans which have become de facto permanent dwellings. As such, there is no "equality of access" as the wider public is excluded from using these sites. These permanent structures should be removed at the owners expense and the site remediated, also at the owners expense. This should be done by December.</p> <p>There should be higher appearance standards applied to caravans which utilise the site. Many caravans throughout the area precinct are of a very low standard which makes it look unattractive and dilapidated. It is also likely many of the caravans are unroadworthy, contravening a condition of caravanning on Crown land.</p> <p>It is understood some of the sites have been utilised by the same people for many years. This is not equitable to the broader community and creates a false sense of entitlement. There should be no capacity to roll over a booking from year to year as the objective should be to encourage a diversity of people visiting the Borough while ensuring equality of access. A ballot is a fair system adopted at other popular Crown land camping areas and should be deployed across all Borough camping grounds.</p> <p>With regard to the trees in the park, the Borough needs to develop a more sophisticated risk management framework. It is recommended that all trees are registered and reviewed for condition on a cycle determined by the usage of the site.</p> <p>It is recommended the two smaller north-western seasonal camping areas are deleted so there is a larger contiguous vegetation zone. While this may come at the loss of several camping sites, greater access to remaining sites following the removal of permanent caravans and associated annexes will offset revenue losses.</p> <p>Tree planting needs to be done at a density which enables adjoining trees to protect each other from wind. The extensive culling has left many mature trees exposed which is a serious problem for moonahs.</p> <p>The loss of many mature trees has meant the loss of habitat for bats and birds. Consideration should be given to the installation of hollow logs and boxes to provide alternative nesting sites. It takes decades for tree hollows to form and as the Commonwealth's State of the Environment report has shown, the loss of tree cover is alarming. The Borough needs to become an exemplar of vegetation management.</p>	Partial
Submitter35	<p>A Vision for Victoria Park in King Street, Queenscliff.</p> <p>The name of the park will be returned to the Queenscliff Botanic Gardens</p> <p>The Park will be designated as a Botanic Gardens as it was when established commencing in 1865. It was planned to be enjoyed by both residents and tourists. This will continue.</p> <p>Passive recreation in the park will include walking or picnicking in the pleasant and restored Moonah Woodland, and amongst the mixture of other species and trees which have existed over many years.</p> <p>Any remaining ancient Moonah trees will be cared for and revered as a reminder of an earlier history of people who lived in and cared for this same area.</p> <p>Walking paths and areas for sitting and observing bird life will be established.</p> <p>The park will be revegetated by and with community work.</p> <p>A qualified parkland consultant will prepare a plan using earlier plans as a guide. Planting will include indigenous species of a Moonah Woodlands ecosystem and replacement of other significant tree and shrub species.</p> <p>Plantings will aim for canopy cover and a cooling atmosphere to provide a cool haven for people and wildlife. Water for birdlife will be present.</p> <p>A community group set up to contribute to the park rehabilitation will work with council and the park planner to revegetate the park in a planned and sustainable manner, holding up to 6 planting days each winter and contributing some weeding and watering time in the summer.</p> <p>School pupils will spend several occasions planting and studying the local species and learning about the values of our coastal woodlands for bird and animal life.</p> <p>Opportunities for special gatherings and music presentations in the parkland will be supported.</p> <p>Queenscliff will become proud of and enjoy the work carried out to restore our historic Botanic Gardens to a beautiful and shady area in the heart of the town for both tourists and residents.</p>	No
Submitter 36	<p>The "policy" is light on details and only outlines "principles" and not methodologies and/or processes to achieve these "principles". As such it does not provide confidence that there is a clear understanding of what is involved, the costs or the timing.</p> <p>However, a management plan for this significant area in Queenscliff would provide these details. A plan would provide a well considered stand alone document which will set clear parameters for management and operational works overtime. It provides accountability. A policy is a lighter and transient document. An area of such significance warrants a plan. A plan will outline the history, planning framework, conservation values – including species or flora and fauna in the park and their habitat requirements and what can and cannot be undertaken in the park e.g., use of chemicals , control of noxious weeds, birdwatching etc. Land use management falls out of the over arching planning, biophysical and high-level objectives. The draft "policy" identifies an outcome with no documentation of context or methodology to achieve these outcomes.