

INAUGURAL MEETING
OF THE
PORT PHILLIP CONSERVATION COUNCIL
HELD AT THE

BLACK ROCK CIVIC HALL, THURSDAY 19th FEBRUARY, 1970, AT 8 p.m.

Chairman: Mr Charles Moore,
(President, Mordialloc-Beaumaris Coastline Conservation League, acting as Convenors of Meeting)

1. APOLOGIES: Mr Browne, PENINSULA CONSERVATION LEAGUE
Cr E Jack, FRANKSTON COUNCIL
Mr Paul Palmos, SEAFORD FORESHORE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT,
CHELSEA RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

2. PRESENT: WEST ST KILDA & MIDDLE PARK FORESHORE PROTECTION &
PRESERVATION COMMITTEE: - J STEVENS, B SHEPHERDSON,
MISS J TAYLOR (Observer)

BRIGHTON FORESHORE PROTECTION COMMITTEE: - VAL ARNOLD,
MALCOLM WALLACE-MITCHELL, GUY BOYD (O), J WHITE (O)

HAMPTON BEACH ASSOCIATION: - RITA PACKER, CR MAY IVISON,
M GRAHAM (O)

BEAUMARIS TREE PRESERVATION SOCIETY: - BILL RIDLAND, MICHAEL
JOHNSTONE

BLACK ROCK & SANDRINGHAM CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION: -
A EDGAR, JIM QUIRK

MORDIALLOC-BEAUMARIS COASTLINE CONSERVATION LEAGUE: -
CHARLES MOORE, JOHN IGGULDEN, J MOORE (O), HELEN IGGULDEN (O)

PORT PHILLIP ANTI-SEWAGE POLLUTION COMMITTEE: -
RICK OKE, ARNOLD LUBY, B HUMMERSTONE (O)

SEAFORD FORESHORE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT: - Cr Bruce Aitken

SEAFORD LANDSCAPE PRESERVATION GROUP: - William Towers,
Mr Williamson

3. Moved A Luby, seconded J Stevens, that H Iggulden be appointed Minutes Secretary. CARRIED

4. In his brief introductory remarks, the Chairman outlined the background to the formation of the proposed council. Members from 4 separate conservation bodies met in January with a view to forming a council of bayside conservation groups. At this meeting a sub-committee was appointed with J Iggulden as chairman, and J White, R Oke, and B Aitken as members.

All bayside bodies were notified, and each was sent several copies of the SUMMARY OF OBJECTIONS TO THE PIPELINES ACROSS PORT PHILLIP BAY, submitted by the M.B.C.C.L. to the Mordialloc Council, (and all bayside councils), and PROPOSALS FOR A CONSERVATION COUNCIL FOR PORT PHILLIP BAY.

5. Mr J Iggulden: - In this outline of the present conservation situation around Port Phillip, J Iggulden stated that the Bay is almost land-locked, it is shallow, with low coastal plains which are heavily populated, and narrow foreshore reserves which are heavily damaged by this concentration of population.

There are 6 main aspects of Port Phillip Bay: -

1. The Bellarine Peninsula
2. The west and north-west coast
3. The eastern shoreline
4. The Mornington Peninsula
5. The contents- waters, seabeds, reefs, island and tributaries
6. The airs above

He felt that aspects 3 and 5 could be the only ones to concern the council at this stage.

He surveyed the different areas of the eastern shoreline, naming the existing conservation groups known to him, and their problems, including the proposed pipelines from Mordialloc and Brighton. He noted the polluted tributaries which discharge into the Bay: - Werribee River, Little River, Kororoit Creek, Maribyrnong, Yarra, Mordialloc Creek, Patterson River and Kananook Creek, as well as numerous drains, and stated that anti-pollution regulations and laws already exist which only require enforcement for there to be tremendous reduction in pollution.

