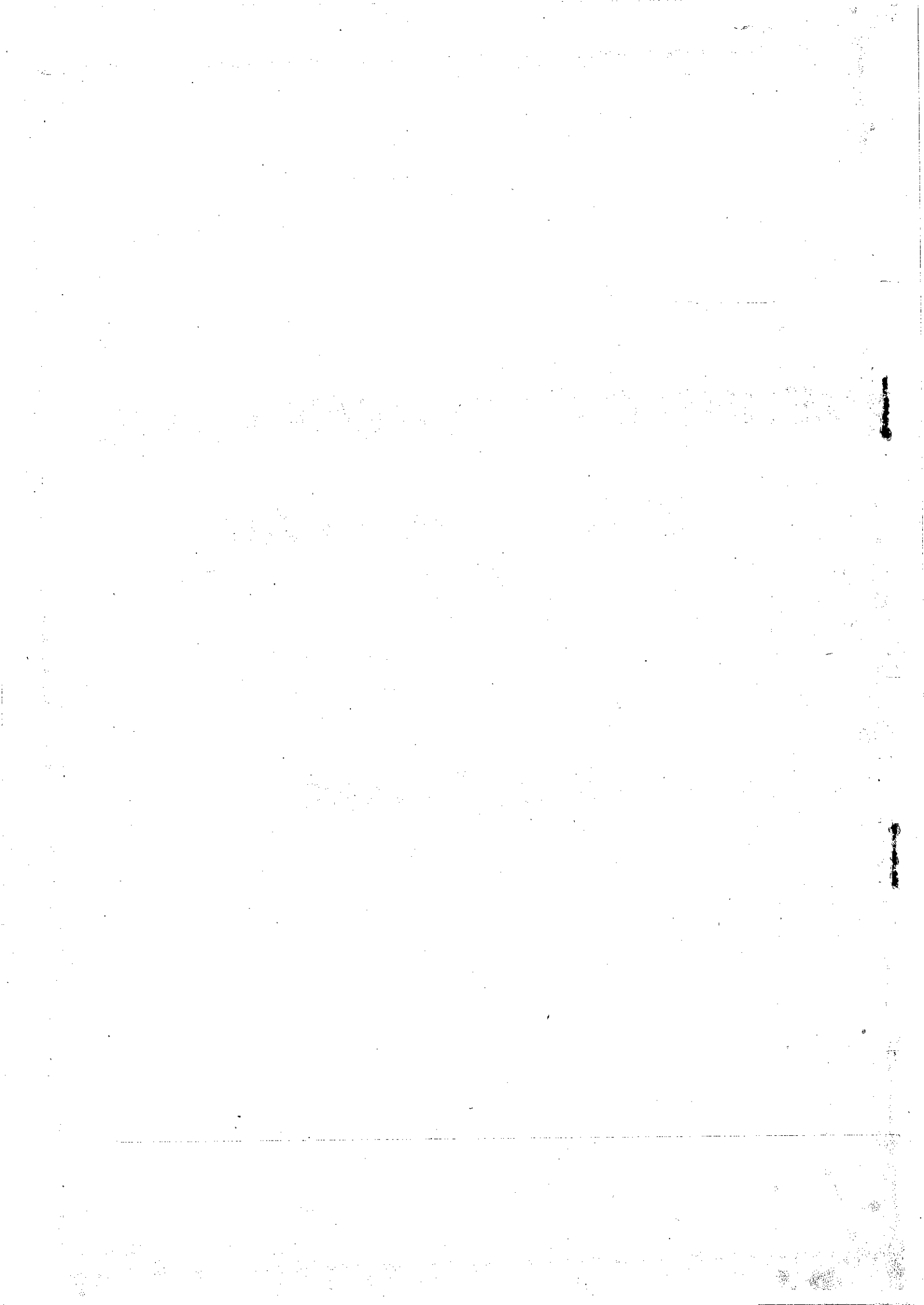


**VENUS BAY TARWIN LOWER  
STRATEGY PLAN**

*Draft Report*

December 1992



# INDEX

PAGE NO.

FOREWORD ..... Page 1

## BUILT ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

1. FOREWORD ..... Page 6
2. COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT - TARWIN LOWER ..... Page 7
3. MAIN STREET BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAM - TARWIN LOWER AND VENUS BAY ..... Page 8
4. BUSINESS FEASIBILITY PLAN - TARWIN LOWER AND VENUS BAY ..... Page 8
5. COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT - VENUS BAY ..... Page 9
7. RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT - VENUS BAY ..... Page 10
8. RESIDENTIAL BUILDING CONTROLS ..... Page 10
9. ROADS - VENUS BAY ..... Page 11
10. TRAFFIC CONTROL - VENUS BAY AND TARWIN LOWER ..... Page 12
11. SEPTIC TANK SYSTEMS ..... Page 12
12. WATER SUPPLY - VENUS BAY ..... Page 13
13. FIRE STRATEGY PLAN ..... Page 14
14. RECREATIONAL ENVIRONMENT ..... Page 14
  - 14.1 SHIRE RESERVES, OPEN SPACES AND PARKS ..... Page 14
  - 14.2 CYCLING AND WALKING TRACKS ..... Page 14
  - 14.3 TRACK BIKES AND OFF ROAD 4WD ..... Page 15
15. HALL/COMMUNITY CENTRE ..... Page 15

## PEOPLE SERVICES COMMITTEE

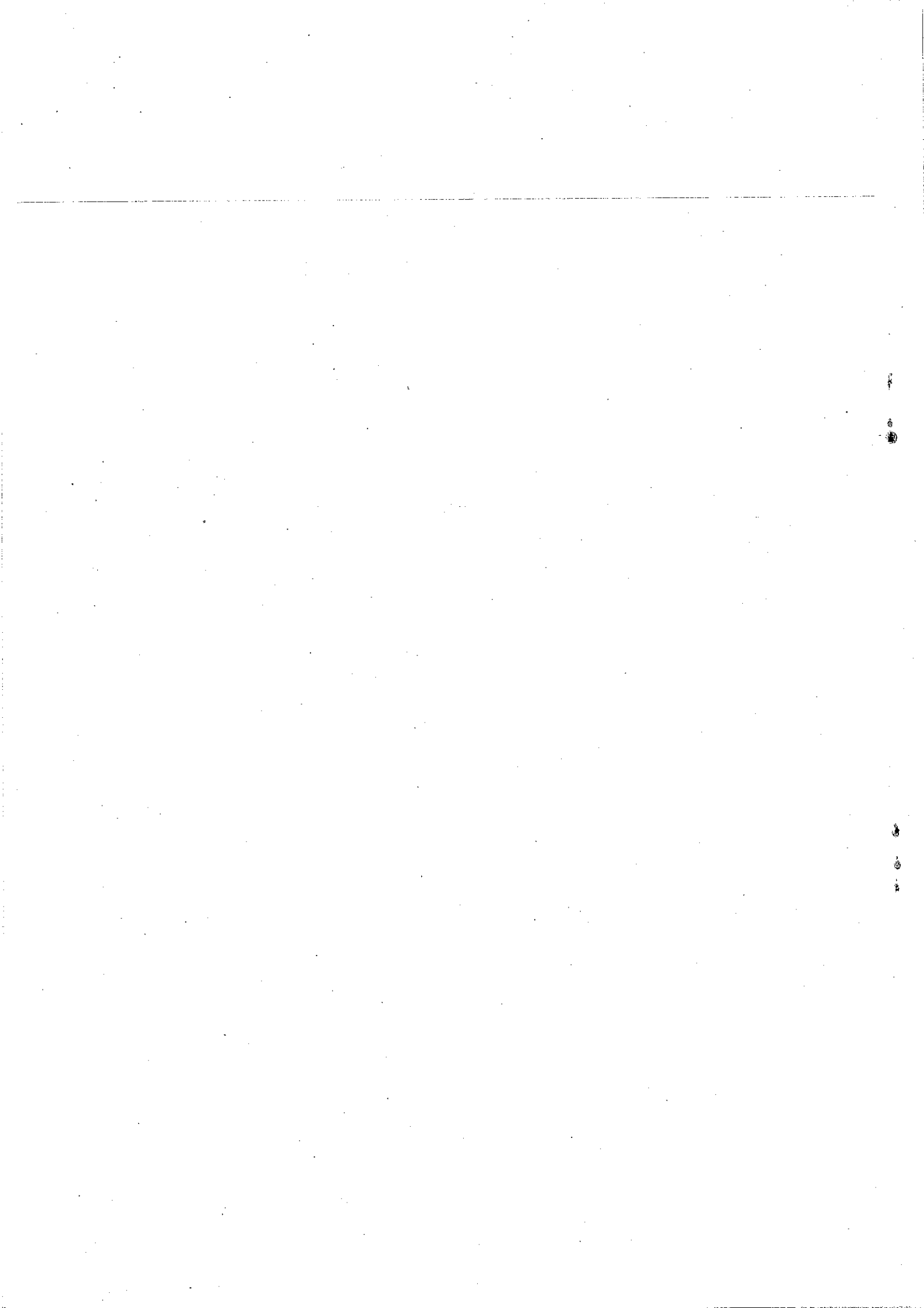
1. FOREWORD ..... Page 18
2. TRANSPORT ..... Page 18
  - 2.1 PUBLIC BUS SERVICE ..... Page 18
  - 2.2 COMMUNITY SHUTTLE BUS SERVICE ..... Page 19
3. YOUTH SERVICES ..... Page 20
4. PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR ELDERLY AND DISABLED PEOPLE ..... Page 21
  - 4.1 CLUBROOM/MEETING PLACE ..... Page 21

# INDEX

	PAGE NO.
4.2 ACCESS FOR THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED	Page 21
4.3 PUBLIC AWARENESS	Page 22
5. COMMUNITY HOUSE .....	Page 22
6. SPORT AND RECREATION .....	Page 23
6.1 SPORTS COMPLEX	Page 23
6.2 PUBLIC GOLF COURSE	Page 24
6.3 TENNIS COURTS	Page 24
6.4 MULTIPURPOSE OVAL	Page 25
6.5 OTHER INDIVIDUAL LEISURE ACTIVITIES	Page 25
7. HEALTH AND EMERGENCY SERVICES .....	Page 27
7.1 MEDICAL SERVICES	Page 27
7.2 FIRE FIGHTING SERVICES	Page 27
8. COUNCIL AND GOVERNMENT SERVICES .....	Page 28
8.1 POLICE AND RANGER PRESENCE DURING HOLIDAYS	Page 28
8.2 PUBLIC TOILETS	Page 28
8.3 LIBRARY	Page 29
8.4 POST OFFICE	Page 29
8.5 TELEPHONES	Page 29
9. VISITORS ACCOMMODATION AND SERVICES .....	Page 30
10. RIVER BANK AND BEACHES .....	Page 31
10.1 BEACH ACCESS	Page 31
10.2 RIVER BANK IMPROVEMENTS	Page 31
10.3 NEW CAMPING AREA ON THE TARWIN RIVER BANK	Page 32
10.4 FISHING AREAS, JETTIES AND BOAT RAMPS	Page 32
10.5 SAFE SWIMMING	Page 33
11. PUBLIC OPEN SPACES .....	Page 33
11.1 EXISTING OPEN SPACES	Page 33
11.2 SHELTERED PICNIC AND BARBECUE AREAS	Page 34
11.3 CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT	Page 34
 <b>ECONOMY COMMITTEE</b>	
1. INTRODUCTION .....	Page 38
2. TARWIN LOWER EFFLUENT SYSTEM .....	Page 38
2.1 TREATMENT OF SEPTIC TANK EFFLUENT WATER	Page 40
2.2 LOCATION	Page 40
3. VENUS BAY EFFLUENT SYSTEM .....	Page 40
3.1 TREATMENT OF SEPTIC TANK EFFLUENT WATER	Page 41
3.2 LOCATION OF TREATMENT PLANT	Page 41
4. LIGHT INDUSTRIAL AREA FOR TARWIN LOWER .....	Page 43
4.1 DESIGNATION OF AREA	Page 43
4.2 EFFLUENT SYSTEM	Page 44

# INDEX

	PAGE NO.
4.3 ROADS	Page 44
4.4 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT	Page 44
4.5 INDUSTRIAL WASTE DISPOSAL	Page 44
5. COMMERCIAL AREA .....	Page 44
6. TOURISM - TARWIN LOWER .....	Page 45
7. TOURISM - VENUS BAY .....	Page 47
<b>NATURAL ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE</b>	
1. INTRODUCTION .....	Page 50
2. SURVEY QUESTIONS AND RESULTS .....	Page 50



## FOREWORD

Council in February 1991 resolved that the preparation of the Venus Bay Tarwin Lower Strategy Plan be commenced during the Easter period. This Strategy Plan followed on from the successful Inverloch Strategy Plan that had commenced in September of 1990.

The Strategy Plan process involved the community from the outset and did not employ Planning Consultants to undertake the task. As with Inverloch, a Steering Committee was formed comprising of Riding Councillors, the Shire President and two other Councillors being Crs. Caithness and Thunder.

The four study areas were advertised in the local newspapers during February and March of 1991 and listed the following areas as being relevant to the Strategy Plan;

### 1. Natural Environment

- Foreshore: what is its role and how should it be managed?
- Tarwin River: what is its role and how should it be managed?
- Protection and development of flora and fauna.
- Are present vegetation controls adequate.
- How best can recycling be developed.

### 2. Built Environment

- How should Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower be developed?
- Where should commercial developments be located?
- What types of commercial development are necessary for Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower?
- Are height, colour and material controls necessary?
- What is the future of private streets in Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower?
- What types of effluent disposal systems are appropriate for the development of Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower?
- How should the existing commercial areas be developed?

### 3. People Services

- Are existing community services adequate for both existing and future populations of Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower?
- How can the community become more involved in the planning and management of services?
- How can the existing parks and gardens be improved?

### 4. Economy

- How should the shopping centre look?
- Can more employment opportunities be created?
- Should tourism be encouraged?
- How can the area be promoted?

The Strategy Plan was launched at the Tarwin Lower Hall on the 1st of April 1991, where the study areas were outlined and the process of selecting Chairpersons and Committee members for the study areas were outlined. Application forms for Chairpersons and Committee Members were handed out at this meeting for people to complete and forward back to the Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee interviewed applicants for chairpersons on the morning of the 12th of April and those chosen were as follows:

Natural Environment	-	Ms Mae Adams
Built Environment	-	Mrs Una Van Dillen
People Services	-	Mr Greg Costello
Economy	-	Mr Ken Fisher

In the afternoon of the 12th April a further public meeting was held to announce the Chairpersons to the public and this was followed by applications for Committee Members. After the meeting interested Committee Members broke up into the four study groups for a brainstorming session with the Chairperson.

All interested Committee Members had to nominate a choice of Committees, however all applicants were able to be accommodated with their first choice. The list of the Committee Members is enclosed at the rear of this document as Appendix 1.

With the appointment of the Chairpersons to each of the four study groups, these Chairpersons now became part of the Steering Committee. The role of the Steering Committee was as follows:

1. Give practical assistance at Committee level and assist with formulating recommendations to Council.
2. Assist with the eligibility of recommendations to be placed before Council.
3. Assist with the researching of material for Committees.
4. Assist with Committee funding requirements.
5. Assist Committees regarding access to target groups.
6. Deal with publicity and press releases.
7. Discuss at regular meetings progress reports from Committees.
8. Determine a philosophy and future direction for Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower.

