



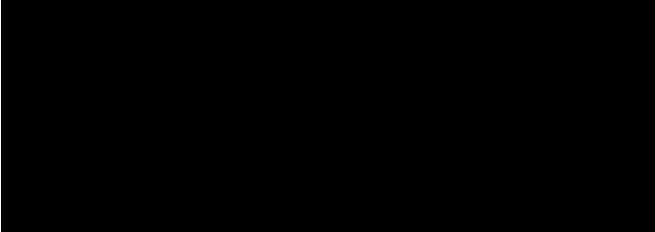
GUNDITJ MIRRORING

Traditional Owners

Aboriginal Corporation

RNTBC

22 April 2015



Dear 

DRAFT WESTERN REGIONAL COASTAL PLAN

Following our initial consultation regarding the draft Western Regional Coastal Plan on behalf of Gunditj Mirring, we provide the following comments on the draft plan:

- The draft plan needs a better delineation between Aboriginal cultural heritage from the non-Aboriginal history (draft plan reference 2.2.1). The former DPI / DEPI website had a map of Aboriginal fishing sites based on archaeological evidence. The inclusion of the map would be a valuable addition to Figure 3 in the draft plan.
- A couple of the maps in the draft plan show Darlots Creek flowing directly into the sea when the creek actually flows into the Fitzroy River before flowing into the Fitzroy River estuary and then the sea.
- Gunditj Mirring recently provided a response to the Coastal Management Guideline: Monitoring Sandy Coasts in South West Victoria that suggested the use of middens to help understand the history of the coast. This may have some information of interest for the draft plan as part of chapter 7.1 action 2a
- The draft plan should include a reference to the online cultural heritage management tool to inform coastal land managers of the need to undertake a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (see <http://www.dpc.vic.gov.au/index.php/aboriginal-affairs/aboriginal-cultural-heritage/cultural-heritage-management-plans/25-aboriginal-affairs/452-aboriginal-heritage-planning-tool>)
- Under the dynamics of coastal processes, it will be worthwhile including recent work on river mouth migration which in some areas shows evidence of being up to 30kms out to sea and large storm surge/tsunami events up to 5000 years ago.
- We recommend using the image of an Aboriginal shield as a symbol of significant heritage sites and the need to protect these sites particularly in Figure 3 of the draft plan.



- in the section on protecting coastal values, some information about the growing need to protect Aboriginal cultural values from recreational use including compliance with Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006.
- there are potential case studies that could be written up on protecting cultural heritage on access tracks to the coast and along river mouths and estuaries e.g. fact sheets on protecting beach cultural heritage.
- It would be beneficial to recognise the work of all community groups doing work on protecting the coast and its values.
- The *Ngootoyong* Gunditj *Ngootoyong* Mara – Healthy Country Healthy People - South West Management Plan to be released by the Victorian Government which includes sections on the management of sea country as part of the national park and managed coastal reserves.

We also extend an invitation to you and representatives of the Western Coastal Board to the Gunditj Mirring Full Group meeting scheduled for Friday 5 June 2015 at the Lake Condah Aboriginal Mission to present the final draft of the Western Region Coastal Plan.

If you require further information please contact me at Gunditj Mirring on [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

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