

Western Port South Coastal Advisory Group Meeting Minutes



Location	Flinders Civic Hall
Date and time	Wednesday 2 July 2025 4 – 6pm
Attendees	Mark Aarons, Leigh Glover, Neil Hallam, Charles Reis, Janenne Willis MPS: Hayden Forrest, Mathew Braithwaite
Apologies	-

Welcome

- Acknowledgement of Country

Item 1 Previous Minutes and Actions

Minutes were accepted without change.

Item 2 Flinders Signage

Financial support

Janenne advises that full funding is secured for this project.

The CGA extends its thanks for financial support to the Bendigo Bank, the Flinders Community Association and the MPS for a Climate Change grant.

Janenne advised that there is a need to expedite the funds allocated to the project.

An option for CAG members to undertake a working bee for the basic sign construction, with contractors undertaking site preparation and erection, was discussed. Several options for storage are available.

Approval of the Bunurong Land Council

Approval of the wording from the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation is being sought, although this is taking some time. A payment to the BLCAC of \$2500 is required. It is the view of the Committee that if a reasonable period of time has elapsed following payment, it will be assumed that the signage wording has been approved by the BLCAC, otherwise the project will be indefinitely stalled.

MPS Approvals

Hayden advises that the pier precinct has a Heritage Victoria listing.

CAG will have to apply to the MPS for the necessary permits; Hayden advises that he can manage this process for the CAG.

Other

Mark advises that vegetation removal along Lacey Drive has revealed a spring; this could be the site for a future sign.

Action: Check with the MPS (Ms. Salter) on the timing of spending of the MPS grant [M]

Action: An invoice from the FCA will be issued [M].

Action: Continued liaison with the BLCAC [J].

Action: Check with Heritage Victoria on place and design of signage [H].

Action: Investigate the materials required and expenditure involved [M].

Item 3 Climate Emergency Plan

CAG expressed its disappointment of the MPC Council's recent revocation of the MPS *Strategic Climate and Emergency Plan 2020-2030* and associated *Climate Emergency Declaration*. A community petition urging restoration of action on climate change was discussed. A coalition of community groups – the Peninsula Climate Alliance – has been formed to lobby the MPS and promote community awareness.

CAG members identified several negative consequences of the decision for coastal management and the activities and goals of the CAGs established by the MPS.

Action: Generate ideas and consider actions to support the activities of the Peninsula Climate Alliance. To circulate these between CAG members [All].

Item 4 Flinders Pedestrian Access and Safety Project Update

Hayden spoke to this item. Funding has been secured for the project from a state Dept. of Energy, Environment and Climate Action grant and the MPS budget to undertake detailed design of the proposal. MPS Traffic and Transport Team will have carriage of this project. Detailed design work will determine the exact location, materials and similar information.

Action: Advise CAG of on-going progress [H].

General Business

Friends of Flinders Matters

Mark spoke to this item. FoF met with MPS and the Bass Park Trust on-site. A small area of exotic foreshore vegetation has been cleared along Lacey Drive, with the plan to revegetate with indigenous flora.

MPS have now put the *Vegetation Management Plan* for the Western Port Flinders foreshore online.

Mark described liaison with the private landholders abutting the foreshore (i.e., North of the pier) with the goal of vegetation rehabilitation and implementation of the Management Plan as a high priority. A proposal for an on-site workshop with landholders has been put to the MPS.

Action: Draft a letter to the MPS Councillors and the other CAGs recommending such a workshop; draft to be circulated to CAG members [M]

Victorian Renewable Energy Terminal Proposal

Hayden spoke to this item. Consultancy research work is underway as part of the preparation for a revised submission to the federal environmental approval process. Community consultation is a part of this process. An information session will be held at the Flinders Town Hall on 8 July; registration is required. Some CAG members will be attending. There will be a session for the MPS CAGs on 24 July with the location TBA.

Somers Foreshore Survey

Hayden spoke to this item. There have been complaints by the Somers Residents Association over the condition of the foreshore reserve as managed by state agency DEECA. There have been proposals to transfer management to the MPS. DECCA has allocated funding for future works. There is a DECCA survey over the proposal to establish a new volunteer committee of management for the reserve to identify community interests and opinions. It is open to residents from other places and closes 11 July.

Save the Flinders Pier: Status Update

Charles spoke to this item. There have been ongoing delays and Parks Victoria has been undergoing changes in senior staff and a restructure; this appears to have had an impact on the pier project. It is now likely that repair works will commence next summer. A tender process for the work has been conducted and is now closed; contracts have not been let yet. This should occur mid-August. There is community interest in retaining the replaced timber piers, possibly as source material for a local sculpture, although the MPS may be involved in such a project. There are two on-going issues. Firstly, that of managing the pier's commercial and pilot-related operations when the north landing is closed. Secondly, that of the future need for works on the end pier section.

Action: Information is needed on MPS public art policies and practices [H].

Meeting Close: 5:36pm

Next Meeting: 24 September 2025, Flinders Community Hall