The first Steering Committee meeting was held in the Tarwin Lower Hall on the 25th April 1991.

Over the coming months suggestion boxes were distributed around Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay for the community to leave their comments as to what actions should be undertaken for the area.



By August the Steering Committee had resolved that a survey should be formulated and distributed to the community so as to gain a greater understanding of the future issues for the Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay areas. Newsletters were also developed and distributed to the public over this period to keep the public informed of the progress of the Strategy Plan Committees.

The first draft of the survey was presented to the Steering Committee on the 28th of November and it was adopted at the 30th of January 1992 Steering Committee meeting.

The survey was then distributed to all landholders within the South Riding (3800). The results of the survey were finally compiled by April and were distributed to the committees for their perusal and for drafting of their recommendations for the Draft Document. A copy of the results are contained as Appendix 2 to this document.

From April to November the four Committees of Built, Natural, People Services and Economy formulated their recommendations based on the results of the survey as well as their own meetings with the public and suggestions they collected over the preceding 18 months.

It should be noted that the Natural Environment did not formulate their report. With the resignation of their Chairperson Ms Mae Adams in January 1992, the Committee failed to appoint another Chairperson and consequently failed to keep working on their study Area. The Natural Environment report was prepared by the Shire of Woorayl Town Planner, Mr Trevor Ludeman.

This document contains the results of 18 months work by these committees and has now been placed on public exhibition until the end of February 1993. At the end of this period the Steering Committee will analyse all the submissions received.

The Strategy Plan may have to be modified in response to these submissions. The public are invited to present their submissions in person to the Steering Committee and if need be a special meeting will be held to hear these submissions.

On reading the Strategy Plan document the public will be aware that the Committees have considered similar or identical areas and have made different recommendations. It is appropriate that these different recommendations be presented in this way so that the public can gain an appreciation of the different perspective from which each Committee has analysed the issues/areas. It also gives the public a choice of action for a particular area.

Submissions received will be considered by the Steering Committee in March-April with the final document being presented to Council for approval in August 1993.

Copies of this document can be purchased to \$2.00 from the following places:

1. Tarwin Lower District Health Centre
2. Tarwin Lower General Store
3. Venus Bay Caravan Park
4. Venus Bay General Store

5. Shire Office Leongatha
  6. Inverloch and Leongatha Libraries
- 

Any further information can be obtained from the Chairpersons of the Steering Committees, being:

1. Built Environment: Mrs Francis Kennedy Ph: (056) 635 249
2. People Services: Mr Greg Costello Ph: (056) 635 444
3. Economy: Mr Ken Fisher Ph: (056) 635 256

The Steering Committee and the Town Planner at the Shire of Woorayl can also be contacted for further information.

**BUILT ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
REPORT**

## 1. FOREWORD

A vision for the future.

In formulating the following recommendation, the Built Environment Committee has attempted to avoid "band aid" solutions by maintaining throughout an overall vision for the future of the Tarwin Lower/Venus Bay area.

This is a vision shared by a major sector of the local community. Through Strategy Plan survey results, the responses and reactions to a number of well attended public meetings and the general interaction by committee members with the locals (part time and full time), it is obvious that the vast majority of interested people value highly the inherent quality of the local environment, and the lifestyles it facilitates.

"We like it just as it is" is a common reaction to the possibility of radical change.

With proposals current that future growth in the metropolitan area will be concentrated around a Cranbourne "epicentre", we believe pressures on this coastal haven and other parts of the Woorayl Shire coast will be immense as people look for a recreational playground close to home.

The east coast of Australia and coastal settlements immediately west of Melbourne provide ample evidence of the detrimental results of unfettered development where commercialism and uncontrolled population growth have compromised local ecologies and living environments.

The settlements of Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay are located in one of the most beautiful areas in the Shire but as we all recognise, is also an area of great ecological sensitivity. The future development of Venus Bay in particular has been the subject of much concern and deliberation by this Committee.

Described by the Shire Town Planner as an "inappropriate subdivision" the three estates and some 2400 small residential and commercial blocks have spread along the length of a narrow sand spit. How to protect this delicate landform and its ecology while maintaining upon it a viable and growing township is the nub of the problem we have been addressing.

Basis to the thinking of the Built Environment Committees recommendations which follow are:

1. That the interdependence of the twin townships of Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay remain as is, with Tarwin Lower being the main centre for controlled commercial growth and infrastructure development. Venus Bay should remain essentially residential and recreational with limited convenience shopping.

2. That because of its geological location within the Shire, the primary function of the area be retirement/recreational/holiday home with a small full time population. Restriction on infrastructure and commercial development with dissuade the growth of a full time population encouraged by cheap housing and "working town" facilities. Failure to do this could result in a future population for Venus Bay larger than that of Leongatha or Wonthaggi... a "city on a sand dune".
3. That careful growth management of the area with concern for the residential, recreational and above all, ecological environment will provide for the Shire and the community a rare tourist asset for the future. A coastal holiday mecca, close to a major city which remains pristine, peaceful and relatively uncommercialised. We believe this will attract the sort of tourist we want to welcome ... the environmentally aware tourist of the future.

In the adoption of the recommendations which follow, the Council will need to dispense with the usual notions of municipal growth and progress. We envisage a coastal retreat unique on the Victorian coast and to achieve this, our Council will need to agree that for this area restrained development and restricted growth is progressive and within their power.

## 2. COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT – TARWIN LOWER

The survey clearly indicates that respondents favour Tarwin Lower is the main commercial and service centre for the area, servicing not only Venus Bay but also the residents of Walkerville and the nearby farming community.

### RECOMMENDATION: 1

That Council develop a plan for the future growth of Tarwin Lower with realistic regard for the needs of the area as a tourist/holiday/retirement centre balanced against the desirability to retain its small riverside village atmosphere.

Commercial boundaries should be specified, zone requirements should be reviewed and adhered to, future subdivision should be limited to avoid "sprawl" and the development of a full scale residential town.

### RECOMMENDATION: 2

That further urban growth should not extend west along Evergreen Road, but rather should concentrate within and to the south of the existing town area, having regard for environmental constraints. Buildings, poorly sited and designed, could have an adverse effect on the natural flow of water on the floodplains.

3. **MAIN STREET BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAM - TARWIN LOWER AND VENUS BAY**

The Committee believes that commercial development must be under some Shire control to avoid ugly and inappropriate facilities which would destroy the charm of the two townships, important as this is to the viability of the area as a tourist centre.

**RECOMMENDATION: 3**

That the Shire appoint a part time panel on a retainer basis comprising perhaps an artist, an architect, landscape designer and a Shire consultant to provide guidelines for future (and existing) developments to ensure they fit aesthetically into the environment of the town. The Riverview Hotel would provide an ideal architectural and aesthetic base to work from.

The panel, (which we will call the Aesthetics Panel) would provide guidelines to proprietors, developers and the Shire on such things as signage, architectural style and standards, colour schemes and landscaping.

The Panel approach has worked successfully in such towns as Beechworth and Maldon, and in the Dandenong Ranges and the Shire of Sherbrooke. The same team would apply their talents to the Venus Bay streetscape and could be utilised elsewhere in the Shire.

**RECOMMENDATION: 4**

Limit commercial zone buildings to single storey in both Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay.

4. **BUSINESS FEASIBILITY PLAN - TARWIN LOWER AND VENUS BAY**

It is a fact that small town commercial centres are often prey to speculative building development and "fly by night" retail operations which have been established with little or no business feasibility planning. This can result in an oversupply of commercial premises and empty shops.

**RECOMMENDATION: 5**

Council require proof of a sound Business Feasibility Plan and a perceived need for a business or service based on a growth formulae before issuing a permit to proceed.

**RECOMMENDATION: 6**

Require that existing commercial buildings and shopfronts which remain empty for more than a set period be made available to community groups for such things as charity shops, craft shops, exhibition space, tourist information centre, etc. until such time as the premises are again required for a legitimate business operation.

Similar approaches have operated successfully in other centres including the City of Warrnambool and the C.B.D. of Melbourne, thus avoiding the "desolation" of the business zone.

**5. COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT - VENUS BAY**

While the survey respondents are prepared to accept moderate and controlled commercial growth in Tarwin Lower following appropriate market forces, no such endorsement applies to Venus Bay.

**RECOMMENDATION: 7**

The future commercial development in Venus Bay be restricted to existing sites only and that no future commercial subdivision be made in any of the three estates.

**RECOMMENDATION: 8**

That no existing commercial blocks be consolidated - this is to avoid large scale developments.

**RECOMMENDATION: 9**

That existing Commercial Restructure Zones be consolidated where possible to perhaps half acre blocks for residential use or acquired by Council for public recreational use.

**RECOMMENDATION: 10**

That buildings in Venus Bay commercial zones be limited to single storey.

**RECOMMENDATION: 11**

That the area around the existing shops in Venus Bay be landscaped and shade trees planted.

**RECOMMENDATION: 12**

That any new commercial developments in Venus Bay come under the control of the aforementioned "Aesthetics Panel" and that existing buildings eventually comply as renovations are executed.

**RECOMMENDATION: 13**

That commercial development in the second estate be limited to a single general store only and that the remaining commercial blocks be rezoned for public open space.

## 7. RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT - VENUS BAY

There is obvious concern at all levels about the density of the original subdivision of the Venus Bay 1st and 2nd Estates. Less than 50% of the small house blocks are currently developed. Land clearing to facilitate building contributes to ecological imbalance and erosion problems.

Block consolidation is one of the few options available to try to relieve the problem. The Committee believes that the smallest gains in this area are worth the effort.

### **RECOMMENDATION: 14**

That the Shire use their resources to energetically research the block consolidation options, referring particularly to those Shires which have already implemented successful consolidation programs.

Some possible options and incentives for consolidation discussed by the Committee are:

1. The full rating of vacant blocks adjacent to a developed property under the same ownership.
2. The extra money retrieved from the above option and from other Shire sources might be made available by the Shire to block owners as a low interest loan to purchase adjacent vacant blocks for consolidation under one Title.
3. Offer rate retrieval to adjacent block owners rather than to the highest bidder at public auction.

### **RECOMMENDATION: 15**

That no further subdivision be allowed on the Venus Bay/Point Smythe peninsula for any purpose whatsoever and that the Planning Scheme be amended accordingly.

### **RECOMMENDATION: 16**

That the Planning Scheme be amended to prohibit dual occupancy within Venus Bay.

## 8. RESIDENTIAL BUILDING CONTROLS

The survey revealed majority support for the concept of the Shire setting "guidelines" for the new and renovating home builder. The Committee respects the right of the home owners to exercise personal taste in matters of building style and materials, colour schemes, fencing style, etc. but believes the majority of people would accept voluntary guidelines on these issues held achieve a cohesive and aesthetically pleasing residential streetscape. (Please refer to the Coastal Landscape Study control guidelines).



**RECOMMENDATION: 17**

That the Shire clearly establish through printed material available to new permit applicants the compulsory regulations and responsibilities which home builders must adhere to: eg. building regulations, water supply, effluent disposal options, building setback, etc.

These pamphlets would also be available through real estate agents.

**RECOMMENDATION: 18**

That the Aesthetics Panel produce a set of voluntary guidelines and options which would be made available to both new home builders and existing home owners outlining suitable colour combinations, fencing options, landscaping and visual screening possibilities, even suitable building materials and styles harmonious to the local environment.

**RECOMMENDATION: 19**

That a list of suitable plants and trees be formulated with emphasis on local, native fire retardant species and those species visually and ecologically harmonious to the area.

This pamphlet might also have advice on successful cultivation and ideas for the locating of plants for screening buildings and outbuildings, for the provision of shade and shelter, to prevent sand erosion and to support fire protection.

**RECOMMENDATION: 20**

That the Shire define, make known and enforce a % formulae for the control of block clearing.

(Please refer to pages 177 to 179 of the Coastal Landscape Study and Native Vegetation Controls for the State of Victoria.)

**9. ROADS - VENUS BAY**

The road surfacing issue has been well canvassed through the people survey and at a packed public meeting held by the Tarwin Lower/Venus Bay Association in 1991. There is an overwhelming lack of support for the surfacing of Venus Bay streets other than those clearly identified as "arterial".

Cost to ratepayers is not the issue here as only 2 respondents to the survey stated this as a problem. The issues are aesthetic and practicability.

Many, particularly those who holiday in Venus Bay to escape suburban Melbourne, do not want to lose the casual, relaxed street atmosphere to a "cloned" version of their home environment.

Others question the practicability of surfaced roads on a sand base and the problem of water run off and erosion, as experienced in the new Moncur subdivision.

**RECOMMENDATION: 21**

That the Shire retain and maintain the gravel roads in private, non arterial streets. The Shire to establish a viable Roads Maintenance Plan. A useful percentage of Venus Bay rates should be applied to this purpose.

**RECOMMENDATION: 22**

That the Shire investigate methods of dust control and surface management of the gravel roads, (eg. Dustmag).

**RECOMMENDATION: 23**

That street surfacing may only be considered if 51%+ of landowners in that street request this. Should this happen, the Shire should consider surface options similar to Lohr Avenue, Inverloch or the Sandy Point model. No kerb and channelling should be used.

**10. TRAFFIC CONTROL - VENUS BAY AND TARWIN LOWER**

There is a perceived need for some traffic control in the area, particularly during the tourist season when there is a lot of pedestrian movement in the streets.

**RECOMMENDATION: 24**

That the Shire establish a separate Traffic Management Committee comprising perhaps a Police representative, Town Planning Officer, South Riding Councillor and community representatives to investigate possible options, eg. speed humps, chicanes, beach access, street closures, one way streets, through traffic only, cycling tracks, pedestrian only, etc.

Committee to make their resulting Traffic Management Plan available for public comment.

**11. SEPTIC TANK SYSTEMS**

This Committee and the community are opposed to the future consideration of a reticulated sewerage system for the area. This would be very expensive, disruptive to the environment and would require in addition of reticulated water.

We believe the local answer to this universal problem lies in the proper management of modern well maintained septic tank systems and an open mind toward some of the alternative systems currently available and the many new developments which will be available in the future.

**RECOMMENDATION: 25**

That the Shire firmly establish its regulations regarding size, type and installation of septic tanks and through regular inspections ensure that they are being properly maintained.

**RECOMMENDATION: 26**

That the Shire produce a visually informative pamphlet on the proper care and use of septic systems outlining how they work, what can be put into them, how often they need to be cleaned, etc.

This could be a substantial card, graphically designed and plastic coated with the suggestion that it could be pinned to the back of the toilet door providing interesting reading for the whole of the household.

**RECOMMENDATION: 27**

That the Shire consider the viability of instituting a program of regular and compulsory pumping of septic tanks to avoid the risk of overflow. This could be done by a Shire employed team or outside contractor and funded by a rate levy/user pays principle.

The Shire should also investigate possible options for the treatment and processing of the resulting wastes in a way that is both environmentally sound and possibly advantageous in terms of useable by-product.

**RECOMMENDATION: 28**

That the Shire maintain a plan/small committee to continually review the latest developments in sewerage disposal systems. Immediate consideration should be given to the currently used tanks and rein drains and their adequacy for Venus Bay conditions.

