

MEDIA RELEASE

December 17th 2019

Iconic Coastal Restaurant Lease To Open For Public Tender

A public tender process for a 21 year lease for the iconic 'At the Heads' restaurant/café in Barwon Heads is opening soon. Barwon Coast is calling for prospective tenderers to register their interest in this rare and unique opportunity.

The 'At The Heads' building extends out over the waters of the Barwon River Estuary with wide sweeping ocean views towards Port Phillip Heads. It has a long and interesting history, including featuring as 'Diver Dan's' beach hut in the much loved 1990s ABC TV series 'Seachange'. It is an integral part of the tourism offering on the Bellarine Peninsula.

'At The Heads' is managed by Barwon Coast, a coastal Committee of Management appointed by the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change. Barwon Coast expects the tender process will deliver the best amenity and value for money outcomes with direct benefits for all Victorians who use and enjoy the coast.

The tender opening period is expected to run for 6 weeks from late January to mid-March 2020. Prospective tenderers are asked to register their interest to be alerted to the opening of the tender period via phone (03) 5254 1118 or email tenders@barwoncoast.com.au

All relevant information on the tender will be available on the Barwon Coast TenderLink web portal. A Tender Evaluation Panel will follow State Government procedures to provide fairness and equity to all tenderers, and assess tenders according to a clear and agreed methodology. The preferred tenderer will then be recommended to Barwon Coast for approval.

Once approved, the successful lessee will enter into a formal *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978*, Section 17D lease agreement with Barwon Coast.

Probity is paramount throughout the tender process, which is why Pitcher Partners have been engaged to provide probity advice for all aspects of the lease tender process.

Quotes to be attributed to Gary McPike, CEO Barwon Coast

"This is an exciting opportunity to refresh what is an iconic site, protect its cultural and historic value and ensure it continues to be a valuable asset for visitors to the region and the local community."

"Barwon Coast want to maintain the site's current use and explore opportunities to maximise access to and enjoyment of the facility that are in line with community values and the site's heritage value. Redevelopment of the site is not being considered."



“As a public tender process, all interested parties will be afforded open, transparent and equitable opportunities to participate. The incumbent lessee will not be afforded any additional opportunities or have access to any additional information. The preferred tenderer will be determined through a clear, transparent and robust evaluation process.”

-ENDS-

Image:

https://barwoncoast-my.sharepoint.com/:i/g/person/kate_barwoncoast_com_au/EafcQJZnXXdKiOEoBiWjL8sBFNQRfaC2XcAryRLVp2KoWg?e=5Mt7CG

For further information, please contact:

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03 5254 1118

Notes for Editors:

Barwon Coast Committee of Management Inc. (Barwon Coast) is appointed by the Victorian State Government to manage 15km of coastal Crown land through the Ocean Grove and Barwon Heads townships, along the Bass Strait coast of the Bellarine Peninsula, Victoria, Australia. Our vision is that the natural environment of our coastline will flourish whilst meeting the needs of our engaged communities. A major local employer in Barwon Heads and Ocean Grove, we have more than 50 skilled employees from a diverse range of backgrounds working across the coastal reserve.

www.barwoncoast.com.au