

LEADA Infrastructure priorities August 2023

There was a meeting between Darren Chester and the Infrastructure subcommittee lastweek. The list of LEADA priority projects was discussed and actions agreed upon.

Priority Projects (In priority order)

Sports Stadium

LEADA have been advised that the State Government has allocated \$800k for planning and design. This indicates that the size of the project is of the order of \$8M.

No funding has been committed for the construction of the Stadium.

EGSC sees the Sports Stadium as a priority project. EGSC says community consultation will be undertaken as per previous LE projects and via Your Say.

The intended site for the sports stadium is adjacent to the Aquadome.

LEADA believes the Sports stadium should be the town's evacuation centre.

Jemmy's Point Highway and Path

The state of the Jemmy's Point footpath and the slides caused by rain onto the highway detracts from Lakes Entrance spectacular entrance.

The Federal and State Governments have made and unmade commitments to upgrade the footpath and to stabilise the banks adjacent to the highway. LEADA has made several requests to the responsible body Regional Roads Victoria to progress this project without success. Darren believes the Federal money would still be available if the State provides 20% of the funding.

Walks and Trails

Lakes Entrance walks Audit: Funding has been applied for unsuccessfully for an audit of Lakes Entrance walks. An audit is seen as a priority. An audit would include mapping out existing and proposed walks, describe upgrades and maintenance required on existing walks and to set priorities for work to be undertaken.

Krauatungalung Walk: Krauatungalung walk is an important project with strong community support. \$2.2 m funding has been received for the design and stage one construction. Stage one construction has commenced. An additional \$3.6 million dollars is likely to be granted in the near future for Stage 3 (Northern Boardwalk) and stage 4 connecting Eastern Beach to the Northern boardwalk. This funding will not be sufficient to construct Stage 2 the Southern boardwalk.

Jemmy's Point and Bullock Island trails: Work on these trails is currently being undertaken.

Proposed New Trails: (i) Aqua Trail: This trail from Omeo to Nowa Nowa is being promoted by Destination Gippsland. The first stage is the path linking Nyerimilang to Kalimna Jetty

(ii) Discovery Link: The extension of the discovery Link from Rail Trail to CBD has been designed for an estimated cost of \$770,000. Funding applications to date have been unsuccessful.

(iii) Lake Tyers Beach to Eastern Beach: This trail would use existing pathways. Though recommended no plans are in place.

Council's Palmers Road site This site has been discussed by the community during the last three decades. This multi-million-dollar site is underutilised. There have been several suggestions as to its use including a convention centre, an arts complex with display space and meeting rooms, a health.

facility, botanical gardens and an emergency services centre. The size of the property would allow more than one use. A study to explore its use has been on and off the Council agenda for years.

Projects being constructed or with funds allocated

Bullock Island Works is progressed on both the masterplan and Café. Works are scheduled to be finished by Christmas holidays.

Slipway: Progress is well advanced. Construction will be before the summer period. This is a site for markets, entertainment and events.

Playground next to footbridge: Construction will now commence in the winter 2024 and be completed prior to 2024 summer holidays.

Marine Parade: Detailed design is in progress for the \$1.2m stage of the project. Money has been allocated for boat ramp upgrades. It seems unlikely that funding for the next stage will be allocated in the near future.

Myer St: Design has been issued to consultant pending community consultation feedback.

Other Projects

Jemmy's Point Lookout: As yet there has been no funding applications for the major lookout at Jemmy's Point. Improvements to Rotary Park has commenced including new toilet block, picnic area and landscaping.

Gippsland Lakes Cultural and Discovery Centre: Funding for a feasibility study for a Gippsland Lakes Cultural and Discovery Centre was unsuccessful. A new funding application will be made.

Mechanics Hall: Upgrade of Mechanics Hall has been on the agenda for some time. A major upgrade is linked to plans for Palmers Road

Small Projects

Boat Ramps: EGSC has agreed to and registered the names of the three Boat Ramps in the North Arm. They will be known as Skate Park Boat Ramp, Marine Parade Boat Ramp and the War Memorial Boat Ramp.

Church St Pedestrian Crossing. Council will be undertaking a safety audit.

The Spit: Establishment of a picnic area near the beach has been on the agenda for some time.

Town signage: Rotary has been approached to upgrade welcome signs at either end of the town.

Actions arising from meeting with Darren Chester

These actions will be reported for endorsement at the LEADA committee meeting. I will expand on these at the LEADA meeting. Ran out of time to write them up!

- (i) Focus on a campaign to ensure Sports Stadium gets constructed in the near future.
- (ii) Darren will follow up on Commonwealth funds for Jemmy's Point footpath and highway and for the Eastern Beach intersection.
- (iii) Darren will research background of Palmer's Road. Need to apply pressure to get development plan for the site with community input.

Bruce