

15 March 2015

Mr Adrian Robb
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Bayside City Council
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Comments on Bayside City Council's Draft Walking Strategy

Dear Mr Robb,

Beaumaris Conservation Society Inc. (BCS Inc.) makes the following comments on the above draft Strategy, which appears at www.bayside.vic.gov.au/caring_for_bayside/Draft_Walking_Strategy.htm

BCS Inc. strongly supports the Strategy's declared aim, which is a long overdue initiative, and acknowledges that it contains many good intentions, but BCS Inc. has to draw the Council's attention to certain of its unsatisfactory aspects. Those aspects are unfortunately consistent with the unduly and highly urbanizing tone of the Strategy [its cited website](#) evinces. Some examples of those aspects are:

Page 21 "... In 2006, there was 4.8 hectares of open space per 1000 people but this is forecasted (sic) to decrease to 4.6 hectares in 2016, and 4.3 hectares in 2026." ... That bleak commentary on the [Sao Paulo](#) model that Melbourne is heading for is presented fatalistically, and not as an alarm for action.

Page 32 "Zone 6 The Foreshore: ... There are significant variations between the north and the south: the north has good landscaping, is well maintained and has more supporting facilities - it is a generally attractive walking environment; the south is *less well-maintained and landscaped, and lacks supporting infrastructure*. The *unsealed path in Beaumaris is obstructed by overgrown vegetation and felt unsafe to walk after dark.* ...," Contrasting Bayside's north with its south in that disparaging way reveals an attitude that seriously misunderstands the strong appeal of as natural a foreshore as possible. Those slurs on the south and Beaumaris should be omitted. Some places in Bayside should be left to wildlife after dark.

Page 44 Strategy 4. Create a legible (sic) walking environment. Aspects of this strategy, which suggest more and bigger signage, drawing on inner urban photographic examples from Port Phillip municipality, Moreton Bay near Brisbane, and the overdevelopment of Brighton in the UK, need challenging. Why not rely more on the example set by Australia's better National Parks Services in the way they very unobtrusively and sparingly avert much greater problems with people's movements in National Parks? BCS Inc. has often suggested to the Council it should use [mobile phone tags](#) on signs to reduce clutter on them, and provide much more searchable and downloadable information that is readily updatable.

Bayside's foreshore is so narrow that only an unaccompanied infant is ever going to get lost there, as others will soon find their way back to Beach Road. A redeeming quality at the moment is the opportunity in its best parts to not see signs or writing for a reasonable time. Doing without the crutch of [constant written directions](#) is a way to encourage and increase people's resourcefulness, and sense of discovery. Our cities need areas that contrast with the regimented nature of our commercial and high-density areas.

Page 56 The Weatherall Rd – Reserve Rd Intersection (it is actually a junction). This traffic lights proposal would needlessly urbanize that junction, like Council's recent plan to nibble away unconcreted road verge in [Reserve Road](#) etc, which led to BCS Inc's [Campaign 2014A on uncalled-for concreting](#).

Yours sincerely,

Adrian Cerbasi
President
Beaumaris Conservation Society Inc.

cc. The Mayor and Councillors, Bayside City Council; the local MLAs, MLCs and newspapers.