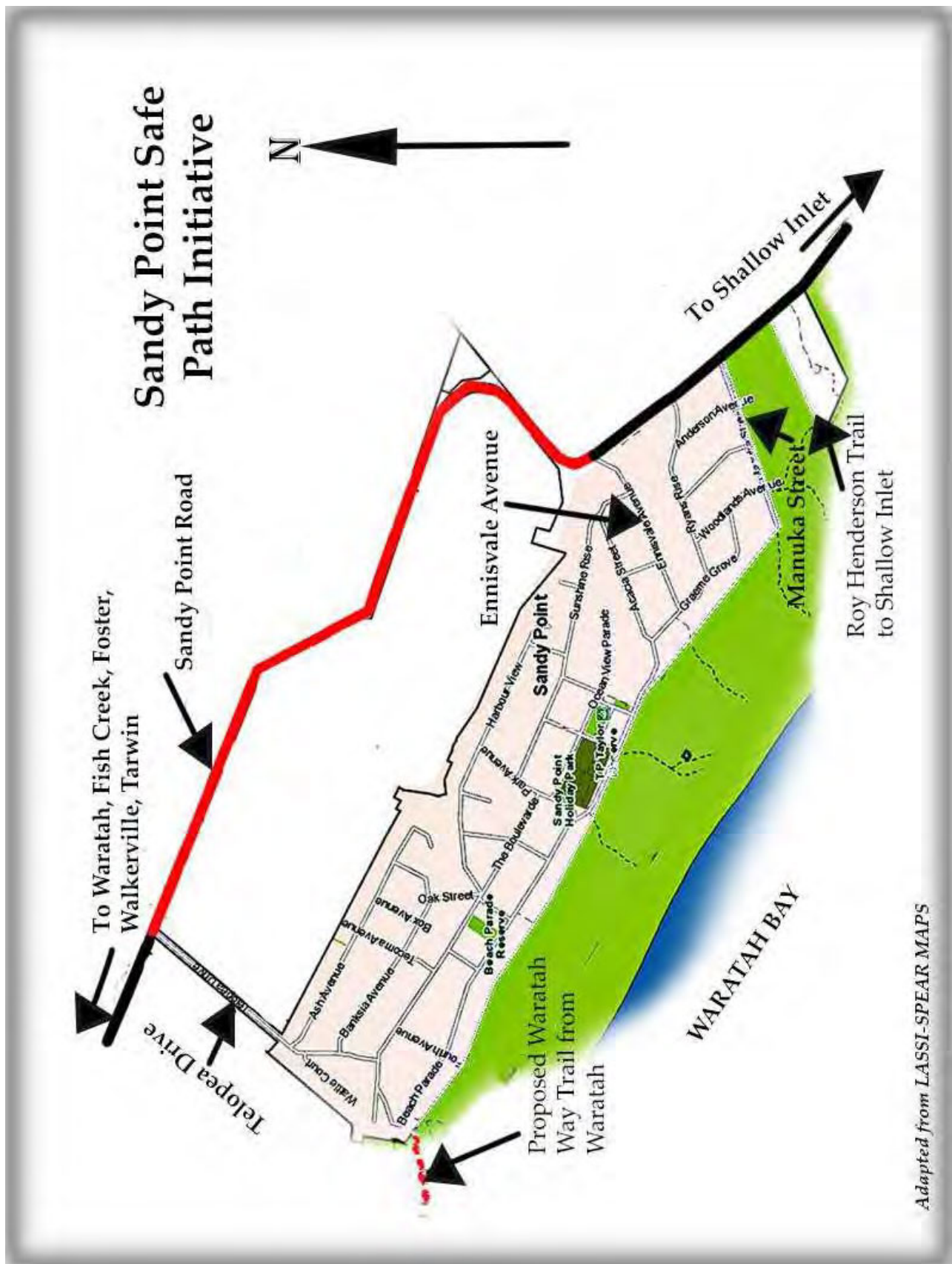


# *The Sandy Point Road Safe Path Initiative*

**Joint letter to the  
South Gippsland  
Council**



# The Sandy Point Road Safe Path Initiative

Petition / Joint letter to the South Gippsland Shire Council



<b>To:</b>	South Gippsland Shire Councillors
<b>From:</b>	Sandy Point Community Group Inc (SPCG) Anne Kinne – President Email: info@sandypoint.vic.au Mobile: [REDACTED]
<b>Lead petitioner:</b>	Caitlin Pilkington [REDACTED], Sandy Point, 3959 Email: [REDACTED] Mobile: [REDACTED]
<b>Petition Prayer:</b>	<b>Sandy Point Community Group Inc. seeks Council support for the construction of a suitably designed safe pathway alongside the Sandy Point Road between Telopea Drive and Ennisvale Avenue by including it in the Paths and Trails Strategy.</b>
<b>Date:</b>	15 May, 2023

The Sandy Point Community Group acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land around Waratah Bay area and pays our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

## Contents

Background .....	2
SPCG Response .....	4
Benefits to the Community .....	5
Outcomes and Conclusions .....	6
Comments .....	6
Petitions:.....	12

# The Sandy Point Road Safe Path Initiative

Petition / Joint letter to the South Gippsland Shire Council



**Sandy Point Community Group Inc. seeks Council support for the construction of a suitably designed safe pathway alongside the Sandy Point Road between Telopea Drive and Ennisvale Avenue by including it in the Paths and Trails Strategy.**

On behalf of the rate payers and residents of, and visitors to Sandy Point, the SPCG would like to submit the following 127 signatures on a joint letter / petition and community feedback to the South Gippsland Shire Council for consideration.

