

Agenda: Winchelsea RV Monitoring Group

27th February 2017, 3.30pm – 4.30pm
Café La Hoot, Winchelsea

Purpose: To assess the trial allowing sleeping in RV & Self Contained Vehicles overnight for a maximum of 48 hours in the Barwon River Reserve, Winchelsea.

Present: Stuart Fountain (Growing Winchelsea), Cr Carol McGregor, Jacqui Doyle (Community Rep), Michelle Bennett (Community Rep)

Administration Staff: Simon Loone

Apologies: Matt Taylor, Cr Heather Wellington, John Bumford

Ag. No.	Issue Topic	Background Information	Points of Discussion	Responsible Officer	Actions
1.	Welcome		Meeting Started at 3:35 pm		
2.	Conflict of Interest Declaration		None		
3.	Business Arising from previous minutes	Any matters raised from the previous minutes?	None		
4.	Current Activity RV Site	Based on the Terms of Reference the following data has been monitored for the last quarter:			
a)	Site Closures	The Site was closed for almost the entire period from 22 July to 1 December, excepting 3 days from 9-12 September. It was reopened on 2 December and has been open and operating as normal since. Copies of the site photos were circulated to the group via email.	No further discussion.		

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b)	Wiki Camps	18 comments were recorded on WikiCamps relating to the RV Trial Site.	<p>Most comments were highly positive. There was some advice left for future users of the site in relation to the definition of 'self contained' & access to water. The only negatives were noted as noisy cockies, early morning trains and one report of dog owners not picking up after dogs.</p> <p>It is a possibility that the site is now listed on other forums aside from Wikicamps.</p> <p>The Barwon Hotel comments on Wikicamps should also be reviewed.</p>	Simon	Review Wikicamps comments on Barwon Hotel site for comments on suitability of site.
c)	Business Survey	All businesses that have previously responded to the business survey were contacted by phone.	<p>One response received to date. Either the business owner wasn't available or they were too busy to answer the survey.</p> <p>There are new owners at Barwon Hotel that have only been in for several weeks.</p> <p>Ensure feedback received from Winchelsea Caravan Park.</p>	Simon	Discuss RV Site and dump point with new owners of Barwon Hotel
d)	Resident's Survey	<p>The method used to collect nearby resident surveys was outlined. Key points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 responses received • The majority (13) reported no noticeable increase in rubbish, noise, degradation of the site. • 14 were supportive of the trial, 2 were not supportive. 	<p>A summary of comments was provided to the group.</p> <p>A group member advised that when it was wet and before signs went up advising of closure, some users of site parked on footpath and / or got bogged and left large wheel ruts.</p> <p>It is unclear whether this was from RV's or other users of the site.</p>		

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e)	Local Laws	An email report was provided from the local laws department	Rangers have observed the site 4-5 times per week, anywhere from 1 to a max of 6 users have been seen on site. No infringements issued, no complaints received and no reports of wicked camper style vehicles. Anecdotal reports from the group either observed or heard of a small number of camper vans and combis using the site and sleeping in cars under the bridge close to the highway. This was not confirmed by the local laws report.		
f)	Emails and letters received	The following correspondence was received: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive letter from users of the site commending Council on RV Site • Complaint in regards to missing bollards and chains • Reported damage of RV Dump Point 	Complaint has been referred to appropriate department for action. VicRoads are to reinstate the bollards following the completion of road works. The RV Dump point has been vandalised and repaired several times. A small sign will confirm that the hose is to be used to wash waste cassettes only, not drinking water.	Simon	Follow up on reinstatement of bollards
g)	Visitor Information Centre Enquiries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each of the Surf Coast VICs were contacted for comment. 	Torquay reported several enquiries regarding the status of the site when it was closed, camps in the Great Otway National Park are more FAQ. Lorne reported when the Winchelsea RV site was mentioned, many travellers reported they knew they could stay behind the Barwon Pub if they bought a meal. Winchelsea reported positive feedback.		
h)	Images		No further discussion.		
i)	Site Inspection		No further discussion.		

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5.	General Business		<p>One group member expressed displeasure with damage from vehicles driving on wet ground. Only complaint from group.</p> <p>The track near the river was repaired prior to winter and is now in need of repair again.</p> <p>The merit of a gate installed at the entrance to the Barwon River Reserve to stop vehicles from entering when flooded / unsuitable for vehicles was discussed. The 'closed' sign was quite small.</p> <p>The site being open seasonally was discussed to avoid damage and access when not appropriate.</p> <p>Discussion on the benefit of bins for dog waste and rubbish from picnics. Might need better signage for dog walkers and not bins.</p>		
6.	Next Steps	Meeting closed 4:21 pm	<p>The Terms of Reference expire on 31 March 2017. This is the last meeting scheduled for the Winchelsea RV Monitoring Group.</p> <p>A report on the trial will be presented to the April 2017 Council meeting.</p> <p>The group questioned whether the site could remain open from 1 April until the Council meeting. The current resolution is to close the site for RVs from 31 March.</p> <p>All volunteers of the Monitoring Group were thanked for their participation.</p>		