**12. WATER SUPPLY - VENUS BAY**

The Venus Bay ground water has long been considered by the Rural Water Commission as among the best quality underground supplies in Australia. Unfortunately we are now seeing signs of pollution to this most valuable of natural resources.

This committee acknowledges that the Shire is already acting on this problem with its recently formed Venus Bay/Tarwin Lower Groundwater Committee and its liaison with the Rural Water Commission who are currently conducting testing and analysis of the supply.

**RECOMMENDATION: 29**

That all Venus Bay residences be obliged to equip with off roof tanks for drinking water supply.

**RECOMMENDATION: 30**

That the Shire continue to give this issue top priority and keep residents and ratepayers informed, particularly with regard to what role they might play in relieving the problem.

**13. FIRE STRATEGY PLAN**

**RECOMMENDATION: 31**

That the Shire ensure that the Venus Bay Fire Strategy Plan be finalised and made public through a public education program as soon as possible.

**14. RECREATIONAL ENVIRONMENT**

**14.1 SHIRE RESERVES, OPEN SPACES AND PARKS**

Parks and open spaces are one way of breaking up the density of the 1st and 2nd estate subdivisions and at the same time provide available open space for tourists and "day trippers". The Council must investigate every option available to them to do this.

The survey conveys that respondents expect the Shire to provide these spaces but do not believe they should have to pay an extra rate levy to get them.

**RECOMMENDATION: 32**

That a proportion of Venus Bay rate monies be made available for the purchase of private blocks and commercial restructure zones for open space.

**RECOMMENDATION: 33**

That no existing Council reserve ever be sold off or utilised for any other purpose other than recreational.

**RECOMMENDATION: 34**

That reserves and facilities be better and more regularly maintained with consideration given to the possibility of employing a full time gardener. Some play equipment and barbecue/picnic facilities are needed at strategic points - these should be carefully and aesthetically located.

**14.2 CYCLING AND WALKING TRACKS**

The survey clearly indicates a need for walking and cycling tracks separated from motor vehicle roads.

**RECOMMENDATION: 35**

That the Shire establish gravel surfaced bike/walking tracks where appropriate. Particularly requested through the survey are tracks from Tarwin Lower to Venus Bay and tracks linking the main beaches. Strategic location of tracks could also be a matter for the consideration of the Traffic Management Committee.

**14.3 TRACK BIKES AND OFF ROAD 4WD**

Some recreational pursuits can be damaging to the environment and dangerous or annoying to other people. Trail bikes and off road vehicles often fit this category.

**RECOMMENDATION: 36**

That the Council formulate a policy on this issue and clearly identify "no go" areas with suitable signage and penalties. Shire land around the tip site may provide a suitable location for trail bike activity under controlled conditions.

**RECOMMENDATION: 37**

That the Shire employ a ranger on either a full time or part time (tourist season) basis to control the area and enforce Shire regulations.

**15. HALL/COMMUNITY CENTRE**

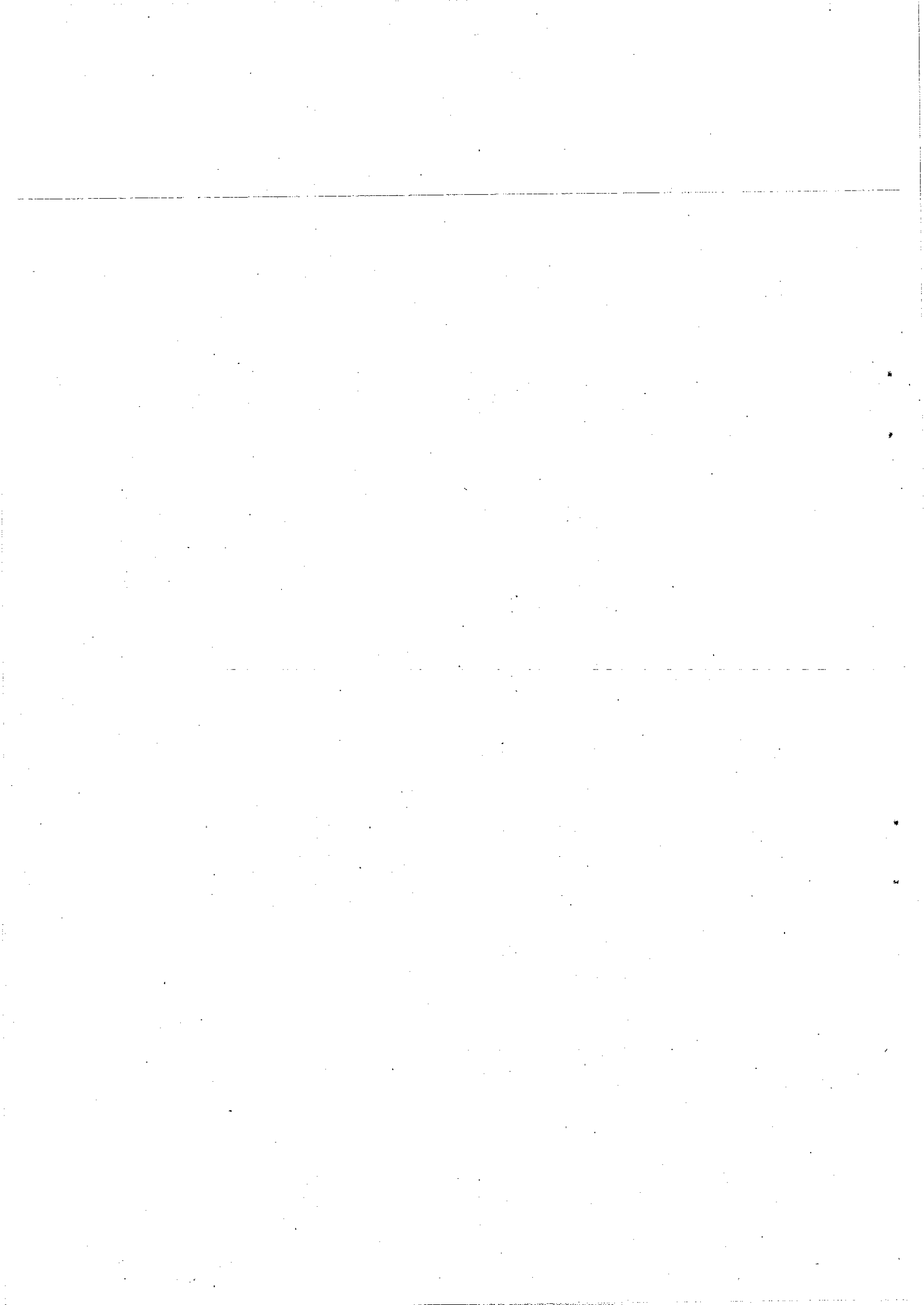
While the subject of a community centre was not addressed by this Committee in the survey questionnaire, it has since come up as a subject of much local discussion and concern. We believe Council proposals for a major community centre in Venus Bay entirely inappropriate. We believe that the facilities proposed should be centred in Tarwin Lower where they would be accessible to all residents of the area, including Walkerville and the surrounding farming community.

**RECOMMENDATION: 38**

That the existing hall in Tarwin Lower should be refurbished and expanded (under the advice of the aesthetics panel) in such a way to retain its historic character but improve its usefulness. Any new additions to the building for the provision of extra facilities such as library, play centre, meeting rooms, etc. should be architecturally in character.

**RECOMMENDATION: 39**

That assistance should be given to an existing Venus Bay organisation (eg. Life Saving Club or the Angling Club) to build a small hall/meeting room or expand their existing facilities. This facility could then be managed by the host organisation and made available or let to other groups as the need arises.



**PEOPLE SERVICES COMMITTEE  
REPORT**

## 1. FOREWORD

Approximately 3000 were mailed out and 540 were returned. Of these, 302 either did not respond to the "People Services" section at all, or else only to occasional questions. However, all responses were examined by this Committee and comments about People Services from other relevant sections of the returns were taken into account. All these have been extracted and considered by the People Services Committee in formulating the following recommendations.

In presenting these recommendations, however, the Committee wishes to draw attention to the fact that they are based on a regrettably low response rate, (238 out of 3000, or 8%), and also that a significant number of respondents indicated that they do not wish to see the area developed at all, having settled here precisely because it was quiet and unspoilt. Nevertheless, in spite of this, the People Services Committee confidently submits the following recommendations as reflecting the expressed needs of those who responded to the survey.

In what follows "respondent" refers to the individual who returned the survey, and "responses" refers to the number of opinions expressed in those surveys – an opinion often recurring several times in the same survey.

## 2. TRANSPORT

There are strongly expressed needs to improve public transport in this area. Two specific needs have been identified and these are:

- A regular access to the major centres of Wonthaggi, Leongatha, Inverloch and Melbourne.
- A local shuttle services within the areas of Tarwin Lower, Venus Bay and possible Walkerville.

### 2.1 PUBLIC BUS SERVICE

Council to promote adequate transport between Tarwin Lower, Venus Bay and Walkerville. Bus services to Leongatha and Wonthaggi need to be regular, responsive to the needs of local people and well advertised. They should also connect with the Vic Rail services to Melbourne.



**Action 1**

Council to extend transport services from the centres of Wonthaggi, Leongatha and Inverloch to include the Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay areas.

Responsibility:	Council
Priority:	Primary
Timing:	Immediate
Planning Scheme Amendment?	None

**Action 2**

Widely advertise the bus services as they become available giving access to major towns in the area including links to Melbourne.

Responsibility:	Council
Priority:	Primary
Timing:	Immediate
Planning Scheme Amendment?	None

**2.2 COMMUNITY SHUTTLE BUS SERVICE**

A private bus already exists in this area which could be more extensively used to meet the needs of the community including the special needs of youth and sporting groups, elderly citizens and disabled people. Once running, such a shuttle service could, to some extent, be self supporting. It could help reduce the isolation of residents in Venus Bay as well as carrying mail, school children, shoppers and users of the Community Health Centre.

**Action 1**

Council to obtain estimates of the cost of purchasing and operating a community mini bus and compare them with the alternative of tendering for a private operator, prior to implementing the community shuttle bus service.

Responsibility:	Council
Priority:	Primary
Timing:	Immediate
Planning Scheme Amendment?	None

**Action 2**

Council to explore the feasibility of merging the community shuttle bus service with the current and future transport requirements of the Community Health Centre.

Responsibility:	Council
Priority:	Primary
Timing:	Timing
Planning Scheme Amendment?	None

Note: Action 1 has already been undertaken by the Shire of Woorayl. A timetable for the Community Bus is enclosed at the rear of the People Services Report.

COMMENT:

The Committee noted other useful suggestions relating to transport which were contained in the survey:

1. Need to improve, seal and maintain the main roads and give more attention to the maintenance of gravel roads.
2. Provide appropriate facilities to assist disabled and frail people to use the bus services.

**3. YOUTH SERVICES**

Some support (59 responses) was expressed for extending and improving activities for young people in this district - especially during major holiday periods. The Committee noted that improvements in the public transport systems (see 1. above) might go some way towards meeting these needs. It also noted that the Recreation Reserve Committee is at present considering developing sporting and leisure activities for young people.

**Action 1**

That Council expedite the establishment of a Youth Task Group proposed in the Inverloch survey (Page 21) and extend representation to the Venus Bay/Tarwin Lower area so that the study can integrate youth activities in both areas.

Responsibility:	Council
Priority:	Secondary
Timing:	As for Inverloch
Planning Scheme Amendment?	None

COMMENT

The Committee noted other suggestions made among the survey responses and passes these on for consideration by the Youth Task Group proposed above.

- Extension of Surf Lifesaving Club facilities.
- Increased use of the Tarwin Lower hall for such activities as film shows, dances, discos, etc.
- Establishment of a Youth Club, Scouts, etc.
- Provision for trail bike usage away from residential areas.

#### 4. PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR ELDERLY AND DISABLED PEOPLE

A major concern among respondents was the perceived lack of a clubroom/meeting place for this growing section of the community. There were many requests also for other facilities such as hobby classes, special parking for disabled people, suitable beach access, meals on wheels and aged accommodation.

##### 4.1 CLUBROOM/MEETING PLACE

With an adequate local community bus service (see 2.2) the Committee believes that greater use could be made of the existing Community Health Centre at least in the short term. Setting up a Community House in Venus Bay, where most of the demand exists, could be considered as a longer term solution. Alternatively, Council could consider upgrading and refurbishing the Tarwin Lower Hall which in its present condition, is unsuitable. All three options need further detailed investigation.

##### Action 1

That, in addition to implementing a community shuttle bus service, Council provide a venue for elderly and disabled people at either:

1. The Community Health Centre, or
2. The extension of this Centre, or
3. The refurbished Tarwin Lower Hall, or
4. A Community Centre in Venus Bay.

Responsibility:	Council and Community Health Centre
Priority:	Secondary
Timing:	Following establishment of shuttle bus service
Planning Scheme Amendment?	None

##### 4.2 ACCESS FOR THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED

It is clear from responses and informal information that elderly and disabled persons experience difficulties in making full use of beaches, shops and recreational facilities – especially during the holiday season. The Committee is concerned that such discrimination ceases or is minimised.

**Action 1**

Council to designate special parking and provide access ramps at shops, beaches and other facilities.

Responsibility:	Council and Department of Conservation and Resources
Priority:	Primary
Timing:	Before Summer holidays 1992/93
Planning Scheme Amendment?	Some may be necessary

**4.3 PUBLIC AWARENESS**

From responses to this and other question(s), it is clear that residents and visitors are not sufficiently aware of the services and recreational facilities available to the aged and disabled.

**Action 1**

Council to distribute to all households, large print cards listing all available health, recreational and emergency services, and update cards annually.

Responsibility:	Council
Priority:	Primary
Timing:	Next Directory Issue
Planning Scheme Amendment?	None

**COMMENT:**

The following responses were also noted by the Committee as desirable services which are not presently available and which should be borne in mind by Council for future consideration.

- Mobile Library – including large print books
- Meals on Wheels
- An emergency monitoring network for enabling the frail, elderly and at risk to be in regular contact.
- Aged accommodation.

**5. COMMUNITY HOUSE**

The need for a Community House situated in Venus Bay was expressed in 40 responses. The Committee is divided on the immediate feasibility and possible location of a Community House. Several examples of Community Houses in other places were carefully studied by Committee members in an attempt to assess their viability in Venus Bay.

It was agreed, however, that the matter has already been drawn to the attention of Councillors ("Star" 16.6.92) and is apparently at present under consideration. Under the circumstances, the Committee considers it unnecessary to intervene other than to record the expression of public interest revealed by the survey results. (See question 3-3.1).

## 6. SPORT AND RECREATION

There is an obvious lack of sporting/recreational facilities in the area. In Venus Bay there are none. The Strategy Plan should take into account the strongly expressed need for improved facilities for residents and for the much larger group comprising weekenders and the large influx of young families during the summer.

### 6.1 SPORTS COMPLEX - 96 Responses

The Committee notes that some sporting facilities do exist and more are being planned at the Tarwin Lower Recreation Reserve. Bearing this in mind, the number of responses for a large indoor sports complex - 96 - are, in the opinion of this Committee, best communicated to the Tarwin Lower Recreation Reserve Committee and Council be asked to consider these responses when dealing with that Committee's future recommendations.

