



# Response to Cuttriss Street Activity Area Plan

Prepared for Bass Coast Shire Council

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Background:

This document provides a formal response to the Cuttriss St Activity Plan. During the process, the club has met and consulted with its members, local community and key stakeholders, and developed this response accordingly.

### Club History and Context:

From humble beginnings back in 2010, the Inverloch Windsurfing Club started with the membership base of 6 people. Five years later the club has grown to over 200 members making it one of the largest windsurfing clubs in the world.

### Membership Growth



IWC members that are Bass Coast Shire ratepayers- 33

Windsurfing has a thirty five year connection with the Angling Club carpark and the Cuttriss Street foreshore. For the past five years, the Club has called this beach it's traditional home. In addition to the informal and social sailing whenever it is windy, the Club runs monthly events and activities from this location. Anderson Inlet has been identified as one of the best windsurfing locations in Australia. It's sandbars open water and exposure to the prevailing southerly winds make it a fantastic location to learn and then advance windsurfing skills. Guy Cribb, nine times British Windsurfing Champion and International Coach, runs clinics in UK, Europe, USA and Australia, and rates the Inlet as one of the best windsurf training locations that he has ever visited. For the past three years, Guy has run his world famous "Intuition" Windsurfing Clinics in Inverloch, and with countless hours of volunteer support from the Club, he intends to include this location in his annual training isn't itinerary.

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## INVERLOCH WINDSURFING CLUB

### Core Values:

#### Statement of Purpose & Core Values

The Inverloch Windsurfing Club has been established to:

1. Develop and promote windsurfing as a sport amongst its members and the wider community.
2. Create an environment where members feel part of a community, and can undertake their sport in a setting that is friendly, inclusive and safe.
3. Generate a platform for events that provide members of all abilities with the opportunity to participate in the sport.
4. Provide a social and fun mechanism for maintaining health, wellbeing and fitness.
5. Become a strong advocate which ensures that windsurfing is adequately represented on all relevant planning policies.

Most of all we have a passion for windsurfing, the wind, the waves and the ocean. We continue to passionately develop our sport in Inverloch for all to enjoy.



### Strategic Plan:

At the end of 2013, IWC released its' Strategic Plan 2014-16. According to the Plan,

***The biggest challenge facing the IWC is access to a facility to utilise as its clubrooms & home base. Windsurfing traditionally has been a transient sport where participants have travelled where ever the***

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*wind, waves & water take them. The IWC, with a growing membership base, have now established a need to become embedded within the Inverloch community, and as such one of the most important areas of this Strategic Plan is the need to secure access to facilities for training, participating in club activities and the associated equipment required to cater for club growth.*

(Page 3, IWC Strategic Plan)

More specifically, Key Objective Two outlines the following:

#### **Club Facilities**

**Secure access to a facility to be a home base for the club, its members and the associated equipment required to cater for club growth**

- 1. Initiate discussions and maintain open communication channels with Bass Coast Shire, Anderson Inlet Angling Club and South Gippsland Yacht Club with regard to access to facilities around the Anderson Inlet foreshore. Timeline – Ongoing as needed**
- 2. Investigate possible funding opportunities available to assist with possible development of a multi-use community facility. Timeline – Ongoing as needed**
- 3. Advocate for improved community access to public facilities in line with Bass Coast Shire Council's Cuttriss Street Activity Area Master Plan (Dev April 2009) Timeline - Ongoing as needed**
- 4. Partner with Inverloch Tourism Association in promoting the need for more & improved community facilities in Cuttriss Street Activity Area. Timeline - Ongoing as needed**
- 5. Develop a strategy to provide and maintain an appropriate and effective amount of club owned equipment (including sailing, land based & safety equipment) for IWC membership. Timeline – Ongoing as needed**

(Page 13, IWC Strategic Plan)

#### **Future development:**

In May, eight members from the Club undertook the formal RYA Windsurf instructor training course. This is an internationally recognised qualification. As a result of the strong commitment to development and training, IWC has been approached by Yachting Australia to become the first discover windsurfing centre. The centre has the potential to become one of a handful of recognised training hubs which will service not only the general community, but also Windsurf/ Sailing Instructors from all over Australia. Should the Discover Windsurfing Centre become a reality, there will be significant flow on economic and social benefits to the Inverloch community.

#### **Response to Proposed Plan:**

General comments:

IWC wholeheartedly endorses the development of the Cuttriss St Precinct. With reference to the Proposed Plan, we make the following comments:

