

# Strengthening Victoria's Marine and Coastal Management

A proposed Transition Plan



December 2017

DELWP proudly acknowledges Victoria's Aboriginal communities and their rich culture and pays respects to their Elders past and present. DELWP recognises Aboriginal people as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the marine and coastal environment.

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# Executive Summary

Victoria has 2,512km of coastline and approximately 10,000 square kilometres of marine waters. We need to care for these areas to ensure they continue to support our coastal communities.

Providing a better future for Victoria's coastal and marine environment is a priority. The Victorian Government is committed to strengthening our marine and coastal management system to ensure Victoria's marine and coastal environment is protected now and into the future.

The marine and coastal environment is under threat from the long-term challenges of climate change and population growth, and ageing coastal protection structures make it difficult to protect coastal communities and support them to adapt.

In consultation with the community and experts, a broad package of reforms has been developed. This includes a new Marine and Coastal Bill, which has been recently introduced and complementary policy and practical on ground actions. These support the transition to strong marine and coastal management, provide the tools to address the long term challenges and meet public expectations for the next twenty or more years.

*Strengthening Victoria's Marine and Coastal Management – proposed Transition Plan* outlines the policy and practical on ground actions that are being delivered to support these reforms as well as other measures to help transition and implement the new approach. These include:

- protecting priority beaches and dune systems
- delivering targeted biodiversity actions in the marine environment - restoring shell fish reefs

- boosting the successful Coastcare program
- establishing a coastal asset database and investing in assets at critical risk
- improving the monitoring of erosion and coastal flooding
- identifying the threats to Port Phillip Bay through a coastal hazard assessment
- strengthening how planning/building systems can manage climate change hazards and adaptation
- revising the siting and design guidelines for structures on the coast
- supporting managers to address risks to public safety on coastal land
- simplifying management arrangements for coastal land in priority locations
- partnering with Traditional Owners to increase their involvement in coastal and marine management.

The proposed Transition Plan will be finalised during 2018 alongside passage of the Bill.



A photograph of a group of people in wetsuits wading into the ocean. The scene is set under a clear blue sky. In the foreground, a person in a black wetsuit with red and blue accents is wading away from the viewer. To their right, another person in a black wetsuit is also wading. Further out, a person in a blue wetsuit is visible. The water is a mix of shallow, rippling sand and deeper, clearer blue. A large, dark rock is visible in the water to the left. In the background, a pier or breakwater structure extends into the sea. The overall mood is active and coastal.

# **Strengthening Victoria's marine and coastal management – a proposed Transition Plan**

Victoria's coastal and marine areas are special places with significant environmental values. They are highly valued by communities and are central to the way we live, travel, holiday and work.

Victoria has some of the best managed coastline in Australia. This has been enabled through the *Coastal Management Act 1995*, however, with ongoing challenges such as population growth, the impacts of climate change and ageing infrastructure, we need to improve and enhance our management and oversight arrangements.

The Victorian Government has committed to a package of reforms, including a new Marine and Coastal Act, policy actions and improved on ground management arrangements. As part of this process, a Marine and Coastal Act Consultation Paper was released in August 2016. The paper outlined the drivers for change, the functions of an improved marine and coastal management system, and a series of reforms to enable the new system. The Consultation Paper sought input and ideas from the community.

A total of 115 submissions were received from a wide range of stakeholders, including individuals, community groups, local government, state government, Committees of Management, peak bodies and non-government organisations. Many of the reforms were supported and other useful ideas were provided to enhance the system. The government has considered these ideas in developing its final position. Appendix 1 outlines each proposed reform, the corresponding stakeholder feedback and the final Government position.

'Strengthening Victoria's marine and coastal management' is the proposed Transition Plan to the improved marine and coastal management system. Some reforms will be enabled through the proposed new Marine and Coastal Act and others will be progressed through other processes.

This plan sets out the functions required to achieve reform and the required actions that can be delivered without legislative change. Actions proposed after commencement of the Act are also outlined.

Thousands of Victorians make significant contributions to protecting and improving the health and values of the marine and coastal environment. This includes contributions from volunteers, Committees of Management, Coastcare, conservation management networks, friends' groups, boating and fishing user groups, industry groups, management agencies, and local and state governments.

The breadth of people and organisations involved in marine and coastal management means that a collaborative approach is vital. No single agency can deliver an integrated response across the various sectors and tiers of state and local government, across agencies, non-government organisations and community groups.

Informal and formal collaboration arrangements will be required across all key agencies in the new system, including the Marine and Coastal Council (MCC), Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR), Parks Victoria, Environment Protection Authority (EPA), coastal Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs), Melbourne Water (MW), local councils along the coast and Committees of Management.

# Why we need to Strengthen marine and coastal management in Victoria

## To improve how we manage issues and impacts on the marine and coastal environment

The Consultation Paper outlined the most pressing issues affecting our coastal and marine environment.

- **Adapting to climate change** – planning for, and responding to, sea level rise, more frequent and extreme storms, more severe erosion, increased land and water temperatures, altered rainfall and ocean acidification.
- **Managing population growth** – Victoria’s population will increase to an estimated 10.1 million by 2051, mostly in fast-growing local government areas adjacent to valuable marine and coastal areas. Population increase will drive more recreational use and activities, and competing demand for marine sector resources.
- Thousands of **ageing coastal infrastructure assets** (e.g. seawalls) need to be maintained, replaced or enhanced because of increased erosion and inundation, and growing populations demanding access to beaches and marine waters. A key challenge will be to determine who should pay for this work.

## To build on the strengths of the current system

Any improvements must acknowledge and build on the current system’s strengths including:

- 96% of the Victorian coast is in public ownership, which maintains equitable public access, supports important ecosystems and acts as a buffer to allow for the natural dynamics of the coast.
- A clear and stable policy and planning framework through the *Coastal Management Act 1995* has enabled the preparation of statewide and local scale policy and plans.
- Community support, involvement, connection and commitment to protecting coastal and marine areas.

## To tackle known gaps and weaknesses in the current system

The Marine and Coastal Act Consultation Paper outlined the gaps and weaknesses of the current system through seven key drivers for change. Submissions received confirmed these seven drivers.





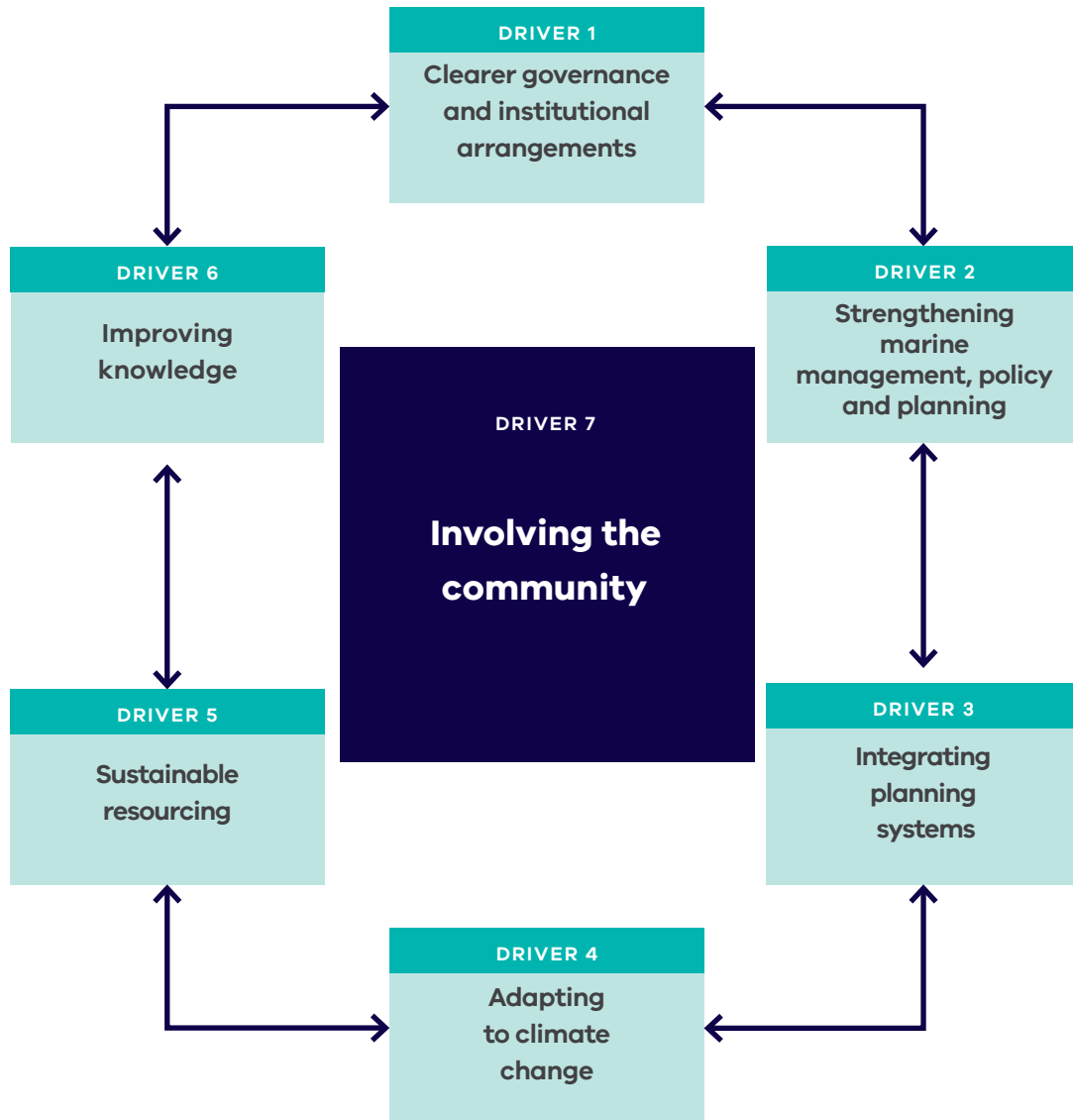


Diagram 1: Drivers for change - ways in which the current system can be improved.

