

29th December 2007

Ms Amy Weir  
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Dear Amy,

**Final Comments after Meeting of Consultative Group on Possible Alignments  
of Bayside Bicycle Road between Cromer and Charman Roads**

As representatives of Beaumaris Conservation Society Inc, we appreciated the further discussion of what was learnt from the earlier walk with you and other Council officers that have been developing proposals for the siting of the above bicycle road extension. Our comments following that meeting are shown below and should be considered together with the points we made in our previous [letter to you dated 11th December 2007](#).

**Need for a Specific Beach Road Reservation Plan:** It seemed to be agreed at the above meeting that Council's unanimous resolution to again approach both VicRoads and its Minister seeking space on the Beach Road reservation for as much as possible of the proposed bicycle road extension was a possible way to avoid or minimize incursion into the bushland reserve. We made the point there that Council staff had prepared a detailed, measured route for a "meandering" bicycle road through the bushland, but there is a lack of a similarly detailed specific proposal for use of the Beach Road Reservation, even though that is the first preference option of Bayside City Council's Black Rock/Beaumaris Foreshore Master Plan ([Map 4 Action 11H](#)), and the only other option endorsed by that Master Plan is a back-of-kerb route. A "meandering" route fragmenting bushland has fortunately not yet gained any endorsement.

We consider that lack to be a serious deficiency, as there is no expectation that VicRoads would be motivated to instigate an on-road plan, so all VicRoads would be considering is the general idea of altering the present road layout to provide room for something that is not their specific responsibility. It is much more likely that a specific well-thought out proposal would succeed than a general unspecified desire. The BCS Inc. Web site shows a [possible new Safety Section layout, with the bicycle road on it](#), and BCS Inc. is actively raising such a proposal with each of our six representatives in State Parliament. We ask Council to develop its own version to propose to VicRoads, please.

**Late December Storms Demonstrate Vulnerability of Isolated Strips:** It was our distinct impression at the meeting that the poor long-term viability of isolated narrow strips of treed land was recognized, and that the removal of an edge strip of trees was seen as the lesser of two evils. The havoc that last week's storms of fierce wind and rain deluges wreaked on the strip of trees fronting the Council's Community Nursery in Reserve Road, Cheltenham, was a potent warning of how easily such narrow strips of trees can be largely blown over. See the photograph below.

**Further Work on Possible Split Path & Dismounting:** We said in our previous letter that there are places where a 4 metre-wide swathe would unnecessarily condemn certain special trees, so there should be a split path, or [dismounting zones](#) where cyclists are required to make their personal contribution to tree protection by accepting some slight inconvenience by being required to dismount to allow a narrower width in order to save those trees.

We think it desirable that Council's plans for an alternative route, if a road reservation route becomes conclusively and absolutely unavailable, should respect and be confined to the second preference option of *Bayside City Council's Black Rock/Beaumaris Foreshore Master Plan* ([Map 4 Action 11H](#)), which is the back-of-kerb use of the grass roadside verge together with some of the edge of the vegetated reserve, and is the only option other than the use of the Beach Road reservation that is prescribed in that Master Plan. That back-of-kerb option should be refined to include as many examples as practicable of where such split path, dismounting zones, or other special treatments or exceptions could save significant trees.

Yours sincerely,

Adrian Cerbasi  
President

Geoffrey Goode  
Treasurer



**Aftermath of destruction wreaked by a December 2007 storm on the roadside row of trees on Bayside Council land on the south-west corner of Reserve and Talinga Roads, Cheltenham, just north of its Community Plant Nursery (Melway 77D12). Many Coastal Tea-trees, Drooping She-okes and Eucalypts fell, as they would on a “meandering” bicycle road’s thin strip.**