

BeCA Management Committee wishes to extend the best Christmas Wishes to all and looks forward to seeing everyone back in 2017, safe and well!



# The Connector



December Volume 2016

for the Bellvista & Bells Reach Community Association

Issue 8

## BeCA Final Public Meeting for 2016

An audience of between 30 and 40 attended the final BeCA Public Meeting for 2016 at Bellvista Meeting Place on Monday November 7th.



**Mayor Mark Jamieson** provided an overview of major projects and initiatives recently undertaken by Council. He said there had been a lift in employment and business confidence with building approvals on an 8 year high. Not only has there been a focus on economic development, but environmental considerations have been crucial as well. Fauna and flora corridors across the region have been maintained with a major focus on a clear and definite corridor between 'the Coast' and northern Brisbane growth areas.

There have been a range of initiatives undertaken by Council. The Solar Farm will reduce Council costs and there is a desire to have a submarine cable come ashore on the Sunshine Coast thus providing a future safe link to online services across the world. The development of the Sunshine Coast Airport to true International status will result in a growth in tourism and provide an international trade link for local producers. A record 1 millionth tourist visitor for the year will fly into the Sunshine Coast airport sometime in November.

Mayor Jamieson remarked on the Sunshine Plaza Shopping Centre upgrade and the further growth of the Sunshine Coast University which currently has 12,000 enrolments growing to 28,000 in 2027. The new developing area of Palmview will house another 17,000 residents while the soon to be opened Sunshine Coast University Hospital will provide a further 4,600 full

time jobs.

The Aura development will bring another 50,000 residents to this region.

Mayor Jamieson sees alternatives for funding a light rail network across the Coast where private enterprise funds the construction while being given exclusive rights to nearby associated housing developments. Further exploration is required on these possibilities but there is a realization that waiting until State and Federal funding becomes available is not a viable option.

**Cameron Elmes**, President of the Queensland Air Museum, spoke of the Air Museum's history from very humble beginnings to where it stands today as one of Australia's premier collections of aircraft. In its short 40 year history, the museum is on the verge of a major expansion, possibly tripling its size. Land swap deals need to still be sensitively negotiated so the site can be extended from where it sits currently to expand up to the eastern edge of Bunnings. Not only will there be a vast increase in size, but the new Queensland Air Museum will front on to Caloundra Road providing excellent exposure to the major road. A tripling of visitor numbers is considered a conservative estimate.

Cameron ran through a series of photos showing the gradual expansion of the collection to what it is today, one of the major tourist attractions of the Sunshine Coast.

**Jason Hunt** has spoken at BeCA meetings previously, but this time took the floor speaking as the President of the Caloundra ALP Branch. He spoke of his outlook on the political future of the Sunshine Coast, and in particular Caloundra. He had some interesting facts on the amount of income this area produces for both State and Federal Government coffers and the flow back of government funds for projects to develop the area. Figures were produced which the generous Federal and State funding to 'swinging or marginal' electorates was compared to the smaller amount of funds received for 'safe' electorates.

The relationship between the funds generated to the government by the Sunshine Coast and the Government funding actually allocated to this area is certainly not in the 'generous' area. For an

area expanding as it is, the funds returned to this area falls short of the contributions made. The Sunshine Coast does not seem to get its fair share.

The Sunshine Coast has been a safe region for the 'right' side of politics for a long time. The last 'left' side of politics to represent Caloundra was back in 1902 to 1904. Jason commented that despite such a lengthy time as a 'safe' right wing area, the lack of funding directed to the region is reflected in the concerns residents now have for traffic issues, issues which have not just arisen in the last 18 months or so, but issues which have been festering away below the surface as the coast grows and the infrastructure falls behind. Needless to say, Jason recommended a 'change' of state government member to promote a fairer distribution of government funds and much needed infrastructure. The safe seats don't seem to get the best funding!