# An improved marine and coastal management system

## Our vision

A healthy marine and coastal environment, appreciated by all, now and in the future.

## Our aims

- Establish an integrated 'whole of government' approach to the protection, management and oversight of Victoria's marine and coastal environment.
- Promote integrated and co-ordinated catchment, coastal and marine policy, planning, management, monitoring, reporting and decision-making.

## Our objectives

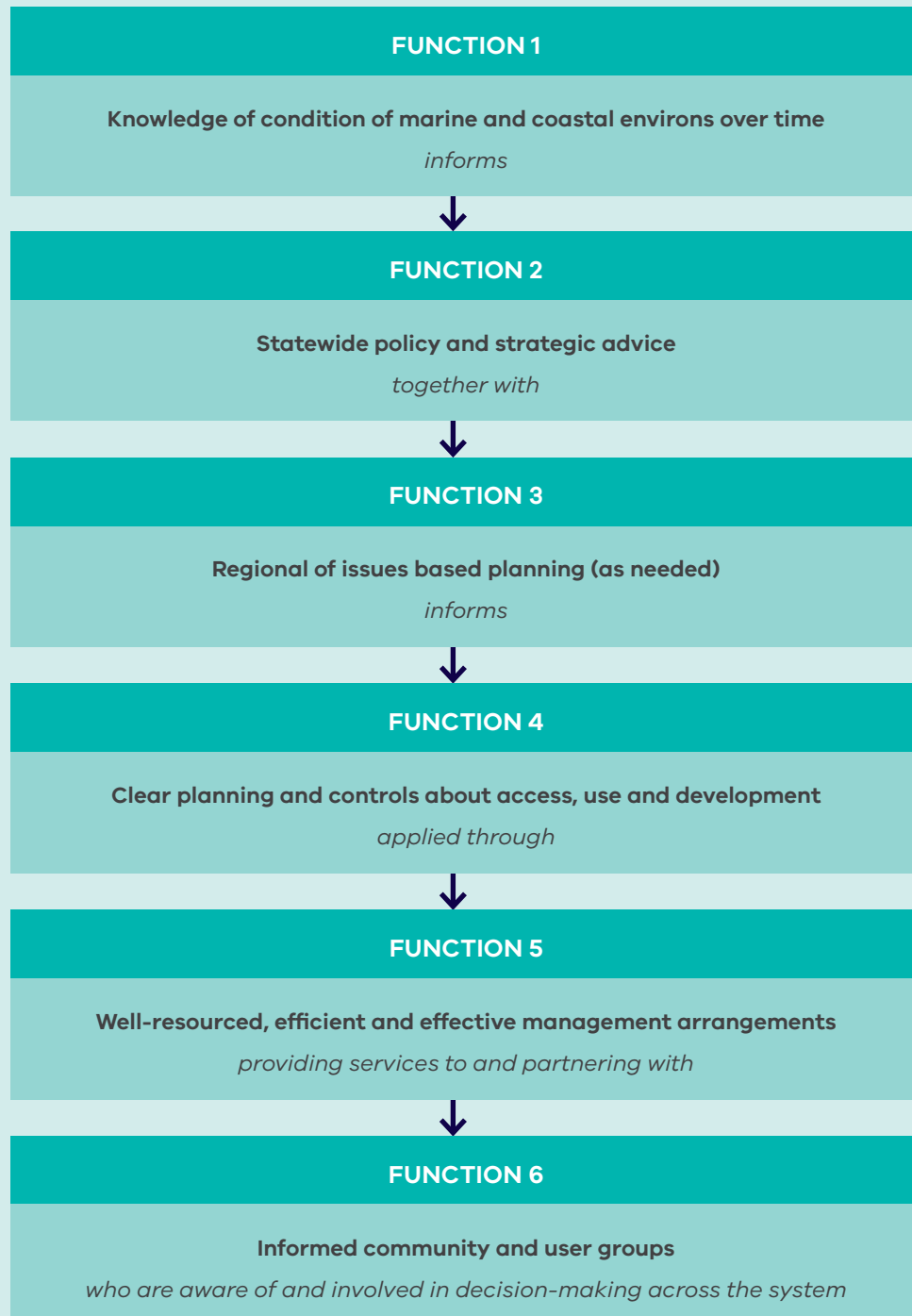
The objectives that guide all decision-making are to:

- protect and enhance the marine and coastal environment
- promote the resilience of marine and coastal ecosystems, communities and assets to climate change
- respect natural processes in planning for and managing current and future risks to people and assets as a result of coastal hazards and climate change
- acknowledge Traditional Owners' knowledge, rights and aspirations for land and sea country
- promote the ecological sustainable use and development of marine and coastal resources in appropriate areas
- improve community and user group stewardship and understanding of the marine and coastal environment
- engage with Traditional Owners, communities and user groups in coastal and marine planning, management and protection
- promote a diversity of experiences in the marine and coastal environment.



# Functions of an improved marine and coastal management system

The vision and objectives for marine and coastal environments  
*guide all decision making*



## THE IMPROVED SYSTEM:

- deals with uncertainty, prioritises action based on risk and is adaptive if circumstances, science or information change
- anticipates, plans for, identifies and addresses future threats and pressures
- is transparent, defining clear accountabilities and responsibilities for action
- actively engages the community and user groups in delivery.

Diagram 2: The functions of an improved marine and coastal management system.





# FUNCTION 1



# KNOWLEDGE OF THE CONDITION OF THE MARINE AND COASTAL ENVIRONMENT OVER TIME

Our goal is to improve the extent of our knowledge of the condition of the marine and coastal environment and use that knowledge to inform decision-making and evaluate the effectiveness of those decisions.

## Background

Access to long-term data and knowledge on the condition of the natural marine and coastal environment, including the biophysical and physical environment and built assets of public value, can improve the management of the marine and coastal system in a variety of ways, including:

- help identify change over time and the impacts of management actions and threats to the system
- improve our understanding of the changing condition of environmental assets to help us identify threats, initiate responses and monitor the effectiveness of these actions
- assist public land managers fulfil a duty of care for public safety and respond to changing expectations
- build a story that allows more accurate prediction of emergencies; this knowledge can be used to plan more effective responses to these events and avoid development in high-risk areas
- give more certainty to modelling of future climate change scenarios and set realistic trigger points for action
- help us understand whether our managing actions are having the desired impact.

Feedback on the Consultation Paper strongly supported the proposed reforms to improve knowledge of coastal and marine environments.

A first step is to clearly understand what information we have and how it can be more easily accessed and co-ordinated. The actions outlined in this proposed Transition Plan include collating the current information on marine habitats; consolidating data and information on coastal stability, erosion and inundation; and identifying coastal protection assets within one system. Once we have this information, we can more easily identify gaps in our knowledge and prioritise monitoring requirements. We are also proposing actions to determine how managers and communities can best access this information.

The actions will complement, and be complemented by, other areas of reform. The reforms proposed as a part of the VEAC Statewide Assessment of Public Land include a review of the number and types of coastal reserves, and preparation of an inventory of values and uses of the reserves. The government supports this recommendation, and will deliver that review alongside this proposed Transition Plan.

The actions will build monitoring programs across all of Victoria's marine and coastal habitats, and establish a baseline from which to monitor their condition over time. This will allow us to measure the impacts that management, activities, uses and climate change are having. The results can be used to guide and support decision-making in coastal and marine planning and management. The proposed Marine and Coastal Act requires a State of the Marine and Coastal Environment Report. This would provide a legislative requirement to report on the current and changing condition of the marine and coastal environment over time.

### Victorian Environment Assessment Council- Statewide Assessment of Public Land

In May 2017, the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council (VEAC) publicly released its *Statewide Assessment of Public Land Final Report*. VEAC made 30 recommendations to the Victorian Government in the final report, grouped into the following key themes:

- public land classification
- reform of land legislation
- improving management effectiveness
- addressing the backlog of implementation of government-accepted public land use recommendations
- protecting the rights and interests of Traditional Owners and native title holders
- priorities for further assessment or review

- supporting community based committees of management, and
- public information.

Many of VEAC's recommendations will influence marine and coastal management in Victoria and complement the marine and coastal reform program. These recommendations include the proposal to review coastal reserves and the marine environment when habitat classifications are complete.

Other recommendations that will support marine and coastal management include developing new public land legislation, reducing the complexity and improving the consistency of leasing and licensing, and providing stronger support to community-based Committees of Management.



### What success looks like

- We can effectively identify where there are knowledge and information gaps.
- We can effectively translate knowledge into decision-making.
- We have a comprehensive assessment of the known values of the marine environment and threats to those values. We use this assessment to determine gaps in our knowledge and understanding, and to inform development of marine and coastal policy, a marine spatial planning framework and a marine and coastal strategy.
- There is a co-ordinated collection of coastal hazard information.
- We have a clear understanding of the current and changing condition of the marine and coastal environment that is used to inform policy, planning and management.
- We can clearly determine the impact and outcome of policy, planning and management on the condition of our marine and coastal environment.