He analysed the priorities of the differing aspects of conservation:

1. Preservation of the natural state where possible
2. Restoration to the natural state where possible
3. Improvement where 1 and 2 are impossible
4. Utilisation where 1, 2, and 3 are impossible

Damage caused by human use should be made good as it happens; the price of use must be paid by the necessary maintenance. Improper maintenance leads to dereliction, which becomes the justification for takeovers on behalf of private enterprise or public vandalistic-type enterprise. Conservationists are too busy battling for 1, to carry out 2, 3 and 4. A council, such as this proposed council, can concentrate on 1, so that its member bodies can do a lot of 2, 3, and 4.

6. Moved A Luby, seconded B Ridland: - That the name of the Council shall be Conservation Council of Port Phillip.

7. Moved an amendment, R Oke, seconded W Towers: - That the name of the Council shall be **Port Phillip Conservation Council**. A Luby and B Ridland agreed to withdraw the motion, the amendment became the motion, and was carried unanimously.

8. Moved Cr Ivison, seconded A Luby: - That a *pro tem* committee consisting of 7 of the delegates of bodies proposing to participate, be elected and that it be instructed:

- (a) to prepare a draft **constitution** for submission to a general meeting of delegates of all participating bodies within three months, and
- (b) to conduct the affairs of the Council during that period. CARRIED unanimously.

9. Moved J Stevens, seconded B Shepherdson: “That the pro-tem committee shall consist of a President; a Vice-President; an Hon. Secretary; an Hon Treasurer; and three Committee Members: that it shall have power to co-opt up to two additional members; that nominations should now be called for; and the Committee be elected”.

W Towers moved, Mr Williamson seconded that the Committee be publicity officers. After considerable debate on the amendment, it was withdrawn by the proposer and seconder, and the motion was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Moved by W Towers: “That the Committee appoint a publicity officer of the Council”. This motion lapsed for want of a seconder.

10. Election of Office-Bearers.

PRESIDENT: C. Moore. Proposed by A Luby. C Moore declined.
J Iggulden. Proposed by R Packer, M Wallace-Mitchell
Cr B Aitken. Proposed by W Towers. B Aitken declined.
J Iggulden elected.

VICE-PRESIDENT: B Aitken. Proposed Mr Williamson, B Ridland

SECRETARY: R Oke. Proposed M Wallace-Mitchell

TREASURER: M Wallace-Mitchell. Proposed G Boyd, B Shepherdson

COMMITTEE: A Luby. Proposed M Wallace-Mitchell, W Towers
Miss J Taylor. Proposed B Ridland, M Johnstone
J Quirk. Proposed J Iggulden, A Edgar
W Towers: Proposed Williamson, G Boyd
G Boyd: Proposed A Luby, J White

Moved by Cr M Ivison, seconded by R Packer that the Committee as nominated be elected.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Moved by Cr M Ivison, seconded by R Packer that Motion (9) read “and five committee members”.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved by W Towers, seconded J Stevens a vote of thanks to retiring chairman C Moore CARRIED.

The newly elected President took the chair.

11. Consideration of main constitutional provisions:-

Moved A Luby, seconded C Moore that the provisions as printed be accepted and objections from floor be requested. CARRIED.

P4 (b) Moved Cr M Ivison, seconded W Towers:- “That an object of the Council be to work to have a member of this Council appointed to be a member of the Port Phillip Authority.”
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

P5 (c) Membership. Cr Ivison suggested that there should be no group membership, that groups should become public bodies and take full membership; there should be an associate membership with one delegate but no vote. Moved J Stevens, seconded M Johnstone that Cr Ivison’s remarks be noted and considered by the committee. CARRIED.

P5 (c) (ii) Membership: W Towers drew attention to this section, citing [Kananook Creek Association](#), which was publicly formed 13/2/70. Would this body be acceptable for membership? President stated it would come within Port Phillip Bay environs, and that the Committee must make provision in the Constitution for partial membership at least of bodies concerned with tributaries and environs.

Membership. J Iggulden said there could be provisional membership for those in between.

W Towers stated that the SEAFORD LANDSCAPE PRESERVATION GROUP has 5 members only with each member responsible for his section of Seaford and this was a quick and efficient arrangement. Cr Ivison said this was not democracy, and there could be a possible takeover of the Council by a number of little groups if they had 2 delegates each.

B Ridland said that a public body, properly constituted can take over a certain area; a private group can be taken over by a public body; that committee members should be open to public nomination.

