

Ms Jeanette Blackwood  
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Dear Ms Blackwood,

## Comment on Draft Bathing Box Policy

2007-12-19

I enclose our completed response to the Draft Bathing Box Policy Survey, and also a suggested altered version of the draft policy. I shall have these emailed to you, with changes we have included in the altered version of the draft policy viewable in markup mode. The main changes suggested are as follows.

**Deletion of references to BBBA Inc:** Our Society considers that private structures on public foreshore land represent unjustifiable exclusive occupancy of that public land and should, unless subject to State or Federal heritage protection, be phased out, and that it is highly inappropriate for a private organization concerned with defending such occupancy to be referred to in a Council policy document on this subject. [BBBA Inc.](#) should be treated as any other body making representations or having dealings with Council on this matter, and not be privileged in any way.

**Section 2.0 - Uses:** A prohibition on the storage or use of musical instruments, amplifying equipment or other items used for the generation of sound or noise should apply.

**Section 6.1 - Maintenance Requirements:** There should not be an explicit exhortation for licensees to maintain their structures *"to ensure they contribute to the scenic interest of the reserve"*, as such a message is prone to gross misinterpretation given the wide range of taste among owners, and likely difference in perceptions between the owners and other members of the public. It is much safer to retain and rely on the warning given that premises must not detract from the landscape.

**Section 6.2 – Asbestos Removal:** This should be strengthened so that not just "exposed" asbestos, but any known asbestos must be removed in accordance with the stated requirements. If the public has to wait for asbestos to be exposed before it is removed that can be too late, as it is potentially highly dangerous from the moment it is exposed.

**Section 6.4 – Reconstruction and Relocation:** Reconstruction, as opposed to repair, amounts to continued occupancy of scarce public foreshore land by structures that once reconstructed are no longer the original structure, and therefore have only spurious heritage value. The whole concept of the structures is related to obsolete social practices on beaches and the physical reminder of those practices ought to be removed when the original genuine fabric is no longer viable.

Relocation of structures to other sites removes the original associations of the structure with its altered environment, and undesirably imposes it on another site that has had the benefit of being unencumbered by such private occupation, and should remain so unencumbered in the public interest.

Yours sincerely,

Adrian Cerbasi, President  
Beaumaris Conservation Society Inc.