



# PORT PHILLIP CONSERVATION COUNCIL INC.

Tel +61359871583  
+61405825769  
A0020093K Victoria  
ABN 46 291 176 191

info@ppcc.org.au  
www.ppcc.org.au  
16th October 2006

## PPCC Inc. Policy Statement No. 16

### Camping and Caravan Use on Coastal Reserves and Land Abutting Port Phillip

#### SUMMARY:

Further expansion of the area of land permitted for camping or caravanning, which inherently degrades the natural values of the areas involved, should not be permitted, and no new sites should be developed on coastal reserves, or land abutting Port Phillip, for camping or caravanning. Proposals to extend or intensify camping or caravan parks on Port Phillip coastal reserves and land abutting Port Phillip conflict with PPCC Inc. Policy Statements Nos. 5 and 7.

#### DETAIL:

**Examples of Existing Camping and Caravan Areas:** The examples below provide a very large number of sites.

Site	Place	Nature of Use	Melway Reference
Royal Park	Point Lonsdale	Camping	235H8
Queenscliff Recreation Reserve	Queenscliff	Camping	236G7
St Leonards Camping Area 5	St Leonards	Camping	241J9
St Leonards Camping Area 3	St Leonards	Camping	241J7
Batman Park	Indented Head	Camping	240K10
Anderson Reserve	Indented Head	Camping	240H7
Portarlington Holiday Park	Portarlington	Camping and caravans	239C1
Sands Caravan Park	Leopold	Camping and caravans	454H8
Pelican Shores Caravan Park (formerly Seabrae)	Leopold	Camping and caravans	454D7
Dromana Foreshore Camping Area	Dromana	Camping	159E7
RACV Caravan Club Foreshore Reserve Caravan Park	Blairgowrie	Camping and caravans	157G12
Sorrento Foreshore Reserve	Sorrento	Camping and caravans	157D9

**Adverse Consequences:** Camping and caravan use has unfortunately been permitted on some coastal reserves for many years, and that has had increasingly undesirable and insidious consequences for the natural values of those reserves. Those consequences include building and expansion of access roads, water supply, power lines, lighting fixtures, sewage disposal and toilet blocks, and car parks; damage to and loss of indigenous vegetation; and reduction in biodiversity, all contributing to impairment of coastal landscape and general public amenity.

Caravan parks at Leopold have also been allowed to be established on certain freehold land that abuts the high water mark of Port Phillip, and that use, close to the edge of the sea, has significantly impaired the coastal landscape there.

**Future Management:** The demand for camping and caravan use should be met equitably by balloting for spaces. The policing of behaviour and damage should involve briefing, education and the passing of a test of knowledge of rules before each season's use, similar to the courses required for duck hunting, and bonds and fines sufficient to provide for a high standard of care and respect for the sites, with offenders being banned for appropriately long periods.

Every opportunity should be taken to reduce the area of public land being used for camping and caravanning, by rationalization of space, and discontinuance of any unsewered, redundant or uneconomic facilities. Accurate centralized records of site use should be maintained, and if a given number of individual camp or caravan spaces happen to be unused in a given year the relevant area should be permanently reduced and revegetated by that number of the sites closest to the sea.

**ADOPTION:** This PPCC Inc. Policy Statement No. 16 was adopted by a General Meeting of Port Phillip Conservation Council Inc. on 16th October 2006.

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