We offer the following information in support of our request:

## Background

This initiative began in November 2022 when residents approached the Sandy Point Community Group Inc. (SPCG) with their concerns about safety along the stretch of the Sandy Point Road between Telopea Drive and Ennisvale Avenue. The SPCG wrote to Council and a meeting was arranged for 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023. The meeting was attended by the SPCG committee, members of the community who reside on the Sandy Point Road, and Council Officers.



The concerns about safety include the following issues:

1. Speed and driver disregard of speed limits.
2. Blind corners and bends (represented by orange circles on the attached map) where vegetation and fence posts obliterate a view of the road ahead.

*.....I've attempted to walk on the road with the pram but there is no verge and it is terrifying to navigate the multiple blind corners, as it's necessary to criss-cross the road in a number of different spots to get to the "safest" spot on the road, and in doing so you are putting yourself at risk of being hit by a car flying around the bend. It's just too risky.*

*Caitlin, Sandy Point*

The Sandy Point Road is a busy road, especially during holiday periods and weekends. The road provides access to Shallow Inlet, and the south-eastern section of the town. Shallow Inlet is a popular spot for wind surfing, kiting, boating, and fishing. Trucks, cars towing boats, trailers and caravans all use this road. The road is also used by local farmers to move stock and machinery.

*Every time I come out of the estate at the corner near where the rubbish tip use to I always pray that no car comes around the corner in a hurry while towing the boat around the inlet.*

*Jayson, Hurstbridge*

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3. On several stretches, the verge is inaccessible due to fallen branches and debris. It often overgrown with grass and weeds, and slopes steeply away from the road.
4. The proximity of the intersection of Ennisvale Avenue and the Sandy Point Road and a 'blind corner' where cars frequently cross over the centre line and can't see oncoming traffic, is particularly dangerous.
5. Horse riding as well as cycling, walking and running are popular recreational pursuits enjoyed by many who live in or visit the area. The Sandy Point Road is the only route available for local horse riders to gain access to the designated beach and horse tracks and is very unsafe for riders for the same reasons outlined above. Often, rather than risking the road, horses have to be transported by horse float to Manuka Street. Local riders have reported many instances of cars speeding dangerously close past riders, not slowing down or moving over on the road, and sometimes intentionally startling horses with horns.

***I have had many frightening experiences on Sandy Point Road with drivers flying at least at 80kph around the blind corners leading into the township and even worse sometimes in full sight of me refusing to slow down and barely giving me a safe passing distance.***

***Lucy, Waratah Baay***

***...an essential link way and recreational route for many proposes the creation of pedestrian zones...***

***This sort of initiative sits well with councils broader economic development and tourism strategies.***

***Peter, Sandy Point***



***Junction of Sandy Point Road and Ennisvale***

## The Sandy Point Road Safe Path Initiative

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***I hold my breath every time my children leave the house to ride in to town. It's such a dangerous road.***

***Megan, Sandy Point***

After the 10 January meeting, the SPCG received a letter from Council with undertakings to:

1. Check on the growth of vegetation on the corners and along the road as part of the regular maintenance program.

(Disappointingly, maintenance had not occurred, and the growth of the vegetation has further increased the risks).

2. Prepare a submission to Vic Roads which will include traffic speed and frequency data to have the speed limit reduced from 80km/hr to 60km/hr. We believe this will help but without regular policing and further 'traffic calming' measures such as speed humps and chicanes (which council officers advise are not suitable for this road), it won't be adequate.



**We believe the real and most effective solution is for council to construct a safe path alongside the road to protect the walkers, horse riders, runners and cyclists who currently use the road and all those who would use it more if it was safer.**

### SPCG Response

The SPCG represents and provides advocacy for the community of Sandy Point. This initiative is consistent with our commitment to promoting a sustainable and healthy environment supported by a resourceful and resilient community connected through the deep respect for this unique and special area.

We support and promote sustainable activities and initiatives that encourage people to get out, exercise and move around the town. Where possible, leaving the car at home. The Sandy Point Men's Shed, Sandy Point Music (supports live music events), a group focussing on wildlife protection and environment preservation, and a community garden are examples of such activities and initiatives



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***Very dangerous to walk along the road and a walking track would be great for the local community***

***Craig, Sandy Point***

### Benefits to the Community

The construction of a safe pathway will greatly improve safety along this stretch of the Sandy Point Road. However, there are a number of other benefits that are consistent with the goals of Council's Paths and Trails Strategy, in addition to the mental and physical health and wellbeing of our community and visitors:

1. Together with the proposed Waratah Way (already included in the Paths and Trails strategy), and the existing Roy Henderson trail, this path will provide a safe and necessary link between Waratah, Sandy Point and Shallow Inlet and extends the fitness and recreational opportunities for the community.
2. The path will provide opportunities for children and families residing along the Sandy Point Road who at present, cannot enjoy the same lifestyle amenities as those in the town and must use their



***Providing for a shared path alongside the road would:***

***1/ Create a nice loop around the Sandy Point township, encouraging health and fitness &***

***2/ Create an excellent link between the Roy Henderson Trail and the proposed Waratah Way Trail that would ultimately enable residents and visitors to Sandy Point to safely and enjoyably access the coast from Shallow Inlet to Waratah, linking the two communities in the process.***

***Cath, Sandy Point***

- cars to access the beach and general store, or participate in community activities.
3. Further, the proposed path extending from Waratah to Shallow Inlet will pass through spectacular and varied country offering a range of rich visual experiences. These include the beach, the dune system, farmlands, and tee-tree and banksia forests with views of Wilson's Promontory, the Hoddle Ranges and across Waratah Bay and Shallow Inlet.
4. Together with the Great Southern Rail Trail, the proposed path is an additional, sustainable attraction and will boost environmentally sustainable tourism in the region.