## Actions

### 1.1 Assess the values of Victoria's marine estate

The Victorian Environmental Assessment Council will be requested to undertake an assessment of the values of Victoria's marine estate. This will provide a comprehensive, robust and independently collated evidence base.

Who	When	Scope	Success measures
Lead Partner			
VEAC	2018 -19	<p>Assessment of the values of Victoria's marine estate will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>encompass all State coastal waters, bays and estuaries (including the Gippsland Lakes)</li> <li>identify current economic, social, cultural and environmental values of Victoria's marine estate, including their spatial distribution where relevant</li> <li>identify current and likely future threats to these values</li> <li>provide independent advice on future patterns, trends and direction related to existing and emerging uses</li> <li>provide an inventory of available knowledge and data on existing values, uses and threats and advise on any significant gaps.</li> </ul>	<p>We have a comprehensive, robust and independent assessment on the values of the marine environment.</p> <p>The assessment will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>inform development of a state-wide marine and coastal strategy</li> <li>help identify gaps in marine policy that should be filled through the statewide marine and coastal policy</li> <li>support the development of the proposed Marine Spatial Planning Framework (Action 2.2).</li> </ul>

### 1.2 Develop and implement a marine and coastal biodiversity information program

DELWP will develop and implement a marine and coastal biodiversity information program to consolidate and secure marine and coastal information.

Who	When	Scope	Success Measures
Lead partners			
DELWP (Biodiversity)	2018-22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and implement a marine and coastal data management system, including coastal risk assessment, spatial inventories, and marine habitat mapping.</li> <li>Align the data management system with DELWP's new Nature Kit (online Portal).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relevant marine and coastal environment data consolidated and secured in a DELWP-managed database.</li> <li>Access available to relevant data users.</li> <li>Information from this project fed into the State of the Marine and Coastal Environment Report (Action 1.9).</li> </ul>



### 1.3 Develop and implement a Victorian Coastal Monitoring Program and establish a database for coastal hazard information

DELWP will continue to develop and implement the Victorian Coastal Monitoring Program and a database for the coastal hazards for flooding and erosion information that links to the Victorian Flood Database.

Who	When	Scope	Success measures
Lead partners			
DELWP (Biodiversity)  CMAs  MW  Academic institutes	By mid-2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consolidate data and information on coastal stability, erosion and inundation to inform a statewide risk assessment.</li> <li>The risk assessment will prioritise coastal areas for future focus and identify critical monitoring needs.</li> <li>Monitor, understand and forecast changes in the state and condition of public assets (natural and built) of the coastal zone in relation to natural forces on those assets and their relative exposure and sensitivity to hazards (erosion, inundation and stability).</li> <li>Provide communities with data and information that underpins decision support tools.</li> <li>Inform risk assessment and facilitate planning, investment and adaptation decisions.</li> <li>Develop indicators for reporting on condition.</li> <li>Measure success in meeting objectives.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A risk and vulnerability assessment completed for the Victorian coastline.</li> <li>Data requirements agreed and fit for purpose.</li> <li>Monitoring projects established.</li> <li>Data used to inform policy development and management.</li> <li>Relevant coastal data on erosion, inundation and stability consolidated and managed.</li> <li>A data management system in place to underpin decision-making, communication and reporting.</li> <li>A coastal data management system and decision support tools that are publicly accessible via an internet portal.</li> <li>Results from this project fed into the State of the Marine and Coastal Environment Report. (Action 1.9)</li> </ul>



#### 1.4 Develop and implement a coastal built asset condition database

DELWP will develop and implement a coastal built asset database on the number, type and condition of structures on coastal public land and waters. This will enable a greater ability to prioritise maintenance and protection works on the most valuable assets in areas of most need and determine those assets that no longer serve a useful purpose.

Who	When	Scope	Success Measures
Lead partners			
DELWP (Regions)	2018 -19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a statewide coastal asset database framework.</li> <li>Use the same platform as is used for other DELWP assets (roads and bridges).</li> <li>Be interoperable with local government assets databases.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A coastal asset database that supports identification, assessment, and prioritisation of works to maintain and protect Victoria's unique and iconic beaches.</li> <li>Results from this project fed into the State of the Marine and Coastal Environment Report (Action 1.9).</li> </ul>

#### 1.5 Develop improved climate change impact projections for the Victorian coast

DELWP will develop improved climate change projections for the Victorian coast to better understand localised impacts and develop appropriate local responses.

Who	When	Scope	Success Measures
Lead partners			
DELWP (Climate Change)	2018-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop improved high-resolution projections for the whole of the Victorian coastline, particularly on priority issues (e.g. wave height and direction sea level rise, ocean currents, temperature, salinity and other factors) affected by climate change.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government and community better understand localised impacts.</li> <li>The information is publicly available.</li> <li>Results from this project fed into the State of the Marine and Coastal Environment Report (Action 1.9).</li> </ul>



## 1.6 Develop a marine knowledge framework

MCC and DELWP will develop a marine knowledge framework to facilitate a more integrated approach to research efforts and undertake more frequent and extensive monitoring of marine habitats by embracing new technology.

Who	When	Scope	Success Measures
Lead partners			
MCC DELWP (Biodiversity)	2018 -19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a risk- and evidence-based framework to guide the provision of science and knowledge to inform decision-making on the marine and coastal environment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An end-to-end policy-management-science framework guides evidence-based decision-making.</li> <li>Results from this project fed into the State of the Marine and Coastal Environment Report (Action 1.9).</li> </ul>

## 1.7 Scope the development of a marine and coastal hub or centre

MCC and DELWP will scope a hub that provides connections between people in the marine and coastal management sector so that science, research and technical expertise and education underpin excellence in decision-making in the marine and coastal environment.

Who	When	Scope	Success measures
Lead partners			
MCC DELWP (Land Management)	2018-19 Scoping and feasibility study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determine the scope of a marine and coastal knowledge centre or hub that provides a central point of coordination and connectivity for marine and coastal science, engineering and technical expertise (including social science and cultural knowledge).</li> <li>Explore opportunities for co-funding across coastal and marine organisations and academic institutes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A model developed that is well used by the coastal and marine groups.</li> <li>Coastal and marine decision-makers have ready access to leading edge science, engineering and technical expertise.</li> <li>A pilot project developed and completed.</li> </ul>

## 1.8 Develop a Visitor Experience Framework

Building on the work of the Regional Coastal Boards in the remainder of their terms, DELWP will continue to develop a Visitor Experience Framework on the coast. The framework will aim to:

- capture and understand the current recreation opportunities in coastal and marine areas across the state
- provide the best information available and a planning tool for land managers to address visitor experiences and help meet future challenges
- help identify priorities for investment and/or improved management of visitor experiences.

Who	When	Scope	Success measures
Lead partners			
RCBs  DELWP (Land Management policy and Regions)	2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Map information on visitor/tourism use of the coast at a landscape scale.</li> <li>• Identify prioritised visitor experience areas, considering opportunity/demand and other key factors.</li> <li>• Develop strategic principles for visitor/tourism use of the coast.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priorities for investment in coastal facilities/management are identified.</li> <li>• Coastal values are protected and future visitor and tourism needs are met.</li> <li>• A 'levels of service' approach used with complex issues.</li> <li>• The data is useful and easy to access.</li> </ul>

## Actions to be implemented following passage of the Bill

### 1.9 Prepare a State of the Marine and Coastal Environment Report

DELWP in partnership with the Office of the Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability will prepare a State of the Marine and Coastal Environment Report that will establish a baseline of environmental condition and enable monitoring of change over time.

Who	When	Scope	Success measures
DELWP OCES VCMC	2018-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report on the condition, threats and benefits of natural marine and coastal values.</li> <li>Build on the State of the Bays and the Victorian Coastal Monitoring program database management system and digital reporting.</li> <li>Build on catchment condition reporting by the Victorian Catchment Management Council.</li> <li>Continue, expand and improve marine and coastal monitoring.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clear indicators of a healthy marine and coastal environment are outlined.</li> <li>SMART goals and measures are developed.</li> <li>The impact that management is having on the marine and coastal environment is measured.</li> <li>The report provides a clear understanding of the current and changing condition of the marine and coastal environment.</li> <li>Key monitoring programs to inform future reporting are established.</li> </ul>







## FUNCTION 2

# STATEWIDE POLICY AND STRATEGIC ADVICE

Our goal is to set clear and well-informed statewide policy and strategy to guide decisions and deliver on-ground actions.

## Background

Clear policy and strategy at a statewide level is critical if we are to improve the marine and coastal management system. The Victorian Coastal Strategy is a strength of the *Coastal Management Act 1995*. The reforms propose to build on this strength by emphasising the marine environment and separating policy and strategy into separate documents. This separation will make the strategy more targeted in outlining how and when specific challenges will be addressed.

*A Marine and Coastal Policy* will outline the policy position on matters relating to the marine and coastal environment and guide decision-makers in implementing the objectives of new marine and coastal system. The policy will not replace or duplicate policy setting for the management of specific sectors. It will focus on the cross-cutting policy issues to better articulate what all sectors need to take into consideration in decision-making.

Like the Victorian Coastal Strategy, the Marine and Coastal Policy will deal with policy issues of relevance across the marine and coastal environment. Policy for marine and coastal areas must balance environmental, social/cultural and economic issues and needs.

The policy will include development of a Marine Spatial Planning Framework. The Framework is an agreed process of engagement and discussion between marine sectors, government agencies and marine resource users about the long-term marine planning requirements.

