

Esso update



By David McCord,
Long Island Point
Plant Manager.

Esso currently supplies around 40 per cent of eastern Australia's domestic gas needs through production from the Bass Strait.

The Long Island Point Plant has an important role in this supply of energy, processing the associated gas liquids from our Longford gas production, to create ethane, propane and butane, and we continue to be a significant local employer.

Our team has worked continuously throughout the COVID19 pandemic to maintain our supply of these essential energy products to our customers. We've achieved this through reducing workplace density and supporting physical distancing by reconfiguring the layout of our office, as well as our operation and control room. We are also implementing stringent hygiene practices and have increased cleaning protocols across our workplace.

At Long Island Point, we're always looking for new ways to improve community and environmental outcomes. Recently we've identified an alternative for managing excess ethane when our customer is unable to accept it by potentially generating electricity in a way that benefits our community and will reduce the need to flare at Long Island Point in the future.

If you would like more information about our operations or our community initiatives, please feel free to drop me a line at communityANZ@exxonmobil.com



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LETTERS

Letters - 300 words maximum and including full name, address and contact number - can be sent to The News, PO Box 588, Hastings 3915 or emailed to: team@mpnews.com.au



THE eroding cliff base and loss of sand at Mount Martha beach north leaves precious little dry sand for a stroll along the beach. Picture: Gary Sissons

One-hit sand plan won't survive test of time

At a recent meeting of the Mount Martha North Stakeholder Group (MMNSG) convened by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), their representatives announced that they intend letting a contract soon for the dredging of 25,000 cubic metres of sand from a nearby offshore borrow area to replenish our beach's depleted sand stocks at an estimated cost of \$1m-\$1.1m. They expect the sand to last 3 to 10 years.

The source of the funding is the federal government allocation of \$1.5m to protect the beach and the associated project agreement was executed by the state government on 12 February 2020.

At MMNSG's first meeting on 10 June 2020, DELWP advised that contrary to our understanding, these funds were to be applied solely to sand replenishment, topping up sand stocks as required - foreseeing that the allocation would enable several replenishment exercises over a number of years giving the beach some longevity.

In our view, to contemplate accounting for the bulk of the funding in one hit with a very expensive dredging proposal (approximately twice the cost per cubic metre) of other replenishment projects, delivering a massive quantity of sand (virtually twice the size of the previous replenishment of a decade ago which survived less than three years) with no guarantee of retaining the sand for any reasonable period, is contrary to the purpose of the funding and the associated project agreement and, demonstrably, based on previous experience, is a very poor use of public funds.

We strongly oppose this extraordinary proposal and request that the replenishment strategy for our beach reverts to a far more cost effective solution as was originally advised and proposed, delivering enhanced beach usability and longevity as the federal funding intended.

Alan Farquhar, chairman,
Mount Martha North Beach Group

Cruelty to kangaroos

I am writing about my concern in regard to how dog owners on the Mornington Peninsula, of which I am one, are ill-informed about how kangaroos, which are on our Australian Coat of Arms, are killed to provide the dry food and fresh kangaroo meat that they buy from their local supermarkets ("Pet owner vows to ensure meat is safe" *The News* 30/8/21).

Until only a few years ago I had no qualms about buying kangaroo pet food for my dog, but then I was educated by others concerned about the cruel practices used to kill kangaroos that the majority of pet owners are ignorant of.

Our beautiful native eastern grey kangaroo family mobs are killed in their natural habitat in the dead of night.

Kangaroos slowly dwindling in numbers on

the Mornington Peninsula due to development and shooting. There are about 2000 kangaroos on the peninsula, and they are included in the Victorian government's kangaroo harvest program which provides meat for the thriving pet food industry.

Many pet owners believe that kangaroos are farmed or taken to an abattoir to be euthanised humanely. They definitely are not killed humanely.

The poor joeys are left behind or have the heads stomped on to kill them in a so-called "humane" manner as they cannot fend for themselves once their mothers are dead.

My fear is that eventually our kangaroos will end up shot to extinction, at least on the peninsula, because they are seen as a pest.

Go onto the Australian Wildlife Protection Council website to find out more.

Mary Waterman, Arthurs Seat

Independent 'chaos'

Forty "Voices for" groups across Australia are targeting only Coalition held Federal seats, and this includes Voices for Mornington Peninsula aiming to get an independent to run against Flinders member Greg Hunt ("Voices raise concern among Liberals" *The News* 7/9/21).

