

# Draft Marine and Coastal Policy - FAQ

## Context

The Victorian Government, with guidance from the Victorian Marine and Coastal Council, is leading development of a new statewide Marine and Coastal Policy.

A new Marine and Coastal Policy is a requirement under the *Marine and Coastal Act 2018* and must be made by 31 December 2019.

DELWP is seeking public feedback on the draft Policy before finalising the new Marine and Coastal Policy later this year. A final Policy must be made by 31 December 2019.

## Q. Why is a new Marine and Coastal Policy needed?

Development of a new Marine and Coastal Policy is a requirement under the *Marine and Coastal Act 2018*.

A Marine and Coastal Policy is required to guide planning and management decisions in the marine and coastal environment consistent with objectives and guiding principles under the *Marine and Coastal Act 2018*.

## Q. What's new in the draft Marine and Coastal Policy?

The draft Marine and Coastal Policy builds on the strengths of the Victorian Coastal Strategy and includes new and important policy direction, including:

- recognising and respecting Traditional Owners' rights, aspirations and knowledge;
- improved guidance and direction on planning for climate change; and
- a much-needed focus on the marine environment, including Victoria's first marine spatial planning framework to manage new and competing uses in the marine environment.

## Q. How can I make a submission?

Submissions are open on Engage Victoria <https://engage.vic.gov.au/draft-marine-and-coastal-policy> from July 4 to August 15 2019.

## Q. Where can I find more information

The DELWP team can be contacted via email at [marine.coastalpolicy@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:marine.coastalpolicy@delwp.vic.gov.au)

DELWP will be holding information sessions in Warrnambool, Torquay, Melbourne, Frankston, Traralgon, and Bairnsdale throughout July and August. Details on times and locations and how to register can be found on Engage Victoria <https://engage.vic.gov.au/draft-marine-and-coastal-policy>.

## Q. How will the Marine and Coastal Policy interact with other projects, initiatives and planning tools?

Once finalised the Marine and Coastal Policy will provide the state-wide guidance and direction for planning and decision-making in the marine and coastal environment.

Location specific-projects such as the Great Ocean Road Action Plan and the Distinctive Landscapes Program will be informed and guided by the Marine and Coastal Policy.

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Similarly, specific planning tools in the *Marine and Coastal Act 2018*, such as Regional and Strategic Partnerships, coastal and marine management plans, and environmental management plans will be guided by, and must be consistent with the state-wide direction of the Marine and Coastal Policy.

## **Q. How have stakeholders been involved in developing the draft Marine and Coastal Policy?**

The Victorian Marine and Coastal Council, which is government's peak advisory body for coastal and marine issues, has guided development of the draft Marine and Coastal Policy and will continue to guide its finalisation.

DELWP has also conducted targeted consultation with key marine and coastal stakeholders during development of the draft Marine and Coastal Policy. The MSP Framework component of the draft policy has been co-designed with marine stakeholders.

The public submission stage is DELWP's opportunity to talk in detail about what's proposed and listen to any suggestions and critiques from the community on how we can improve the final Policy to ensure it works for all Victorians.

## **Q. What's the current policy for the marine and coastal environment?**

The *Victorian Coastal Strategy 2014* continues to be Victoria's policy document for the marine and coastal environment until the new Marine and Coastal Policy comes in to affect.

## **Q. How have stakeholders and other government departments been involved in preparing the draft marine spatial planning framework?**

The draft marine spatial planning framework was developed collaboratively through a co-design process. Marine stakeholders involved in this process, included government and partner agencies, fishing and boating peak bodies, the resources sector, environment groups, academics, and the Victorian Fisheries Authority.

## **Q. What impacts will the draft Marine and Coastal Policy have on industry?**

The draft Marine and Coastal Policy provides existing and emerging industries with greater certainty for investment in ecologically sustainable use and development and a stronger understanding of decision makers' expectations.

It supports sustainable development for the benefit of current and future generations. It does this by protecting the environmental goods and benefits of the marine and coastal environment on which marine and coastal industries depend.

The draft Marine and Coastal Policy promotes continued engagement with marine and coastal industries to ensure any concerns or potential negative impacts are properly identified and addressed in the final Marine and Coastal Policy.

## **Q. What is the difference between the marine spatial planning framework and a marine plan?**

The marine spatial planning framework provides guidance and a process to better integrate and coordinate planning and management efforts for the marine environment. This includes a clear process for undertaking marine spatial planning and developing a marine plan.

A marine plan is a comprehensive strategic document that provides the structure and direction for marine spatial management decisions in a specified planning area.

## **Q. What is the process for finalising the Marine and Coastal Policy?**

Following public consultation and formal submissions DELWP will continue to work with other agencies, departments and targeted stakeholder groups to refine and improve the final Marine and Coastal Policy.

The Marine and Coastal Policy cannot be finalised without first obtaining agreement to its contents from each responsible Minister of an applicable Act and any other Minister whose interests may be affected by the Policy.

## **Q. How will the Marine and Coastal Policy be implemented?**

The Marine and Coastal Policy will be implemented through the planning and management mechanisms outlined in the *Marine and Coastal Act 2018*. This includes a supporting Marine and Coastal Strategy, to be released 12 months after the policy is made, that will detail priority actions to achieve the policy directions on the ground.

The other mechanisms that will be used to implement the policy include: Regional and Strategic Partnerships, Environmental Management Plans, Coastal and Marine Management Plans and Consent for use and development on marine and coastal Crown land.