</p> <p>The land use component of the policy on the surface is an outcome that solves the immediate issues but does not give any detail or vision for the medium to long term. Some examples:</p> <p>It outlines "principles" but no methods or tools to achieve outcomes. This is critical as the recent incident that precipitated the mass destruction of vegetation in part is due to Council not following up the recommendations by the arborist in a timely manner.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How does this new policy assure the stakeholders (community, campers, environment) that this will not occur again?</li> <li>- How will land use zones be delineated and respected on the ground?</li> <li>- What is low impact camping and is adequately defined, especially in the light of towing vehicle sizes and manoeuvrability? How will this be reviewed over time?</li> <li>- No camping or public access to vegetation areas – will there be signage or walkways/birdwatching areas or is the intent to stop all access?</li> <li>- Will there be interpretative signage to educate the community/visitors about the history and values of this area?</li> <li>- I note Council wishes to partner with the "community". A method of doing this would be to have an interim process as a management plan is developed with stakeholders.</li> <li>- The revegetation works should be included in a plan</li> </ul> <p>The time investment in a plan provides all parties satisfaction that the framework is in place to achieve the outcomes supported by the plan. It engages all stakeholders and keeps everyone accountable. I understand there is a short-term imperative to move forward and open the park up to all. I would urge Council to approve an "interim policy" for 12 months as a management plan is developed.</p>	Partial

Submitter 37	<p>Given the level of recent destruction which has occurred firstly by the 2021 storm and then by the Committee of Management (before and after a camper-initiated WorkSafe PIN Notice) in a series of devastating tree removals and stripping during 2022 the QEF submit the following:</p> <p>Victoria Park Policy and Plan</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.Council's policy should include a "Vision" for the entire 1.6 hectare area of Victoria Park. This must be to return it back to a Queenscliff Botanic Park and restore the informal trees/vegetation, walking paths and avenues, replant the canopy and retain the park as an important botanic feature at the entrance to the historic township rather than a permanent and part-time caravan park.</li> <li>2.Seasonal and permanent camping and caravanning presently conducted in the park should be relocated elsewhere so the parkland can be rehabilitated. The policy provides no guidance about the permanent annualised camping regime in the park and what Council's future policy will be in relation to this.</li> <li>3.The Policy should recognise that the Park, first established in 1868, is a permanent Public Park and central feature of Queenscliff's Botanic Gardens Urban Conservation Precinct - Heritage Precinct HO 9 (refer BoQ Planning Scheme and original Queenscliffe Urban Conservation Study page 255). The precinct, which contains many restored heritage buildings along adjoining King and Mercer Streets, should be protected and restored for the benefit of all Victorians.</li> <li>4.Council's Tree Planting Plan is missing from the Draft Victoria Park Policy – it's very important that the local community understand what Council propose to do to replant and restore sections of the parkland given the terrible outcome we are presently faced with. The replanting program could include local community groups and local primary schools with regular planting days held to help rehabilitation the parkland.</li> <li>5.The final Victoria Park Policy and Plan needs to be embedded in the Borough's upcoming Coastal and Marine Management Plan so that it survives future Councils and gives guidance to CEO's.</li> <li>6.Given the park's special heritage and environmental significance and the pending Bellarine DAL/SPP - including a State significant coastal strip from Queenscliff to Breamlea - the landowners (DELWP) and Committee of Management (BoQ) should include in the Park Policy a plan to rezone the parkland to Public Conservation Resource Zone (PCRZ) and ensure it has all appropriate environmental and heritage overlays to survive for another 150 years.</li> <li>7.Aerial Park Plan doesn't reflect current situation - much of the vegetation and trees have now gone or been stripped. True picture of a devastated parkland as of August 2022 is needed as an accurate starting point for any park plan or policy.</li> </ol>	No
Submitter 38	<p>f there is to be any upside to the current parlous state of our beloved Victoria Park it is that we learn from past experience and act accordingly.</p> <p>It has been proven that camping/caravanning and vegetation conservation cannot co-exist successfully.</p> <p>If there is to be any chance of park rehabilitation and successful replanting outcomes the camping areas and vegetation reserves need to be totally separate from one another.</p> <p>Having pockets of camping tucked among protected vegetation reserves will eventually take us down the same path we have just travelled. (This seems to have been recognised to some degree by the suggestion in the draft that future arborist assessments may be necessary if camping in the restricted areas negatively impacts vegetation and habitat).</p> <p>Removing these 'green' restricted camping areas would result in one clearly defined area for priority vegetation renewal on the Western side of the Park, which could then be appropriately fenced (post/rope), have no public vehicle access, and be restricted to public pedestrian access only.