



Media release

23 February 2005

Cape Paterson Ecovillage project update

After consideration of many submissions on the Coastal Planning Framework, Bass Coast Shire has now identified the Cape Paterson Ecovillage site as a preferred location for future township growth.

Mr Brendan Condon, Project Director of the Ecovillage said: "This decision allows us to now prepare detailed plans for the Ecovillage, in readiness for making a formal request for an amendment to the Planning Scheme".

"In the coming months we will work with Council and the community to refine our plans. The Ecovillage will transform a degraded 40 hectare grazing property into an environmentally sustainable extension to Cape Paterson. It will be a place where people enjoy a fit and healthy lifestyle in a beautiful natural setting."

"It will set a new benchmark for sustainability. It will create a magnificent precedent for encouraging *development of community* and *sustainable environmental living* in coastal locations. This development will become a centre of excellence in sustainable design and architecture. Designers and builders will showcase their skills in this emerging field. All houses will be built to strict environmental sustainability criteria."

"Sixty percent of the site will be rehabilitated with more than 1.3 million locally indigenous trees, shrubs, heathland plants and wildflowers. Wetlands will be integrated into the extensive open space. The site will once more become an important habitat for locally indigenous flora and fauna" Mr Condon said.

"The Ecovillage will include a community hub, located next to Wilsons Road. It will be linked to the existing township via an extensive trail network. The current plans include:

- conference facilities (with residential accommodation available in 20 ecolodges)
- a restaurant/café overlooking the beach
- a business support centre
- a health and wellbeing space catering for yoga, Pilates, cardio-vascular and resistance training and other fitness activities
- a gallery and exhibition space for art, environmental and cultural interpretation and education
- medical/paramedical consulting rooms



Media release

- space for outdoor markets, community festivals and events
- a home for the Cape Paterson Bowls Club.

The facilities will be available to all residents and visitors and will be complementary to those already available at Cape Paterson.”

“A network of 4 km of walking and cycling paths will be provided throughout the Ecovillage and will link Wilsons Road and the Community Hub to the existing township. Boardwalks, fencing and elevated pathways will protect sensitive reinstated heathland and wetlands from pedestrian traffic”

“Four local public parks are planned. These will be designed in consultation with residents. “The open space areas will be managed in perpetuity by the Ecovillage Body Corporate.” Mr Condon said.

“The Ecovillage will work with Council and the community to also improve the adjacent coastal reserve. The plans include weed and pest animal control, revegetation, repair of eroded areas, reinstatement of fencing, improvements to public access paths and installation of signage.”

“We are committed to working with the Shire and the community to bring the Ecovillage to fruition” Mr Condon said. “As part of our ongoing refinement of the Ecovillage we held two public forums in 2004 and have also met with Cape Paterson residents and community groups on a number of occasions. From these discussions we have gained an appreciation of the concerns of people in the community. We have received many constructive suggestions and are keen to continue to work through all relevant issues.”

“We look forward to developing something to be proud of at Cape Paterson. The project will create a diverse and beautiful habitat for the unique flora and fauna of the Cape Paterson area as well as for the residents who will enjoy the special beauty of this place.”

In the coming months there will be further opportunities for community input to the plans” Mr Condon said. “Anyone who wishes to be advised of future consultation activities should send an email with their name, address and phone number to ecovillage@australianecosystems.com.au.”

Media enquiries: David Gold phone 9497 1120 or plannedfx@bigpond.com

For more information about Australian Ecosystems visit the website at www.australianecosystems.com.au