

27 September 2019

**The Mayor and all Councillors  
East Gippsland Shire Council**



**Bullock Island Partnership Proposal Between EGSC & DELWP**

As you will all be aware, there has been considerable discussion, and media attention, within the Lakes Entrance community about the outcome of the Council's deliberations of the Bullock Island Partnership Proposal at its meeting on Tuesday 10 September 2019.

Within our community there is a deep sense of loss that after many years of waiting, the opportunity to finally start a process to develop Bullock Island has been denied by the Council's vote.

I believe that, as President of LEADA, I can speak on behalf of the township when I urge Council to reconsider its 10 September decision, taking into account the effect that your decision will have on our township.

The economic situation within Lakes Entrance has been well documented and addressed to you by LEADA at your 4 June 2019 meeting; you will recall we presented to Council and tabled a document titled "Setting the Agenda for New Infrastructure Developments in Lakes Entrance". In brief, we said the Township was in decline because of several issues including reduced tourism, aging infrastructure and lack of any attention to development. We said that Lakes needs an injection of capital and energy to revitalise the area.

We highlighted that the development of Bullock Island was our number one priority. In identifying this as foremost in our mind, this was not an arbitrary choice made by the LEADA Committee but the outcome of very considerable discussions and surveying within the community, including at the largest ever public meeting that Lakes has ever held. Please do not underestimate the attraction that a developed Bullock Island could have on tourism to our township and to East Gippsland.

At Council's meeting on 10 September 2019, you were presented with a proposal to enter a partnership arrangement which would finally see a staged development of Bullock Island. Under the proposal the Shire would take over development on the island, except for the expensive remediation works to the seawall. Following extensive debate, Council chose to vote down the proposal.

I can only say that your vote was very disappointing. The decision raises the question "how many more reviews, studies, masterplans, promises, undertakings, meetings and assurances will it have to take before the Shire understands the importance of Bullock Island not only to our local community but also to East Gippsland?"

We are not asking you to commit millions of dollars into development immediately. We know that cannot happen. We are asking you to accept responsibility, make a start to develop this important nature feature within East Gippsland and to seek further Federal and State Government funding.

LEADA also requests permission to address the Council at their 8<sup>th</sup> October meeting on Bullock Island.

Councillors, please reconsider your position on Bullock Island.

Yours sincerely

**Bruce Hurley  
President**