</p> <p>I appreciate that there are economic considerations in reducing camping sites, but I believe that we need to balance these concerns against the asset value of both a successfully restored park and individual trees (e.g. the Aleppo Pine).</p> <p>The camping area in the Eastern side of the Park (including Little Toorak with its outdated and unsightly vans/pseudo cabins) could be revitalised and offered as a boutique, environmentally friendly, low impact camping experience; limited to tents and camping trailers. This would set it apart from other offerings in the Borough and attract environmentally aware campers prepared to pay more for a lower key, more natural experience.</p> <p>Victoria Park is now at the make- or- break stage. Community members are feeling bruised and trust needs to be rebuilt. However, there is still enthusiasm to roll up sleeves and get working on restoration of this loved community asset.</p>	Partial

Submitter 39	<p>The Association would like to state from the outset, that we , like many community members, are totally dismayed, and outraged, at the actions of Council , in response to the PIN Notices being served on Victoria Park which resulted in the destruction of ancient moonah trees and habitat.</p> <p>In our view these actions of Council challenge the environmental provisions contained within :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The CERP that Council has recently adopted;</li> <li>- The Wadawurrung Healthy Country Plan;</li> </ul> <p>and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- devalue Victoria Park as the centrepiece of Queenscliffe’s Botanic Gardens Precinct - HO 9 Heritage Precinct.</li> </ul> <p>It was apparent from what has transpired, that the community was not adequately consulted and consequently we are left with a terrible outcome which is an eye sore for all to see. Our number one issue with this matter is the lack of transparency that has occurred between ratepayers and Council.</p> <p>The Association is extremely concerned that something similar may happen to Royal Park vegetation, or even the Avenue of Honour through the actions of just one person initiating WorkSafe PIN Notices.</p> <p>As far as our membership is concerned we have never had so much negative feedback relating to a Council action (save for perhaps the development at the PLMDP some years ago) with numerous calls and conversations about what occurred at Victoria Park.</p> <p>1. No Camping at Victoria Park.</p> <p>The Association submits that the Council should return the entire 1.6 hectare park to nature and restore the informal trees/vegetation and make the park an important feature at the entrance to the township rather than a caravan park. Caravanners should be offered alternate locations in other designated caravan parks.</p> <p>The Association has not arrived at this position lightly. However, it is clear that the community overwhelmingly wants the “Park as a Park” and the trees and parkland canopy restored.</p> <p>We also believe the Draft Park Plan is unworkable for a number of reasons, and camping and caravanning is no longer suited to Victoria Park in the longer term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The latest hybrid plan is essentially a caravan park with increased environmental areas in the central core and along the street frontages. The 5 pockets of restricted camping west of the central road, which will only operate for 5 weeks of the year, are ad-hoc, small in size, have limited revenue potential and will only</li> </ul>	No
Submitter 39 cont...	<p>“We also believe the Draft Park Plan is unworkable for a number of reasons, and camping and caravanning is no longer suited to Victoria Park in the longer term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The latest hybrid plan is essentially a caravan park with increased environmental areas in the central core and along the street frontages. The 5 pockets of restricted camping west of the central road, which will only operate for 5 weeks of the year, are ad-hoc, small in size, have limited revenue potential and will only diminish attempts to restore the parkland vegetation in the central core of the park. There is also no discussion about the aged annualised sites in the General Camping area or replanting in the largely barren camping area east of the central road.</li> <li>- Post pandemic, larger RV’s are now the norm for many users. These demand larger turning areas to park in camp sites, black water dump facilities, and greater electrical infrastructure by their very nature. Victoria Park lacks many of these requirements and if this infrastructure is upgraded, it will only lead to more pressure on existing and new vegetation which is largely unprotected.</li> <li>- Larger RV’s mean larger sites and bigger roadways to navigate to the targeted site. One could argue that this will lead to further reductions of trees/vegetation and ultimately a reduction in the number of sites made available to tourists anyway. This also means diminishing revenue from the Park (refer Hansen 2018 report extract below).</li> </ul> <p>“Site access arrangements from Hesse Street is convoluted and confused, without dedicated parking bays for caravans and inadequate manoeuvring space when entering the site and access to the site office on check-in.”</p> <p>“The consequential loss of sites associated with upgrading the road structure and park layout in some areas would have an obvious impact on Council’s annual income stream generated from the site”.</p> <p>It is therefore hoped the long-awaited CMMP becomes the blueprint for Council to manage its Crown Land parks and reserves including Victoria Park. This critical document needs to be completed before any lasting decisions are made about our fragile coastal reserves and green open spaces.</p>	

