

13 February 2012

Mr Stewart Caldwell  
Group Manager Planning  
Bayside City Council  
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**Beaumaris Conservation Society Inc.**

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Dear Mr Caldwell

**Planning Application 2012/37/1, Beach Road, Beaumaris**

Beaumaris Conservation Society Inc, (BCS Inc.) lodges objection to the above application for the removal of indigenous/native vegetation for the construction of the Bayside Coastal Trail (path).

The proposal incurs the removal of more than 100 mature indigenous trees, much soil and understorey vegetation for the construction of a 2.5 metre concrete road with associated 2.0 metre buffer strips, for use by cyclists and pedestrians. BCS Inc. submits on behalf of its membership that approval of the application will result in:

- severe degradation of an environmentally significant section of remnant coastal vegetation - (the last in Bayside not affected by man-made infrastructure) of international geological significance and recommended by the Victorian Environment Assessment Council on its recent Melbourne Metropolitan Public Land Study as the site for a new natural features reserve ([Recommendation E4](#)),
- loss of visual amenity in an area of high visual sensitivity (as evidenced by Bayside City Council signage threatening prosecution to persons wantonly destroying bushland - "[tree vandals](#)"),
- breach of the Bayside Planning Scheme Vegetation Protection Overlay [Schedule 1 \(Coastal Areas\)](#) - insufficient evidence that Clause 4 - Decision Guidelines have been considered. i.e. the effect of the proposed removal on habitat value and long term viability of the remnant bushland; the significance of the native vegetation and; alternative options that do not require the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation, with reasons given for the rejection of such options including the reduction of Beach Road lane widths to accommodate the proposal,
- inattention to the decision guidelines of the Bayside Planning Scheme Schedule 1 - [Environmental Significance Overlay](#) - through lack of indicated support of the National Significance of the site,
- inconsistencies with the State Planning Policy [Erosion Management Overlay](#) - it is not demonstrated that removal of mature vegetation and construction of a concrete roadway will not increase the possibility of erosion in an erosion-prone area, and
- breach of the [Transport Integration Act 2010](#) by the construction of a 'transport system' which does not protect, conserve and improve the natural environment, in fact causing harm to it.

For the above reasons, BCS Inc. objects to Application 2012/37/1 and suggests either securing the [provision of space on the existing road reservation](#) to accommodate the luxury of both on-road and adjacent off-road cycling, or that conservation of foreshore reserve bushland take priority over the extension of the Bayside Coastal Trail (path).

Yours sincerely,

Ron Morris  
President