Mr Williamson asked how many of the bodies present were public and how many private. There were 5 public bodies, 3 in the process of becoming public, and private groups.

R Packer stated that the [Conservation Council of Victoria](#) grants full membership only to properly constituted bodies.

J Stevens stated there should be 2 types of membership. This Council must not be open to criticism as a vocal, minority pressure group.

Delegates: P5 (d) (ii) Or names of substitute delegates.

(iii) Co-opted members who do not belong to an organisation should not have a vote.
Cr Ivison.

A.G.M.: P6 (g) Six weeks in advance. Cr Ivison.

Subscription: (f) Subscription should be based on type of membership and the no. of delegates.
W Towers.

Council Meetings: P6 (k) (i) There should be a 2/3 majority on all decisions, and no chairman casting vote. W Towers. Decisions would be mainly recommendations. B Ridland.

P7 (m) Executive. Cr Ivison stated that any executive actions between meetings must be reported and confirmed at the next committee meeting. Also, what would happen if 1 committee member acted against the objects of the Council? Suggestions from floor: Vote against him. His club should be informed of the behaviour of their delegate.

Moved C Moore, seconded J Stevens a vote of thanks to the sub-committee for their work in making the meeting possible. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

12. GENERAL BUSINESS: (i) Proposed pipelines across Port Phillip.

(a) [Ethane Pipeline](#).

The President stated that the Minister for Fuel & Power was the responsible minister, and that he had offered to receive a deputation from the M.B.C.C.L., BUT that the deputation might be better from this Council than from the League. B Hummerstone said the fight against the pipelines should be the first action of the Council.

Moved R Packer, seconded A Luby, that the Committee arrange a delegation to the Minister and prepare a submission for circulation to other suitable public people. CARRIED.

(b) Oil Pipeline.

Moved M Wallace-Mitchell, seconded J Stevens: “That, as March 13th was the closing date for objections to be lodged against the application for a permit to own and use a pipeline for crude oil, the delegates here tonight request their member bodies to write as a body, and also individuals to write and object to the proposal.” CARRIED.

M Wallace-Mitchell said there was a tentative booking of the Brighton Town Hall by the B.F.P.C. for a meeting of protest against the pipeline for March 4th. From a general discussion on this meeting the following suggestions were offered from the floor. A Committee meeting of the Council should be held before March 4th, that each member body distribute 50 notices of the meeting, that a press release from the Council be prepared.

J Stevens suggested that newspaper cuttings and information be forwarded to the Secretary of the Council.

R Packer said there should be a Press statement dealing with the formation of the Council, and the Pipeline.

B Humberstone said there had not been any publicity, there should be dodgers about the Brighton meeting, notices in shops, and use should be made of newspaper reports on the oil spillage at Port Melbourne on 13/2/70 with a heading DO YOU WANT TO SWIM IN OIL?

J Stevens had use of a scanning machine to duplicate newspaper photos for the West St Kilda dodgers and offered to produce electronic stencils for duplication.

V Arnold and J Iggulden offered to be responsible for duplication of 6000 copies each.

PORT PHILLIP ANTI SEWAGE POLLUTION COMMITTEE offered to help with distribution in Brighton, also WEST ST KILDA, MORDIALLOC-BEAUMARIS COASTLINE CONSERVATION LEAGUE, BEAUMARIS TREE PRESERVATION, HAMPTON BEACH ASSOCIATION.

BRIGHTON F. P. C. will be in charge of distribution, and other groups are to contact V Arnold 92-6052 to be allocated areas.

Press coverage was discussed, with each body mentioning its favoured press contacts, as much publicity should be gained in addition to the official press release.

UNLISTED GENERAL BUSINESS:

(a) B Aitken stated that the SEAFORD FORESHORE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT was meeting and would ratify the formation of Port Phillip Conservation Council.

(b) C Moore suggested that the Council attempt to contact Cr Dale Straughan, who was scheduled to address 600 oil men at Surfers Paradise next month, with a view to enlisting support for our submission.

MEETING CLOSED: 11.50 p.m.