*A Marine and Coastal Strategy* will outline the actions to achieve the policy positions outlined in the policy and the Marine and Coastal Act. The strategy will have a much greater focus on marine issues that cut across sectorial boundaries. Importantly, it will be released with an accompanying implementation plan. The Strategy Implementation Plan will clearly outline how actions would be prioritised, resourced and implemented.



## What success looks like

- The Marine and Coastal Policy clearly articulates existing policy positions and fills policy gaps.
- Decision-makers are certain of policy positions.
- There is clear direction, guidance, coordination and integration of activities, uses and developments in the marine and coastal environment.
- The intrinsic values, and ecosystem services social, cultural and economic importance of the marine and coastal environment for all Victorians is acknowledged.
- Government agencies that manage marine sector activities are fully engaged in the development and implementation of the policies and strategies that deal with cross-cutting issues.

## Actions to be implemented following passage of the Bill

### 2.1 Prepare a statewide policy for the marine and coastal environment

DELWP will prepare a statewide policy for the marine and coastal environment. Preparation of the policy will be guided by the Marine and Coastal Council in consultation with relevant portfolio Ministers. The policy will be co-endorsed by Ministers of Acts relevant to the marine and coastal environment.

Who	When	Scope	Success measures
DELWP	Mid-2018 (commencement of Marine and Coastal Act) to late 2019, prior to developing the Marine and Coastal Strategy.	<p>The statewide Marine and Coastal Policy will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>clearly articulate statewide policy positions and frameworks</li> <li>provide guidance to decision-makers to meet the objectives of marine and coastal planning and management under the Marine and Coastal Act</li> <li>integrate management of the marine and coastal environment</li> <li>focus on cross-cutting policy issues to better articulate what all sectors need to take into consideration</li> <li>include policy and guidance for adapting to climate change consistent with the Climate Change Act</li> <li>be a long-term policy position for the marine and coastal environment that can only be amended through community consultation and parliamentary processes.</li> </ul> <p>The policy will not replace or duplicate policy setting for the management of specific sectors.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statewide policy used to guide consistent decision-making.</li> <li>Policy endorsed and implemented across the whole of government.</li> </ul>

## 2.2 Develop a Marine Spatial Planning Framework (as a component of the statewide policy)

Victoria needs to prepare for, and balance, increased use of the marine estate in the longer term. Development of the Marine Spatial Planning Framework will commence the first phase of engagement and discussion between marine sectors, government agencies and marine resource users about Victoria's long-term marine planning requirements. This project is an agreed process to plan for and manage Victoria's marine environment in an integrated and coordinated manner.

Who	When	Scope	Success measures
DELWP & an inter-agency committee	Mid-2018 (commencement of Marine and Coastal Act) to late 2019.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outline the key elements of a marine planning process in the Victorian context, including a clear and agreed process:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– to provide a risk-based approach to determine if, where and when marine spatial plans or other planning tools are required</li> <li>– to investigate and advise (through a risk-based approach) on the long-term priorities and timeframes for the development of regional marine plans and other planning tools</li> <li>– to outline the nature, content and objectives of these plans.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Improve integration of planning and management of the marine environment across the State and Commonwealth jurisdictional boundary.</li> <li>Improve the integration of marine environment planning and management with land based planning in Victoria, particularly integration with municipal planning schemes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is active engagement and discussion between marine sectors, government agencies and marine resource users about the long-term planning requirements for Victoria's marine estate.</li> <li>An agreed process manages Victoria's marine estate in a coordinated, sustainable and equitable way developed and endorsed by all partners.</li> <li>Active participation of all the marine sectors to ensure the framework is responsive to the various issues and needs.</li> </ul>



### 2.3 Prepare statewide strategy for marine and coastal areas

DELWP will prepare a statewide strategy for the marine and coastal environment accompanied by an implementation plan. Preparation of the strategy will be guided by the Marine and Coastal Council and in consultation with relevant portfolio Ministers. The strategy will be co-endorsed by Ministers of applicable Acts relevant to the marine and coastal environment.

Who	When	Scope	Success Measures
DELWP	Late 2019 to late 2020.	<p>Statewide Marine and Coastal Strategy will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• outline targeted actions to achieve the objectives of the Marine and Coastal Act</li> <li>• outline how and when specific challenges, issue and threats will be addressed</li> <li>• focus on marine issues that cut across sectorial boundaries</li> <li>• be accompanied by an Implementation plan and evaluation plan</li> <li>• be deemed an adaptation action plan of the coastal and marine sectors under the <i>Climate Change Act 2017</i>.</li> </ul> <p>The Strategy will be updated every five years.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategy developed and endorsed by Government.</li> <li>• Implementation plan endorsed by Government.</li> </ul>

The image is a full-page background photograph of a coastal scene. On the left, a body of water meets a sandy beach. A steep, grassy cliff rises from the beach, with some exposed rock layers. On the right side of the cliff, a hill is covered with numerous houses of various colors and styles, some with corrugated metal roofs. The hill is densely vegetated. In the background, more hills are visible under a cloudy sky. A diagonal teal overlay runs from the top left corner towards the bottom right, partially covering the cliff and the houses.

# FUNCTION 3



# REGIONAL AND ISSUES-BASED PLANNING

Our goal is to deliver strong, integrated regional and issues-based planning.

## Background

Integrated coastal zone management is a core principle of the proposed Marine and Coastal Act. This principle aims to integrate the water cycle and ecosystem processes from ocean to land to atmosphere.

CMAs are the key regional organisations charged with integration of natural resources management in Victoria (*CALP Act 1994*). The five coastal CMAs already have some responsibilities to plan for natural resource management along the coast, in estuaries and in the marine environment out to three nautical miles. As outlined in the Consultation Paper, a major reform in the improved marine and coastal management system is to strengthen that role.

The five CMAs will be enhanced (in terms of both skills and expertise) to deliver strong leadership in integrating natural resource management across catchment, coasts and marine environments. The scope of their Regional Catchment Strategies will be expanded and DELWP will support the CMAs with guidance on approaches to strengthen consideration of threats to the marine and coastal environment by working closely with the Victorian Catchment Management Council.

These actions will complement, and be complemented by, other areas of reform.

## 'Our Catchments, Our Communities'

'Our Catchments, Our Communities', the statewide strategy for integrated catchment management, highlights the need to strengthen the diversity and equity of community representation in the catchment and land protection advisory system. It proposes that appointment processes consider geographic representation, knowledge of the marine and coastal environment and climate change to better

reflect emerging issues. It also outlines the need to amend the Statements of Obligations for Catchment Management Authorities to clarify obligations and performance standards in relation to their functions under the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 and the Water Act 1989, and articulate new state government policy directions. This will be particularly relevant after the passage of the new Marine and Coastal Act.



## Victoria's Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2017-2020.

- Builds a detailed understanding of Victoria's exposure to climate change risks and impacts.
- Catalyses partnerships for integrated and effective responses to climate change.
- Tackles immediate priorities to reduce climate change risks.

Priority actions in Victoria's Climate Change Adaptation Plan contribute directly to deliver improved marine and coastal outcomes to help the community to understand and manage the risks and impacts of climate change.

These include:

- Providing guidance and up-to-date information as our understanding of potential climate change impacts becomes more sophisticated. This includes improved climate change impact projections for the Victorian coast (Action 1.5).

- Climate change vulnerability assessments to build the knowledge base and analyse sectoral and regional vulnerability. The first phase of these assessments will address fire and riverine flood. The second phase will address other issues such as sea level rise and storm surge. The sectors being assessed for vulnerability include tourism and the natural environment. It is this information and guidance that communities and decision-makers rely on to manage their adaptation risks.

- Working with local government to create a community of practice for adaptation. Local governments are primary partners in supporting the community to adapt, and the Government is committed to revitalising a strong and productive partnership with local government on climate change. This will help local governments understand what is needed to effectively integrate climate change considerations in local government governance and planning and enable peer to peer learning and information sharing between councils.

In many circumstances, cross-jurisdictional co-operation is the preferred mechanism to tackle challenges arising from erosion, flooding, rising sea levels, frequent floods and coastal storms and population growth. The Consultation Paper proposed Regional and Strategic Partnerships as a mechanism specifically designed to deal with cross jurisdictional issues. This plan proposes to work with the Victorian Coastal Council and the incoming Marine and Coastal Council to identify criteria for a Regional and Strategic Partnership and a suitable pilot/s.

Regional partnerships are already being established to support strong co-ordinated adaption to climate change. This regional partnership approach is consistent with Victoria's Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2017–2020. Climate change vulnerability assessments are being completed for sectors, and communities of practice on adaptation are being developed across local governments.

One such shared problem is the need to better plan, manage and prepare for present and future coastal hazards in Port Phillip Bay. A partnership between state and local government agencies is funding a coastal hazard assessment to better understand coastal processes and potential coastal hazards in Port Phillip Bay. Similarly, six partners across the Barwon South West have harnessed their combined resources to scope a similar coastal hazard assessment for that region.

The Marine and Coastal Act proposes to enable an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) specifically for Port Phillip Bay and an ability to prepare EMPs for other priority areas. This will ensure the recently completed Port Phillip Bay Environmental Management Plan, will be reviewed and can address broader issues that are affecting the health of the bay.

## Port Phillip Bay Environmental Management Plan 2017–2027

The Victorian Government is committed to conserve and enhance the health of the state's marine and coastal environments. The Port Phillip Bay Environmental Management Plan 2017–2027 is an important step towards achieving this goal.

This new plan establishes a framework and identifies actions to manage future challenges in maintaining the health and resilience of the Bay. The 21 actions over seven priority areas will deliver on three goals: improved stewardship of the Bay, water quality and marine biodiversity.