Submitter 40	<p>I like many others are long term campers at Victoria Park in Queenscliff. I started camping there as an infant in 1968 with my parents and siblings. Since this time, I have attended every year. I introduced my own children to the pleasure of camping at Queenscliff in 1992 and they like myself and my husband enjoy everything this camping experience has offered. This includes but not limited to, catching up with family friends made over many years of sharing the camp ground, attending SUFM (or CSSM as it was when I was attending as a child), swimming at a safe beach and enjoying the amazing marine life in the rock pools, supporting local businesses especially the kiosk, ice cream shop, butchers, supermarket, newsagent, bakery and of course the many visits to the Bowling Club where my husband and I have been social members for many years. My now adult children are also social members which they were very excited about once they turned 18.</p> <p>I am very disappointed to think that my grandchildren will not be provided the same opportunities. In recent years when they have visited, they have thoroughly enjoyed watching the birds' nest in the trees around us and also see the possums that come to visit of an evening. My experience over the years of attending the camping ground is that all the campers respect and enjoy the natural environment the park offers and do not intentionally destroy any of the flora or fauna.</p> <p>The most distressing thing about receiving the email from the Caravan Park is that in May 2022 we were contacted about the size of our caravan and were assured at that time our caravan met the necessary requirements for the site we have made our home for 3 weeks every December / January for approximately 21 years. That being site VP94. To now see that the Borough of Queenscliffe council is considering closing the site for the purposes of rejuvenation of the revegetation is absolutely heartbreaking. I acknowledge that there are residents of the Borough of Queenscliffe that want the whole caravan park closed and turned into gardens as in 1868 the park was reserved for Public Gardens and recreation and then camping introduced in 1937. Nothing has ever been achieved by turning back the clock, hence I am unsure why the Borough of Queenscliffe would want to consider turning this revenue raising piece of land back into Public Gardens when there are other areas within the town that would be suitable, such as where the Queenscliff High School was or along the front beach.</p> <p>The COVID pandemic has had a huge impact on all Australians, especially Victorians and as a result the economy is taking a huge hit. Can the Borough of Queenscliffe afford to lose the revenue they receive from the campers at this time?</p> <p>I beg that you consider leaving the caravan park open for campers to continue to enjoy for years to come. If you do not see this as an option, then I am asking that you at least consider allowing campers in those areas that will become gardens, to have one last year at the campground. Your decisions greatly impact on the mental health of many people, myself and family included and at least if we can have one final year camping, we are able to say our farewells to friends who we may lose contact with due to busy lifestyles, locals who we have come to know over the years but most of all the place we have called our home away from home.</p> <p>Please also consider that each of us paid a \$200 deposit before ending our holiday in January 2022 and this was paid in good faith that the Borough of Queenscliffe would honour what we believe to be a contract we had entered.</p> <p>I appreciate you taking the time to consider this email and I hope you can find an answer that will keep all campers and locals equally happy.</p>	No
Submitter 41	<p>A very complicated project. Borough officers unqualified to make decisions with no environmental officer and a small planning department.</p> <p>Environment Issues are huge Business Plan issues are huge There needs to be open discussion There needs to be a well qualified committee to seek expert advice from elsewhere.</p> <p>The Borough must therefore utilise the expertise of other Councils with camping areas.</p> <p>Rye foreshore camping is changing to annual ballot for sites and no permanents</p> <p>There needs to be first class Coast Management Plan Document. City of Greater Geelong has a fabulous comm tted environment department. Ask them. Learn from them. Use them or similar.</p> <p>There needs to be a plan for all the camping areas. There must not be a piece meal approach</p> <p>Review the down trodden state of the camping at present. Unloved, uncared for, shabby painting. shabby permanent vans built in structures.</p> <p>This cannot be sorted out quickly.</p> <p>The tree management has been disastrous.</p> <p>Settle in for a long term view and get the best advice possible and don't attempt to make a plan with current Borough staffing. Too small a staff too big a problem.</p>	Partial
Submitter 42	<p>As a permanent resident who resides in Learmonth Street, I want to object to the closing of anymore caravan park sites. If trees are dangerous cut them down and replace. I'm sure the green fanatics think that money grows on trees or falls from the sky!</p> <p>I'm sure as a local council we need all the income we can get? To maintain service's and maintain council assets?</p> <p>Not to mention the local traders. The amount of shops sitting empty in the Main Street is a blight on our town. Closing more sites will take away more income and further exacerbate the problems they face. Please don't keep listening to all these empty ships making all the noise</p>	No