**Councillor Baberowski** then took the floor to summarize recent Council happenings especially in relation to our area. He commented on how honored he was to be asked to open the new "Aura bridge" and the opening of Baringa.

He saw Baringa as a wonderful asset for Bellvista and Bells Reach residents with a new shopping complex, new schools, further sporting precincts and an extended Community facility, much larger than the space offered at Bellvista Meeting Place.

BeCA President Les Thomas then brought those in attendance up to date with the news that Sunshine Coast Airport Management was asking to extend the agreement with Stockland on the interim satellite helicopter training facility for a further twelve months. BeCA is disappointed that after two years, an agreement on a permanent helicopter training facility had not been reached with the state government.

In closing the meeting the President wished all a happy Christmas and a safe return in the New Year.

Afterwards many stayed behind for a very pleasant end of year Wine and Cheese tasting supplied by The Positive Property People along with the local IGA and the Bellvista Tavern.

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### New Pathway Begins To Take Shape



Stockland are extending the veloway (or dedicated cycle way and footpath) from Baringa all the way along the eastern side of Bellvista Blvd to the bus stop up near the Bellcarra Place roundabout. The dedicated cycleway will merge into a wide concrete footpath where the pathway turns off towards Bunnings.

The first section from the bus stop down to Bells Reach is well underway. The photo above is looking towards Caloundra Rd and shows the concrete footpath in place with space for the bitumen cycle way beside it. In the distance you may be able to make out where the two paths merge into one large pathway. You may also spot the pathway heading off to behind Bunnings as well.



The photo above shows work being done as you look back towards Bells Reach and the Dumbarton Drive roundabout.

The photos were taken some time ago so by the time you read this much of the work may be completed.

Check out the BeCA website News and Events Tab for November 16th for the original article.

#### October Public Traffic Forum

BeCA, along with other members of the community attended a Traffic Forum called in mid October by Mark McArdle, to discuss traffic is-

sues, especially surrounding Caloundra Rd.

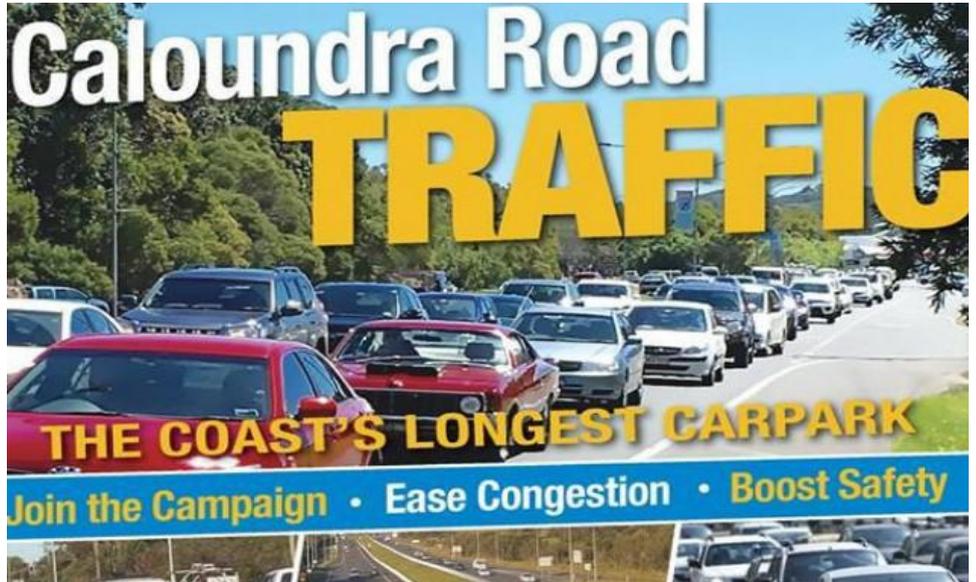
BeCA discovered that there has been virtually no planning by the Department of Main Roads (DMR) of a proposed east-west link road to connect Pelican Waters Blvd and Bellvista Blvd.

