

## **Arthurs Seat Eagle Local Community Reference Group (LCRG) Meeting Notes**

Meeting – 14 October 2025 at 2.00pm

Held at ASE Summit Board Room

### **Attendees**

- Topsy Petchey (TP – Chair)
- Matthew Mulkearns (MM – ASE)
- Craig Thomson (CT)
- Susan McNab (SMc)
- Lysette Ashford (LA – SOS)
- Anne Shaw (AS)
- David Proctor (DP)
- Ross Kilborn (RK)
- Jodi Vermaas (JV)
- Angela Cleland – CEO, Mornington Peninsula Regional Tourism (MPRT)

### **Observers**

- Erica Moloney (Acting Secretary / Note-taker)

### **1. Ecology and Site Walk**

Craig Thompson led a site walk highlighting the cultural and ecological significance of kangaroos and local biodiversity. He opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement to Country.

Craig noted that for the Bunurong/Boon wurrung people, the kangaroo—*Koem*—is an important totem, and referenced the Yuin Declaration recognising kangaroos as intelligent, social animals with deep connections to Country.

Craig informed members Kangaroos contribute to the ecosystem through seed dispersal and nutrient cycling, helping sustain the “songlines” that link all living things. He encouraged members to “stop, look and listen” to appreciate local wildlife, noting that hollow-bearing trees function as vital habitats supporting over 100 species. He also discussed plants such as the Cherry Ballart, culturally known as “children of the bush,” and reflected on the linguistic and cultural heritage of local place names like Tootgarook. His talk underscored the

importance of respecting Indigenous knowledge, conserving habitat, and fostering connection with nature for community and mental wellbeing.

## **2. Opening Formalities (TP – Chair)**

### **Welcome**

TP welcomed attendees and thanked Craig Thompson for leading the site walk and ecological presentation and noted some of her own learnings from the walk.

### **Introductions And Apologies**

TP spoke to a full agenda and with MM noted the following apologies.

- MPS Mayor Anthony Marsh
- Deputy Mayor Paul Pingiaro
- Parks Victoria
- Minister Sonya Kilkenny
- Department of Planning
- Department of Environment and Tourism
- Minister Steve Dimopoulos
- Minister Sam Groth

MM noted invitations to Ministers and Departments; written apologies received due to active application and scheduling constraints.

### **Recording of Meeting**

Chair confirmed the session was recorded to assist accurate transcription and representation of meeting notes.

Erica Moloney introduced herself as acting secretary to the meeting and note taker for this meeting.

## **3. Conflicts of Interest**

No new conflicts of interest were declared.

## **4. Mornington Tourism & ASE Upgrade – Angela Cleland, Mornington Peninsula**

### ***Regional Tourism (MPRT)***

TP introduced Angela Cleland. Each member introduced themselves and noted their areas of interest.

Angela Cleland introduced herself and provided background information on her earlier career. Angela then provided a detailed presentation ([click here](#)) and led a question-and-answer session on Mornington Peninsula tourism. Key points presented included:

- MPRT is the main connection back to State Government and the visitor economy network enabler rather than controller of tourism.
- Three-pronged strategy: Generate Demand; Improve Visitor Experience; Help Business Grow (industry capability, advocacy, signage/amenity).
- Brand Mornington Peninsula sits with MPRT. Partnerships with Visit Victoria, Tourism Australia, Shire, business events bodies.
- Use of mobility data to understand visitation and dispersal. Approx 40% of visits are VFR (visiting friends/relatives).
- MP is #1 for day trips; strategic goal is to shift to 2.5 nights average to sustain jobs year-round (winter/shoulder focus).
- Destination Management Plan aligns to Experience Victoria 2033.
- Programs referenced: Go Beyond Melbourne (international dispersal) and Drive Victoria (packaging/deals).
- MPRT emphasised sustainable tourism is the key driver of MTRB support and if a project does not meet standards and /or is inconsistent with regional values and the defined Destination Management Plan it will not be supported by MPTB.
- Members discussed environmental balance, dispersal, and coordination with ASE activities.
- Historic shuttle bus trials between different attractions has proved challenging with ongoing advocacy around transport and managed itineraries required.

#### **Action items:**

- MPRT to return in the new year to brief on the Visitor Journey Report.
- In an aim to be more specific about impacts of ASE Upgrades to Mornington Peninsula tourism, members will be encouraged to forward specific questions to TP/MM for MPRT response.
- ASE and MPRT to explore opportunities to involve LCRG in industry collaboration sessions.

#### **4. Actions Arising from Previous Meeting**

- MM provided an update on the Table of Actions arising from previous meetings [Click here](#) for listed actions

#### **5. Updated Renders & Artist Impressions (Introduced by MM – ASE)**

- Prior to showing the latest rendering and artists impressions, a member voiced concern that new renderings had been published on social media prior to being

presented to the LCRG despite previous agreement that communications materials with new information would be shared with the LCRG prior to publication

- MM explained that the distribution of some of the new images featured in the 5<sup>th</sup> Edition of the community update newsletter which was letterboxed dropped two days ahead of schedule. He explained other images that would be shown in today's session were being presented for the first time
- MM presented new render pack and floor-plan visuals.
- Members provided feedback that some of the images presented could be misinterpreted by showing aspects that may not be delivered or misrepresented the real vista people would see. While acknowledging images were renderings and artists impressions, members asked ASE to ensure images were community-legible perspectives, and to remove aspects that could be misinterpreted

**Action items:**

- ASE to share render packs with LCRG before public release.
- ASE to replace or amend inaccurate images and perspectives.
- ASE to circulate acoustic fence details (location, height, wildlife permeability) once available.

**6. General Business**

**Distribution of Information & Statutory Advertising (Introduced by MM – ASE)**

- MM outlined the advertising sequence for affected parties. Major steps include:
  - DTP will determine the extent of potentially affected parties
  - DTP will seek addresses identification from MP Shire Council
  - DTP will advise ASE of the formal advertising period and instructions
  - ASE will implement instructions according to Government requirements
    - Members then had a broader discussion on community expectations, ensuring images and phrasing match deliverables,
    - For future agenda focus members expressed an interest in hearing more about habitat connectivity, visitor dispersal and traffic/parking.
- MM provided an update on the recent Local Community Business briefing held in September. Members urged ASE to invite a LCRG representative to future business briefings (and any other similar briefing sessions) to enable greater community inclusion. MM confirmed he felt this was a good idea.

**Action items:**

- ASE to share advertising sequence steps with LCRG.
- ASE to advise LCRG when advertising period is known.

- ASE to invite LCRG representative to MPRT meeting and future business round tables.
- ASE to explore displaying renders at Dromana IGA with a QR code.
- ASE to circulate presentations from the session
- LCRG to share questions with Topsy Petchey to pass on to MPTB for next presentation by MPTB
- ASE to circulate details of the Acoustic fence once available
- ASE to invite a representative from LCRG to the upgrade presentation with MPTB once organised

#### **8. Next Meeting Date/s**

To be set once the advertising period is confirmed; option to meet sooner if urgent matters arise.

#### **9. Meeting Closed**

Meeting closes at 4:50 pm.