

# Media Release

**The Hon Richard Wynne MP**  
Minister for Planning  
Minister for Housing



Thursday, 19 November 2020

## **STRONGER CLEARER PLANNING CONTROLS FOR THE SURF COAST**

The Victorian Government is seeking community feedback on stronger planning controls ensuring the iconic Surf Coast is permanently protected from overdevelopment and urban sprawl while improving the local environment.

Last year parts of the Surf Coast Shire and the City of Greater Geelong were declared a state significant *Distinctive Area Landscape*, recognising the environmental and cultural heritage attributes of the area combined with its ability to draw tourists.

A draft Statement of Planning Policy (SPP) for the Surf Coast declared area is now available for public feedback, which includes proposed settlement boundaries to protect the area's valued coastal and rural hinterland areas and townships.

Protected settlement boundaries are proposed for Torquay-Jan Juc, Bellbrae, Breamlea and Armstrong Creek to ensure the prized landscapes and environmental features are protected from inappropriate development and future growth is directed to preferred locations.

The proposed planning controls will also better protect the state and nationally significant landscapes found along the coast and surrounding Torquay-Jan Juc.

The draft SPP is based on expert advice and has been developed in collaboration with Traditional Owners the Wadawurrung, the Surf Coast Shire, the City of Greater Geelong, responsible public entities, other government agencies and the community.

Public consultation on the draft Surf Coast SPP is open from now until Friday 22 January 2021. For more information visit [engage.vic.gov.au/distinctive-areas-and-landscapes-program/surf-coast](https://engage.vic.gov.au/distinctive-areas-and-landscapes-program/surf-coast)

### **Quotes attributable to Minister for Planning Richard Wynne**

*"We know how much locals care about the Surf Coast and that's why it's important for the community to have their say on stronger planning controls to protect this iconic area."*

*"These planning protections will ensure the Surf Coast retains all the attributes that make it such a popular place for locals, tourists and all Victorians."*

### **Quote attributable to Member for South Barwon Darren Cheeseman**

*"This is an exciting step for the Surf Coast, and I thank the local community for their input as we develop these new controls to protect and enhance what is such a great place to live, work and visit."*