Submitter 43	<p>QMF Inc notes the proposed changes to the amenity of Victoria Park and respects the efforts of Council to preserve and enhance native vegetation in the Borough.</p> <p>The proposed plan will mean a consequential reduction in camping sites that will impact on the available accommodation for large scale events in Queenscliff. Including QMF Inc events.</p> <p>Given this, QMF Inc believes it is important, for the long-term sustainability of tourism in the Borough, that the council explores additional camping accommodation to support Borough revenues both to council and to local businesses.</p>	Partial
Submitter 44	Submission is to large to include here. It will be provided as a separate attachment	No

Submitter 45	<p>I am writing In regard to your draft for the Vic park. As a camper I am devastated at the loss of 30 sites at the park. The park is a public space for all walks of life to enjoy.</p> <p>For most families that camp there it is there second home. It is the place where they them self came as children and now being there own children and grandkids. It is a place we all love and cherish . Most young families can't afford a holiday house. So to cut sites makes me feel that only the rich can afford to stay in Queenscliffe . This is un fare to the many hard working families who have been coming for generations .</p> <p>I would like you to reconsider your draft and allow camping to continue in Victoria park. .</p> <p>If you are after a botanical gardens surely there is other places that are more suitable. That gives everyone a better option . Like the old high school grounds or the front beach where many families sit to have lunch and enjoy the surroundings.</p> <p>To loose 30 sites for business over the summer period. I would think be devastating . The loss of that income to these businesses could be the difference of weather they stay open or not. As campers we all contribute greatly to the Queenscliff economy . Supporting many eateries ,dresses shops and food stores over the summer period . Are the chamber of commerce aware of your decision ???</p> <p>I feel if you don't allow camping to continue in the Vic park. Many children will not be able to enjoy the wonderful place we all hold so dearly. We all love the trees and the environment. We just want to co exist with them as we have in the past.</p> <p>It is not the campers fault that neglect for the park has taken place. But we are the ones to pay the price .</p> <p>I have driven through Queenscliff many times and to be honest have never seen anyone in Vic park other than when we are there at Christmas etc.</p> <p>Please consider our right to enjoy a public space for a few weeks out of the whole year equally as important as other groups.</p> <p>A group that contribute greatly to the financial well being of your town .</p> <p>Yes replant Victoria park but do it so campers and the park can exist together as we have for the last 80 odd years .</p> <p>In closing I strongly disagree with the draft policy closing nearly half the park down to campers and the restricted zones.</p> <p>Surely there is other options that can allow all walks of life to enjoy the park. Not just a select few .</p>	No
Submitter 46	Registered dismay at 'destruction' that has occurred at Victoria Park. All camping should be excluded and restoration allowed with out disruption	No
Submitter 47	<p>Even though now I am a fringe dweller, after some sixty years of living in Mercer Street and raising four children there, Queenscliff's parks are to my family, special places – lots of fun as we collected other people's children along the way while going to and from the beach or had picnics and fun activities under the trees etc.</p> <p>Over the years camping and caravanning have increased and resulted in the sorry state of Victoria Park today. All camping, whether permanent or short stay, must be banned, the park revegetated and permanently returned to its original status of Botanic Gardens.</p> <p>In the 1850's prominent world Scientific Botanist, Baron von Mueller, who often holidayed in Queenscliff, across the road from Victoria Park's Botanic Park Precinct, is recorded as providing advice on the original tree planting, many of which were moonahs. With his keen interest in trees, he would be saddened by the present state of Victoria Park.</p> <p>Poet Joyce Kilmer (1913) loved trees and her quotes are still repeated today- I think that I shall never see a poem as lovely as a tree. I'm certain she would be as shocked and disappointed as is the majority of the community regarding the drastic destruction of the vegetation, especially the historic moonahs in Victoria Park- stripped of trunks and foliage or completely gone- trees that may in summer wear nests of robins in their hair.</p> <p>Barwon Heads are proud and protective of their well-kept Moonah Woodlands and see them as a fine example of indigenous trees worth protecting. Sadly, the same sentiment has not been applied to Victoria Park.</p> <p>We are aware that in October 2021 some trees were storm damaged in Victoria Park, but then came the real devastation inflicted by humans. Angry campers wanted trees gone, over-zealous Work Safe contractors laid waste to much of the park vegetation and the laissez-faire attitude and lack of supervision from council and officers ended in the resultant carnage. This is not the way a precious park should be treated. Campers must be permanently banned and allocated sites elsewhere. Critically, the community and council must co-operate to create a restoration plan for a complete botanic park, which includes recommendations from experts where necessary.