They have the temerity to say they are not a political party. A vote for them is by default a vote for Labor.

Imagine the chaos if 40 independents were elected to Parliament with no structure. The country would be ungovernable.

The electoral commission certainly should have a good look at them. Peter Grey, Rye

Think about vote

Why does the Flinders electorate keep re-electing and rewarding Greg Hunt? I believe he has a record of documented policy failures, including a policy which enabled increased emissions and loss of clean energy business opportunity that will impact generations for decades to come and ignoring executive requests from Pfizer to discuss a vaccine deal that has resulted in Australia sitting at the back of the pack.

I think this shows an inability to act as a forward thinker, preferring instead to play a political game of the moment.

Think about merit when the upcoming federal election comes around - we deserve better than below average. Kelvin Stingel, Blairgowrie

Missing award

It is disappointing to see that nominations have opened for the annual Mornington Peninsula Shire's Australia Day awards and there is an award for young citizen and citizen of the year, but no senior citizen. The Australian of the Year awards recognise a senior Australian of the year

along with Australian of the year and young Australian of the year and most municipalities include an award for senior citizen of the year - including neighbouring Frankston Council which recently opened nominations for a senior citizen of the year award for 2022.

In the 2016 Census, Mornington Peninsula Shire had a lower proportion of children (under 18) and a higher proportion of persons aged 60 or older than greater Melbourne. This census showed that there were 5059 people over 85 living in the shire, with the largest age group being 65 to 69. Yet it seems that the MPSC doesn't want to recognise people doing outstanding work who make up a significant proportion of our population.

Interestingly, the MPSC published in its most recent Positive Ageing Newsletter an article to highlight the worst manifestations of ageism and inequality in our society and indeed the shire's own Positive Ageing Strategy states that one of its goals is to raise community awareness on issues of ageism and the need for respectful inclusion. But the shire doesn't include our ageing population in its Australia Day awards. Sure, it has separate age friendly awards, but why is there no recognition of an outstanding local senior on Australia Day?

Alina Tooley, Mornington

Politics loom

As a ratepayer of 50 years, I have seen councils come and go, with an increase in politics becoming more involved.

The letters published last week (14/9/21) highlight the state of our current, money-wasting councils ("Democracy rules" and "Waste of money").

Environment as an example, leave it to the state government, which can make things happen.

Mornington Peninsula Shire councillors are there to serve the ratepayers' wishes, not their own political beliefs.

John Hodgson, Balnarring

Mixed feelings

I, like most others, am a bit tired of being in lockdown and at some point we are going to have to learn to live COVID, just like the flu.

I can empathise with all of the businesses shut down as I grew up in a small business environment and know how tough it is.

It is important to keep in mind that fewer than one per cent of cases in NSW were vaxxed.

Having said that, I have mixed feelings about classifying the Mornington Peninsula as regional. We are quite different from Geelong where traffic to and from can be monitored.

We are already suffering from what I call tourists slithering down under the cover of darkness and can only imagine if we were classed regional for covid restrictions.

Had Mornington Peninsula Shire considered my proposal for monitoring parking and traffic it would be quite easy to track and fine these people, adding much needed dollars to the budget.

The peninsula like the federal government, is living in the Australia bubble: "Never learn anything from anyone, reinvent the wheel in a void."

I am all for a vax passport and restrictions on those who do not have them. First the government has to prevent the issuing of fake passports. We also need to make sure the most vulnerable are not left behind. I am all for the unvaxxed being locked out of events and hospitality venues. Joe Lenzo, Safety Beach

Let them stay

The Murugappan family of Biloela, Queensland has lived with a lot of publicity. For years and over many court cases the Australian government has spent millions of dollars to stop them living permanently in this country. They have endured years of cruel detention and privations. They have suffered physical illnesses and mental anguish.

Throughout these hardships they have remained together as a family, have continued friendships and maintained the commitment of the Biloela community.

And they still hope to stay in Australia to live and work as good citizens as they did before when living in Biloela.

But they still face deportation. Surely, they have passed the good character test.

Grandmothers for Refugees support the granting of permanent residency for this family. Enough is enough. Ann Renkin, Shoreham