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21 August 2008

EES ASSISTANCE NEEDED

Bass Coast Shire Council and the Your Water Your Say action group are calling on the community to help respond to the Environment Effects Statement (EES).

The EES was released on 20 August 2008 and submissions must be lodged by 30 September 2008.

Bass Coast Shire Council's Chief Executive Officer, Allan Bawden, confirmed that Council would work closely with Your Water Your Say (YWYS) to prepare their response.

"The EES is a massive document of 1,600 pages and over 80 technical reports," said Mr Bawden.

"To undertake a detailed study of the EES is a massive task and we will work closely with the action group to make the best use of available resources."

Mr Bawden said there was an important role for the community to play in preparing the submission.

"Individuals can make their own submissions," said Mr Bawden.

"But we are also hoping that there are people in the community who would be able to help Council and YWYS with their submissions.

"People may have a particular area of expertise, such as engineering or the marine environment," explained Mr Bawden.

"For others, it could be their knowledge of the local area that would be invaluable.

"If you are interested in the project and have time available to be part of the working group, we would be very eager to hear from you."

If you are interested in assisting Council, then please call Ella Godbold on 1300 BCOAST (226 278) or email e.godbold@basscoast.vic.gov.au.

A hard copy of the EES is on display at the Bass Coast Civic Centre, 76 McBride Avenue, Wonthaggi.

Hard copies of the EES are also on display at the Desalination Project Office in Wonthaggi. Office hours at the Project Office have been extended to five days a week during the exhibition period. Copies are also available on CD and online at www.ourwater.vic.gov.au. Hard copies can be purchased from the DSE Desalination Project Team by phoning 1800 811 214 or 5671 3900, or by emailing desalination.project@dse.vic.gov.au.

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