</p> <p>I strongly endorse the rehabilitation recommendations for Victoria Park put forward by Joan Lindros, Secretary of The Geelong Environment Council, who with her team, has devoted many years to regenerating degraded areas of The Bellarine with excellent results.</p> <p>With Spring growth here now, people power and finance available for revegetation, along with Council's forthcoming Policy and Plan out for community comment, this is the opportunity to permanently cease any form of camping or caravanning and remove camping infrastructure altogether. We have the opportunity to return this once welcoming public park at the entrance to our heritage town to its original status of Victoria Park Botanical Garden in the Victoria Park Botanical Garden Urban Conservation Heritage Precinct H09.</p> <p>Future plans and policies to permanently rejuvenate Victoria Park as Botanical Gardens must be validated in The Borough Planning Scheme and The Borough Coastal and Marine Management plan as well as any other necessary policies for a Plan for Planting, which may be necessary.</p> <p>Short term campers who use Victoria Park over the Summer and Music festival weekend could be relocated to one of the two sports ovals, as has been the case on occasions in the past. Council land on Murray Road with demountable infrastructure could also be utilised and serviced by the train.</p>	No



Submitter 48	<p>Park Management</p> <p>a. Victoria Park will remain dual use, a public park and place for campers with distinct areas for vegetation.</p> <p>Until the vegetation is restored in Victoria Park caravan access should be stopped. The park has been degraded as a result of pressure put on it by camping in general and the safety of the campers taking priority over passive recreation use and habitat. The current view of campers that they have a right to camp in Vitoria park should not take priority over the residents use of the park and habitat. I am also concerned that the campers current response could see vandalization of existing vegetation and proposed sites.</p> <p>b. Camping will be permitted in the General Camping areas from 1 December 1 to 30 April, and the Queenscliff Music Festival weekend.</p> <p>c. Low impact camping will be allowed in Restricted Camping areas</p> <p>Define low impact camping... All camping puts pressure on Victoria Park. And what about the residents and visitors use of Victoria park for passive recreation???</p> <p>: I. During the Queenscliffe Music Festival</p> <p>ii. For five weeks from 26 December until 31 January</p> <p>iii. With a caravan or recreational vehicle with a maximum open length of 6.5 metres</p> <p>d. Camping in Restricted Camping areas may be subject to further restrictions if a qualified arborist assesses that camping is having a detrimental impact on vegetation growth, canopy enhancement and/or habitat regeneration</p> <p>e. No camping will be permitted in Vegetation Reserves</p> <p>f. There will be no public access to Vegetation Reserves</p> <p>As for no public access to Vegetation reserves. This has merit. However, it implies that residents and visitors can use the areas destinated for camping when not being used for camping. There needs to be areas set aside for passive recreation to the exclusion of camping. And not at the reduction of Vegetation Reserves.</p> <p>This section presents as a thinly disguised attempt to maximise the use of Victoria Park for camping. Camping will be permitted in Victoria Park for at least 5 months of the year without the considerations for discretionary use by an event. Look at the concession made to the Queenscliff Music festival. Are the vegetation areas going to be fenced during these 'events' to protect the vegetation??</p> <p>Environmental Management</p> <p>a. Council will revegetate Victoria Park</p> <p>Where does the use of Victoria Park for camping fit with revegetating Victoria Park. Aren't camping and revegetation in the current context at odds with each other??? A mother hood statement at best.</p> <p>b. Revegetation will include an appropriate mix of indigenous and exotic plants recognising and extending Victoria Park's ecological history.</p> <p>This presents as an attempt to placate the residents. Yes; Victoria park has a history of indigenous and exotic vegetation however to do this sensitively camping needs to be removed from Victoria park</p>	No
Submitter 48 cont...	<p>c. There will be a strong focus on increasing tree canopy, maintaining biodiversity and increasing habitats at the site over the long-term.</p> <p>Great statement. And what is council going to do in the short term to create this long term view???</p> <p>d. The relevant elements of the Climate Emergency Response Plan and the Wadawurrung Healthy Country Plan will be applied in the long-term environmental management of the park.</p> <p>Great statement. And what is council going to do in the short term to create this long term view???</p> <p>e. Council will look to partner with the community when planning and undertaking revegetation, vegetation management and environmental preservation at the park.</p> <p>Great statement however why wasn't the community (the residents in particular) part of the ongoing management of Victoria Park???</p> <p>From my experience the council appears more concerned about the commercial use of Victoria Park rather than the in direct commercial benefits from passive recreation.