



Harmers Haven Residents and Ratepayer Group: Friends of Harmers Haven (HHRG)
2020 Bass Coast Council Election
Candidate Questionnaire
Leticia Laing

- 1. What do you consider the single most important Bunurong Ward issue that Council should address:**

Immediately

Post-COVID recovery for our local tourism and hospitality industry should be our most urgent focus at the moment. That doesn't mean to say we can't walk and chew gum, there's significant planning concerns that are occurring at the moment that need to be addressed. With regard to Harmers Haven,

Over the next 6-12 months

Council need to do more work around coastal erosion planning, mitigation and adaptation. The

Over the next 4 year term



2. How important do you consider the following issues to be for small coastal communities in Bunurong Ward

	Not very important	Important	Very important
Town expansion			X
Infrastructure quality			X
Preservation of existing local character			X
Native vegetation/habitat depletion			X
Coastal erosion			X
Wildfire threat		X	
Invasive species eradication (flora & fauna)		X	
Other (please specify) Local business support		X	
Social Housing			X

3 (a) Do you consider current planning policies and controls in Bass Coast Shire are adequate for addressing the issues you regard as important to Bunurong Ward?

Not sure

It is something I am keen to learn a lot more about because there seem to be numerous concerns from the community regarding developers overstepping town boundaries and potentially impacting natural bush reserves. This includes a situation on the edge of Baxter's Heathland where a developer had not complied with certain conditions from their original application but were looking to continue developing more areas.

With regard to Harmers Haven, it is most definitely something that needs to be investigated further – and this is in a state of flux as a result of the State government Distinctive Area Planning which is currently underway.



(b) If no, what changes would you propose.

(c) Would you support a policy that would require Council always to notify affected residents/landowners of a planning application?

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Yes – If elected, this kind of tool would help me learn more about the community sentiment on new developments.

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No

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Not sure

4. The Victorian government is currently developing a plan for an extended coastal walk through the newly created Yallock Bulluk Marine and Coastal Park, running from San Remo to Inverloch. The HHRRG believes that the main route should not come through Harmers Haven for foreshore protection and community amenity reasons, a view supported by the Bass Coast Coastal Alliance (representing some 1,000 members from Bass Coast resident groups & associations).

Do you agree with this position?

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Yes – there are more opportunities for the broader community – in particular Wonthaggi, if the coastal walk entered Bass Coast's regional centre.

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No

☐

Not sure



5. The Bass Coast Shire Council is supporting a proposal for the creation of a Dinosaur Trail running between San Remo and Inverloch. It will involve the creation of seven (7) art works and related information centres/points. Where do you think these works would be best located

Away from the coast at central locations?

I'm concerned about the \$250,000 masterplan for this dinosaur trail and how it will effectively align with the Yallock Bulluk Marine and Coastal Park. In particular whether this Dinosaur Trail will detract from other significant aspects of that area including the Bunurong's Aboriginal history and heritage as well as areas of natural environmental significance. I don't understand how the council has invested only \$40,000 into a masterplan for a sorely needed community hub for Wonthaggi and \$250,000 on a masterplan for a dinosaur trail with sculptures.

6. The HHRRG has expressed an interest in seeing a walking/cycling lane created along Berry's Road to increase safe options for pedestrian/cyclist movement between Wonthaggi and Harmers Haven.

Would you support such a proposal?

Yes – as long as it preserves the integrity of the HH village.

7. Harmers Haven is currently experiencing increased traffic volumes and speeds as residential density grows. Would you support the reduction of speed limits along Berrys Road, Old Boilers Road, Viminaria Road, Oleara Street and Wares Lane to help mitigate the impacts of this trend (protected species road kill, dust, risks to pedestrians - particularly children - and pets).

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Yes

No

☐

Not sure



8. Do you support Bass Coast Shire Council's Climate Emergency declaration?

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Yes

No

Not sure

If you do support the Climate Emergency declaration, what do you think the Council's

I am a core group member of the Bass Coast Climate Action Network and have worked at length to ensure the Bass Coast Shire Council and broader community takes the Climate Crisis seriously. Council has a significant Climate Action Plan but I am keen to work with community groups including BCCAN to fill in the recognised gaps including developing a food strategy for the community to coordinate local food production and reduce our need for carbon intensive food. I'd also like to work more closely with the agricultural sector to increase economic opportunities from carbon farming and potentially other enterprises that help reduce carbon emissions.

top priorities should be to reduce carbon emissions? If not why not?

End.