The plan builds on the good work that is already being done to maintain the health of the Bay. It aligns government, industry and community groups on actions that will address challenges resulting from population growth, urbanisation and climate change.

Actions will be implemented over the next 10 years and, where possible, will follow an adaptive management approach. Specific interventions and activities will be aligned to, and in some cases delivered by, broader state or regional plans and strategies (such as whole-of-catchment planning and integrated water cycle management).





## What success looks like

- CMAs play a lead role in integrating natural resource planning and management across catchments, coasts and marine environments.
- CMAs prepare Regional Catchment Strategies with strong marine and coastal components, that integrate the planning of land, water and biodiversity and focus on impacts from catchment and coastal areas on the marine environment.
- Decision-makers and coastal and marine managers have an improved understanding of vulnerabilities of the marine and coastal environment to climate change.
- Local governments across the coast are sharing knowledge through communities of practice.
- There is improved understanding of coastal processes and potential coastal hazards. Local, State Government and management agencies can plan, manage and prepare for impacts of coastal hazards now and in the future.
- Environmental Management Plans prepared for Port Phillip Bay and other priority locations deliver management targets for the range of threats impacting the health of the Bay and other areas of the marine environment.
- Regional and Strategic Partnerships provide strong co-operative delivery of outcomes for the management of issues that cross jurisdictional boundaries.



## Actions

### 3.1 Strengthen coverage of marine and coastal issues in Regional Catchment Strategies

In partnership with the Victorian Catchment Management Council, DELWP will support the coastal Catchment Management Authorities to strengthen the coverage of coastal and marine issues in the development of the next Regional Catchment Strategies, including catchment based impacts on the marine environment.

Who	When	Scope	Success Measures
VCMC DELWP	2018-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional Catchment Strategies will include approaches to strengthen the coverage of coastal and marine issues in the development of the next Regional Catchment Strategies due in 2019-20.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guidelines contain specific instructions to coastal CMAs on how to strengthen the coverage of coastal and marine issues.</li> <li>They include engagement with relevant coastal and marine managers and networks.</li> </ul>

### 3.2 Complete a Coastal Hazard Assessment and subsequent adaptation planning outcomes for Port Phillip Bay

DELWP will lead a partnership to develop a coastal hazards assessment for Port Phillip Bay. This assessment will deliver a better understanding of the coastal processes and potential coastal hazards. This will be an important step in planning, managing, preparing for and adapting to present and future coastal hazards. The study will identify a range of actions to reduce future risks around the bay.

Who	When	Scope	Success Measures
DELWP (Port Phillip Region)  ABM, MW, MAV.	2018-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare a coastal hazard assessment, primarily focussed on inundation and erosion hazards.</li> <li>Improve the understanding of coastal processes in the bay and potential coastal hazards and analyse risks from those hazards.</li> <li>Closely align the assessment with monitoring studies being done through the Victorian Coastal Monitoring Program and programs of other partners.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A coastal hazard assessment for Port Phillip Bay is delivered.</li> <li>Regularly updated monitoring data is collected and used to update the assessment.</li> <li>The coastal hazard assessment is used to inform hazard management and future planning around the bay.</li> </ul>

### 3.3 Pilot a Regional and Strategic Partnership (RASP)

The VCC and DELWP (in consultation with key stakeholders) will identify criteria for a pilot RASP. DELWP, VCC and relevant partners will identify a suitable pilot/s.

Who	When	Scope	Success Measures
VCC DELWP Relevant Partners MCC	2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The VCC (in consultation with key stakeholders) identifies criteria for a suitable pilot RASP.</li> <li>Criteria could include:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>multiple stakeholders (all levels of government, marine and coastal managers, community and diverse parties, e.g. VicRoads, community groups)</li> <li>sustainable funding</li> <li>focus on an iconic site that has a problem</li> <li>a clearly identifiable issue.</li> </ul> </li> <li>DELWP, VCC and relevant partners will identify a suitable RASP.</li> <li>A trial of a proposed RASP process could begin prior to commencement of the Act.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Regional and Strategic Partnership is identified, established and trialled.</li> </ul>





# FUNCTION 4

# CLEAR PLANNING AND CONTROLS ABOUT ACCESS, USE AND DEVELOPMENT

Our goal is to deliver clear planning and controls about access, use and development in the marine and coastal environment.

## Background

The coast is naturally dynamic and is constantly changing and evolving in response to waves, tides and wind. When these coastal processes affect things we value, we call them coastal hazards. Climate change impacts, such as increased sea level rise and more frequent storms, may not produce new coastal hazards but will increase the severity and occurrence of the existing hazards.

When planning for access, use and development, the natural dynamics and potential climate change impacts must be considered. The knowledge that is gained through actions outlined in Function 1, and policy and strategy developed through Function 2, will inform and guide how these issues will be considered in decision-making, planning and management.

Adaptation planning is about giving people a degree of certainty as to what they can expect in the future and a greater ability to cope with change. Each level of government and the community will need to undertake some form of risk assessment, resilience building and adaptation to future climate change impacts.

There is a need to review benchmarks to provide for certainty in the planning system. Benchmarks or triggers for action can be regularly updated as science and knowledge of what is happening and what is expected to happen improves. These reforms propose a review of the current sea level rise planning benchmarks and the guidelines for how structures are best sited and designed. These actions will happen alongside a review of how the consideration of climate change and adaptation policy can be strengthened through the planning system.

Site-specific planning controls (such as a planning permit or a Coastal Management Act consent) on coastal public land are important because they give the land owner (the relevant Minister on behalf of the Crown) and coastal manager the opportunity to assess proposals against coastal policy and strategy and to ensure public values are protected. The new Marine and Coastal Act proposes to maintain the requirement for the Minister to consent to use and development on coastal Crown land. It will also enable the development of regulations to streamline processes, specify exemptions and ensure commensurate controls.

Coastal flooding and erosion<sup>1</sup> are significant coastal hazards affecting Victoria's coast. These are not discrete processes. Coastal flooding may cause erosion and erosion may lead to flooding. There is currently a lack of expertise to provide advice on matters relating to coastal erosion.

Catchment Management Authorities and Melbourne Water have responsibility for integrated river and flood management under the *Water Act 1989*, including coastal flooding and erosion. The new Act proposes that coastal CMAs and Melbourne Water will provide advice on matters relating to coastal erosion. This will complement their role in providing advice on coastal flooding. It is recognised that coastal CMAs and Melbourne Water will need skills and resources to undertake the role and a clear mandate to take on this new obligation. The Act would include a mechanism to match the scope of this advice with available resources, capacity and data. The reforms include establishing and maintaining statewide standards, databases, and guidance to build capacity and understanding of coastal erosion in all organisations.

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<sup>1</sup> Coastal flooding and erosion is a term covering beach erosion, shoreline recession, coastal lake or watercourse entrance instability, coastal inundation, tidal inundation, coastal cliff or slope instability and erosion and inundation of foreshores caused by tidal water and waves including the interaction of those waters with catchment flood waters.



## What success looks like

- Sea level rise benchmarks/ triggers for planning are set and updated through the Marine and Coastal Policy and Marine and Coastal Strategy.
- The design of new buildings and infrastructure integrates with the coastal landscapes and settings while avoiding environmental impacts.
- Marine and coastal Crown land is not used for structures unless they provide significant community benefit and their functionality depends on being near the water.
- Planning and decision-making systems for how we use and develop the marine and coastal environment are appropriate for the location, and respond and adapt to future challenges and opportunities.
- The planning and decision-making processes for the marine and coastal environment are transparent and give the community the opportunity to input to planning decisions.
- Technical expert advice on coastal flooding and erosion is provided to the Minister, governments and the community.
- There is clear guidance and regulation for the use and development of the marine and coastal environment.



## Actions

### 4.1 Revise sea level rise planning benchmarks/triggers

DELWP will revise the sea level rise planning benchmark considering the latest science and climate change projections and will develop planning benchmarks or triggers for action for beyond 2100.

Who	When	Scope	Success measures
DELWP (Land Management) MCC	2018-19  Parallel with development of the Marine and Coastal Policy.  A revised benchmark / trigger will be both a Policy statement and actioned through the Strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revise the existing sea level rise planning benchmark. In doing so, consider emerging science and the latest updates from the IPCC systematic techniques developed by Hunter 2014.</li> <li>Consider planning benchmarks or triggers for action for beyond 2100 as sea level continues to rise.</li> <li>Ensure that sea level rise benchmarks or triggers can be clearly incorporated into planning, building and emergency management systems.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New sea level rise benchmark is agreed in marine and coastal policy and actioned through the strategy.</li> <li>The benchmark or triggers are incorporated into decision-making processes in land use planning, building and emergency management systems.</li> </ul>

