

Infrastructure Newsletter February 2025

During the last 6 years LEADA has had an influence on infrastructure developments in Lakes Entrance. It is pleasing to see plans coming to fruition. LEADA has received many favourable comments on the improvements made to the town during this time.

Earlier this month there was the official opening of the foreshore playground, the pavilion that supports water activities including the Aqua Park and Stage One of the Krauatungalung walk. Over the holiday period this area was buzzing with activity with the Aqua Park, the Servo, the new playground and the Carnival coming to life.

LEADA continues to advocate on key infrastructure priorities established by its members and feedback from residents and businesses. To promote infrastructure developments LEADA meets regularly with East Gippsland Shire Council Mayor and CEO and Darren Chester our local Federal Member and keeps in touch with our State Member Tim Bull and other authorities.

LEADA attempts to gain agreement on what the priorities are from Council and our local members so that we can collectively advocate for funding. This has been achieved.

Feedback on LEADA's priorities was sought last month and as a result the first two priorities for major infrastructure projects remain the same.

The first infrastructure priority is the construction of a Sports Stadium in Lakes Entrance. The State Government has agreed to fund the design and planning of this facility. It is to be located next to the Aquadome. LEADA has established a working group to assist with the design of the Stadium. It is expected that the design will be completed in time for the lead up to the 2026 State Election. LEADA together with the Council will advocate to both major political parties to commit to construct the stadium during 2027-28

The second priority is the completion of the Krauatungalung walk that makes its way around Cunningham Arm between the main surf beach and Eastern Beach. Darren Chester is actively seeking Federal funding together with the Council to complete this walk. This all abilities walk will tell the story of the Lakes Entrance Aboriginal Community.

The estimated cost for these two projects is over \$20 million.

Another high priority is the completion of two masterplans, one for Palmers Road and the other for the surf club precinct.

The development of Palmers Road was discussed at the February meeting of LEADA's infrastructure committee. The Palmers Road site adjoins the area set aside for a large residential area called the Northern Development. The meeting agreed that LEADA would give strong support for an Emergency Services Centre on the site and for the development of a plan for the remainder of the Palmers Road site that included consideration for Botanical Gardens, Convention Centre, Cultural Centre including performance and art display space and a Discovery Centre. The meeting said that

there needed to be more consultation with the community about the priorities for this iconic public site with its magnificent views. LEADA will continue to raise this project with the Council and is seeking a community meeting to be held in the Palmers Road council building later this year to explore the potential of this site and to gain the views of the community.

The establishment of a master plan for the Surf Club precinct is also a priority. This area that is central to Lakes Entrance for both residents and visitors, urgently needs a face lift. Significant maintenance work needs to be done, together with landscaping, provision of shade and path improvements.

LEADA also has a list of priorities for minor projects such as Myer Street CBD upgrade, more shade on the foreshore and improved trails as well as requirements for other plans such as the further development of the Slipway site and the need for the Industrial estate to be expanded. These will be the subject of the next Infrastructure newsletter. LEADA also continues to monitor the progress of projects already funded such as the development of Jemmy's Point footpath and improvements to the outlook intersection on Jemmy's Point.

Feedback on LEADA's activities and priorities has been received as a result of a recent email from LEADA's President Boyd McPhee. The feedback on infrastructure needed will be discussed at LEADA's next infrastructure committee meeting. Further feedback is welcomed.

Also please encourage friends to become members. This can be done online by visiting LEADA's website. LEADA has 660 members. Our target is 1000 members.

Bruce Hurley Chair LEADA's Infrastructure Committee

Email: brucehurley46@gmail.com Ph 0400196797