The DMR is working on a date of anywhere from 2026 to 2031 for the new Bells Creek Arterial (BCA) to be fully completed between the Bruce Hwy at Roys Rd and the Kawana Link Way/ Caloundra Rd roundabout so any link road isn't required until then.

The initial 5 or 6 km stretch of the BCA will be completed by this Christmas/or early 2017. This

Local member Mark McArdle believes the reworking of the Niklin Way/Caloundra Rd roundabout should be the number one priority and was just one of a raft of proposals which need to be implemented concurrently to ease traffic congestion along Caloundra Rd.

The DMR representatives are planning for a new road to provide access into Caloundra from Nicklin Way and connect to Arthur Street. Council is also working on a connection between Pelican Waters Blvd via either North St or Burke St. These projects are designed to lessen traffic along Bowman Road into Caloundra and relieve



will then connect with the extension of Bellvista Blvd and provide a second entry/exit to the Kawana Link Way/Caloundra Rd roundabout.

The remaining 5 or 6 kilometres to connect with the Bruce Hwy will be completed in stages as Aura develops.

The BCA will be completed any time between 2026 and 2031 at an estimated cost of around \$100, 000,000. Stockland is therefore planning to finance the completion well into the future. The staged development of the BCA is included in an infrastructure agreement Stockland has with the State Government.

There was strong feeling at the meeting that if at all possible, completing the BCA through to the Bruce Hwy was a priority to be brought forward to be completed ASAP with funding support from the State Govt. The State Govt would need to cover Stockland's costs (\$50 million) to bring the project forward for an earlier completion.

congestion at the Nicklin Way/Caloundra Rd roundabout.

BeCA suggested both MP's seek to have planning of the proposed East/West Link Road at least started. However they believed the reworking of the Nicklin Way/Caloundra Rd would be the highest priority.

BeCA believes both proposals should be sought simultaneously. The proposed East/West Link Rd would most likely pass through some sensitive wetland areas and approvals to construct in these areas can be quite convoluted requiring lengthy negotiation.

It would be disappointing if completion of the BCA was brought forward and the East/West Link Road then became a real possibility but planning had been held up as environmental approvals had not been completed.

This is an edited version of a full report taken from the BeCA website, dated October 19th.

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## Spike In Helicopter Movements

Late in November BeCA received emails from residents seeking information on how to lodge complaints regarding excessive aircraft noise and the behaviour of some pilots.

After a prolonged period of extremely good aircraft behaviour there had been a marked increase in helicopters and aeroplanes doing their touch n go circuits late in October. In some cases these aircraft fly in lower over houses than what was usually expected encouraging some people to believe a crash or serious accident is imminent.

In all cases BeCA pointed people to the Airport Noise Complaints page on the website and requested we be kept up to date with any information they may receive. BeCA contacted Airways Aviation at Caloundra Aerodrome and passed on that we had received several complaints and possibly their helicopters may be involved. They immediately took steps to closely monitor their training procedures. However one especially large white helicopter appears to have been Maroochydhore based.

The current agreement is that helicopters should perform up to 80% of their touch n go's at the Interim Helicopter Training Facility situated away from residential areas on the Bruce Highway and the remaining specialized 20% at aerodromes for specialized airport based touch n go exercises.

One resident sent a complaint off to "Air Services Australia" and received a detailed report on the period in question. The picture right shows the flight paths of helicopters and other aircraft over a specified 3 day period. It is an amazing illustration! A larger view is available on the BeCA website.

The outcome of the complaint from Air Services Australia was that as the residence was so close to an airport, this activity was within reason.

There was an agreement between Sunshine Coast Airport and Becker helicopters to use an "Interim Helicopter Training Facility" situated out on the Bruce Highway on land supplied by Stockland. This is a temporary 2 year agreement negotiated between the State Government, Council and Becker Helicopters. For a reason unknown to BeCA, local helicopter training schools situated at Caloundra Aerodrome were not included in the temporary agreement, despite that being recommended

by our Councillor and local MP.

