

27 February 2017



**Beaumaris Conservation
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Black Rock coast slope: Results of email opportunity for BCS Inc. members to comment

Dear Gavin,

In response to your email of 22 February 2017, I emailed BCS Inc. members, and Associate Professor Vicki Karalis AM, President of the Sandringham Foreshore Association (SFA), inviting them to comment on Bayside City Council's accompanying [proposal for slope remediation](#) at the [Quiet Corner foreshore](#), Black Rock.

That coastal slope is opposite 357 Beach Road, Black Rock, a little north-west of McGregor Avenue, about which Peter Franklyn last year had on-site discussions with me and others.

I concluded that email by stating my own view, which is shown as that of Member 10 below.

As requested, I list on the following page the comments by the ten BCS Inc. members that offered comment, as well as comment by Assoc. Prof. Vicki Karalis.

The suggestion by Member No. 1 that boulders should be installed at the foot of the slope was also made by Victoria's then Public Works Department in 1982, but [representations](#) by the Port Phillip Conservation Council - which were fully supported by Beaumaris Conservation Society - convinced the then Minister, [Hon. Rod McKenzie MLC](#), to disallow that proposal, so sand replenishment from offshore was successfully used instead. BCS Inc. supports the proposed use of sandbags, as Bayside City Council beneficially used at Ricketts Point, rather than any boulders, and further sand replenishment if that is required.

Yours sincerely,

Geoffrey Goode
Treasurer
Beaumaris Conservation Society Inc.

cc Bayside City Council Mayor, Cr Alex del Porto, and fellow councillors
Members of Beaumaris Conservation Society Inc.
Assoc. Professor Vicki Karalis AM

Member No.	Comment
1.	I would like to see large boulders heaped at the bottom and soil added over that. I feel that would hold the cliff much more solidly, and be a much better foundation. Please please no Bidgee Widgee.
2.	I agree with the view you have expressed (<i>No. 10 below</i>).
3.	Agree Bidgee Widgee near paths is no good. But a couple of metres from a path it works fine. It is a really hardy green ground cover, which makes it popular.
4.	<i>Acaena ovina</i> was recorded in the area by Sutton (1911), and the seeds are a nuisance. <i>Acaena novae-zelandiae</i> is probably not indigenous to Bayside. I agree with your comments.
5.	I agree with you, Bidgee Widgee is not a desirable plant for all the reasons you have stated. Otherwise the plant list is fine.
6.	Thank you for your thoughtful care.
7.	We agree Geoff that Bidgee Widgee is unsuitable in this situation. We have an earlier experience in Point Avenue where we had to remove it.
8.	<p>Even a cursory search shows that is by and large considered a weed in many areas, so I am in full agreement with your stance on removing it from the planting list, and if need be adjusting percentages of other species. I noted from a New Zealand website that apart from dogs and humans collecting burrs on fur and clothing and spreading the seed, that ground dwelling birds could become so matted with burrs they were unable to care for their young, I'm not sure if this would apply to any bird species in the patch to be repaired, but may be another consideration.</p> <p>Here is the quote regarding ground dwelling bird impact from the NZ article I was reading, "<i>Feathers of ground-nesting birds have been found so clogged with pipiri seed heads that the birds have starved.</i>"</p>
9.	Happy that they are using indigenous coastal species. I agree Bidgee-Widgee can be a nuisance. Given its abundance, perhaps a less common indigenous ground coastal cover could be chosen. I wonder about the future of these narrow areas of coastline and Beach Road itself as more erosion occurs.
10.	The notes provided indicate that the project is soundly conceived, and that the planting list is appropriate, except that I consider that the planting of Bidgee-Widgee (<i>Acaena novae-zelandiae</i>) - even though the initial amount is small - is most undesirable. It has a high nuisance value because its burrs attach to people's socks and clothing, and that can result in foreshore users, including dogs, spreading it far more widely than would occur in nature, including inland reserves and home lawns. It greatly annoys people, and gives them a reason to dislike our foreshore vegetation. It is a relatively inconspicuous element in the planting, so its deliberate and prudent absence would not be greatly noticed.
V Karalis SFA	<p>I am fully supportive of the proposed works by Council. I would not object to your request that Bidgee-Widgees not be included in the list of plants to be revegetated.</p> <p>The sandbags and revegetation are an essential part of helping the cliffs from further erosion.</p> <p>Please ensure the sandbags are also revegetated with native grasses etc, as they did at Ricketts Point.</p>