

# Marine Spatial Planning Framework

## Fact Sheet

Victoria is developing a marine spatial planning framework to guide long term planning and management of Victoria's marine environment

### Background

The *Marine and Coastal Act 2018* (the Act) requires the development of a statewide marine and coastal policy that must include a marine spatial planning framework which 'establishes a process for achieving integrated and co-ordinated planning and management of the marine environment'. The framework must be consistent with the objectives and guiding principles of the Act.

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) is leading the development of both the marine spatial planning framework and statewide policy, and engaging with Traditional Owners, industry, the community and other state government agencies during this process.

### What is marine spatial planning?

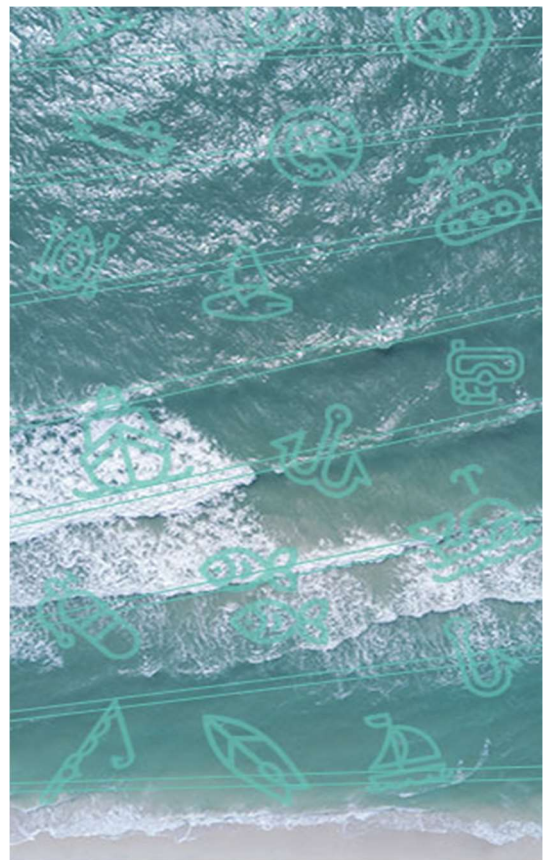
Victoria's marine waters are active places and we're increasing our use of them. Common uses such as fishing, boating, shipping, recreation and tourism are changing and expanding. At the same time, future and emerging industries are developing.

Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) is about thinking ahead and planning for how we can best make all of these uses work, while also maintaining the health of the marine environment. MSP brings together multiple users of the marine environment, including industry, government, conservation, energy and recreation.

In Victoria, we already designate or zone marine space for activities including fishing, maritime transportation, oil and gas development, aquaculture and conservation. However, with increasing use and pressure on the marine environment, there is a need to better integrate and coordinate our planning and management efforts across marine sectors.

MSP can have significant economic, social and environmental benefits. These include: identifying and reducing conflicts between human uses, and the impact

of these uses on natural values; greater certainty of access for new private sector investment; and identification and protection of social and cultural values linked with marine waters.



### Why do we need a framework?

The marine spatial planning framework will help Victoria to plan for how we support current and future uses of the marine environment, while also maintaining a healthy environment.

The framework will not replace or duplicate planning and management of marine sectors such as maritime transportation, oil and gas development, fisheries and conservation. Rather, it will provide an overarching framework to guide planning, management and decision making by marine sectors.

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The framework will detail the essential elements and steps necessary for achieving more integrated and coordinated planning and management of Victoria's marine environment. It will set out how Traditional Owners, industry, the community and government can work together when needed, to better plan for how we use and protect the marine environment.

The framework will include guidance on how to:

- address competing use and resource challenges and conflicts through an ecosystem-based approach;
- enable co-existence of compatible activities where possible;
- integrate with land planning and promote cooperation across jurisdictional boundaries;
- determine if, where, and when, marine spatial plans or other planning tools are required, and outline the format and process to develop them; and
- plan for and zone the marine environment.



## Stakeholder Engagement

Development of the framework is the first phase of engagement and discussion between multiple marine sectors, Traditional Owners, industry, government and the community about long-term planning and management of Victoria's marine environment.

Reflecting the participatory nature of MSP, DELWP is including a significant focus on engaging with marine stakeholders from across different sectors during development of the framework.

## Timing

To commence development of the framework and engagement with marine stakeholders, DELWP is hosting a Marine Spatial Planning Summit in January 2019. The Summit will bring together a diversity of marine interests, users, planners and managers to explore and discuss marine spatial planning together.

Building on the outcomes and learning from the Summit, representatives from marine sectors will be invited to contribute to the design of a draft framework that will be considered by government.

A draft framework will then be released for broader public consultation, as a component of a draft marine and coastal policy, by mid-2019.

Following public consultation, marine sector representatives will be invited to re-convene and further contribute to the design of the framework, prior to the release of a final framework in late 2019.

## More information

For more information please visit [DELWP Coast and Marine](#) or contact: Nicola Waldron, Project Manager – Marine Spatial Planning Framework ([nicola.waldron@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:nicola.waldron@delwp.vic.gov.au) or 03 9637 9241)

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