</p> <p>CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT</p> <p>This policy will be reviewed on a continuous basis, but as a minimum every two years from the date of adoption.</p> <p>In its current form I believe this policy on Victoria Park should not be approved until more descriptive elements are included. Until the policy has more substance camping should be excluded from Victoria Park. It presents as full of mother hood statements that allow the council to maintain its commercial use of the park. CLIMATE CHANGE requires the council to shift from this commercial model and seeing public parks as opportunities to help mitigate the impact of climate change on the resident who live in the borough and the visitors by increasing vegetation. Vegetation that in the short and long term will help at as natural air conditions., increase biodiversity, help mitigate extreme storm events and be attractive places for the general public to visit.</p>	
Submitter49	<p>Swan Bay Environment Association preference is for Victoria Park to be reinstated as a public park/ botanic garden.</p> <p>The draft policy also states there will be an "appropriate mix" of indigenous and exotic plants. Our preference would be for the park to revegetated with exclusively indigenous vegetation, as this is the vegetation most likely to survive well, with minimum maintenance, and it will provide much better support native animals from insects to birds and small mammals.</p> <p>We support the continued presence of some large exotic trees as some of these were planted by historic figures such as von Mueller. While these historic trees should be preserved we are not convinced they should be replaced when they eventually die. These exotic trees reflect an era when exotic vegetation was favoured largely because the (European) botanists of the time were familiar with them. We see that as far as possible we should be aiming to create natural ecosystems where native vegetation supports native animals of all types. We see no reason at all that low growing vegetation should be anything other than indigenous, as there is such a wide variety of attractive low growing indigenous plants and shrubs available.</p> <p>As you are aware Swan Bay Environment Association have been working with residents to revegetate a number of local pocket parks in the borough. We would be pleased to assist with developing a revegetation plan and to assist with the revegetation of Victoria Park when plans have been finalised.</p>	No
Submitter 50	<p>A key consideration for Victoria Park has to be safety. Whether the Park is used just as a park or for camping, no one wants someone killed by a falling tree. This real risk cannot be ignored by people who want to save every leaf of the trees regardless of the potential danger.</p> <p>The same people who seem to complain about everything council does would be the first people to stick the boot in council if someone was killed by a falling tree.</p> <p>These complaining people do not represent most of the people in our town. And the same people who think every twig in Victoria Park is precious are the same people who opposed adding green space to the ugly car park at Shortlands Bluff.</p> <p>Camping at Victoria Park brings in people who support the businesses in our town. Without the customers our businesses die and where does that leave the town.</p> <p>There are plenty of natural and wild places in Queenscliff - enough to use some for camping.</p>	Partial

Submitter 51	<p>Due to time away over the past month and my electronic device dying during this period, I am submitting my notes per below in bullet form for consideration in the review-re-vegetation of Victoria Park.</p> <p>Some comments relate to other aspects of Queenscliffe Tourist Parks in general.</p> <p><b>Vision Statement:</b>  Victoria Park to be revegetated as an Indigenous/ Botanic gardens. The main focus should be to create a gardens which is environmentally responsible, is restorative, and is a haven for bird life, insects, bees and is complementary to addressing the impacts of climate change as identified in our CERP.  A time frame is to be developed for the restoration of the Park, during which time no camping facilities are to be provided.  Accordingly the Management Plan for the restoration of Victoria Park and beyond should contain;  Appropriate seating, potentially using reclaimed timber.  Trees and shrubs which are indigenous to its location.  The replanting of trees recently removed including the stand of Willow Myrtles adjacent to the Bowls Club.  Non invasive pathways which link to the proposed rejuvenated Shortlands Bluff area.  Pathways should avoid existing highly valued vegetated areas and future planned re-vegetated areas.  There to be a suitable and properly administered Vegetation Plan.  Appropriate windbreaks to provide shelter against the prevailing south easterly and westerly winds.  Appropriate fire breaks.  Implement process to ensure no excess build up of leaf matter and fuel load.  Provide and maintain appropriate and adequate fire control access.  Ensure required fire safety audits and evacuation procedures are reviewed periodically and results logged.  Ensure there is appropriate parking and access for emergency vehicles.</p> <p>Set aside from the general camping area a designated smoking area.  Nesting boxes for native bird life.  Trees to be selected which do not have a propensity to drop branches and can withstand wind damage.  Water efficient landscaping to conserve water.  An appropriate and non invasive watering system throughout the Park.  Use of water tanks to collect water.</p>	No