### 6.2 PUBLIC GOLF COURSE: 133 Responses

A public golf course could complement existing golfing facilities, be a fine venue for recreation for many members of this community and provide revenue for the Shire. The suggestion is to set up and operate a Recreational Public Golf Facility including a good practice golf range, a practice putting green, a mini-golf course and a good but simple 9 hole golf course.

Such a facility would be used by experienced golfers for practice, by many retired people, by beginners to learn and families for recreation. Additional land should be available to extend the complex to 18 holes in the future. The visual aspects of the course would be co-ordinated with the local environmental requests and include extensive planting of trees.

#### Action 1

Council set up a special committee to investigate the feasibility of a Public Recreational Golf Course on a suitable site in Tarwin Lower either sponsored by Council or by private developers.

Responsibility:	Council
Priority:	Secondary
Timing:	As soon as possible
Planning Scheme Amendment?	Some may be necessary

6.3 TENNIS COURTS: 108 Responses

Tennis is and will continue to be a very popular recreation especially for the very large number of holiday makers who come to Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay. Tennis facilities must therefore be considered both for residents and for visitors.

Existing courts in Tarwin Lower need to be upgraded and at least 3 new courts should be built in Venus Bay to serve the needs of visitors. Tennis facilities should be more clearly advertised to holiday makers and the system for hiring improved. Better tennis facilities for sport and recreation would generate more revenue.

**Action 1**

Council to plan, organise and finance the construction of 3 tennis courts without delay in a suitable location at Venus Bay - possibly the Van Cleefe Reserve.

Responsibility:	Council
Priority:	Primary
Timing:	Immediate
Planning Scheme Amendment?	Some may be needed

**Action 2**

Council and Tarwin Lower Tennis Club to organise the finance and urgent action necessary to repair the 2 existing courts at Tarwin Lower. Council to advise the Tennis Club on a procedure of making the courts available to the public with a notice board showing hire rates and when available.

Responsibility:	Council and Tarwin Lower Tennis Club
Priority:	Primary
Timing:	Immediate
Planning Scheme Amendment?	None

6.4 MULTIPURPOSE OVAL: 70 Responses

There is strong evidence of the need for an oval in the Venus Bay area which would serve the casual sporting, recreational and leisure needs of a wide variety of users and their families. B.B.Q.'s and toilet facilities will be required, but no fencing. The Committee envisages such activities taking place there as informal football and cricket practice, kite flying, discus throwing, jogging, handball and baseball.

**Action 1**

Council to designate and construct a general purpose recreation oval with B.B.Q. and toilet facilities at a suitable site in Venus Bay - possibly the Van Cleefe Reserve.

Responsibility:	Council
Priority:	Secondary
Timing:	As soon as possible
Planning Scheme Amendment?	Some may be required

**6.5 OTHER INDIVIDUAL LEISURE ACTIVITIES**

The main strategy should be to develop facilities and services which make it easier and more enjoyable for all members of the community to follow their individual interests. These might include swimming, cycling, bush walking, photography and painting. Proposals developed by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to extend some car parks and provide better access to the foreshore, form part of this strategy plan, which should aim to:

- Provide sufficient amenities such as toilets, running water and collected rubbish bins with lids at major publicly used locations, to cope with anticipated summer usage.
- Provide safer roads to and convenient car parking at the Venus Bay beaches.
- Provide safe and easy access - walkways, steps and ramps to allow all members of the community to enjoy the range of natural beauty of this locality.
- Provide safer bicycling and walking tracks suitable for all members of the community to use. All those facilities should take into account the sensitive nature of the foreshore environment and retain as far as possible the existing bush areas.

**Action 1**

Council to liaise with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to assist them to plan and install improved amenities at all swimming beaches, including more picnic areas with water, tables, seats, toilets and showers and rubbish bins with lids.

Responsibility:	Council and Department of Conservation and Environment
Priority:	Primary
Timing:	Immediate
Planning Scheme Amendment?	Some may be required

### Action 2

By liaising with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Council to improve road conditions, road and pedestrian signage, car parking controls and parking spaces at all 5 Venus Bay beaches, improve the safety and convenience of all pedestrians, particularly by upgrading the footpath in Surf Drive and by providing safe and serviceable footpath along Jupiter Boulevard.

Responsibility:	Council and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Priority:	Secondary
Timing:	As soon as possible
Planning Scheme Amendment?	None

### Action 3

Council to liaise with the Department of Conservation and Environment to provide good environmentally sensitive walking tracks which allow easy access to beaches 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Responsibility:	Council and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Priority:	Tertiary
Timing:	As soon as possible
Planning Scheme Amendment?	Some may be needed

### Action 4

Council to build new walking and cycling tracks between and within Tarwin Lower and the Venus Bay Estates and No. 1 beach, taking care to preserve the natural bushland as far as possible.

Responsibility:	Council and Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.
Priority:	Tertiary
Timing:	As soon as possible
Planning Scheme Amendment?	Some may be needed

### COMMENT

Other useful suggestions were

1. Build a rebound wall at all tennis courts.
2. Provide bike racks at appropriate sporting locations.



## 7. HEALTH AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

### 7.1 MEDICAL SERVICES

The population is currently served by the Community Health Centre on a part time basis staffed by a medical sister, assisted by visiting doctors and paramedical services on a sessional basis. At this stage we find that it is not possible to recommend any change, because of the demand for practitioners in normal times being minimal. People in many cases have already chosen a doctor in another area and are now reluctant to change.

However, holiday periods require that medical services should be boosted and additional funding be sought to pay the additional personal required.

#### Action 1

Council to seek additional funding to operate the present service, during major holiday periods, on a daily basis.

Responsibility:	Council, Community Services Victoria, Department of Health.
Priority:	Primary
Timing:	Before January 1993
Planning Scheme Amendment?	None

### 7.2 FIRE FIGHTING SERVICES

A number of respondents pointed out that Venus Bay is a high fire risk area. In order to minimise the C.F.A.'s response time, we recommend a fire unit be located in a central position at Venus Bay.

#### Action 1

Council to hold a joint conference with the Country Fire Authority, State Emergency Service and State Electricity Commission. interested residents to establish this operation.

Responsibility:	Council, S.E.C, S.E.S., C.F.A.
Priority:	Primary
Timing:	Immediate
Planning Scheme Amendment?	Some may be required.

### COMMENT

Suggested appointment of a volunteer first aid officer in Venus Bay.

## 8. COUNCIL AND GOVERNMENT SERVICES

The strongest demand in this area was for POLICE and RANGER presence followed by the upgrading and better maintenance of public toilets, provision of more public telephones and public library facilities. There was also a significant demand expressed for an improvement in Postal Services.

### 8.1 POLICE AND RANGER PRESENCE DURING HOLIDAYS

Individuals and in particular, elderly residents and children, need to perceive to be and actually to feel safe.

The problems of speeding cars and rowdy behaviour is greatly increased by car loads of people coming into this area for weekend or holiday entertainment.

#### Action 1

Council to request the Minister of Police to provide a permanent or part time police presence in this area, during holiday periods.

Responsibility:	Council
Priority:	Secondary
Timing:	Before Christmas 1992
Planning Scheme Amendment?	None

#### Action 2

Council to request the Minister for the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for a RANGER to be stationed in Venus Bay or Tarwin Lower, permanently, or part time during peak holiday periods.

Responsibility:	Council
Priority:	Primary
Timing:	Before Christmas 1992
Planning Scheme Amendment?	None

### 8.2 PUBLIC TOILETS

Very strong criticism was expressed by many respondents on the state of repair, cleanliness and the lack of toilets in areas of heavy use by the public.

#### Action 1

Council construct and properly maintain in clean condition new flush type toilets at the following locations:

- 2, 3, 4 and 5 beaches
- Upstream on the river bank between the bridge and Tarwin Lower.

Responsibility:	Council and Conservation and Environment
Priority:	Primary
Timing:	Immediate
Planning Scheme Amendment?	None

### Action 2

Council to repair and maintain in clean condition, consistent to the requirements of the Public Health Act, all existing toilets. Locations - two on the river bank in Tarwin Lower, one at No. 1 beach, one at the Venus Bay boat ramp and especially the two toilet blocks on the Tarwin Lower Recreation Reserve.

Responsibility:	Council and Conservation and Environment
Priority:	Primary
Timing:	Immediate
Planning Scheme Amendment?	None

### 8.3 LIBRARY

Respondents noted that library facilities in this area DO NOT EXIST.

#### Action 1

Council to takes steps to provide a service.

Responsibility:	Council
Priority:	Secondary
Timing:	As soon as possible
Planning Scheme Amendment?	None

### 8.4 POST OFFICE - 22 Responses

Twenty two responses to the Survey requested improvements to postal services, such as more post office boxes, fax facilities and roadside deliveries. Given the present situation, this committee makes no recommendations on this matter.

### 8.5 TELEPHONES

There are insufficient public telephones in Venus Bay, particularly as it is such an emergency prone area. Additional telephones should be strategically placed in Venus Bay to cater for the rapid deployment of emergency services.

### Action 1

Council to assess the high risk areas with the Venus Bay Surf Lifesaving Club, State Electricity Commission and Country Fire Authority and request Telecom to place additional phones for quick access in the appropriate locations and to make sure that these phones are covered by a regular maintenance program.

Responsibility:	Council and Telecom
Priority:	Primary
Timing:	Immediate
Planning Scheme Amendment?	None

### 8.6 WOODCHIPPING

Council to schedule access to a wood chipping and shredding machine at the Venus Bay transfer station.

## 9. VISITORS ACCOMMODATION AND SERVICES

Overnight accommodation is a problem for visitors. It is sometimes available at the caravan park or for casual renting. These facts probably led to the large number of responses (506) expressing the need for short term casual accommodation such as a motel or cabins and a caravan park in Tarwin Lower. While this Committee agrees that tourist accommodation in this area is important, it is a seasonal demand which might discourage private investment.

In the short term, good tourist information boards would go some way towards helping travellers identify whatever and wherever resources are available.

### Action 1

Council to construct adequate tourist information boards to be located under lighted roofed shelters:

1. Alongside the tennis courts in Tarwin Lower.
2. On the Jupiter Boulevard reserve in Venus Bay.

The boards must be large enough to advertise all facilities with accompanying maps and directions to assist day visitors and travellers.

Responsibility:	Council
Priority:	Secondary
Timing:	As soon as possible
Planning Scheme Amendment?	None

## 10. RIVER BANK AND BEACHES

There were 113 responses for better access to, and amenities for, the areas main attractions: the river banks, beaches and inlet.

These are activity areas for families and small children. The survey responses show the need for more grassed and treed spaces with an emphasis on keeping them clean and safe.

### 10.1 BEACH ACCESS

Access needs to be improved at 1, 2, 3 and 4 beaches so as to enable ALL people to be able to use these areas freely.

#### Action 1

No. 1 beach to be priority.

Build access ramps to the four beaches (similar to No. 5 beach). If No. 1 beach access is to remain a vehicle access as well, it should be angled across the dune face and at a gradual gradient and away from prevailing winds.

Responsibility:

Council and Department of  
Conservation and Natural  
Resources

Priority:

Secondary

Timing:

As soon as possible

Planning Scheme Amendment?

Some may be necessary

### 10.2 RIVER BANK IMPROVEMENTS

A strong interest was shown in improving the appearance of and the camping facilities on the Tarwin River bank.

This raises complex and conflicting questions about how the area should be improved. The Committee has prepared a detailed proposal which accompanies this report and which, it believes, should be the basis of future action by Council.

The Committee recognises that the appearance of the river bank in Tarwin Lower is of prime importance as a focal point for visitors to the district and it should look attractive.

#### Action 1

Council to appoint a River Bank Working Party to examine the plan submitted and to bring appropriate recommendations forward with concrete proposals for their implementation.

Responsibility: Council  
Priority: Primary  
Timing: Immediate  
Planning Scheme Amendment? None

### 10.3 NEW CAMPING AREA ON THE TARWIN RIVER BANK

(refer to 8.1 above)

Many respondents requested a new camping area on the river bank with all the amenities that are normally found in a caravan park and in particular, fresh drinking water.

Almost all the responses (some 165 approximately) came from other parts of the survey and were extracted because they are directly relevant to People Services.

#### Action 1

Council to act on recommendation 9.2

Responsibility: Council  
Priority: Primary  
Timing: Immediate  
Planning Scheme Amendment? Some may be necessary

### 10.4 FISHING AREAS, JETTIES AND BOAT RAMPS - 103 Responses

103 responses requested a number of actions relevant to fishing - jetties - additional boat ramps - clearing of boating channels and also professionally marking the inlet and river channels.

Most of these requests should be assessed by the proposed River Bank Working Party and remedial action taken following recommendation 9.2.

#### Action 1 - Channels and Markers

Council to lobby the Port of Melbourne Authority to clear the Venus Bay boat channels and carry out installation of channel markers (NB: The Committee's letter file on this subject is available for Council use).

Responsibility: Council, Conservation & Environment and Port of Melbourne Authority  
Priority: Primary  
Timing: Immediate  
Planning Scheme Amendment? None

### 10.5 SAFE SWIMMING - 56 Responses

A number of responses expressed concern for more safe swimming areas on Venus Bay beaches.

At present, in main summer holiday periods, lifesavers/lifeguards are stationed at No. 1 beach with the occasional vehicle patrol along to No. 5 beach. The other beaches are now also heavily patronised without the safety of patrolled swimming areas.

#### Action 1

Council and Venus Bay Surf Lifesaving Club to seek funding for additional lifeguards to patrol No. 4 and No. 5 beaches.

Responsibility:	Council, V.B.S.L.S.C., Conservation and Natural Resources.
Priority:	Primary
Timing:	Before Christmas 1992
Planning Scheme Amendment?	None

### 10.6 ACCESS TO VENUS BAY BEACHES FROM WALKERVILLE ROAD

There are eight requests for controlled access and facilities to the Venus Bay beach from the Walkerville Road at the 10 Mile Road and at the 5 Mile Point. Vehicles to be kept off the beach. Respondents suggested this could make Tarwin Lower more of a central point.

## 11. PUBLIC OPEN SPACES

Respondents requested that existing parks (open spaces) be maintained more regularly and be kept in a much better condition - existing parks and gardens should be landscaped - there should be more B.B.Q.'s and sheltered picnic areas. More open spaces are required as most in Venus Bay are far too small. Children's playground equipment (like Inverloch's) should be installed.

### 11.1 EXISTING OPEN SPACES

Council to make a firm commitment to upgrade these areas, plant more trees for shade and some coastal Manna Gums for wild life but maintaining a good proportion of open ground for recreation purposes with a strong emphasis on better and much more frequent maintenance.

**Action 1**

Assess the open spaces which would be viable to develop and purchase land adjacent to bring some small areas up to a viable size. Then with an overall development plan, progressively upgrade them.

Responsibility:	Council
Priority:	Primary for planning and purchase
	Tertiary for development
Timing:	Immediate
Planning Scheme Amendment?	Some may be necessary

**11.2 SHELTERED PICNIC AND BARBECUE AREAS**

More of this type of development is requested for Venus Bay. Location and planning should be the first priority and should go hand in hand with beach access and car park development as well as with recommendation 9.2.

**Action 1**

Council to establish sheltered picnic and barbecue facilities in Venus Bay.

