

# MEDIA RELEASE



Thursday 30 March 2023

## Council abandons proposed flood overlays in Lara

Council has halted proposed flood zones and overlays for Lara, in response to community feedback.

At its monthly meeting on Tuesday night, Council considered submissions to Amendment C339ggee and resolved to abandon the section relating to properties identified through the Lara Flood Study.

The amendment was seeking to implement flood studies for part of the Bellarine Peninsula coast (2015), the Lower Barwon/ Moorabool rivers (2018) and Lara (2020).

Council resolved to send the remaining submissions for the other two sections to an independent panel.

The Minister for Planning will now appoint an independent panel to consider public submissions, and the City's response to the submissions.

Deputy Mayor Anthony Aitken said feedback from residents played a central role in the decision.

"Council has taken on board the widespread concerns from the Lara community," he said.

"Removing the Lara section from the amendment has ensured the Bellarine Peninsula coast and the Lower Barwon and Moorabool areas can progress to the next stage."

The resolution follows a Council-initiated review of the proposed overlays in the Flood Study.

Council called for the review, after 535 objections – the vast majority from the Lara Flood Study - were received on the proposed amendment when it was exhibited in 2021.

Flood overlays have been applied in numerous other areas of Greater Geelong.

This includes parts of Barwon Heads, Ocean Grove, Portarlington, Moolap, Corio, Newtown, Highton, Belmont, and Wandana Heights.

Properties included in flood overlays need a planning permit for new dwellings and other buildings and works, which allows authorities to reduce risk by ensuring floor levels are set above predicted flood heights.

**Media inquiries:**

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