### 4.2 Consider how climate change and adaptation policy can be strengthened through the planning and building systems

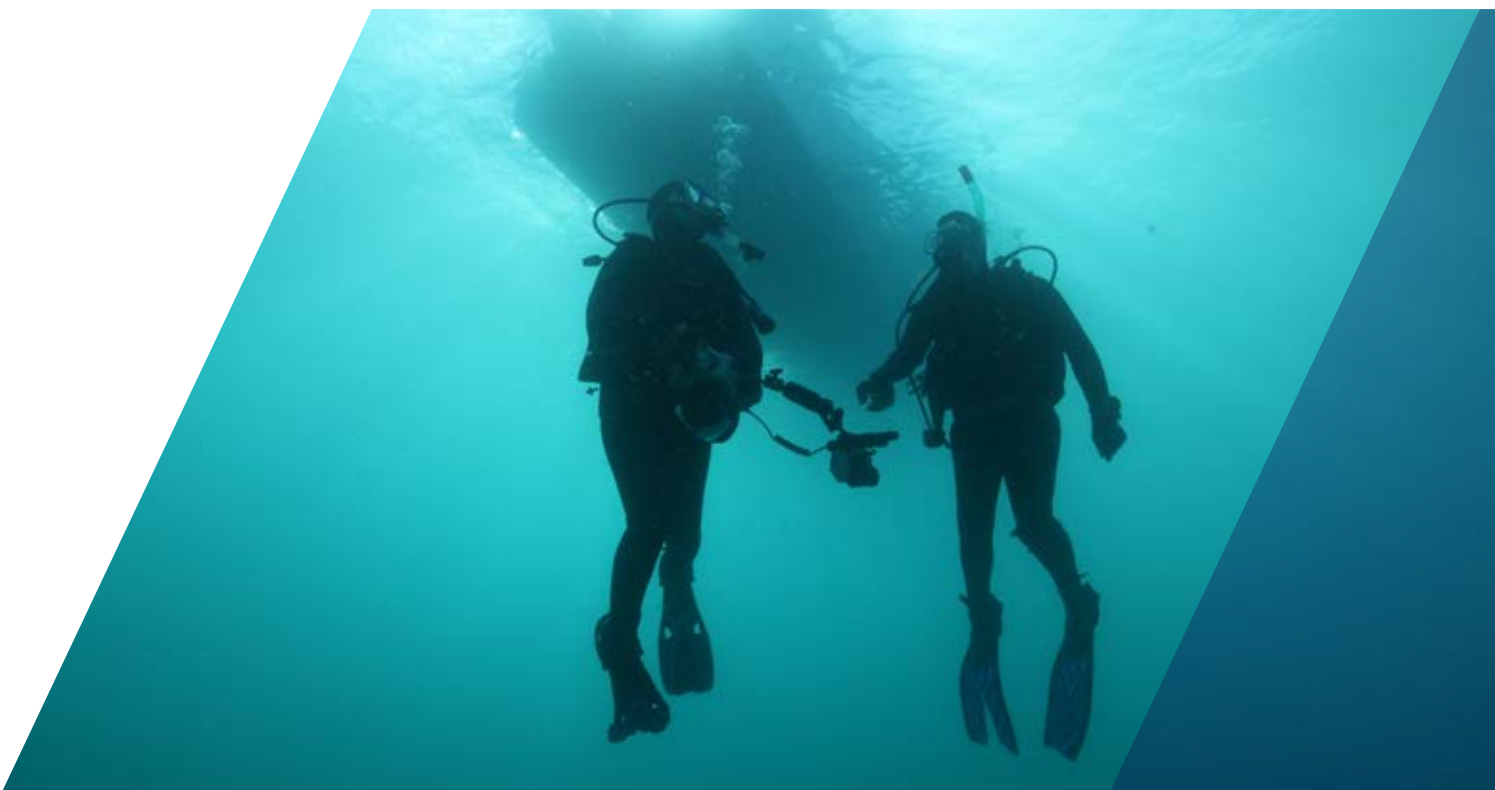
DELWP will review the land use planning and building systems and determine ways to improve how these systems deal with natural hazards, including coastal hazards of inundation and erosion.

Who	When	Scope	Success measures
DELWP (Climate Change and Planning) Local Government	2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review land use planning policies and provisions to improve the way the land use planning and building systems manage natural hazards, climate change and environmental risks. The review is part of implementing the updated Plan Melbourne in parallel with the adaptation plan.</li> <li>Ensure that planning and building systems remain current and based on the best available climate science and will help growth and settlement patterns to avoid and reduce long term risk.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land use planning and building systems are improved and better manage natural hazards, climate change and environmental risks.</li> </ul>

### 4.3 Revise the Siting and Design Guidelines for structures on the Victorian coast

DELWP will revise the Siting and Design Guidelines for structures on the Victorian Coast to provide contemporary criteria and improved design guidance for coastal development.

Who	When	Scope	Success measures
DELWP (Land Management)  Local government  Committees of Management	2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revise the existing Siting and Design Guidelines for structures on the Victorian coast to incorporate any new information relating to protecting and enhancing coastal values identified in the <i>Victorian Coastal Strategy 2014</i> and the <i>Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2017</i>.</li> </ul>	<p>Delivery of a revised siting and design guidelines document that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>has a clear and readable structure that explains the alignment of the Guidelines with current State policy and planning</li> <li>includes clearly articulated principles/objectives and well-illustrated guidelines and examples that provide best practice for the future use and development of buildings and infrastructure on Victoria's coast</li> <li>includes updated content relating to prospective climate change and visitation/population impacts</li> <li>reviews and incorporates stakeholder feedback.</li> </ul>



## Actions to be implemented following passage of the Bill

### 4.4 Build the capacity and develop guidance and support for DELWP, coastal CMAs and Melbourne Water to understand the processes of coastal erosion and flooding in Victoria

DELWP will support organisations charged with providing advice on coastal flooding to also advise on coastal erosion by establishing statewide standards, databases, and guidance to build capacity and understanding of coastal erosion in all organisations. Guidance will be consistent with the Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy and the Victorian Coastal Monitoring Program, and support the co-ordinated collection of coastal hazard information on flooding and erosion.

Who	When	Scope	Success Measures
DELWP CMAs MW	2018-22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Build the skills and capacity of, and provide guidance to, coastal Catchment Management Authorities, Melbourne Water and DELWP to understand coastal flooding and erosion processes.</li> <li>Closely align with products of the Victorian Coastal Monitoring Program (Action 1.2), the Victorian Flood Database and the scope of advice required on coastal flooding and erosion.</li> <li>Include the development of guidance and standards for the collection of relevant data after a storm event.</li> </ul>	Coastal CMAs and Melbourne Water are confident in providing advice on coastal flooding and erosion as required by the Minister.

### 4.5 Develop regulations for use and development on marine and coastal Crown land

The new Marine and Coastal Act proposes that regulations will be developed for use and development of marine and coastal Crown land. The regulations will streamline the process for obtaining coastal consent, reduce the number of applications requiring approval, remove duplication and improve links with the planning system.

Who	When	Scope	Success measures
DELWP Agencies with applicable Acts, e.g. DEDJTR DJR DPC DTF	Mid 2018 (commencement of Marine and Coastal Act) to mid-2019.	<p>The Marine and Coastal Act will enable regulations to be made.</p> <p>Regulations will specify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>what use and development does NOT require consent</li> <li>a set of standard conditions</li> <li>an ability to set bonds and charges</li> <li>an ability to issue infringements</li> <li>regulation will implement a risk-based approach.</li> </ul> <p>Policy guidance will also be developed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is a set of regulations for coastal consent.</li> <li>The process for obtaining consent is streamlined and less complicated.</li> <li>The process is less administratively burdensome.</li> </ul>





# FUNCTION 5

# WELL-RESOURCED, EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT

Our goal is to deliver well-resourced, efficient and effective management.

## Background

Improved marine and coastal management will have coastal and marine management organisations that are efficient, sustainable and have the capacity and expertise to deal with future challenges. These challenges include the increasing impacts of climate change, population growth and changing community expectations of how marine and coastal environment is to be managed. There are currently misalignments between the accountabilities and responsibilities of some organisations and their capacity, skills and resourcing.

The Marine and Coastal Act Consultation Paper proposed grouping the management of coastal reserves to distribute funds across reserves and enable available resources to be targeted to key priorities. Business models utilising sustainable revenue streams can then be established. The resulting larger income base allows for the employment of skilled staff and development of strategic plans.

With these concepts in mind, the proposed Transition Plan suggests a process to examine options to simplify management arrangements for coastal Crown land. Such a process will include consultation with land managers and local communities. It will consider ways to promote volunteers, encourage the greater use of shared services, and improve integration between marine and coastal managers. The process will be piloted to evaluate its success and provide learnings for application in other coastal areas. The location for the pilot will be an area of coast facing the multiple challenges of climate change, population growth, ageing infrastructure and changing community attitudes.

Transferring knowledge and supporting the implementation of best practice management techniques will improve coastal and marine management. DELWP will lead actions to provide this support, including: education and capacity building programs; assistance in identifying and managing risks and tackling the impacts of coastal hazards on beaches and dune systems; assistance in the maintenance of coastal protection infrastructure; and delivering targeted actions to protect biodiversity in the marine environment.

Resourcing arrangements for the marine and coastal environment need to be improved if we are to adequately address challenges posed by an ageing asset base, increasing demands from population growth and impacts of climate change. This plan proposes to kick start a reform agenda towards more sustainable funding of the marine and coastal environment. The first step will be to investigate mechanisms to clearly describe and report on where money is raised and spent in the marine and coastal environment. The next step is to design an integrated investment framework to provide accounting mechanisms and guidance for the coastal and marine management sector.

Once we have clarity on current resourcing there is an opportunity to explore other ways of generating revenue and reducing costs. Fees should reflect the value and benefit provided by the private asset on coastal Crown land. A comprehensive review of all fees charged by coastal Crown land managers will be undertaken. The focus will be on where greater consistency, cost recovery or additional revenue could be achieved while maintaining fairness and equity for the use, enjoyment of the marine and coastal environment and exploring opportunities to implement the principle of beneficiary pays.

Management of the marine and coastal environment requires the participation of all levels of government, industry and the community. Agreed co-investment arrangements will be articulated for coastal and marine issues, for example, coastal protection works. Developing co-investment arrangements will need to consider how ongoing management, maintenance and auditing costs will be met as well as articulating principles that need to be considered, for example, beneficiary pays and providing public benefit.

