

30 August 2023

Dear Property Owner

**Proposed Declaration of Special Charge No.66
Surf Beach and Sunderland Bay Road and Drainage Upgrade Project
General Letter**

As you may be aware, Bass Coast Shire Council has been working towards the construction and improvement of road and drainage infrastructure in the Surf Beach and Sunderland Bay area for some time.

At the 16 August 2023 Council Meeting, Council decided to commence the statutory process under the *Local Government Act 1989 (Act)* to implement a Special Charge for the 'Surf Beach and Sunderland Bay Road and Drainage Upgrade Project' (**Special Charge**).

The purpose of this letter is to notify you of Council's initial decision and to advise you that at the **13 December 2023 Council Meeting**, Council (subject to a consideration of any submissions and/or objections which it may receive) is proposing to declare the Special Charge (**Proposed Declaration of Special Charge**).

As required by section 163(1C) of the Act, copies of the Public Notices which were given by Council in the 'The Age' on 29 August 2023, the 'South Gippsland Sentinel Times' on 29 August 2023 and the 'Phillip Island and San Remo Advertiser' on 30 August 2023 are **attached** to this letter.

The Public Notices provide you with an outline of the Proposed Declaration of Special Charge and other information, including your right to make a submission and/or objection to Council.

I also wish to advise you that, as owner of the property, your share of the **estimated** cost of the Special Charge is made up of a combination of road and drainage benefits. A similar letter will be sent in hardcopy via registered post to your postal address, which will provide the specific **estimated** cost for your individual property. Your specific **estimated** cost can be viewed on the Council

engagement website engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/surfbeachroads and the attached schedule and map.

Council has not yet made a final decision in relation to the Special Charge, rather it has merely resolved to advise all landowners and occupiers of the Proposed Declaration of Special Charge. This is with a view to giving everyone a fair and appropriate opportunity to comment on (and/or object to) the Special Charge before Council meets to further consider the matter in December.

Any person may make a submission to Council under Sections 163A and 223 of the Act. Please inform any occupiers within your property, such as other family members and / or renters that they may make a submission to Council under Sections 163A and 223 of the Act. Submissions can be in support or opposition to the proposed road and drainage upgrade project or for any other reason. In addition, any person who will be required to pay the Special Charge to be imposed by the proposed declaration has a right to object to the proposed declaration and may also make a written objection to the Council under section 163B of the Act. To assist with lodging submissions and/or objections, a template has been included with this letter, however there is no obligation to use this template in making a submission and/or an objection.

While Council will proceed to consider the matter as it sees fit, after it has considered any and all submissions and/or objections received, it is noted that section 163B of the Act provides that Council **cannot** proceed to declare a Special Charge for the proposed improvement works at Surf Beach and Sunderland Bay **if a majority of contributing landowners or occupiers (as persons required to pay the Special Charge) object in writing to the Special Charge proceeding.**

A Committee of Council, consisting of the Mayor and the three Western Port Ward Councillors (**Committee**), has been formed to hear any persons who have requested in their submission and/or objection that they be heard in support of their submission and/or objection, and to consider all other submissions and/or objections. The Committee will subsequently make a recommendation to Council in respect of the Proposed Declaration of Special Charge.

If you would like to make a submission and/or lodge an objection, it must be received in writing by Council **on or before 5.00 pm on Wednesday 11 October 2023**. Submissions and/or objections must be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer (and sent to the undersigned) at Bass Coast Shire Council, PO Box 118, Wonthaggi, Victoria, 3995. A submission and/or objection can also be emailed to sunderlandbayandsurfbeachupgrade@basscoast.vic.gov.au if this method is more convenient.

All submitters and/or objectors will then be advised of the time and date of the Committee of Council meeting.

If the Special Charge is subsequently approved, it is expected that construction will commence during 2025/2026.

The Proposed Declaration of Special Charge, (and other relevant information about the Special Charge) is also available for inspection during business hours at –

- Civic Centre Wonthaggi, 76 McBride Avenue Wonthaggi, Monday to Friday 10.00 am to 3.00 pm
- Grantville Customer Service Centre, 1504-1510 Bass Highway Grantville, Monday to Friday 8.30 am to 1.00 pm and 1.30 pm to 4.30 pm
- Cowes Customer Service Centre, 154 Thompson Avenue Monday to Friday 10.00 am to 3.00 pm

Information can also be viewed on Council's engagement website engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/surfbeachroads

Council has a Debt Management Policy to assist those in financial hardship. If you believe that you may have difficulty paying or require further information regarding Council's Debt Management Policy please contact Council's Revenue Services team on 1300 BCOAST (226 278) or (03) 5671 2211. Our officers are more than willing to confidentially discuss payment options with you, taking into account your current situation. Ratepayers who reside in the affected property and their only form of income is a Government pension may qualify for hardship assistance.

For any further details regarding the Special Charge or the above information, please contact Council's Recreation and Transport Team on 1300 BCOAST (226 278).

Yours sincerely



Luke Bryant
Senior Project Engineer

Encl Public Notices – as published (x3)
Submission and/or objection template