

# Media Release

**The Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP**

Minister for Energy, the Environment and Climate Change  
Minister for Solar Homes



Wednesday, 5 May 2021

## **NEW PLAN FOR ICONIC BELLS BEACH – ELEVATED WALKWAY REJECTED**

A new management plan for the iconic Bells Beach Surfing Recreation Reserve has been approved by the Andrews Labor Government.

Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, Lily D'Ambrosio approved the *Bells Beach Surfing Recreation Reserve Coastal and Marine Management Plan*, and agreed with an advisory committee that there was no pressing or overwhelming need for a permanent elevated platform.

The Committee found event organisers were neutral about whether a permanent or temporary structure was needed.

The Surf Coast Shire Council is the land manager for the Bells Beach Surfing Recreation Reserve and will implement the new management plan.

The plan's vision for the Reserve is to respect and protect the natural environment, Wadawurrung heritage and surfing culture of Bells Beach.

The Labor Government signed a three-year deal for the Rip Curl Pro to return to Bells Beach in 2022.

Read the advisory committee's report at [planning.vic.gov.au/panels-and-committees/browse-panels-and-committees/projects/great-ocean-road-region-sac](https://planning.vic.gov.au/panels-and-committees/browse-panels-and-committees/projects/great-ocean-road-region-sac).

### **Quotes attributable to Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change Lily D'Ambrosio**

*"I have approved the Bells Beach Surfing Recreation Reserve Coastal and Marine Management Plan, subject to the removal of the proposed elevated walkway and viewing platform."*

*"We're ensuring the Rip Curl Pro returns the contest to its rightful place at Bells next year."*

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

*"Bells Beach is a national and international icon, is heritage listed and is a culturally important place for the Wadawurrung People. This new Plan will ensure it is protected and well managed into the future."*