Coastal and marine management plans will continue to be the major management support tool for coastal Crown land managers. The new Marine and Coastal Act proposes to strengthen coastal and marine management plans, allowing them to cover multiple reserves and ensure that coastal compartments are considered in determining the extent and area. A clear action will be to revise and update guidelines for the preparation of coastal and marine management plans to ensure consistency with the Marine and Coastal Act.





## What success looks like

- Marine and coastal managers have the capability, capacity and resources to deal with current and future challenges.
- Funding and resource allocation is resilient to medium- to longer-term future challenges and changes.
- Coastal planning and management will be well resourced and effective in managing the key issues of climate change, population growth and ageing infrastructure, and issues of habitat loss and fragmentation.
- Coastal and marine managers are supported to undertake best practice management of the marine and coastal environment.
- There is a clear understanding where revenue is generated and spent for the management of the marine and coastal environment and of fees charged by coastal Crown land managers.
- Revised fees charged by coastal Crown land managers maintain fairness and equity for the use and enjoyment of the marine and coastal environment.
- Co-investment arrangements for coastal infrastructure are established in the Marine and Coastal Policy, Marine and Coastal Strategy and Regional and Strategic Partnerships.
- Coastal and marine management plans covering multiple reserves and geomorphological units will be the primary management tool to guide coastal management.

## Actions

### 5.1 Simplify management arrangements for coastal Crown land

DELWP and relevant coastal managers will implement a process to examine options to simplify management arrangements for coastal Crown land. The aim will be to establish well-resourced land managers that manage marine and coastal Crown land on the scale of a coastal compartment.

A location to apply a pilot of the process will be identified. A co-design approach will be taken to the pilot to help facilitate capacity building, information sharing and a positive outcome.

Who	When	Scope	Success measures
DELWP (Regions)  Relevant coastal and marine managers	2018-19	<p>Establish criteria to determine a pilot location that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>currently has a complex arrangement of coastal and marine managers, with a large variation of resources and skills</li> <li>is experiencing increased permanent population growth as well as seasonal population growth</li> <li>is experiencing impacts of coastal hazards, and has a coastal hazard assessment completed</li> <li>provides an opportunity to plan coastal management at the scale of a coastal compartment.</li> </ul> <p>Potential steps in a process:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Determine management area</b> (pilot area and boundaries = use natural geomorphic features – coastal compartments).</li> <li><b>Engage</b> with all existing coastal managers and establish governance arrangements.</li> <li><b>Develop and analyse management options.</b> This will include economic analysis e.g. cost /benefit, options to maintain volunteer involvement and options to better integrate and share services with local government, Parks Victoria and any other managers.</li> <li><b>Determine and implement the agreed management option.</b></li> <li>Once preferred management option is established, <b>support the new manager to engage the community</b> to determine agreed vision and goals for the management area. develop a coastal and marine management plan, outlining the management actions required to achieve the agreed vision and goals for the management.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clear process is developed.</li> <li>Pilot location identified.</li> <li>Simpler and more effective management arrangements are implemented.</li> <li>Management plan is completed.</li> </ul>

## 5.2 Build the skills and capacity of marine and coastal managers

DELWP in partnership with coastal and marine managers will continue to identify needs and deliver support to build the skills, capacity and knowledge of marine and coastal managers.

Who	When	Scope	Success measures
Lead Partners			
DELWP (Regions)  Marine and coastal managers  Traditional owner groups	2018-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to identify needs and gaps in the skills and knowledge of marine and coastal managers and work with managers to identify mechanisms to address these gaps.</li> <li>Continue the ongoing service role to provide advice and develop guidance particularly on implementation of the Marine and Coastal Act. Guidance on issues such as for coastal erosion, siting and design and preparing coastal and marine management plans will be provided.</li> <li>Where possible, link needs with capacity building and education programs such as Coastcare and Landcare.</li> <li>Link marine and coastal managers with best practice methods and decision-making, e.g through ensuring access to the outputs of Function 1.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marine and coastal managers confidently use best practice methods and decision-making to manage the coast.</li> </ul>

## 5.3 Support coastal Crown land managers to address risks to public safety on coastal land

DELWP will continue the highly successful Coastal Public Access and Risk grants program to provide financial assistance to coastal Crown land managers to address risks to public safety on coastal land.

Who	When	Scope	Success measures
DELWP (Regions)	2018-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide financial assistance to coastal Crown land managers to address risks to public safety on coastal land. Grants will partially fund projects with co-investment, that reduce coastal risk through identification, mitigation and monitoring.</li> </ul>	Public safety risks on coastal land are identified and managed proactively.



#### 5.4 Protect and renourish priority Victorian beaches and dune systems in the bays and along the outer coast

DELWP will partner with coastal land managers providing financial and technical assistance to tackle priority maintenance and improvement to beaches and foreshores.

Who	When	Scope	Success measures
DELWP (Regions)	2018-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect Port Phillip beaches and foreshores from erosion through renourishment.</li> <li>Establish a program on the open coast for sand and dune management to protect priority beaches and foreshores from erosion and flooding.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Priority beaches in Port Phillip Bay are renourished.</li> <li>Sand and dune management builds resilience of priority beaches and foreshores on the open coast.</li> </ul>

#### 5.5 Maintain and upgrade critical coastal protection infrastructure

DELWP will partner with coastal land managers to provide financial and technical assistance for maintenance and replacement of critical coastal protection structures. These works will contribute to climate change adaption and increase resilience against storms, flooding and erosion.

Who	When	Scope	Success measures
DELWP (Regions)	2018-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a program of major capital and maintenance works to replace critical dilapidated coastal protection structures, such as sea walls, retaining walls, groynes and revetments.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Highest public safety risks identified and managed.</li> <li>The lifespan of the most useful protection assets is extended.</li> </ul>

## 5.6 Provide greater transparency, better reporting and awareness of revenue generated and spent on the coast - Financing the Coast Project

DELWP and the Victorian Coastal Council will investigate measures to provide greater transparency, better reporting and awareness of revenue generated and spent on the coast.

Who	When	Scope	Success measures
VCC, DELWP (Land Management)	2018-19	<p>The Financing the Coast project aims to develop an integrated investment framework for Victoria's coast.</p> <p>Stage 1 will focus on the development of a coastal accounting methodology.</p> <p>Stage 2 will apply the methodology to all coastal land managers across Victoria.</p> <p>The project scope includes marine and coastal Crown land including the nearshore marine environment, the seabed and water out to the State limit of three nautical miles.</p> <p>The project will focus on both natural and built elements of the marine and coastal environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The investment framework helps determine how, where and when the funds are best expended.</li> <li>The methodology is well understood by marine and coastal managers and can be applied to all types of marine and coastal Crown land across all types of coast in Victoria.</li> <li>The data gathered is consistent and comparable.</li> <li>Data provides a sound evidence base for policy decisions about how money should be both generated and expended.</li> </ul>

## 5.7 Review fees and charges applying to coastal Crown land

DELWP will review fees and charges applying to coastal Crown land with a view to alignment with market values and to achieving greater consistency of fees and charges across the State.

Who	When	Scope	Success measures
DELWP (Land Management)	2019-21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A comprehensive review of fees and charges applying to coastal Crown land. The review will consider market values, consistency, cost recovery and opportunities for additional revenue.</li> <li>The review will build on the work of Action 5.6.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fees and charges applying to coastal Crown land are captured in a comprehensive inventory.</li> <li>Fees and charges are reviewed in the context of 'public benefit' and a hierarchy of need based on the policies outlined in the VCS.</li> <li>Fees and charges are reviewed to achieve greater consistency across the State and where appropriate better reflect the market value of the asset/site to which they apply.</li> </ul>

## 5.8 Develop co-investment arrangements for coastal infrastructure

Investigate a co-investment policy framework for a more strategic approach to management and investment in protective structures along the Victorian coastline, and ensure greatest public benefit is derived from coastal Crown land.

Who	When	Scope	Success measures
DELWP (Land Management)	2019-21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate potential coastal co-investment principles in preparation for consultation and inclusion in the next marine and coastal strategy.</li> <li>Consider how costs would be met as well as articulate principles that need to be considered, for example, beneficiary contribution and providing positive public benefit.</li> <li>Determine the beneficiaries of coastal infrastructure work, options for co-investment arrangements and options to reflect the level of benefit provided.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coastal co-investment principles are prepared for consultation and inclusion in the next marine and coastal strategy.</li> <li>The next marine and coastal strategy clearly articulates coast sharing arrangements and principles for the Victorian coast.</li> </ul>

## 5.9 Deliver targeted actions in the marine environment

DELWP will deliver actions to protect marine biodiversity in partnership with marine managers and environmental organisations.

Who	When	Scope	Success measures
DELWP (Biodiversity)  The Nature Conservancy	2018-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deliver a program of actions that target protection of marine biodiversity. This includes restoring shell fish reefs in Port Phillip Bay in partnership with the Nature Conservancy.</li> <li>Develop further partnerships to restore near-shore habitats at priority locations across the State.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marine biodiversity is protected and enhanced in priority areas.</li> </ul>







## FUNCTION 6



# COMMUNITY AND USER GROUPS THAT ARE AWARE OF, AND INVOLVED IN, DECISION-MAKING ACROSS THE SYSTEM

Our goal is to have informed and involved community and user groups.