The interim agreement ceases existence at the end of December this year.

At the mid year meeting of the Caloundra Aerodrome Community and Aviation Forum, BeCA sought an update on how discussions were going between Airport Management and the State Government on the permanent solution. It was indicated to BeCA that everything was going according to plan, an alternative site had been found and was in partial use, and residents of Bellvista and Bells Reach should not be concerned. It was also decided a full explanation and update of the Permanent Helicopter Training Facility negotiations would be made available at the October Meeting.

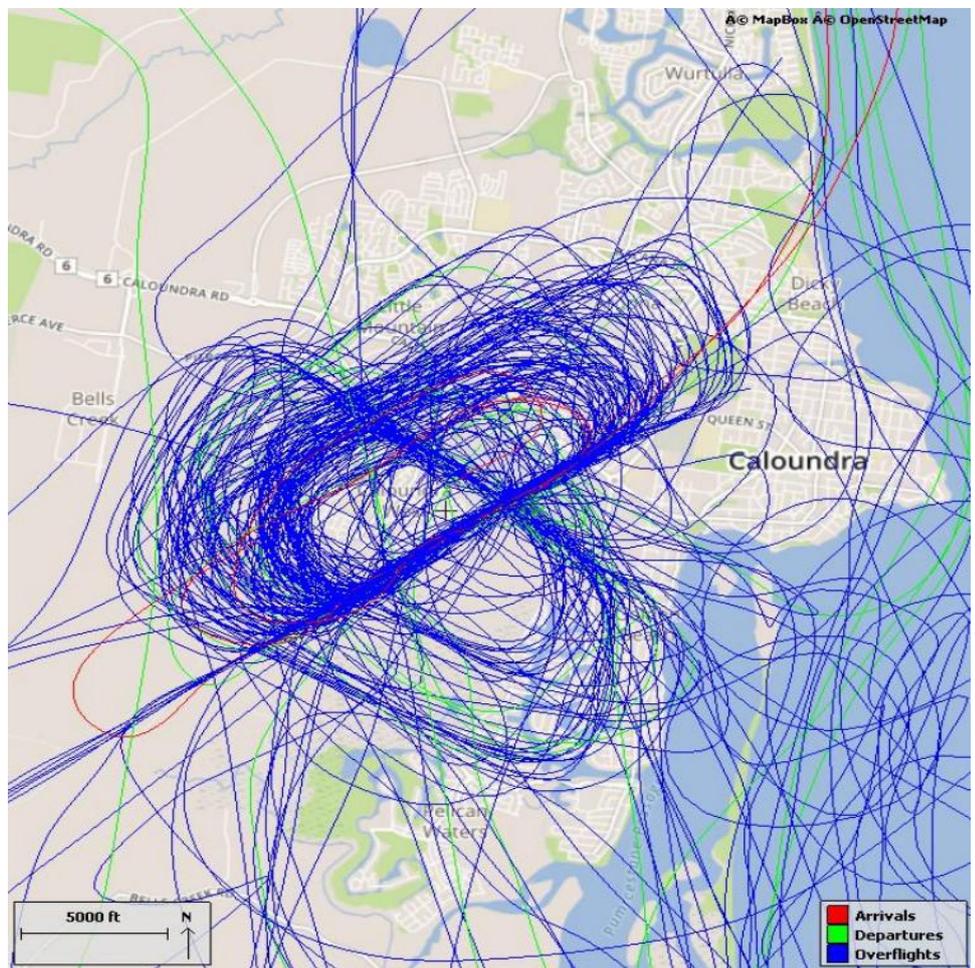
Subsequently the October Forum Meeting was unfortunately cancelled. BeCA immediately voiced its disapproval at the cancellation

as the update on a permanent solution was vital information for this community. BeCA was promised a written update on negotiations as a matter of urgency.