Submitter 51 cont...	<p>Promote use of organic fertilisers through composting and potential use of compostable waste receivers.  Ban the use of insecticides and pesticides which are detrimental to the environment.  Use natural alternative solutions to control pests.  Implement a tree register to record tree maintenance and tree health.  Fines to be imposed for deliberate damage to trees, vegetation and wildlife.</p> <p>Quickly and appropriately address any unauthorised damage to vegetation, park assets and dumping of waste and refuse.  No unauthorised pruning, removal or poisoning of park vegetation.  Appropriate education to park users on their responsibilities.  Work with community, community groups and school groups to enhance park sustainability.  To minimise disturbance to native, indigenous vegetation, implement and maintain a Park Environmental Management Plan.  Implement and maintain appropriate fire management and emergency strategies.  Define park buffer areas and protect vegetation through mulching, edge planting, fencing if necessary.  Implement strategies to protect areas identified as valuable habitat.</p> <p>On use of Park/Recreation Reserve:  Selective, low impact camping only allowed in Victoria Park following its eventual reopening post restoration.  No caravan sites in Victoria Park or in the area known as Little Toorak.  No permanent caravan sites throughout.  Existing permanent caravans to be removed at owners expense.  Use of eco-friendly chemicals in all facilities where applicable.  Ensure on-site accommodation where provided is well maintained and compliant to safety standards and requirements.  Ensure disabled access is provided to community facilities, bathrooms and on-site accommodation which is consistent with Australian standards requirements.  Develop and implement strategies which sees all permanent buildings located in the park fitted with appropriate best practice environmental features. This would include, but not limited to solar or photovoltaic panels, water tanks to collect run off water, hot water systems with heat pumps.  Display appropriate signage to encourage water and power conservation. For example, limit showers to 4 minutes, turn off lights when not in use, sensor lights inside community facilities.  Ensure By-Law Officers monitor park activities to control unacceptable behaviour or inappropriate activity.</p>	
Submitter 51 cont...	<p>Ensure By-Law Officers monitor park activities to control unacceptable behaviour or inappropriate activity.  Financial performance of each Queenscliffe Tourist Park against a pre-determined Budget to be made public on an annual basis.</p>	

Submitter 52	<p>QCAG welcomes Council's initiative to involve the community in consultation on how to best protect and manage Victoria Park into the future.</p> <p>QCAG's key focus continues to be the implementation of the CERP. Pillar 8, Action 1, Canopy Coverage and Pillar 8, Action 5, Vegetation Management Policy are directly related to the impacts of recent extensive vegetation clearance, pruning and removal of mature trees at Victoria Park. It is imperative that these same pillars and actions are considered first and foremost when deciding upon the ongoing environmental management and public usage of the park.</p> <p>Prioritising vegetation zones that absolutely protect existing and future-planted indigenous vegetation is paramount and QCAG strongly supports the inclusion of these 'red zones' in the Victoria Park management policy. Revegetation efforts should include a diverse range of indigenous grasses, groundcovers, plants and trees of varying ages. Regular strategic weeding, mulching and watering - especially initially - will be required to guarantee healthy growth. Fencing off 'red zones' would further assist in regeneration and protection of these essential areas by limiting human impact.</p> <p>Climate science clearly demonstrates that canopy coverage plays an integral role in mitigating the effects of climate change; it cools the air and the ground, improves air quality, and provides shade for surrounding flora and fauna. Furthermore, canopy coverage provides food, protection and habitat for an array of indigenous birds, animals and insects, thus helping to improve biodiversity. In addition to revegetation efforts, specially-designed nesting boxes for microbats, rosellas and other parrot species could be attached to remaining established trees to help counteract the significant loss of hollows.</p> <p>QCAG suggests that the restricted camping zone islands to the north of the park should be instead included in the vegetation reserves. This will limit confusion and have the overall effect of increased vegetation cover. The low impact 'green zones' to the south could be defined as walk-in, tent-only sites i.e. campers in 'green zones' park on Mercer Street or King Street and access the park on foot to minimise disturbance to vegetation. QCAG emphasises the importance of planting solely indigenous plants in Victoria Park as they will thrive in their natural environment, are drought-tolerant, provide habitat and food sources for indigenous species, and require little maintenance once established.</p>	Partial
Submitter 52 cont...	<p>In closing, QCAG recognises the fiscal benefits in maintaining camping as a feature of Vic Park. Direct revenue gained has the potential to support other CERP related actions alongside a broader economic benefit in supporting tourism within the Borough. This needs to be balanced though and, given the significant damage experienced, it is our belief that priority must be given to natural restoration first and foremost.</p>	Partial