

**East Gippsland Coast Alliance; Wellington Coast Alliance ; South Gippsland Coast Alliance;  
Bass Coast Alliance; Port Phillip Bay Alliance; Bellarine Peninsula Alliance; West Coast Alliance;**

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## BEGINNINGS

The Victorian Coastal Alliance is a networking group. That is we exchange updated, relevant information and assist each other when needed by email or phone. The group formed in October 2005 in response to the cries for help from various groups around the coastline experiencing invasions by an array of development proposals. These proposals appeared to be driven by developers carrying “bucket loads of money” with a common thread of ideas. The ideas had similarities with the levee banks, jetties, canal type, wall to wall marinas and high density bolt-holes. One opportunistic developer exported from coastlines in our Northern States is intending to build on limestone caves

## DEVELOPERS

We became used to pretty pictures of coastal wetlands, delicate cliff edges and waterways crammed with housing estates disguised as golf courses which with cannibalistic fervour are augmented by high density asylums near newly inserted jetties on marinas stacked with yachts too large to leave their moorings.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

To quote TLVBA's President/Secretary Colin Suggett in a recent newsletter: ‘Most of the existing legislation or planning documents already deny these inappropriate ideas’... ‘Most of the work involves activists and their supporters researching hidden edicts and holding them up to the very authorities who commissioned them’... “Look you wrote it now sticks to it”... ‘Developers and compliant councils try to bluff their way through and are appearing unaware of the constraints already in place’.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

Most of us have been aware of the inevitable disasters caused by climate change. In February 2006 an ABC Four Corner Program identified the Green Mafia [GM]. The GM appears to influence current decision making about greenhouse gases. The role of peatlands/wetlands in absorbing/ mitigating floods is not recognised by many. The carbon sink provided by wetlands and water pumping by indigenous trees has been disregarded by most “sea-change” humans demanding to have a water view. The predictions of rising sea levels will have them anticipating a water view from a horizontal position as their homes are flooded and electricity is cut off. These high density houses create a **dam** wall.

## ACID SULFATE SOILS [ASS]

Acid Sulfate Soil has now been mapped along most of our coastline. The state government is the 4<sup>th</sup> state to recognise that disturbance to ASS is damaging to coastal estuaries and flood reducing wetlands. AAS is formed in the presence of iron sulfides precipitated by bacteria contained in peat over thousands of years. The damage in the past by agricultural and housing developments practices caused sulfuric acid/arsenic to form [AASS] as a result of oxidisation. AASS in Queensland and NSW has resulted in sugar cane farms being moved back from the coast. The realisation that canal developments (static water combined with this disturbed soil) caused irreversible damage to commercial and recreational fishing as well as concrete disintegration resulted in legislation in 3 states. The cost of ignoring the financial effect is gradually filtering through to local, state and federal governments. See DSE May 2006 *Coastal Spaces* Victorian Government. The federal government has National Policies in place.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE VICTORIA COASTAL ALLIANCE:

Following a Meeting of representatives of the **Bass Coast Alliance** *Inverloch to Grantville* (15 groups listed), **Bellarine Peninsula** *Torquay to Point Lonsdale* (3 groups listed) , **South Gippsland Coast Alliance** *Venus Bay to Port Welshpool* (6 Groups listed) on 13.3.2006 the following objectives were formed and accepted on **Friday 17th March 2006**.

### **OBJECTIVES**

*In accordance with Local, State and Federal Policies and Legislation and in particular the Victorian Coastal Strategy our aim is to:*

*1. Act to protect the natural values of the coastal plains, indigenous flora and fauna, estuaries, wetlands, lakes, indigenous middens and mounds and white settler heritage areas from inappropriate development.*

*2. Identify and cite those policies which are espoused by Government agencies to protect the natural values of our coastline.*

*3. Use these identified policies to alert Local, State and Federal Governments to the justified objections of communities who consider that inappropriate development proposals will adversely affect the existing topography and geography.*

*4. Involve local communities in educating Town Planners and Shire Councils about the detrimental consequences for biodiversity of mistaken planning decisions through digging up acid sulfate soil, building on flood plains, and delicate limestone cliffs, building levee banks, and unnecessarily enlarging ramp and jetty sizes.*

*5. Promote the enacting of legislation which introduces the litigious effects of building in places where predictions about the effects of global warming such as storm surges and rising sea levels and flooding were known.*

*6. Reinforce, by lobbying appropriate State and Federal Governments, current legislation which promotes the idea of Coastal Spaces and prevents strip development on the Victorian Coastline.*

*7. Call for the cessation of building on the basis of inflated projected population figures.*

[www.venusbaywetlands.com](http://www.venusbaywetlands.com)

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