Responsibility:	Council and Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Priority:	Secondary
Timing:	As soon as possible
Planning Scheme Amendment?	Some may be necessary

**Action 2**

Existing picnic and B.B.Q. facilities at Fisherman's Road Jetty and on Jupiter Boulevard be brought up to a standard similar to those in the part opposite the hospital entrance in Wonthaggi.

Responsibility:	Council and Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Priority:	Secondary
Timing:	As soon as possible
Planning Scheme Amendment?	None

**11.3 CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT**

Expressed needs for additional playground equipment are quite strong for both Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay.



**Action 1**

Install playground equipment, similar to Inverloch's in Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay.

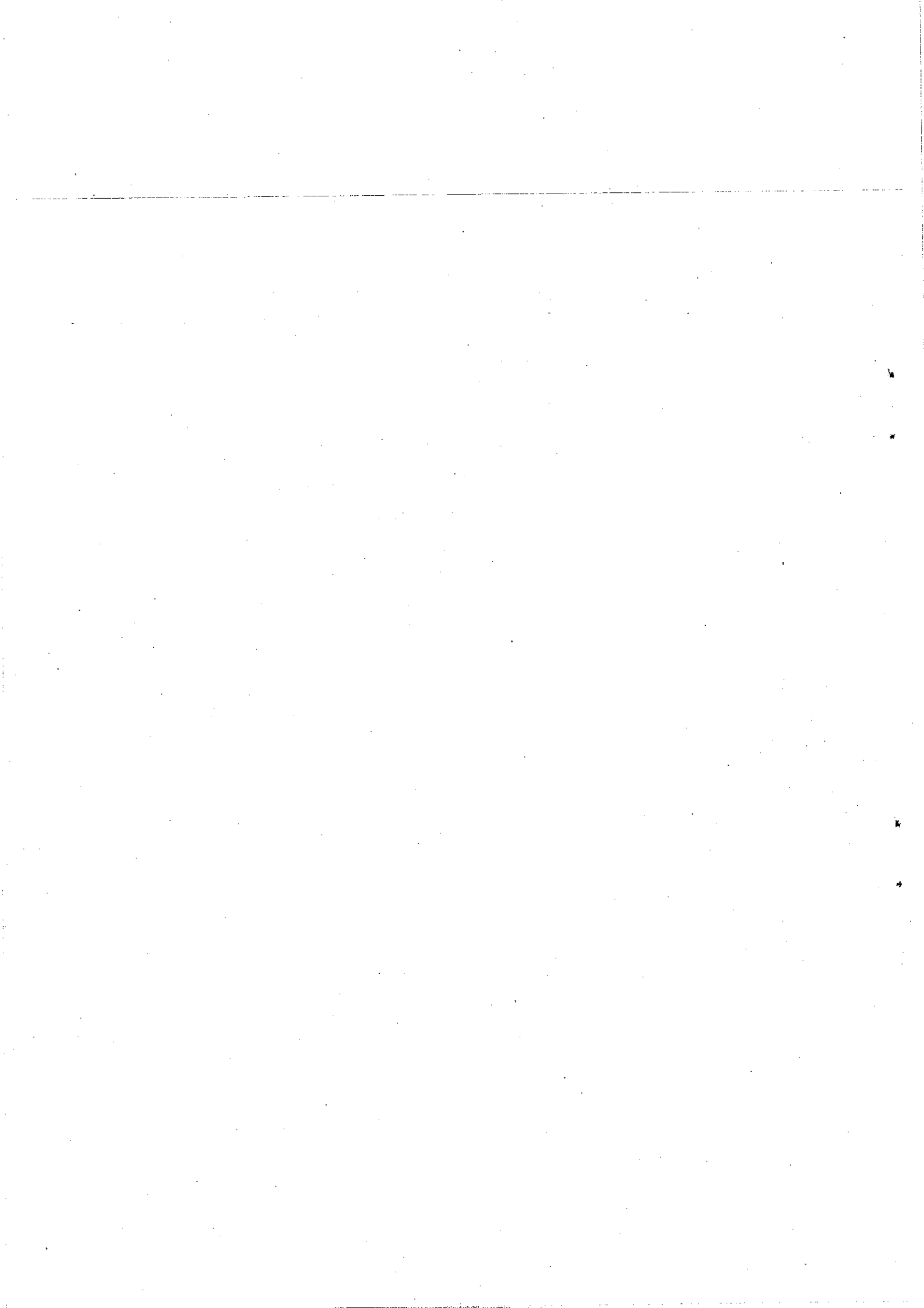
Responsibility:	Council
Priority:	Primary
Timing:	As soon as possible
Planning Scheme Amendment?	None

**PLEASE NOTE:-**

No recommendations were needed for:

Question 11:	Other Services and Facilities
Question 12:	Any Further Comments

During analysis of responses, relevant information contained in Questions 11 and 12 was incorporated by the Committee under appropriate headings covered by Question 1 to 10.



**ECONOMY COMMITTEE  
REPORT**

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The coastal region of Tarwin Lower was one of the first areas to be pioneered. Over several generations, as the land was cleared, and in more recent times, the creation of the Venus Bay Estates 1, 2 and 3, so the population of the area has grown considerably.

The structural changes needed to take place to cope with this ever growing population has in the main been lagging behind compared to growth in this area.

The Economy Group has sought to make a number of recommendations to bring to this region a planned attack on organising the area to be able to cope at all times with the pressure placed upon it by human activity.

The Committee has at the same time targeted the natural resources of the area to be both exploited and promoted to the public, within this region, which is rich in history and of interest to us all.

## 2. TARWIN LOWER EFFLUENT SYSTEM

Tarwin Lower has no effluent disposal system to deal with a large population of people in highly concentrated areas, such as commercial, industrial or residential.

The common septic tank, privately owned and maintained, excluding the Hotel, is the sole means of treatment of sewage in Tarwin Lower. Although quite adequate in the past, with the growth of the coastal areas between Venus Bay and Walkerville, considerable pressure is being placed upon Tarwin Lower to be a centre for recreational, industrial and commercial activity.

If Tarwin Lower is to cope with this growth in population and serve the area as a centre for people services, then an effective effluent disposal system is essential.

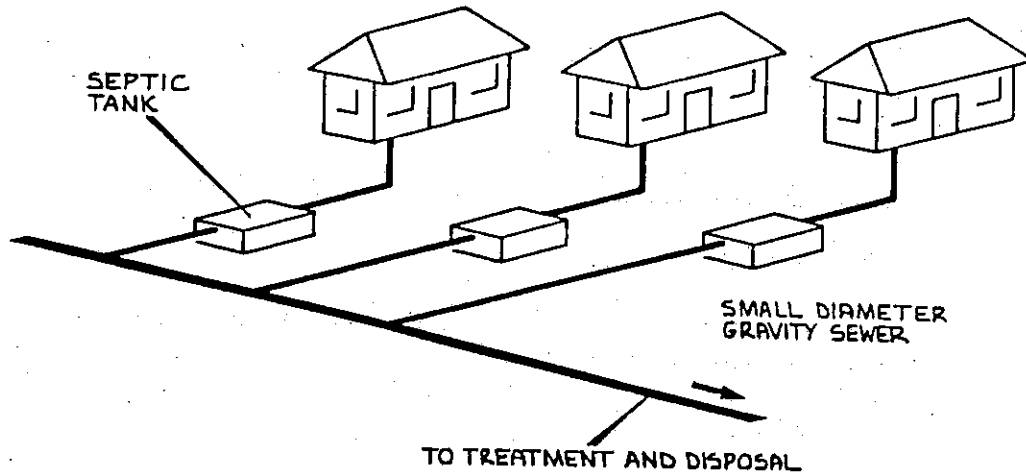
### RECOMMENDATION

That a common effluent disposal system be installed within the township of Tarwin Lower.

### REFERENCE

"Low Cost Sewerage Options" (Department of Primary Industry and Energy, page 46. As shown on the following page.

Figure 1.1 – Common Effluent Disposal System (C.E.D.)



**Description:** The common effluent disposal system scheme is similar to a conventional full gravity reticulation system except that wastes are firstly treated in a septic tank prior to discharge. The lack of settleable solids enables smaller diameter sewers to be utilised, laid at flatter grades and with lower self cleansing velocities. A majority of the manholes can be replaced with inspection openings.

#### Advantages

1. Reduced frequency of blockages resulting in reduced sewer maintenance.
2. Reduced capital costs due to smaller pipes, flatter grades, fewer manholes.
3. Organic and hydraulic peak loads are reduced in the septic tank.
4. Reduced treatment requirements at centralised plant.
5. No energy requirement in collection system.
6. Reduced infiltration because of smaller pipes and fewer manholes.

#### Disadvantages

1. Periodic pump outs of the septic tanks are essential to ensure adequate removal of solids and scum to prevent blockages in the sewer lines.
2. Septic tank effluent disposal can cause corrosion (particularly in manholes) and odour problems.
3. Septate treatment facility required.

This system is ideally suited for Tarwin Lower as it allows utilisation of existing septic tanks, thereby reducing the overall cost to both residents and Council.

For future development one septic tank may be installed to serve a number of dwellings, such as in commercial and industrial areas.

Note: Pumping out and removal of solids from septic tank may be needed more frequently.

## 2.1 TREATMENT OF SEPTIC TANK EFFLUENT WATER

### RECOMMENDATION

Waste water from septic tanks be drained to a package treatment plant, where suspended solids and organic materials are further dealt with. Treated water from the plant is to be then pumped onto a land waste disposal area.

Note: It should be noted that due to the terrain of the land in and around Tarwin Lower, that being level and low lying, the advantage of a package treatment plant against the more common lagoon system, is the ability to be installed below ground level creating a gravitational flow from the surrounding township, with no possibility of contamination of the existing water table.

## 2.2 LOCATION

### RECOMMENDATION

On the southerly side of the Tarwin Lower township.

### REASON

Soil structure, sandy loam giving a porous nature, allowing for good drainage at all times.

Note: Exact location pending on what rural land may be available.

## 3. VENUS BAY EFFLUENT SYSTEM

Venus Bay, by its very nature, that being an estate of some 2,600 500-700m<sup>2</sup> residential blocks, plus two small commercial centres creating a densely populated area.

It is for this situation that an effluent system for Venus Bay is deemed mandatory by the Economy Group, as it is essential both permanent residents and tourists for the present and future generations that the water table be protected against any possible pollution.

The economy of the Tarwin Lower/Venus Bay area is directly linked to the growth and future development, meaning more people and even higher density of population residing and visiting this area.

### RECOMMENDATION

That No. 1 and No. 2 estates be subject to a variable grade gravity effluent system to be phased in over period of time.

### REFERENCE

"Low Cost Sewerage Options" – Department of Primary Industry and Energy, Page 47.

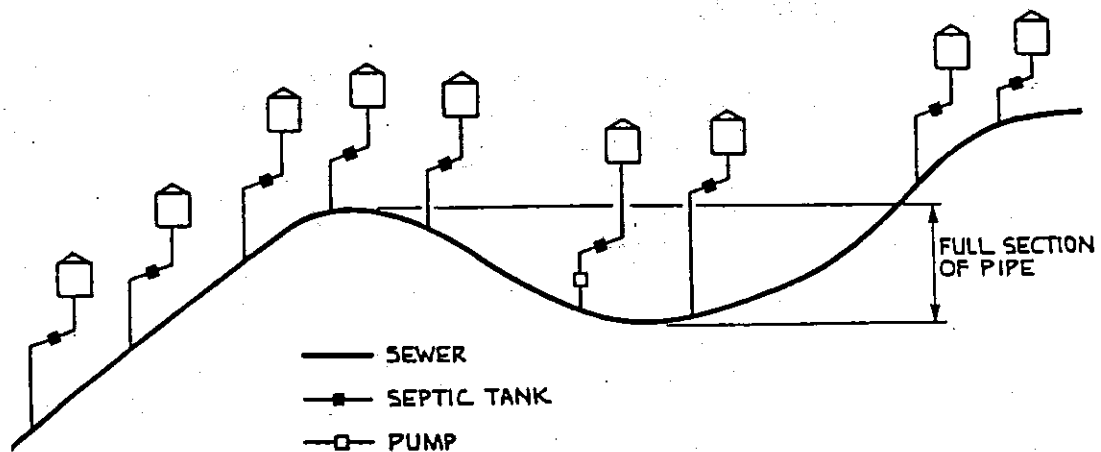
#### 3.1 TREATMENT OF SEPTIC TANK EFFLUENT WATER

Waste water from septic tanks to be drained to a package treatment plant, where suspended solids and organic materials are further dealt with. Treated water from the plant to be then pumped onto a land waste disposal area.

#### 3.2 LOCATION OF TREATMENT PLANT

The economies of locating a treatment plant and waste disposal area, or pumping the effluent water to the Tarwin Lower treatment plant be left to Council.

Figure 2.1 – Variable Grade Gravity Sewers (V.G.S.)



Description: The system is similar to the Common Effluent Disposal scheme but it permits the collecting sewers to be laid at inflective grades, ie. with a series of low points. The basic principle is the same as that of a sink trap. The complete system comprises a series of sink traps stretched out over a distance with net fall from inlet to outlet. The system can thus be laid at constant depth irrespective of grade. The system outlet must be located lower than the inlet of any house served by the sewer system. Some sections of the sewer will remain full at all times and this may cause maintenance problems. Premises in a valley section of the sewer which are below the sewer high point require pumps and valves similar to the S.T.E.P. system but overall the majority of the houses discharge by gravity.

#### Advantages

1. Reduced frequency of blockages resulting in reduced sewer maintenance.
2. Reduced capital costs due to smaller pieces, flatter grades, fewer manholes.
3. Organic and hydraulic peak loads are reduced in the septic tank.
4. Reduced treatment requirements at a centralised plant.
5. Reduced energy requirement in collection system.
6. Reduced infiltration because of smaller pipes and fewer manholes.
7. Sewer can be laid at constant depth irrespective of slope.

#### Disadvantages

1. Periodic pump outs of the septic tanks are essential to ensure adequate removal of solids and scum to prevent blockages in the sewer lines.
2. Anaerobic effluent in sewer can cause corrosion and odour problems.
3. Low points remain full of waste water.
4. Pumps and valves may be required at some premises.
5. Septate treatment facility required.



#### 4. LIGHT INDUSTRIAL AREA FOR TARWIN LOWER

A light industrial area within the vicinity of Tarwin Lower would encourage business to the area, providing both jobs and service to the ever growing population of Tarwin Lower, Venus Bay and surrounding rural hinterland.

It will allow all industrial activity to be eliminated from both commercial and residential areas, and produce a central location for all light industry.

To achieve this Council will:

1. Designate an area of land and provide the infrastructure.
2. Recover capital when selling off allotments.
3. Encourage business to the area by such methods as:
  - Low interest repayment schemes be made available.
  - Rate incentive.
  - Promote the advantages to business of setting up in a planned industrial area.

##### 4.1 DESIGNATION OF AREA

1. Initial size to be approximately 10–12 acres.
2. Size of allotment;  $\frac{1}{3}$  to be of  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre allotments and the remainder to be 1 acre allotments.
3. The area should have the potential to expand in the future.

##### 4.1.1 Location

On the southerly side of Tarwin Lower.

(a) Reason

Soil type – sandy loam with a sandstone base approximately 1–2 metres down giving sound stability under all conditions.

