*Please Support…Please Support…. Please Support…. Please Support*

***Westernport and Peninsula Protection Council Inc.***

**Founded in 1971, the programs of the Council are aimed at preserving and restoring our precious natural environment in Westernport Bay and its hinterland. An important part of our activities is to ensure that proper planning processes are observed by Government at all three levels and that community consultation is a fundamental component of planning.**

Prompting community awareness of important conservation issues has also been high on our agenda for the past 48 years.

The activities of Council are managed by a committee elected at the annual General Meeting, which is held on a Sunday early in January.

Additional help on the Committee and in a range of other ways is always welcome. Please indicate on the subscription form if you have any special skills or interests which may be helpful in our campaigns. ‘**Like’ us on Facebook!**

**For further information about our activities please contact:**Louise Rawlings: President 0418 271504, Karri Giles: Secretary 59 832 072, Sandy Milne, Treasurer 0419 333 959

**I would like to support Westernport Peninsula Protection Council Inc.**

**Subscription: (not tax deductible) -** subscriptions fall due 1st Nov each year

$10 individual   $15 family                                                       $………

**Donation: (tax deductible for amounts of $2 or more - see below)** $……….

**Online bank transfer**  Westernport and Peninsula Protection Council.

**NAB Hastings    BSB** 083-668

**Account number:**  02580 2659

Then email with the same details as below on [wppcweb@gmail.com](mailto:wppcweb@gmail.com) so we can send a receipt and include you on our mailing lists

Or send a cheque:

**I/we enclose a cheque for**:  $\_\_\_\_\_\_  Donation $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Skills/interests: I would like to offer help in the following ways:

……………………………………………………………………………………………………………

***Please return to***: Hon Treasurer, WPPC, Box 9, Hastings, Vic 3915

The Westernport Peninsula Protection Council Inc Trust is a gift fund listed on the Register of Environmental

Organisations under Section 78(1) (a) of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1936. Inc. no: A0015886H

**Westernport and Peninsula Protection Council Inc**

Incorporated Association Reg. No. A15886H ABN 984 610 14730 PO Box 9 Hastings Vic 3915

**Spring Newsletter 2022**

Spring greetings to our members and supporters. Below is a quick snapshot of our current activities and how you can help us to protect Westernport.

***Please provide us with your email address, if you haven’t - as we are hoping to stop printing and posting hard copy newsletters.***

*\*Please don’t forget to pay your membership, due at our AGM in January each year.*



**Campaign activities**

**Western Port Woodlands – pre-election action needed**

We continue to join our friends and colleagues on the Eastern side of the Bay to promote and lobby for the protection of these unique woodlands. We don't want to see them turned into (unnecessary) sand mines that destroy this unique and pristine habitat and leach chemicals into the bay. Although Dandy Premix was granted permission for sand mining in May this year, there are many other proposals in place - and we aim to stop them.

Koalas have recently been found in the area, and their genetics are being tested to see if they are from the original Strezleki population. If they are, this will provide further strong evidence of the unique diversity in this area.

**A recent ‘meet the candidates’ day at Bass Coast showed that the Labor government has not committed to supporting the woodlands, yet other local candidates have.**

***How you can help*** *-* email your local member, and/or Daniel Andrews asking them to protect this critical woodlands biolink, as there is plenty of sand available elsewhere (quote the 2022 study by Edward Minty BSc, MSc Geology). Also, that they protect of the ex-Holden (Vinfast) proving grounds, contained within this site. See Westernport Woodlands website <https://www.savewesternportwoodlands.org/>

There is a letter on our website <https://www.wppcinc.org/> that you could use.

**Better Protections for Westernport – pre-election action needed**

We are working with colleagues from the Victorian National Parks Association, Environment Victoria, Save Westernport, Friends of Phillip Island, Westernport Biosphere and others c on a framework ‘*to effectively manage, restore, and legally protect the marine and coastal environment of Western Port Bay and establish an ecologically sustainable economy for the future’.* We aim to have ecology at the forefront of any future planning decisions in Westernport, through government endorsement of the framework.

***How you can help – go to the new website, actforwesternportbay.au***

***to sign up – and if you know any business who might also sign, please speak with them!***

**Esso - proposal to generate electricity with, or burn unused ethane**

We support Save Westernport’s campaign to State Government to refuse this scheme by Esso, which Esso says is due to low demand for ethane, a by-product of natural gas. Objections include that it is an untested methodology, will increase carbon (and potentially toxic) emissions in Westernport by 6%, increase 24 hour noise levels, particularly across to French Island, and remove up to one hectare of native vegetation.

Council has agreed that this needs an EES before it can be approved by State government.

<https://www.mpnews.com.au/2022/06/27/shire-no-to-essos-bid-for-power/>

***How you can help:***Contact the State Planning Minister, Ms Lizzie Blandthorn [MPlizzie.blandthorn@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:MPlizzie.blandthorn@parliament.vic.gov.au) to request an EES for this project.

**The Hastings hydrogen trial** – The $500 million trial to convert brown coal to hydrogen, funded by State and Federal governments with Kawasaki Heavy Industries, has been finalised. We understand very little hydrogen was produced, and there was a fire on board the ship, not reported to the public. <https://fuelcellsworks.com/news/fire-aboard-hydrogen-ship/> A (July 2022) document on **the future of Victoria’s commercial ports** mentions hydrogen and wind projects in Hastings, but we have no further information. There are far more viable options than producing hydrogen from brown coal.

**The good news** - no mention of a container port for Hastings in the strategic document!

**Community education activities**

**Good news!!**  🤸 **Video production**

We obtained a CoastCare grant to produce 2 short videos on Westernport’s diversity and how to help protect it. We aim to have these completed for our AGM in January 2023.

***What you can do to help*** – we welcome help to edit information for production. Donations towards the creation of an interactive map to complement this work are most welcome!

There have been many **whale sightings** around and close to the Bay, especially heading east

A whale jumping out of the water

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

Some of your committee at work. Please let us know if you would like to attend a meeting.

**Our efforts to protect the Bay are always worthwhile!**

around The Nobbies at Phillip Island. This whale was seen happily splashing between Crib Point and French island- right near where the AGL gas unit would have been. Acknowledgement- Jeff Clark posted this on Phillip Island whale watchers Facebook site, in June.

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| A group of people sitting around a table  Description automatically generated |