



20 December 2023

Zelda Walters

Queenscliff VIC 3225

Via email:

Dear Zelda Walters

### **PUBLIC QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

I am writing in response to the public question taken on notice at the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Wednesday 13 December 2023.

#### **The public question reads as follows:**

What is the Council officers proposal for linking the Bellarine Rail Trail to Queenscliff and the preferred concept for Murray Road?

Has Council fully considered the impacts on residents/ratepayers and locals who live in Murray Road who will be most affected by these changes?

Why is Council looking to make alterations to Murray Road for the benefit of visitors/tourists, bike riders and walkers at the expense of accessibility to their properties for residents/ratepayers.

I understand Council are employing consultants to offer concepts for the extension of the Bellarine Rail Trail along Murray Road. What is the cost of this?

#### **In response to the question, I provide the following advice:**

There is currently no preferred concept for Murray Road or the proposal to link the Bellarine Rail Trail between Fellows Road and the Bellarine Highway. Community consultation is scheduled in the first quarter of 2024 to help determine the preferred solution.

Council officers will consider the impacts on all road users that may be caused by future changes to Murray Road, including residents and locals who live in Murray Road. Community consultation will play a key role in determining these impacts. Other inputs that will help identify and quantify potential impacts on road users will include traffic counts, pedestrian and cyclist counts, development of concept designs, and consultation with other key stakeholders such as the Department of Transport and Planning, waste contractors, bus services, and emergency services.

Murray Road has been identified as a key missing link on the Bellarine Rail Trail at a regional level. Council officers are investigating potential treatments to provide separation between cyclists, pedestrians, and cars, to reduce conflict between road users and improve safety.

Concept designs are currently being developed by external consultants, the cost of this work is \$4,500 plus GST.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'MG', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Martin Gill**  
**Chief Executive Officer**