(b) Power

Good access to power.

(c) Close proximity to effluent system (as recommended under Tarwin Lower effluent system).

(d) Well away from the commercial area.

However, the location may have to be altered pending on what rural land may be available.

#### 4.2 EFFLUENT SYSTEM

To be connected to the Tarwin Lower effluent system (enclosed as a recommendation for the Tarwin Lower Effluent System).

#### 4.3 ROADS

1. All roads to be sealed to the Shire specifications.
2. Point of entry of main road to have a turning lane.
3. Road being a one way service road to comply with all emergency vehicles.
4. Good visibility for both access and exit roads.

#### 4.4 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

1. Trees and vegetation to be planted to beautify and surround the area.
2. Vegetation to be of natural indigenous species.
3. In protection of the environment, and in accordance with C.F.A. guidelines a 45,000 litre tank be installed at a suitable location within the industrial area.

#### 4.5 INDUSTRIAL WASTE DISPOSAL

1. Industrial waste to be collected on site in industrial bins.
2. All industrial waste to be removed from area and taken to an area where it can be more effectively disposed of.

NOTE: In the long term it be compulsory that all industrial activity be located within this area.

### 5. COMMERCIAL AREA

The commercial area of Tarwin Lower in its present form lacks the ability to develop into a self supporting shopping centre due to a number of factors.

#### RECOMMENDATION

1. Venus Bay commercial areas remain limited in size and provide only essential goods and that Tarwin Lower become the major commercial service centre for the area.

2. That an effluent disposal system be immediately introduced to the commercial area in accordance with the guidelines stated under "Effluent system for Tarwin Lower".
3. That the laneway off School Road bordering the residential and commercial area be upgraded to Shire road specifications as a main road.
4. That an area be set aside for a minimum of 200 car parking spaces.
5. No residential permits to be granted within the commercial boundaries, as zoned.
6. In the long term, removal of all non-commercial activity from within the zoned commercial area.
7. Relocation of Hall and Church out of commercial area.
8. Relocation of tennis courts and C.F.A. off the river bank frontage, eg. tennis courts relocated to recreation reserve.
9. We accept recommendations regarding the river bank as set out by the People Services group, excepting the area opposite the commercial centre, where all undergrowth be cleared and a retainer wall be built.
10. Pedestrian crossings between the River and commercial area be improved, eg. pedestrian crossings marked in appropriate places.
11. The upgrading of street lighting of both residential and commercial areas, ie. more of.
12. Land be purchased for the extension of the Recreation Reserve allowing relocation of tennis courts from the river bank.
13. Traffic speed be restricted between Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay.
14. That the general appearance on entering Tarwin Lower be enhanced, ie. gardens.

## 6. TOURISM – TARWIN LOWER

To make the Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower areas more enjoyable for tourists, the facilities and the attractions will have to be upgraded and made more accessible.

To achieve this Council will:

1. Make both the River and the Inlet more accessible; by
  - clear undergrowth along river bank.
  - provide more picnic tables and barbecue areas.

- walking and bicycle tracks between Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower.
  - provide better camping sites along the river bank.
2. Enlarge or build another jetty with boat ramp facilities and additional parking areas.
  3. Provide better access and facilities to beaches; by
    - opening up access roads to the 5 Mile Beach and Morgans Beach through Munbilla Road, Walkerville.
    - to provide parking and toilets for these beach areas.
  4. Promotion of the area:

To achieve this Council will:

    - provide brochures listing attractions of this area, to all information centres in this and all neighbouring Shires.
    - promote the history of the area; by
      - (a) having information boards in prominent places, ie. jetty, bridge, the old grave site depicting past events and history of these sites.
      - (b) being the last remaining building of a past era the Tarwin Butter Factory provides an opportunity for the area to centrally locate a museum to depict early settlement on the rural land, the river and aboriginal artefacts.
      - (c) scale models of machinery and transport to be on display in the museum.
  5. Environmental
    - Replanting of native flora throughout the coastal belt, River and Inlet, thus ensuring the survival of natural fauna.
    - Destruction of noxious weeds and feral animals.
    - Council to lobby the S.E.C. to place all power lines in commercial and residential areas of Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay underground in accordance with regulations on new subdivisions.
    - Control measures to prevent erosion, be held in high priority for River, Inlet and coastal sand dunes.

## 7. TOURISM – VENUS BAY

Tourism in Venus Bay will continue, as it has for many years, to be an important influence on the area. Stated simply, tourism will have an impact on employment, incomes, natural resources and the existing infrastructure of the region. Any policy formulated to encompass tourism will need to attempt to minimise the negative impacts of tourism whilst consolidating the benefits.

It is reasonable to expect that in the short to medium term there will be a growth in tourism in Venus Bay. This will be due to many external factors such as:

1. Population growth
2. The short term travel time from Melbourne and growing population centres
3. The popularity of Phillip Island and Wilsons Promontory
4. Increased leisure time

Consequently, an increase in tourist numbers will occur whether or no there is an active policy of promoting the area. Furthermore, it is not feasible in the short term to recommend an active policy of promoting the area. Furthermore, it is not feasible in the short term to recommend an active campaign of tourist promotion when the existing infrastructure is not capable of sustaining the volume that would result.

In addition, the survey results clearly indicate that it is primarily the natural environment (ie. the clean air, beaches, Andersons Inlet, Point Smythe, Tarwin River, wildlife and fauna) and its associated recreational activities (eg. fishing, swimming, surfing, boating, etc.) which are the most attractive features to tourists. Therefore it is recommended that the natural feeling of the area is retained by ensuring that any improvement of access to the foreshore is consistent with the protection of natural resources.

At the same time it is important to acknowledge that it is often the behaviour and attitudes of visitors, rather than their sheer numbers which more often determines the level of impact on the natural resources of the area. Hence the emphasis must be on an increased community education in the future because tourists/holiday makers who feel that they have responsibilities and ties to the area will have a greater willingness to care for the region.

As tourist numbers increase, attracted by the natural resources of the area, there must be the infrastructure to support them. It is envisaged that Venus Bay will remain essentially a residential/holiday home enclave with most commercial and light industrial services located in Tarwin Lower. Consequently, the tourist facilities and infrastructure needed (accommodation, improved roads, sewerage, public toilets, car parks, etc.) will have to improve in quality and capacity to accommodate increased numbers of tourists in the future.

These recommendations have been compiled with the express view of organising and integrating both human activity and the environment to create a sustainable economy for the future.

The implementation of these recommendations will provide Council with a blue print for the future management of this area relating to the economic growth of the coastal belt.

**NATURAL ENVIRONMENT  
COMMITTEE  
REPORT**

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Environment of Venus Bay is unique in that it displays a mixture of residential type development with the natural flora and fauna of the area.

Development however can bring with it both negative and positive affects that can affect the environment. The Natural Environment Committee survey questions were orientated around the protection and enhancement of the environment of Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower.

The results of the survey were very clear in both their intention and suggestions.

The results of the survey are as follows.

## 2. SURVEY QUESTIONS AND RESULTS

1. *One of the attractions of Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower Areas is its natural beauty. Which of the following items would you like to see implemented to maintain and improve this environment. (Please tick each question to indicate preference.)*

Encouragement for the revegetation of local species

Control of Feral Animals

Control of Noxious Weeds

Education of the community regarding the local fauna and flora?

Control of Domestic Animals

A Tree Preservation Order for Significant Trees.

Yes	No
449	21
441	35
436	50
429	38
423	47
370	81

How could we achieve these programs? .....

1.	Local meetings and courses	65
2.	Pamphlets with rate notices/Send out info	64
3.	Control dogs/cats, ban them	49
4.	Information sign/directory	38
5.	Develop policies/by laws	32
6.	Regular visits and trappings/ranger	24
7.	Provide landowners with local species/trees /shrubs	20
8.	Department of C&E involved weed eradication	8
9.	Control Vermin	8



10.	Flora and fauna reservation	7
11.	Community involvement	7
12.	Fence areas off for recreation	3
13.	Compulsory animal registration	3
14.	Restrict access	2
15.	Develop Venus Bay image/character	2
16.	Organise day walks with informed guides	2
17.	Fire controls	1

The Recommendations from this Committee will be based upon the survey results overwhelming support for all questions was received, which indicates that the public want more control over domestic animals, whilst encouragement of local tree species and education of the community are also seen as a priority.

#### **Action 1**

Council and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources prepare a brochure on:

- Indigenous species that are appropriate for planting adjacent to houses and power lines.
- A Tree Preservation Order for the Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower area.
- That Council and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources distribute these types of documents to the local community through rate notices, public meetings and other courses of action.

#### **Action 2**

Council and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources prepare brochures on the control of noxious weeds and animals throughout the Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower area.

#### **Action 3**

Council investigate the need for further ranger patrols within the Venus Bay area in particular over the summer months and holiday periods.

2. **The Tarwin River is a feature of this area. How would you like to see the area utilised ?**

	Yes	No
Would you support a program that would study and enhance the fish stock in the river?	412	56
Would you support a natural beautification program for the river bank?	391	83
Would you support the relocation of camping from the river bank to allow greater access by people?	254	170

How could we achieve these programs?

1.	Local meetings and courses/education	21
2.	Clean up river bank	20
3.	Camping area in Tarwin Lower	18
4.	Residents tree planting program	13
5.	Control illegal netting/fishing	12
6.	Place no camping signs along the river	11
7.	Charge campers to raise funds	6
8.	Ranger	4
9.	Carry out revegetation works	3
10.	Use football ground as a camping reserve	3
11.	Use local professional knowledge of retirees	2
12.	Develop a plan/promote area	2
13.	Utilise local school children	2
14.	Relocate camping area	2
15.	Fine people who litter	1
16.	Regulate farming activities upstream	1
17.	Involve DCE	1
18.	Picnic/BBQ areas	1

**Action 1**

That Council request the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Rural Water Commission to undertake a study on the fish stock within the Tarwin River and Andersons Inlet. This study should identify any problems with the fish stock of the river and Inlet as well as identify ways of improving fish reserves within the Tarwin river and environs.

**Action 2**

That Council in conjunction with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources formulate a Landscape Plan for the Tarwin River Bank adjacent to the Tarwin River township.

The results for the relocation of the camping area from the River Bank to another area although supported also reveal a significant number of persons who wish to retain this camping area. The question of relocation then presents a further problem of where do we relocate this camping area?

**Action 3**

That Council investigate the relocation of the camping area from the River Bank to the area surrounding the current amenities block near the Boat ramp.

**Action 4**

That the Landscape Plan make allowance for the relocation of the Camping Area and provide greater access to the River for the public.

**3. The Beach and Foreshore will be utilised more people in the future. What do you think of the following ideas. (Please tick each question to indicate preference.)**

	Yes	No
Improvement of walking and cycling tracks to the beach and foreshore?	436	81
Would you support controlled access to these areas to protect the dune areas?	416	64
Would you support a program of regularly monitoring of water quality for the Venus Bay beaches and publication of the results?	395	80

1.	Beach/river pollution analysis & clean up bins	11
2.	Keep beach clean/protect vegetation	10
3.	Improved pathways to beach	8
4.	Improvement to all beach parking	7
5.	Car parking along beach should be parallel to beach	6
6.	Ban mini bikes	5
7.	Improve beach Safety, more signs ie Rips	4
8.	Public results of testing	4
9.	Improve monitoring of dogs on beach	4

10.	Provided there is minimal destruction	3
11.	Signs indicating that beaches are dangerous should be erected	2
12.	Get rid of sewerage outlet	2
13.	More cycling and walking tracks to beaches	2
14.	More BBQ facilities	2
15.	Replanting	2
16.	Access to No. 5 use elsewhere	1
17.	Relocate drain pipe at 1st beach	1

Although the response to these questions were clear cut suggestions out forward were very limited

#### Action 1

- a. Council investigate the provision of walking tracks and footpaths to be located adjacent to major thoroughfares that lead to Venus Bay Beaches.
- b. Council to investigate the provision of a Bicycle path between Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay.

#### Action 2

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources signpost the Point Smythe Area to facilitate the use of the area for Bush Walking.

#### Action 3

Council and the Rural Water Commission establish a regular monitoring program for ground water within Venus Bay and that the results of such a study be regularly published.

4. ***To enhance the visual and safety aspects of the Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower areas would you be in favour of progressively placing power lines underground ?***

Yes

376

No

119

1.	Depends on cost	44
2.	Nice, but cannot afford it	16
3.	Only new ones or those to be replaced	9
4.	Destroy too much vegetation	3
5.	For fire prevention purposes	3
6.	Replace wood with concrete poles	1
7.	At Government Expense	1

**Action 1**

That Council investigate what types of incentives are available from the State Electricity Commission for either undergrounding powerlines or the installation of aerial bundled cables.

4. *Should the visual aspects of development be minimised by implementation of a program that aims to screen buildings and uses colours that are environmental sensitive ?*

Yes

273

No

153

Please make some suggestions/or achieve objectives

1.	Buildings to be painted in tones	33
2.	Introduce controls	32
3.	Council encourage replanting, ie. 6 trees per house	30
4.	Existing system is working well, no need for further regs.	22
5.	Suggestions colour only	19
6.	Height controls	7
7.	Too Late	6
8.	Outbuildings, but not houses	5
9.	Planning controls	4
10.	All buildings to have base boards	2
11.	Award for be camouflaged house	2
12.	No garages on lots without houses	1
13.	Restrict number of houses and size	1
14.	Education	1

The Coastal Landscape Study which was completed by the Shire in 1990 introduces controls over development. The document specifies colours, heights, design guidelines and performance criteria for development. The controls are not mandatory but recommend colours and other means of landscaping to lessen the visual affects of development.

This document has now been adopted by the Shire of Woorayl.

**Action 1**

That Council formulate a brochure based upon the recommendations of the Coastal Landscape Study for distribution to the public.

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## TARWIN LOWER & VENUS BAY STRATEGY PLAN SURVEY RESULTS

The Shire of Woorayl has given the residents of Tarwin Lower, Venus Bay, Walkerville and the surrounding rural areas an opportunity to shape the future planning of the Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay areas.

Earlier this year, the Built Environment, Natural Environment, People Services and Economic Committees compiled a survey in order to gain a better understanding of what the community needs for the future, in terms of facilities, services and planning mechanism. This report provides a brief discussion of the major trends evident from the above mentioned survey.

Three thousand respondents were invited to participate in this survey. Four hundred and sixty eight of whom returned the completed form. The following discussion follows the format set out in the survey. Any questions concerning respondents personal details or where.

It should be noted that the open ended nature of the survey meant that a very wide variety of responses were received for each question. Therefore, although the percentage vales for individual responses to open ended questions are low, the results do provide a clear indication of the degree and support for responses relative to each other.

