25 June 2025

Dear Property Owner,

Proposed Declaration of Special Charge 'Links Street Road and Drainage Upgrade Project' General Letter

As you may be aware, Bass Coast Shire Council has been working towards the construction and improvement of road and drainage infrastructure along Links Street, Surf Beach for some time.

At the 18 June 2025 Council Meeting, Council decided to commence the statutory process under the Local Government Act 1989 (***Act***) respecting its intention to implement a Special Charge for the 'Links Street Road and Drainage Upgrade Project' (***Special Charge***). The purpose of this letter is to notify you of Council's initial decision (***Proposed Declaration of Special Charge*****).**

As required by section 163(1C) of the Act, copies of the Public Notices were given by Council in the 'South Gippsland Sentinel Times' on 24 June 2025 and the 'Phillip Island and San Remo Advertiser' on 25 June 2025 are **attached** to this email.

The Public Notices provide you with an outline of the Proposed Declaration of Special Charge and other information, including your right to make a submission and/or objection to Council.

I also wish to advise you that, as the owner of the property, your share of the **estimated** cost of the Special Charge is made up of a combination of road and drainage benefits. A similar letter will be sent in hardcopy via registered post to your postal address, which will provide the specific **estimated** cost for your individual property. Your specific **estimated** cost can be viewed on Council's engagement website www.engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/links-street and the attached schedule and map.

Council has not yet made a final decision in relation to the Special Charge, rather it has merely resolved to advise all property owners and occupiers of the Proposed Declaration of Special Charge. This is with a view to giving everyone a fair and appropriate opportunity to comment on (and/or object to) the Special Charge before Council meets to further consider the matter in October 2025.

Any person may make a submission to Council under Sections 163A and 223 of the Act. Please inform any occupiers within your property, such as other family members and / or renters that they may make a submission to Council under Sections 163A and 223 of the Act. Submissions can be in support or opposition to the proposed road and drainage upgrade project or for any other reason. In addition, any person who will be required to pay the Special Charge to be imposed by the Proposed Declaration of Special Charge (the owner) has a right to object under section 163B of the Act. To assist with lodging submissions and/or objections, a template has been included with this letter, however there is no obligation to use this template in making a submission and/or an objection.

A Committee of Council, consisting of the Mayor and the three Island Ward Councillors (**Committee**), has been formed to hear any persons who have requested in their submission and/or objection that they be heard in support of their submission and/or objection, and to consider all other submissions and/or objections. The Committee will subsequently make a recommendation to Council in respect of the Proposed Declaration of Special Charge.

While Council will in due course proceed to consider the matter as it sees fit (after it has considered any and all submissions and/or objections received) it is noted that section 163B(6) of the Act provides that Council **cannot** proceed with the Proposed Declaration of Special Charge **if a majority of owners object in writing to the Special Charge proceeding.**

If you would like to make a submission and/or lodge an objection, it must be received in writing by Council **on or before 5.00 pm on Wednesday 20 August 2025**. Submissions and/or objections must be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer (and sent to the undersigned) at Bass Coast Shire Council, PO Box 118, Wonthaggi, Victoria, 3995. A submission and/or objection can also be emailed to roadupgrades@basscoast.vic.gov.au if this method is more convenient.

All submitters and/or objectors will then be advised of the time and date of the Committee of Council meeting.

If the Special Charge is subsequently approved, it is expected that construction will commence during 2026-27.

The Proposed Declaration of Special Charge, (and other relevant information about the Special Charge) is also available for inspection during business hours at –

- Civic Centre Wonthaggi, 76 McBride Avenue, Wonthaggi, Monday to Friday 9:00am to 5:00pm
- Grantville Transaction Centre, 1504-1510 Bass Highway, Grantville, Monday to Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm
- Berninneit, 91-97 Thompson Avenue, Cowes, Monday to Friday 9:30am to 5:00pm
- Inverloch Community Hub, 16 A'Beckett Street, Inverloch, Monday to Friday 9:00am to 5:00pm

Information can also be viewed on Council's engagement website www.engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/links-street.

Council has a Debt Management Policy to assist those in financial hardship. If you believe that you may have difficulty paying if the proposed Special Charge is approved or require further information regarding Council's Debt Management Policy please contact Council's Revenue Services team on 1300 BCOAST (226 278) or (03) 5671 2211. Our officers are more than willing to confidentially discuss payment options with you, taking into account your current situation. Ratepayers who reside in the affected property and their only form of income is a government pension may qualify for hardship assistance.

For any further details regarding the Special Charge or the above information, please contact Council's Sustainable Transport and Movement Team on 1300 BCOAST (226 278) or (03) 5671 2211.

Yours sincerely



Jennifer Anderson
Project Officer – Special Charge Schemes

Attached to email: Letter to owner
Public Notices – as published (x2)
Submission and/or objection template
Apportionment Graphic
Schedules 1 and 2