



BULLETIN

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Beaumaris Conservation Society Inc

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The [Aim](#) of the Society is to work for better conservation, particularly that of the Beaumaris area.

Proposed Concourse Master Plan would pave a quarter of the Concourse Green



Concept 5 of the Concourse Master Plan shows extensive paving

The [Concourse Master Plan](#) that consultants are preparing for Bayside City Council to consider has an expenditure budget of some \$300,000 of ratepayers' funds, and relates to all the public land in the Beaumaris Concourse.

Beaumaris Conservation Society Inc's [main issue](#) with the Plan relates to the Concourse Green, which is the quarter hectare of public open space at the western edge, bounded in part by Reserve Road, and North and South Concourse.

The Concourse is a fine, distinctive shopping centre. Its outstanding visual feature is the Concourse Green, a substantial area of wholly unpaved land that contrasts superbly with the busy, intensely-utilized

commercial area next to it.

That long established co-existence of useful commerce with a decently unfragmented and fully green space reminds people that they are in Beaumaris. It still has features like that, which is a key reason why people so love this suburb.

The [plan at left](#) shows six large stone slabs on the very large paved area (25% of the Green) on the north-east corner, plus an extensive roof for 'shelter'. Shops and cafes give plenty of shelter for the few times when it might be too sunny or too wet for some, without losing year-round green space just for those short times.

The Concourse Green has 58 mature Australian native trees, which are pleasingly set on a large area of mown grass. That contrasts with the far too much of Beaumaris that is being covered with masonry and paving at the expense of the grass and trees that Beaumaris is rapidly losing.

The plan proposes replacement of existing seats and fittings with more attractive ones, which is not unreasonable, but there is no justification for the gratuitous parallel pair of paved pathways diagonally across the Green, or the 'stepping stones' at the south-east.

The grass on the Green's flat sandy surface is kept well mown, and is enjoyable and safe to walk across without any hard paving whatsoever.

The Master Plan has good proposals for the public land of the Concourse to the east of the Concourse Green, but proposals for 'art' on blank walls would add to visual clutter, and a southern 'entrance archway' seems vulgar.

BCS Inc. successfully campaigned against a traders' proposal in 2002 to build a car park on 58% of the Concourse Green, and against a concrete skateboard in 2004-5, which Bayside City Council - after conducting public consultations about two other sites - eventually built on a far better site near the football club building at Donald MacDonald Reserve.

State of marina proposal for Beaumaris Bay

Since the successful 2015 Fossil Event, which attracted over a thousand people, opposition to a marina for Beaumaris Bay has continued.

In late 2015, three members of the BCS Inc. Management Committee accepted the invitation of the Commodore of BMYS Ltd, Brian McNaughton, to discuss the marina proposal with him and two other BMYS office-bearers. They said that they now want their earlier proposed 500 metre length of dumped rock walls to instead be a similar length of re-inforced concrete wave screen wall, like those at Sandringham and [Blairgowrie](#).

In February 2016, the Greens Upper House member for Southern Metropolitan Region, Sue Pennicuik MLC, spoke in Parliament [calling on the Minister](#) not to renew the BMYS Ltd's current 21-year lease when it expires in 2018.

Also in that month, a consortium, including BCS Inc, led by the President of the Sandringham Foreshore Association, Assoc. Professor Vicki Kotsirilos AM, lodged with the federal Environment Department a very substantial application for National Heritage listing for Beaumaris Bay.



In April 2016, Museum Victoria announced the discovery at the Beaumaris Fossil Site of a 300 mm long [fossil of the tooth](#) of an extinct Giant Killer Sperm Whale, shown in the photograph at left, which is the largest whale tooth ever found in Australia. That discovery adds to the significance of the Fossil Site.

Council policy on constructing footpaths

BCS Inc's [Campaign 2014A](#), '*Keeping more of our nature strips green*', has recently had input to Bayside City Council's development of a policy on the construction of paved footpaths in streets where there is not such a footpath on both sides of the street. There are 31 streets of that type in Beaumaris.

There are good, often different, reasons why those streets would not benefit from more paving. They are usually quiet streets with little traffic. Many have a paved footpath along one side that residents consider quite adequate. Running and walking paths along golf links frontages are more pleasant when unpaved.

Planning matters and submissions

Late last year, public involvement with Bayside City Council's proposed [Amendment C140](#) to the Bayside Planning Scheme began with the Council's inviting written submissions from the public. BCS Inc's submission was one of the third of all submissions that supported the proposal, and the other two-thirds opposed it.

The main measure in Amendment C140 was the setting of a minimum 400 m² lot size for all future subdivisions of residential land, but there were other supportive measures for larger minimum setbacks, private open space, and permeability.

In December 2015, the Council held a Special Meeting on Amendment C140 to hear oral presentations from the public. The 44 speakers were equally divided for and against C140, but the Council voted 4 to 3 to adopt the proposal.

A Planning Panel the Planning Minister set up then considered C140. BCS Inc. members and many Beaumaris residents addressed the Panel in support of C140, but the Panel's report in June 2016 recommended that the proposal be abandoned. It is expected that the Council will develop its response soon.