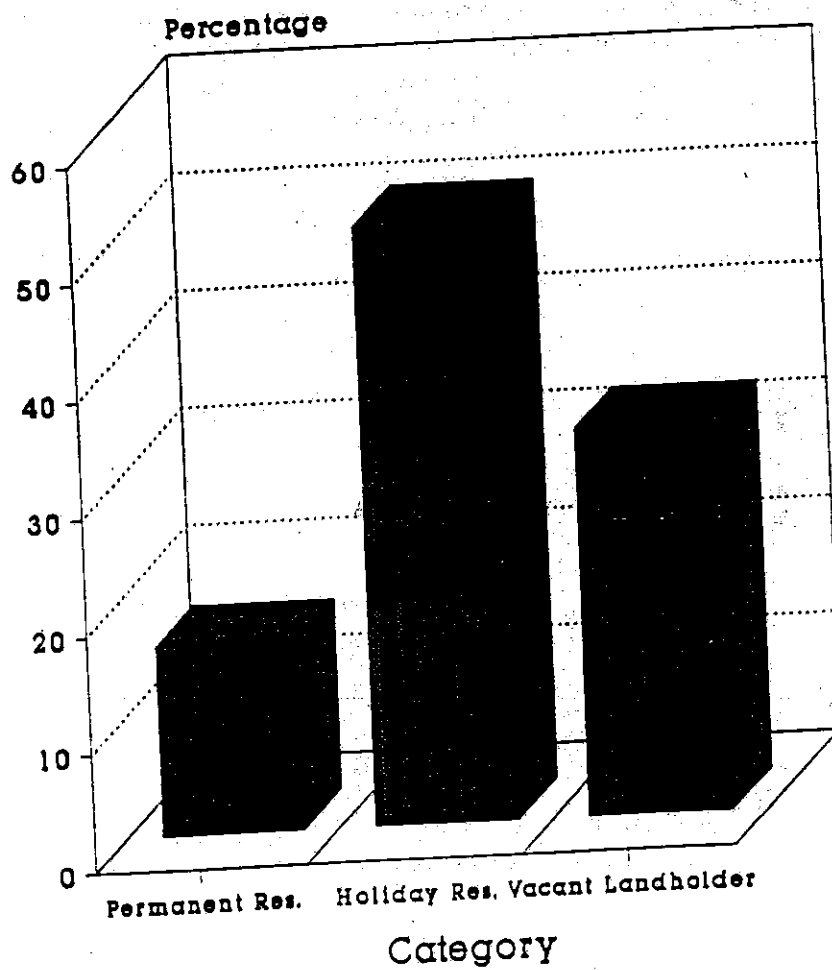
**PART 1: PERSONAL DETAILS**

(a) Name: Not Applicable

(b) Phone No.: Not Applicable

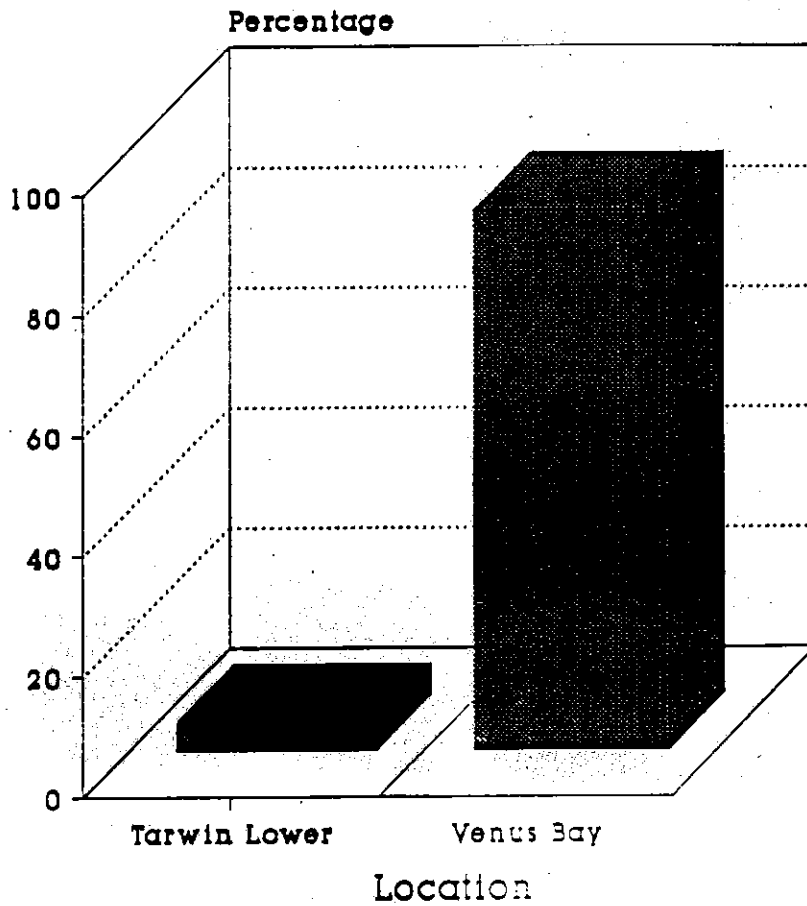
(c) Community Category

# Community Category



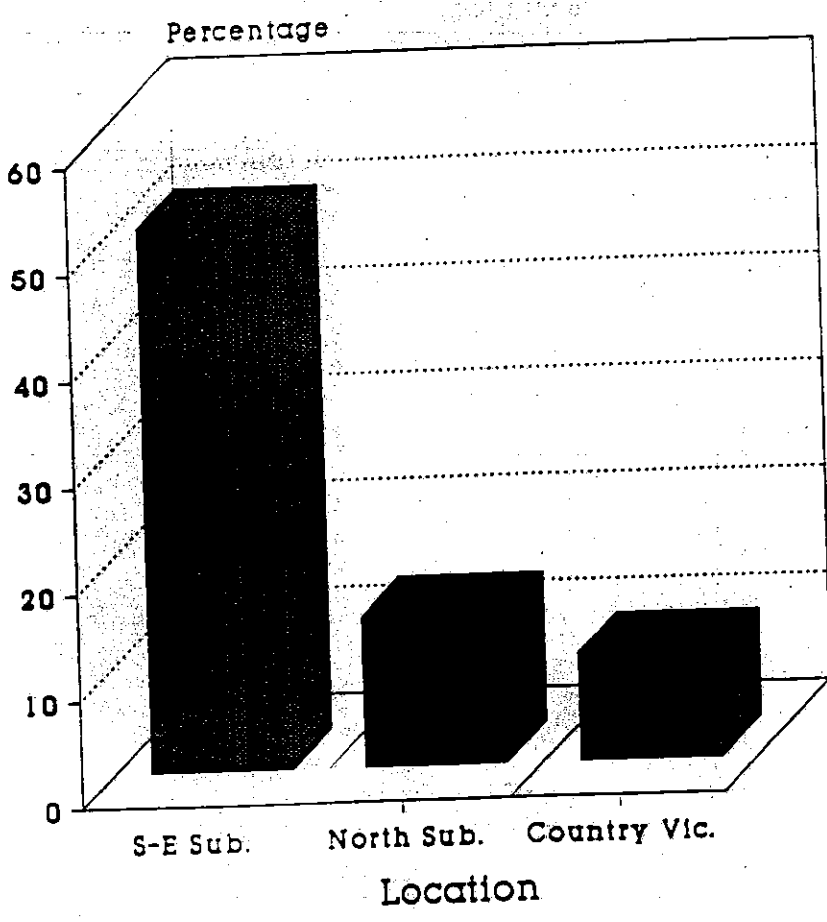
(d) Where is your Land/Home Located?

## Property Location (Venus Bay / Tarwin Lower)



(e) If you are a holiday resident, where is your permanent home located?

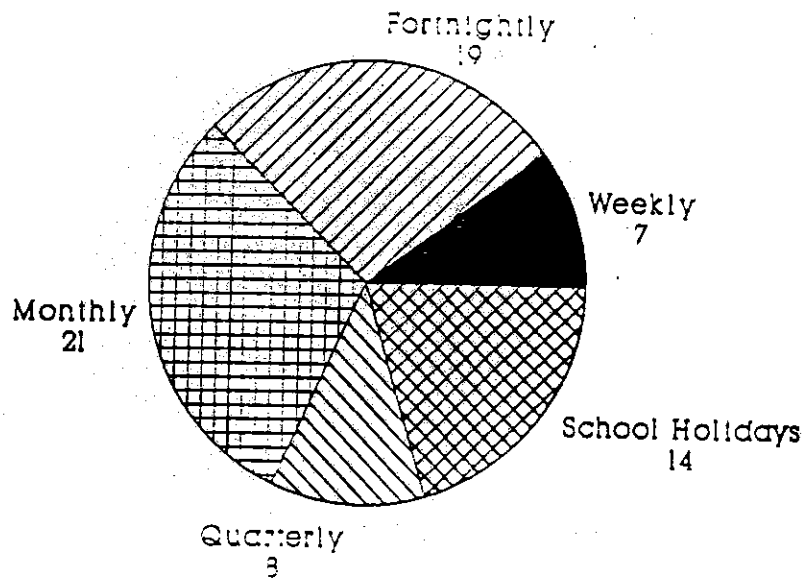
## Property Location (Melbourne)





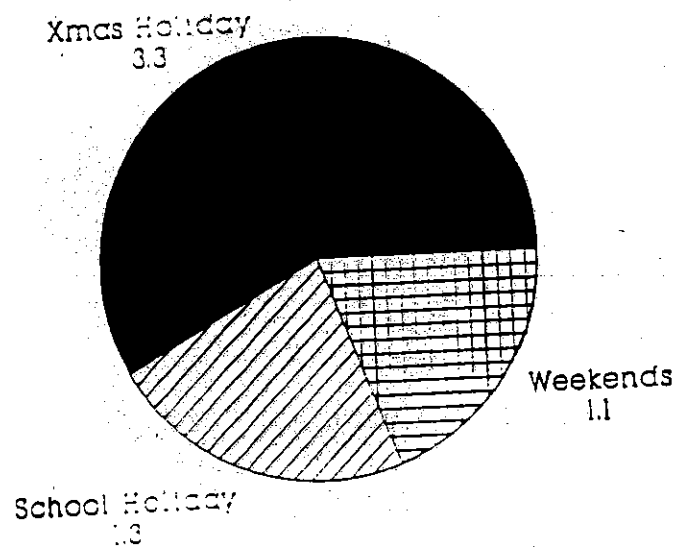
(f) If you use a holiday home or caravan, how often are you there?

## Frequency of Use



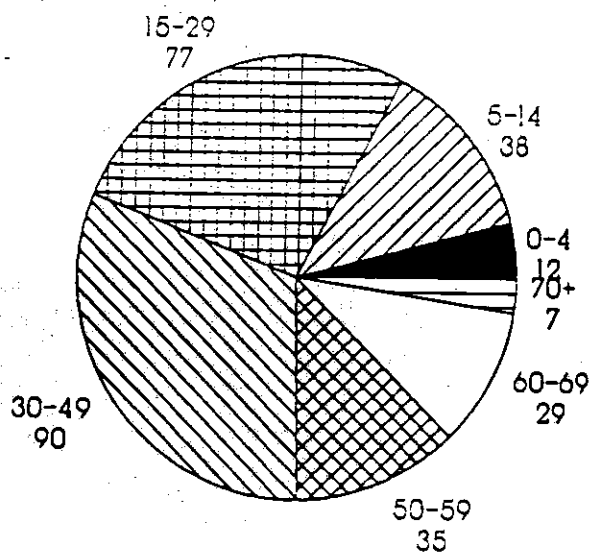
- (g) How many casual visitors do you have over Christmas holidays, school holidays and weekends?

## No. of Visitors Ave. Per Hol. Period



- (h) Please indicate the number of people in the age groups that reside within your permanent residence or holiday home in Venus Bay/Tarwin Lower?

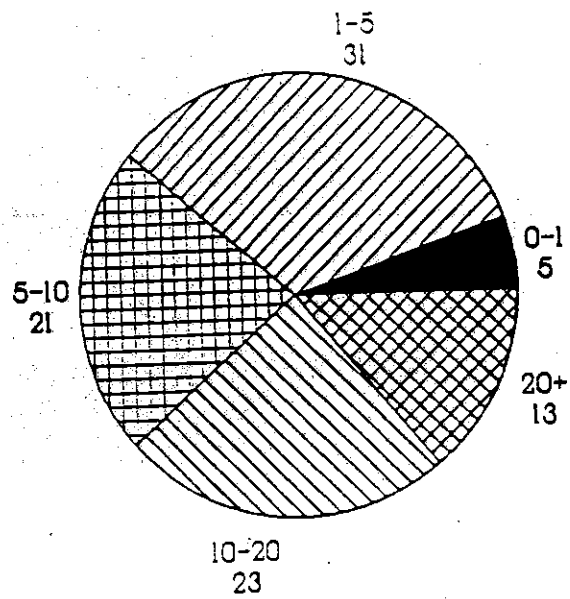
## Population By Age (Years)



(j) Not Applicable

(k) How long have you been a resident/holiday maker to this area?

## Ownership Period (Years)



## PEOPLE SERVICE SURVEY

### Question

Based on your idea of Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay now and in the future, what are the present problems with services and what improvements and new services could be made to overcome these problems?

### Response

1. Transport: 18% of people surveyed considered the general lack of public transport to both Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay a major problem. 15% indicated a need for public transport to Inverloch, 7% desired some form of public transport to Melbourne, and 4% cited a mini bus to the Tarwin Lower hotel as a desirable service.
2. Youth Services: 12% of respondents expressed a need for more youth activities. In particular, 5% indicated that a youth club would be desirable, and a further 3% suggested extending the S.L.S.C. facilities to better cater for young people.
3. Services for the Elderly/Disabled Facilities: Major concerns expressed for this category included a lack of health care, doctors and nurses (4%), the need for an elderly citizens club and meeting place (4%), and the need for a bus service for elderly citizens who are not able to drive (3%).
4. Community House for Neighbourhood Activities: 5% of people surveyed indicated that some form of community house facility was definitely needed.
5. Sport and Recreation: 7% of people considered a tennis court and golf course at Venus Bay desirable. 6% claimed that there were already sufficient sport and recreation facilities, and 5% indicated a need for an indoor gymnasium.
6. Health and Emergency Services: 19% of respondents expressed a need for a 24 hour health centre and ambulance service. 10% would like some form of doctors' surgery in the area, and a further 3% are in favour of a chemist shop.
7. Council and Government Services: A police station (7%), mobile library (4%), and 4% consider that there are sufficient Council and Government facilities available.
8. Accommodation and Services for Visitors: 18% of people are in favour of more motel facilities at Tarwin Lower or Venus Bay. 9% indicated a need for cabin or flat type accommodation and 5% are in favour of another caravan park.
9. Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay Beaches: 10% of respondents would like to see access improved to all beaches and to Tarwin Lower. 5% see a need for improved B.B.Q. facilities and more tree planting. 4% indicated a need for more bins and 3% think the area (re: beaches and river region) should be left as it is.
10. Other Services and Facilities: More telephone booths (4%), more shops (3%), greater police presence (2%).

12. Further Comments: The most common response to this question was that 5% of respondents suggested to leave the area as it is. Although the most commonly cited response for this question, this figure represents only 22 people out of a total of 468 respondents.
-

## ECONOMIC COMMITTEE SURVEY

### Question 13

Should tourism in this area be:

	% Response
Left as it is:	63%
Encouraged:	30%
Discouraged:	14%

The four most commonly cited ways in which the desired response could be encouraged were; promotion of beach/natural environment (11%), leave the area as it is (8%), extend motel accommodation facilities (3%), improve caravan park (2%).

