

Property and website update



The total number of properties let through the Accord is 323 as workers make their way to Bass Coast to work on site.

A further 37 Housing Accord properties were let during August, bringing the total number to 323.

Although 12 new properties were listed during the period, the number of vacant Accord properties decreased from 217 in July to 192 by the end of August.

The average weekly rent for properties let this month was \$434, slightly less than in July where the average was \$441 per week.

Employees and agents report that finding good quality, well-priced properties within a reasonable distance from the construction site, continues to be a challenge.

Bass Coast Shire Council contacted a number non-resident holiday homeowners who expressed interest in leasing their properties in late 2009 and invited them to make their properties available

Housing Accord Website traffic remained fairly stable this month with approximately 2,415 page views.

The majority of views are still originating from Victoria, particularly Melbourne and surrounds. Interest also continued from Brisbane, Sydney and small number of visits from Perth.

Works update

The desalination plant site is now a hive of activity, with building frames, foundations and formwork well underway on many of the 29 buildings that make up the desalination plant.

The first mechanical components have been installed, including the first of 72 huge filtration units.

Construction of the intake tunnel is well underway, and construction of the outlet tunnel is scheduled to commence soon.

The EPA has now approved AquaSure's design for the seawater intake and outlet structures on the seabed.

The two intake structures will be located approximately 800m from the Williamsons Beach shoreline, and the two outlet structures will be located around 1.2km from the shoreline.

Construction will begin later this year, with Williamsons Beach remaining open to the public at all times during construction and beyond.

There are now more than 1500 people working on the desalination plant site. Over the next month, workforce numbers will increase with around 100 mechanical trades commencing work. Trades including boilermakers, fitters, riggers and trades assistants will all provide support during the next phase of the construction period.

Good news for affordable rentals



This project in Inverloch boosted affordable housing in Bass Coast. These two recent announcements will further boost affordable housing stock

Two announcements were made recently that will increase the number of affordable rental properties in the Bass Coast area.

The former Wonthaggi Golf Links Motel was purchased by the State Government in July this year to provide accommodation for people who may difficulty securing long-term accommodation due to disability, low-income or other disadvantage.

The property will be managed by not for profit organisation, Active Property Services who currently manage 485 tenancies across 220 properties Victoria-wide, including the council owned units in Dalyston.

The former motel site will cater for single person tenants referred by support services, which would then link into outreach support and community services.

The second announcement was that Community Housing Limited will develop 23 new properties in Wonthaggi for affordable rental as part of the Federal Government's Social Housing Initiative. Community Housing Limited already manage a number of affordable properties in the Bass Coast.

The Bass Coast Shire Council warmly welcomed the announcements as both are positive developments in an ongoing strategy for the area.

Thanks partners

The housing accord would not have been able to achieve leasing over 290 properties to the workforce associated with the Victorian Desalination Project without strong partnerships. As we head toward peak construction take this opportunity to thank the following for their support.

- Thiess Degremont Aquasure
- Bass Coast Shire Council
- ResCom Property & Financial Services – Phillip Island
- Stockdale and Leggo Cowes
- Alex Scott & Staff Real Estate Cowes
- Ray White Real Estate Cowes
- Judith Wright Cowes
- Stockdale and Leggo Grantville
- Alex Scott & Staff Real Estate Grantville
- San Remo Realty – Professionals
- PBE Rescom Pty Ltd Inverloch
- Southcoast First National Inverloch
- Alex Scott and Staff Real Estate Inverloch
- Stockdale and Leggo Inverloch
- L J Hooker Inverloch
- Rescom Property & Financial Services Wonthaggi
- Alex Scott & Staff Real Estate Wonthaggi
- PBE Real Estate Wonthaggi
- Harcourts Real Estate Inverloch
- Garth Lisle Property Consultants Newhaven
- Alex Scott and Staff Real Estate Venus Bay
- Stockdale and Leggo Wonthaggi
- Southcoast First National Wonthaggi
- PBE Cape Paterson Wonthaggi
- Stockdale & Leggo Cape Paterson.
- Consumer Affairs Victoria
- Tenants Union Victoria
- Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment
- Victorian Department of Planning and Community Development
- Victorian Department of Human Services (Office of Housing)

Feedback ...

The 'Accord news' is a monthly e-bulletin. The deadline for the next edition is 7 October. Contributions by Accord members are welcome. Contact Community Strengthening on 1300 BCOAST (226 278) or housing@basscoast.vic.gov.au.