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Points	Comment
1	Public toilets are desperately needed in this area. We are unsure, however, that the proposed location is the most practical and cost effective approach to the provision of these amenities. Any construction should consider the requirements and needs of all user groups who use this area, and the possibility of developing a shared community space which accommodates multiple sports/community clubs. The partnering of community groups and recognised sports clubs in the development of a Shared Facility opens up access to DTPLI (SRV) funding through the Community Facility Funding Scheme.
2	The current car park arrangement works extremely effectively and whilst there may be a need to seal the surface, there is no need to implement structured marked parking bays. Some of our club members choose to carry their windsurf equipment in trailers, and require flexibility in parking arrangements. This is also the case with caravaners- who frequently use the carpark area before checking in (or out) of the local caravan parks. Drainage is a problem that needs to be addressed. The existing rock drain at the Southern end of the carpark is not low enough to adequately drain the car park in heavy peak rain periods.
3	This area should remain an open area for kayak set up, kite surf rigging and an open space area. It should be noted that this area is used by Inverloch Adventures in setting up their range of hire craft.
4	As above
5	This path is already been built as far as the Cuttriss St carpark and is well used. there would be no objection to extending this path to Screw Creek.
6	No comment
7	Adequate seating would be a welcome addition to this area.
8	We object to the construction of any boardwalk structure. The current structures at the end of Cuttriss St and at the rotunda are constantly threatened by water movement and erosion, and the subsequent upkeep and maintenance in the structures every time they get washed away is not a good use of ratepayers money. Flexible matting is a far better alternative- allowing for natural sand movement whilst providing an accessible surface. We would like to highlight an issue specific to our sport. For safety, windsurfers rig their sails on the sheltered side of the dune, and then carry their sails fully rigged from the car park to the shoreline-travelling across the sand dune in the process. Any decking or raised walkway structure which has any vertical poles, signs or railings, poses a safety issues since it makes it very difficult to control and manoeuvre a fully rigged sail.
9	No comment
10	This is the main area used for Windsurf Rigging. The introduction of bike racks, native vegetation and a chair in this area would not work with the existing use.
11	This backwater drain contains deep water and is un-fenced. There should be consideration given to public safety in this area.

Points	Comment
12	No comment
13	No comment
14	Any redevelopment should take into consideration the heritage overlay and traditional usage patterns. We would like to highlight that the sport of windsurfing has had a direct connection with this beach for over three and a half decades, and that any design should also consider our affection and affinity with this location.
15	To the best about knowledge, this work has been carried out
16	There is no line of sight view from this area to the car park or to the beach, therefore video surveillance would be ineffective

**Addition Considerations:**

Over the past few months, the Windsurfing Club has highlighted to Council that it urgently requires an area or facility to store it's equipment. At present, the Club's equipment is stored in garages and in the back of member's cars- which is not a practical or long term solution to providing a "local home base" with ease of access for its members or the general community.



**Over the past 4 years, IWC has accumulated a large amount of equipment which is available for community use.**

We strongly believe that any plans for redevelopment should consider the existing buildings, their current utilisation and access for all sporting/community clubs in the area. The proposed site of the toilet block- in the coastal scrub to the west of the carpark, may not necessarily be the best site or the most efficient spend of rate payers money, and from a cost and utilisation perspective, consideration should be given to development of a multi-use shared community asset which incorporates the existing building (the Angling Club), storage for the Windsurfing Club, public amenities and access. We highlight that funding for the construction of shared multi use community spaces is available through the Community Facility Funding scheme.

Within its membership, IWC possesses professional media campaigners, seasoned fund raisers, skilled architects, urban designers, and experienced trades people- who are passionate to see our sport, and the town of Inverloch, to grow and prosper.

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Our Club would love to assist in the design, develop and build of a shared resource- embracing community in the true sense of the word.

**Recommendations:**

On behalf of the IWC Committee, and most importantly, our strong and passionate members, we respectfully forward this formal response for consideration and action.

Craig HOLLINS, IWC Club President

Mick GREEN, IWC Vice President

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## Attachment 1:

Testimonial from Roy Worner- Club member and new Bass Coast Resident,

***When windsurfing in Inverloch we are blessed for choice. you can sail the surf, head out into deeper water, or stay inside the entrance and head to one of the best spots- the Cuttriss Street beach. Here, the continually shifting sandbars provide amazingly flat water, and the access to the water from the Angling Club carpark is great...we are able to safely enjoy our sailing and not get in the way of other beach users. Its fair to say that its become more than just a hobby for my family and I....its become a life changing passion!***

***Last year, we made a major decision to move to the area...So why did I move to Inverloch ? Why did I choose to relocate with my wife and two teenage sons 2.5hrs from Melbourne ?***

***Initially it all began with my wife - a person who has great affection for the country and the outdoor lifestyle. We had visited Inverloch almost every weekend for the last year and a half, me for my saltwater fix be it surfing, sup'ing or windsurfing, with my wife spending hours exploring the area, visiting local community markets or harvesting local nurseries. Great days - albeit with a 4hr return trip through the traffic back through Melbourne.***

***We've made some wonderful friends through the windsurfing Club, and once we had the inspiration to see if our lives could work in regional Victoria, the next step was to secure an income - could we get a job in rural Victoria - everyone warned us that would be a hard road. I am lucky in that my employer allows telecommuting, with my clients all over Victoria. My wife on the other hand managed to not only secure full time employment within 2 weeks of moving to Inverloch - but doing the same specialist job for the same pay as in a metropolitan school !***

***For the boys - well, as soon as they found out they could do Surfing as part of their PE Curriculum at school - it was a done deal ! They are settling well into the local high school, maintaining their grades and enjoying the lifestyle of windsurfing, cricket, football, Surf Life Rescue etc etc. And the only regret I have with moving to Inverloch - why oh why, didn't I do this sooner !***

Roy Worner

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Testimonial from Robert Kenyon, Club member and new Bass Coast Resident,

***Watersports, especially windsurfing, is one of the main reasons we re-located to Inverloch. Inverloch has the potential to be world-class, and just needs a bit of help with facilities, such as equipment storage, toilets and showers. The Inverloch Windsurfing Club is very active, having already provided hundreds of free lessons to visitors. If we continue to promote this sort of activity, it will be a great boon to tourism in this beautiful place.***

Rob Kenyon

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