### Question 14 (REFER TO GRAPHS OVER PAGE)

Examination of the graph produced for commercial and industrial development with Tarwin Lower reveals 56% support for a self supporting commercial area, 38% support for a small commercial area, and 36% support for a light industrial area. 15% of people surveyed were against the idea of a large commercial centre at Tarwin Lower opposed to 8% supporting the concept. A further 60% of all people surveyed were in favour of no residential activity in Tarwin Lower.

Examination of the results for Venus Bay reveals stronger opposition to the ideal of commercial development in the area. The results indicate that no commercial or industrial activity in Venus Bay would be enthusiastically supported. This trend is highlighted by the strong support (74%) for the no industrial activity at all option.

### Question 15

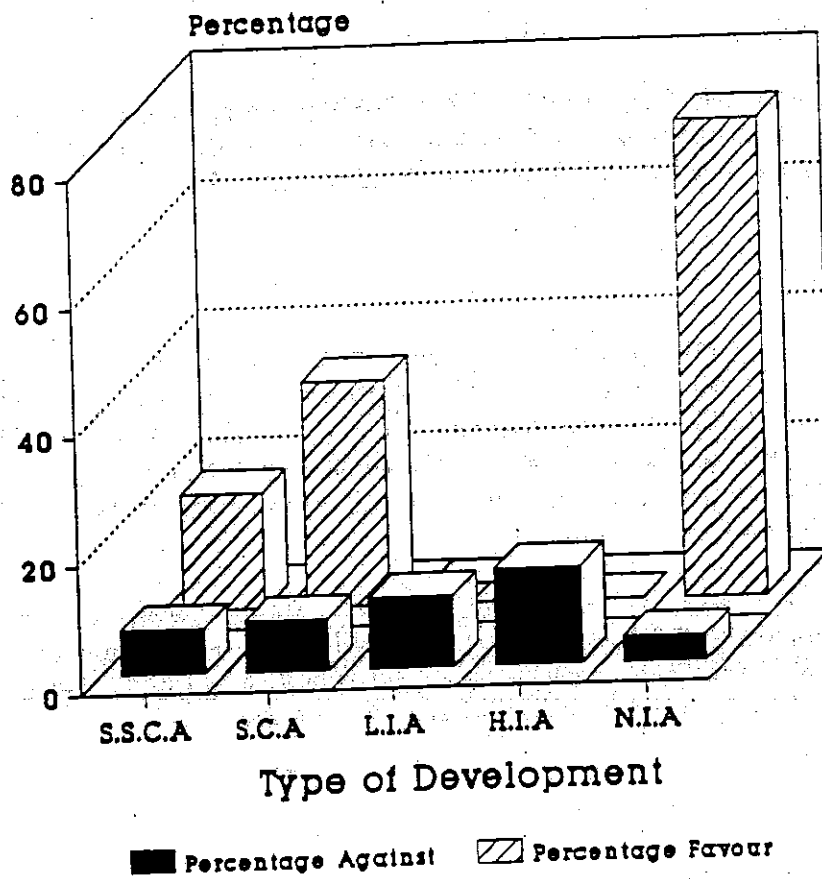
Could there be better utilisation of:

Venus Bay Beaches	19%
Tarwin River	19%
Andersons Inlet	18%
Natural Environment	19%
All of the above	14%
None of the above	32%

Approximately 19% of people surveyed believe that all of the natural resources listed above could be better utilised. Conversely, 32% of the sample population considered that none of the above resources could be better utilised.

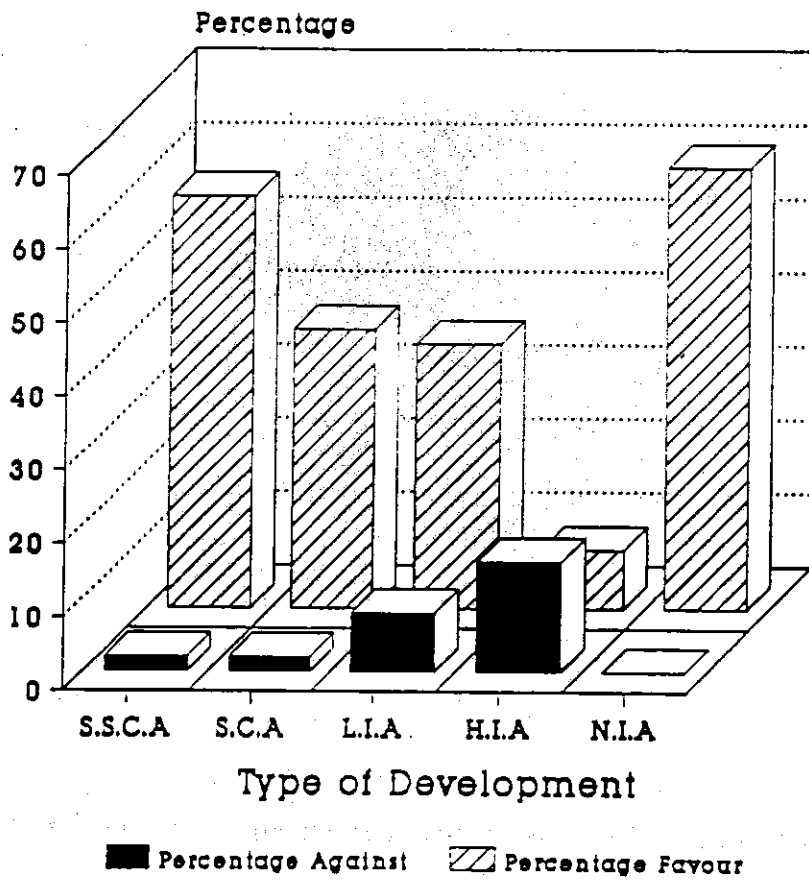
Suggested ways in which better utilisation of facilities could be achieved include: better roads, access and parking facilities at main beaches (8%), dredge river to improve fishing (5%), development of bush walking tracks (4%). In addition, 4% of people are in favour of doing nothing to improve resource utilisation.

# Comm./Indus. Develop. (Venus Bay)





# Comm. Indus. Develop. (Tarwin Lower)

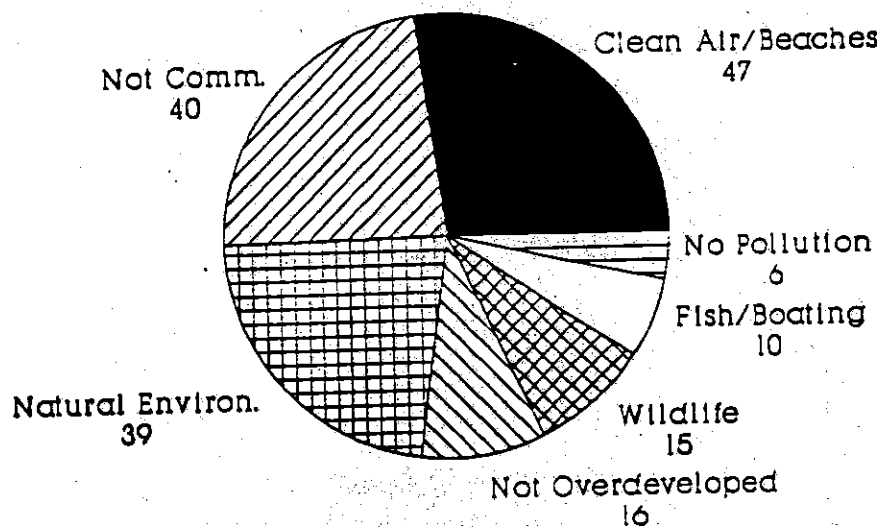


### Question 16

What do you think are the feature that make Venus Bay/Tarwin Lower and surrounds appealing for tourists?

By far the most commonly cited reasons for the apparent attraction of the area relate to the availability of natural resources, and the unspoilt nature of the region. Figure 3 shows the top seven features that make the area appealing.

Figure 3  
Most commonly cited features that appeal to tourists (Tarwin Lower/Venus Bay)



### Question 17

What tourist facilities would you like to see here which are not already provided?

15% of people surveyed indicated that they did not want more tourists, and therefore did not want any additional facilities. Facilities cited as desirable over and above those already provided include; better accommodation, (8%), improved public toilets (4%), more entertainment in holiday season (3%), and more small shops (3%).

It should be noted that there is some discrepancy between the percentage values for the positive and negative responses to the following yes/no questions, utilised in the survey. In particular there are some instances where the sum of the values for each yes/no question exceeds 100%. This may be explained (in part) by some respondents selecting both a positive and negative response to the same question, or it may be result of an error in the tabulation of survey results. Nevertheless, there is a fairly high correlation between values for the majority of yes/no questions and the discrepancy is likely to adversely impact on the validity of the survey.

Question 18

Do we want a light industrial area to encourage the following industries:

	Yes	No
Boat and Van Storage	32%	27%
Rental Equipment	28%	36%
Building	28%	36%
Landscaping	27%	28%
Engineering	19%	36%

The results indicate that except for Boat and Van Storage, no light industry in either Tarwin Lower or Venus Bay would be enthusiastically supported. However, it should be noted that it is likely that the use of the term "light industrial area" may have scared many respondents into a negative response, even though any industrial activity would have to meet stringent environment and aesthetic criteria.

Question 19

One of the attractions of Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower areas is its natural beauty. Which of the following items would you like to see implemented to maintain and improve this environment?

	Yes	No
Encouragement for the revegetation of local species	96%	4%
Control of feral animals	94%	6%
Controls of Noxious Weeds	93%	7%
Education of the Community Regarding Local Fauna & Flora	92%	8%
Control of Domestic Animals	90%	10%
A Tree Preservation Order for Significant Trees	79%	11%

Clearly, the results illustrate a very strong level of support for each of the six items listed.

The most commonly cited measures to achieve these programs are as follows:

	% Response
Conduct local meetings/courses	14%
Issue information pamphlets	14%
Control domestic cats and dogs	10%
Erect information directory	8%
Conduct regular patrols	5%

Question 20

	Yes	No
Would you support a program that would study and enhance the fish stock in the river	88%	12%
Would you support a natural beautification program for the river bank	83%	17%
Would you support the relocation of camping from the river bank to allow greater access by people	54%	36%

Clearly there is strong community support for each of the three suggested programs. Moreover, the most commonly cited means to achieve these objectives is through the use of local meetings, courses and education programs.

Question 21

What do you think of the following ideas?

	Yes	No
Improvement of walking and cycling tracks to the beach and foreshore.	93%	17%
Would you support controlled access to these areas to protect the dune system.	89%	14%
Would you support a program of regularly monitoring water quality for the Venus Bay beaches and publication of the results.	84%	17%

The survey results indicate essentially unanimous support for an improved walking and cycling track to the beach, and strong support for more controlled access to these areas and regular monitoring of water quality.

Question 22

To enhance the visual and safety aspects of the Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower areas, would you be in favour of progressively placing power lines underground?

	Yes	No
% Response	78	21

78% of people surveyed are in favour of underground power lines, as opposed to 32% of people against the proposal. In addition, 9% of respondents were undecided, pending a cost estimate, and a further 3% of those for the proposal acknowledged that although it was a nice idea, they realistically could not afford the implementation costs. Moreover, it is likely that these figures are somewhat distorted given that the majority of people in favour of the proposal are probably unaware of the full cost to ratepayers of such a scheme.

Question 23

Should the visual aspects of development be minimised by implementation of a program that aims to screen buildings and use colours that are environmentally sensitive?

	Yes	No
% Response	58	33

58% of people surveyed are in favour of such a program as opposed to 33% against. The three most commonly cited ways to achieve the objectives were; the use of external colour restrictions (7%), introduction of greater (unspecified) controls (7%), encourage greater tree planting (7%). A further 5% suggested that the existing system is working well, and there is no need for further regulations.

## BUILT ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Should there be restrictions on commercial development, and where should commercial development be located?

	Yes	No
% Response	85	10

There is a strong support (85%) for restrictions to be placed on commercial development in the area. In particular, 25% of people surveyed would like to see restricted commercial development in Tarwin Lower only and a further 15% recommend restricting commercial development to existing sites. In other words, the majority of people appear to favour a small increase in carefully controlled commercial development in Tarwin Lower to service both Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay.

### Question 25

Should commercial development be under controls to aesthetically blend with and contribute positively to the township and surrounds?

85% of respondents are in favour of controls to be placed on commercial development.

### Question 26

Question repeated.

### Question 27

Do you consider consolidation of blocks desirable in Venus Bay?

	Yes	No
% Response	59	39

### Question 28

Should there be controls applied to residential developments?

	Yes	No
% Response	84	34

Although the majority of people are in favour of controls for residential development, there is some scepticism as to the desired level of control interference that should be imposed on private landowners. 6% of respondents claim that the present controls are adequate, 5% favour controls to make buildings unobtrusive without too much interference, and 4% would like suggestive controls as opposed to stringent regulations.

Question 29

Would you consider any further subdivisions acceptable for:

(a) Venus Bay

	Yes	No
% Response	14	87

(b) Tarwin Lower

	Yes	No
% Response	45	40

The results clearly indicate that there is strong opposition to further subdivision at Venus Bay. Commonly cited reasons for this view are; to prevent the destruction of the character of Venus Bay (5%), and because there are already sufficient lots available (4%). Tarwin Lower on the other hand, exhibits 45% support and 40% opposition toward any further subdivision.

Question 30

Would you like to have private streets in Venus Bay sealed at landowners expense?

	Yes	No
% Response	12	89

Although there appears to be strong opposition to sealed roads, the wording of the question, coupled with much mis-information regarding the cost of such measures, is likely to have heavily weighted this in favour of a negative response. In order to gain a more meaningful response, respondents should be made aware of the following facts:

1. Council is not responsible for the maintenance of private streets.
2. The actual cost of road construction is estimated to be approximately \$2,000 per block.

Question 32

With the continuation of the septic tank system, would you participate in a public education program in good management of septic tank systems and the prevention of water table contamination?

	Yes	No
% Response	88	12

There is strong support for an education campaign, with information pamphlets mailed to landowners being the most commonly cited way to achieve this objective.

Question 33

Would you support a scheme for Council to acquire land for use as future parks and reserves?

	Yes	No
% Response	48	32

Given that there is less than 50% support for Council land acquisition, this scheme would not appear a viable option for the future development of parks and reserves.

Question 34

Would you support a separate rate scheme for Venus Bay?

	Yes	No
% Response	27	76

There is strong opposition to the development of a separate rate scheme.

Question 35

Would you consider bike/walking tracks from Tarwin Lower to No. 1 beach necessary?

	Yes	No
% Response	59	34

Although there is fairly strong support (59%) for the development of a bike/walking track from Tarwin Lower to Venus Bay, this figure may be expected to significantly increase given an question regarding the desirability as opposed to the necessity of such a track. This would give a better indication as to the degree of community support for the idea.

Question 36

Where else would you like to have a bike/walking track?

Along Lees Road to Point Smythe (10%) and along the river to Point Smythe (9%) were the two most frequently cited areas for the location of a bike/walking track. From Beach No. 1 to 5 was also a favoured location (7%) and 5% of people were in favour of a track from Tarwin Lower to Venus Bay.



Question 37

**Does the area have sufficient sporting facilities?**

	Yes	No
% Response	56	30

The survey results do not reveal any immediate need for more sporting facilities. Nevertheless, public tennis courts and a golf course were the most commonly cited facilities identified.

