

# Trailer destruction

A TIMBER truck lost its trailer, spilling wood across the busy Bellarine Highway in Newcomb yesterday morning.

The trailer was ripped from the truck after it hit a concrete power pole on the outgoing lane near the Telstra exchange.

Powercor was called in to test the power lines, amid initial fears the trailer may have become electrified after hitting the pole.

One lane of the highway was blocked for a number of hours while the mess was cleaned up.

Photo: CAMERON BEST



# Traders lift lid on big plans

GREG DUNDAS

UNDERGROUND parking, taller buildings and high-density housing will be mooted in Torquay as traders look to revitalise the central business district and protect the town's coastal village charm.

Preparing for rapid population growth and increased tourist numbers, the town's commerce association has spent almost a year working on its vision for the town centre.

It has used Geelong's "soulless" Malop St mall as an example of what will happen if development isn't well managed.

Veteran local businessman Barrie Sutherland said traders recognised the need for the town to grow, but they also wanted to protect its unique qualities.

He is a member of the Torquay Commerce and Tourism committee that this week launched the Torquay Town For Tomorrow campaign. It is also preparing a detailed response to the Surf Coast Shire's C66 planning amendment.

While the controversy around C66 has focused on the town boundary at Spring Creek, the amendment also covers town planning issues likely to affect key trading areas.

Mr Sutherland and TCT president Martin Duke said the group's vision would form part of its submission on C66, which must be lodged by March 6.

"It is not just about moving the boundary, there's a lot more to it than a lot of people realise," Mr Duke said. "This is not about say-

ing 'no' to development or progress.

"This is about making sure things are developed in the right way, a way that ensures Torquay remains a town that is unique."

Mr Sutherland said traders wanted balanced development of the CBD.

He said underground parking was the best way of coping with demand for more car spaces, while taller buildings should be allowed in central areas, as long as they don't obstruct beach views and cannot be seen from the beach.

Central living options and accommodation were also vital to keeping the town centre vibrant, he said.

"It's about improving what we have without losing the best bits and what makes this a special place," he said.

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