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TO: Victorian Environmental Assessment Council
Remnant Native Vegetation Investigation



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Submission on Remnant Native Vegetation areas in Beaumaris

Beaumaris Conservation Society Inc. is pleased that VEAC is conducting the above investigation, as the significant areas of native vegetation indigenous to Beaumaris within the Beaumaris area are all areas of remnant native vegetation as has been defined for the purposes of the current VEAC investigation.

The Crown foreshore reserve along the coast of Port Phillip Bay between Charman Road and Surf Avenue, Beaumaris, is a continuous strip of some 15 hectares of over 3 kilometres of coastal Crown land as defined in [Section 3](#) of Victoria's *Coastal Management Act 1995*. The reserve was proclaimed by a 1906 Order-in-Council as a Permanent Public Recreation Reserve known as the [Moorabbin Beach Park](#). See a [1951 view here](#). It is predominantly an area of remnant native vegetation. Its easternmost 400 metres, along the top of the Beaumaris Cliff, includes the highest part (*24 metres above sea level*) of the Port Phillip foreshore outside the section from Olivers Hill to Arthur's Seat, and it is the longest section of the foreshore of the City of Bayside that contains no structures, car parks, lights or concrete. See [aerial views of the whole reserve](#).

The 650-metre-long section of that cliff top reserve between Sparks Street and Cliff Grove, Beaumaris, is almost entirely within the 30 hectare area of the Beaumaris Bay Fossil Site, which is registered as ID 18053 on the Register of the National Estate. The [Australian Heritage Database entry for that site](#) lists the native vegetation on the cliff top reserve within the site, and its inclusion there is an indication of its value.

Although the above 3 km of Crown foreshore reserve has survived in a remarkably intact form since its reservation as a Permanent Public Recreation Reserve in 1906, the tenfold increase in the metropolitan population since then, with a greater rate of population increase in numbers per year underway at present, augers badly for the long-term conservation of the integrity of this reserve and its vegetation. The most recent threat to the reserve is the pressure [to extend the concrete bicycle road](#) that presently ends at Cromer Road to reach Charman Road, and to intrude into the reserve to do that. BCS Inc. is actively campaigning to ensure that such an intrusion is minimized, and is sited as far from the coast as possible.

A list of indigenous plants reported in the reserve appears at www.beaumarisconservation.net/lisibay1.htm. The reserve also has many exotic or pest plants listed at www.beaumarisconservation.net/lisibay1.htm. Those undesirable invading plants are likely to have spread from nearby private gardens, but the Council's very capable contractors are not given the resources to fully eradicate them. The Victorian Government has still failed to ban the sale of many of the notoriously invasive garden plants there such as *Polygala myrtifolia* to help prevent such infestation. [Our submission this year](#) to VEAC's Metropolitan Crown Land Investigation instanced the lack of clear demarcation between private gardens and the abutting Crown land [Landside Reserve](#) at Ricketts Point where *Agapanthus* and other pest plants are spreading into that reserve.

The other significant areas of remnant indigenous vegetation in Beaumaris are the Gramatan Avenue Heathland Sanctuary, Balcombe Park, Long Hollow Heathland Reserve and Donald MacDonald Reserve, all of which are on Bayside City Council land and are protected by [VPO2 overlays](#) in the Planning Scheme.

The landscape links between the indigenous vegetation of the coastal and other reserves in Beaumaris keep being weakened as Government planning policies result in ever-reducing areas of vegetated open space around developments.

Yours sincerely,

Adrian Cerbasi
President
Beaumaris Conservation Society Inc.