Later BeCA was notified by email: "Sunshine Coast Council continues to work with the State Government to find suitable Helicopter satellite training facilities. The current arrangements with use of the Bruce Highway satellite facility is due to expire in December 2016. Investigations are currently being undertaken to determine if an extension to the current arrangement is possible as an interim measure whilst a more permanent solution is developed."

BeCA will continue to press for a Permanent Helicopter Training Facility via our local MP, our Councillor and any other source available.

This article was taken from the BeCA Website, News and Events Tab, November 2nd.



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## President' Report, 2017.



*Bellvista and Bells Reach Community Association*

The Bellvista and Bells Reach Community Association has been in existence since October 2008. It now serves a community covering both Bells Reach and Bellvista.

In 2016 the production of the newsletter, The Connector, has reached 2200 copies and is printed at no cost to the Association at the offices of the Local MP Mark McArdle. This is a change from previous years and now entails BeCA Committee members to print off and fold the newsletter.

A local resident seconded to the BeCA Management Committee takes the responsibility to create each of our 8 newsletters. The advertising from the Newsletter is a major source of funds for the Association with a list of prospective advertisers continuing to wait for an advertising vacancy to become available.

Most of the inclusions in the newsletter are lifted directly from the BeCA website. We endeavour to keep website news updates as regular as possible and maintain community interest. Community members can also post responses and raise issues on the BeCA Facebook page.

As a new item appears on the website, there

will usually be a link onto the BeCA Facebook page. IT savvy residents are therefore notified of any new item on the website via their Facebook Phone App.

The website continues to be the major avenue of communication between BeCA and the Community.

The Landscaping Convenor liaises closely with S.C. Council's Parks and Gardens Co-ordinator. They meet informally from time to time as required and conduct discussions on community needs and Council requirements. This contact is important in ensuring open and clear communication to address the needs of residents.

BeCA is represented at the Caloundra Aerodrome Community and Aviation Forum which usually meets four times per year. This is a crucial avenue of communication for the community as we live so close by to Caloundra Aerodrome. BeCA understands there will be a move to reduce the number of meetings in 2017 from 4 to 2, a move BeCA will strongly resist.

BeCA continues to have ties with Council and Councillors, our local M.P. and others within the Council's organization. We continue to have a good relationship with several members of the Caloundra Police. BeCA uses these contacts to serve the needs of residents. We also retain connections with the Sunshine Coast Ratepayers and Golden Beach Progress Association.

Cordial relationships between ourselves and Stockland remain a major priority for BeCA. In 2017 traffic issues will again be BeCA's major focus. The creation of a second east-west cor-

ridor road will be forefront in our efforts to endeavour to alleviate traffic congestion along Caloundra Rd and provide safe and speedy access for our residents to surrounding areas. BeCA will continue to press for planning of a connecting road between Bellvista/Aura Blvds and Pelican Waters Blvd to be commenced immediately with a view to it being available should the completion of the Bells Creek Arterial be brought forward.

BeCA will warmly welcome the opening of the second entry/exit road early in 2017.

Finally there are some BeCA people to thank. Firstly is our Secretary, Debye O'Reilly who continually puts in a mountain of work. There are also our wonderful volunteer newsletter deliverers. The two hard working gentlemen who make up the "Bellvista Gardening Team" should also be congratulated on the fine job they do.

Thanks also goes to local businesses who readily support your Community Association. The IGA, the office of Positive Property People and the staff at the Bellvista Tavern all take turns in supporting your local Community Association.

Then there are the other members and sub-committee members of BeCA. Thanks for your work and support throughout 2016.

Finally, and on behalf of all members of the BeCA Management Committee, may I wish one and all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We look forward to welcoming all of you back safe and well in the New Year.

Les Thomas, BeCA President.

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