

Mr Robert Armstrong
Program Officer (Coastal Projects) | Barwon South West
Forest, Fire and Regions | Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
70A Camp Road ANGLESEA VIC 3220

14 May 2020

Re: Barwon River Revetment Design

On behalf of the **Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA)**, we are pleased to provide the following response to the call for feedback within the Engage Victoria Website in relation to the above subject.

The Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) is the peak national body for Landscape Architecture. AILA champions quality design for public open spaces, stronger communities and greater environmental stewardship. We provide our members with training, recognition and a community of practice to share knowledge, ideas and action. With our members, we anticipate and develop a leading position on issues of concern in landscape architecture. Alongside government and allied professions, we work to improve the design, planning and management of the natural and built environment. In operation since 1966, AILA represents over 3,500 landscape architects and promotes excellence in planning and designing for life outdoors. Committed to designing and creating better spaces in Australia, landscape architects have the skills and expertise to improve the nation's livability through a unique approach to planning issues via innovative integrated solutions. In doing so, landscape architects contribute towards better environmental, social and economic outcomes for all Australians.

AILA Victoria seeks a more considered design approach to inform the design. This would ideally include:

- a Coastal Process Report be prepared to properly evaluate the environmental impact of any design proposals. From the information reviewed, it is unclear why the existing edge is deteriorating or whether the proposed solution will solve it in the long term. The Coastal Process Report should consider wave climate, sea level rise, coastal water levels, inundation, and coastal geomorphology. This data will inform the design of a revetment edge that is long lasting and does not cause further damage to the river's system. The data should be used to evaluate the three options put forward.
- a Landscape Masterplan be prepared for the Barwon River within the context of Ocean Grove. Such a master plan would support the analysis and development of a revetment design that considers all relevant factors simultaneously. The revetment could be designed as part of a multifunctional landscape, in which elements of the revetment could serve as informal seating, offer viewpoints and provide pedestrian barriers, for example. Ideally, this local masterplan would relate to a broader management plan for the Barwon River and its catchment.
- The Landscape Master Plan should specifically consider pedestrian circulation and visual amenity. In regard to pedestrian circulation it should capture movements from surrounding suburbs, central Ocean Grove and vehicular parking, as well as movement from the nearby caravan park. In terms of visual amenity the revetment edge should visually integrate with its surrounding, ideally appearing as part of the natural river's edge. Fences should recede visually into the background (darker tones are preferred).

AILA provides the following responses to each of the options:

- **Option 1** – AILA Victoria: Environmental impacts are unknown. Coastal Process Report is required. Poor visual amenity and only short-term solution.
- **Option 2** - AILA Victoria: Environmental impacts are unknown. Poor visual amenity and only short-term solution.
- **Option 3** - AILA Victoria: Environmental impacts reduced and improved visual outcome with plantings & natural aesthetic. Restrict embankment height to 1000mm eliminating requirement for safety rail.

Thank you again for the opportunity to respond. AILA would be happy to discuss further this response letter with you. You can contact AILA Victoria Chapter Manager, Martha Delfas at vic@aila.org.au.

Sincerely,



Heath Gledhill, Chapter President Victoria, AILA

Response authored by Meredith Dobbie (AILA Environment Chair and Marti Fooks (AILA Advocacy Chair)