

Barwon Heads Association

Reg no. A0030244U



Attention: Ms Kathy Alexander
Chairperson, City of Greater Geelong Administrators

Dear Ms Alexander

Closure of Barwon Heads Library – request for further consultation and proper engagement

The Barwon Heads Association has over 200 active members. We have close relationships with other community groups especially the Barwon Heads Senior Citizens, the Traders, the Barwon Heads Arts Council, the primary school and the scouts. We are a growing population and pay significant rates to the City of Greater Geelong.

We are surprised by the timing of the recommendation on tonight's paper to close the Barwon Heads library, and are strongly opposed to the recommendation. Our meeting on Monday night passed a motion to retain and grow the library to reflect our current and growing needs.

We understand that a draft Barwon Heads Structure Plan will be released in June. How can the library closure be justified at this stage when the future of the town is currently being discussed and planned. Is this another example that the structure planning process is a waste of our communities time?

We seek further time for proper consultation and discussion so that a proper plan can be prepared for the Barwon Heads Library and its future. We want to be involved in planning this process so that it reflects our community needs, and doesn't just result in ticking another CoGG box.

We were all amazed and many angered by the "dear community" letter we received from Brett Luxford; it confirmed all our fears of our coastal town disappearing into the great Geelong mass. This is not about individuals but the Barwon Heads community, and it is united.

Brett Luxford tried to deflect our concerns as follows:

"We understand that there may be disappointment and will be very willing to follow up with concerned community members to look at what alternatives may be available."

This is a threat to our sense of community and ignores why we all live here.

The Barwon Heads community will be braving the horrible weather predicted for tonight to attend your meeting as a statement of community support for the library. We look forward to a constructive consultation process and further discussions.

All the best

Sandra Gatehouse
President
BHA
0407001055