## Background

Victoria has a strong and lengthy history of community involvement in coastal and marine management and decision-making, driving positive environmental outcomes. Communities and user groups are involved and engaged in a range of ways to enhance and protect the marine and coastal environment. The groups include:

- volunteer committees of management and advisory bodies
- marine education
- citizen sciences, such as community monitoring programs
- Coastcare
- volunteer marine search and rescue
- other community and volunteer programs.

Many individuals participate in these programs, which hold and share valuable local knowledge and deliver on-ground projects that address local and state priorities for marine and coastal management.

The diversity of activities means that different levels of support are required to maintain motivation and

interest from volunteers and achieve positive marine and coastal outcomes. As outlined in 'Biodiversity 2037', empowering more Victorians to act in ways that benefit the marine and coastal environment requires understanding and overcoming barriers that prevent action. This includes: gaining knowledge around when, what, where, why and how Victorians value the marine and coastal environment; and providing ongoing support for marine and coastal community groups and networks that educate and engage community about the values of the marine and coastal environment and encourage their protection.

The improved marine and coastal management system will build on the existing strengths of community involvement in marine and coastal management in Victoria. Formal and informal opportunities for the community to be involved in coastal and marine management will be maintained and enhanced.

Of note, the Coastcare program is being boosted to support and educate volunteer groups and committees of management to protect and enhance the marine and coastal environment. The Port Phillip Bay Fund is supporting community groups and organisations to protect and preserve the environmental health of the bay.





## The Port Phillip Bay Fund

Recognising Port Phillip Bay as one of Victoria's most precious natural assets, the Victorian Government is partnering with community organisations to address key issues affecting the Bay.

The Port Phillip Bay Fund supports projects that address local and regional priorities to protect the health of the Bay and Bay catchment area, including:

- reducing and addressing threats to the health of the Bay, including nutrients, pollutants and litter
- encouraging partnerships across a range of interested groups and organisations that support the environmental health of the Bay

- enhancing the amenity and environmental values in the Bay and on the foreshore.

With grants totalling \$3.57 million (Round 1), community groups and organisations are delivering: revegetation works; education to farmers, school children and the community about how their activities can improve Bay health; improving water quality; reducing plastics and litter; protecting endangered species; creating habitat linkages; managing nutrient loads to the Bay and boosting citizen science programs like Reef Watch.

The importance of citizen science in building our understanding and knowledge of changes in the marine and coastal environment is growing. Citizen science activities are not only about data collection, but are also a means for engagement, knowledge sharing, participation and most importantly stewardship of the environment. This proposed Transition Plan includes action to support and expand opportunities for citizen science programs.

CMAs have a strong connection with regional communities. The 'Our Catchments Our Communities' Strategy aims to strengthen community engagement in regional planning and implementation. This includes maintaining the extensive approaches to community engagement and partnership. There are opportunities to expand the network to include coastal and marine communities.

Traditional Owner groups and DELWP are working in partnership to determine and implement the best ways for Traditional Owner involvement in marine and coastal planning and management. There are also opportunities to further strengthen engagement with Traditional Owner and Aboriginal community groups building on actions in 'Our Catchments Our Communities', such as implementation of the Aboriginal Participation Guidelines for Victorian CMAs.

Community organisations will be informed on the latest climate change science and improved understanding of coastal processes. A key action of this plan is to build increased awareness of the contribution of Government and DELWP to improved marine and coastal management.



## What success looks like

- Local communities value marine and coastal landscapes, flora and fauna.
- Community and user groups are supported and recognised for their involvement in caring for and managing the marine and coastal environment.
- Community and user groups are engaged, informed and encouraged to actively participate in coastal and marine planning, management and citizen science.
- Communities are informed and aware of opportunities for involvement in coastal and marine management.
- There is increased Traditional Owner and Aboriginal community participation, with stronger links to cultural values, in the planning and management of the marine and coastal environment.
- Communities and user groups are informed and aware of the improved marine and coastal management.

## Actions

### 6.1 Identify strategies for more effective engagement of Traditional Owners in marine and coastal management

In partnership with coastal traditional owner groups DELWP will identify strategies for more effective engagement of Traditional Owners in marine and coastal management.

Who	When	Scope	Success measures
Traditional Owners DELWP	2018-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage Traditional Owner groups to develop and conduct pilot project(s) to examine how traditional ecological knowledge and understanding of the land and sea can be integrated to deliver better outcomes in Victoria's marine and coastal planning and management.</li> <li>• Promote Traditional Owner cultural understandings to inform marine and coastal planning and management practice.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traditional Owners are informed, encouraged and engaged in coastal and marine management.</li> <li>• Traditional Owners and communities collaborate with DELWP and other stakeholders in effective working partnerships that embrace the values of Traditional Owners.</li> <li>• There is coordinated investment in, and alignment of, community capacity building and volunteer programs in the marine and coastal environment.</li> </ul>

## 6.2 Boost the Coastcare Victoria Program

DELWP will boost the Coastcare Victoria Program to support and educate volunteer groups and volunteer Committees of Management to protect and enhance the marine and coastal environment.

Who	When	Scope	Success measures
DELWP (Regions)  Coastcare groups	2018-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support and build Coastcare to engage the community and enhance the condition of priority natural assets.</li> <li>Deliver the Coastcare strategy including: Summer by the Sea, community action grants, a network of regional facilitators with a statewide program co-ordinator, capacity building and support for managers and volunteers on the marine and coastal environment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participation in coastal and marine management is encouraged.</li> <li>Organisations are trusted by the community</li> <li>There is coordinated investment, alignment and resourcing for community capacity building and volunteer programs.</li> </ul>

## 6.3 Provide ongoing support and expansion of opportunities for citizen science programs

Local communities will be involved in monitoring, evaluation and reporting through citizen science opportunities (e.g. Port Fairy Coastal Group). These activities create valuable opportunities for engagement, data collection, knowledge sharing, participation and ownership.

Who	When	Scope	Success measures
DELWP CMAs EPA DEDJTR	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incorporate volunteer effort in monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the health and condition of the marine and coastal environment.</li> <li>Support citizen science programs such as Fishcare, Waterwatch, EstuaryWatch and Coastcare, EPA (Microplastics), BirdLife Australia and support to community groups such as Port Fairy Coastal Group and others.</li> <li>Explore opportunities to expand the number of groups and individuals involved in citizen science.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local communities and individuals are actively engaged in improving the health of the marine and coastal environment.</li> <li>Community has increased knowledge of local marine and coastal issues.</li> </ul>

#### 6.4 Strengthen existing coastal Catchment Management Authorities' engagement programs by establishing links to marine and coastal communities and networks

Building on actions within 'Our Catchments Our Communities', coastal Catchment Management Authorities will expand approaches to community engagement and partnerships to include marine and coastal community and user group networks.

Who	When	Scope	Success measures
CMAs RCBs DELWP (Regions)	2016–19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen existing coastal Catchment Management Authorities' engagement programs, by establishing links to marine and coastal communities and networks.</li> <li>Identify and engage with marine and coastal community and user group networks.</li> <li>Use these connections to effectively engage with communities in regional planning and implementation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coastal and marine community and user group are engaged and involved in regional catchment planning and implementation.</li> </ul>







# APPENDIX 1



## Summary of the proposed reforms, submission feedback and the final reforms to be implemented by Government.

Proposed reform	Submission feedback	Final proposed reform	Action for implementation
<b>Clearer governance and institutional arrangements that better link capacity, resources and responsibility</b>			
<b>Statewide</b>			
<b>An agile statewide Marine and Coastal Council that provides a conduit to the community, facilitates scientific research, advises on the sustainable development and advises on the development of strategy and policy</b>	Supported	A Marine and Coastal Council as an advisory body with skills-based members	Included in the proposed bill.
<b>Enhanced Marine and Coastal Strategy, including implementation plan</b>	Supported	Marine and Coastal Strategy and implementation plan	Included in the proposed bill.
<b>A Marine and Coastal Policy to clearly outline statewide policy positions and provide guidance to decision</b>	Supported	Statewide marine and coastal policy	Included in the proposed bill.
<b>Regional</b>			
<b>Strengthen coastal Catchment Management Authorities and Melbourne Water, through enhanced skills and expertise to provide advice on coastal flooding and erosion</b>	Generally, well supported for simplification of arrangements. However, CMAs and MW need to build on existing skills to provide advice on coastal flooding and erosion.  Confirmation that CMAs should not take on non-NRM issues.	Strengthen coastal CMAs and Melbourne Water, through enhanced skills and expertise to provide advice on coastal flooding and erosion.	Included in proposed bill.  Actions to build skills in CMAs and MW set out in proposed Transition Plan (Actions 1.3, 4.4).
<b>Ensure Regional Catchment Strategies (RCSs) better reflect integrated catchment, coastal and marine issues.</b>	Supported	RCSs better reflect integrated catchment, coastal and marine issues.	Actions to ensure RCSs better reflect integrated catchment, coastal and marine issues set out in proposed Transition Plan (Actions 3.1, 6.4).
<b>Regional and Strategic Partnerships that will enable communities and organisations to come together as needed to solve complex shared problems and plan for issues that cross jurisdictional boundaries.</b>	Supported, however more clarity is required on what they are, their scale and who will lead.	Regional and Strategic Partnerships that will enable communities and organisations to come together as needed to solve complex shared problems and plan for issues that cross jurisdictional boundaries.	Included in the proposed bill.  proposed Transition Plan Action 3.3 proposes piloting a Regional and Strategic Partnership.

Proposed reform	Submission feedback	Final proposed reform	Action for implementation
<b>Reduce the complexity of advisory bodies by phasing out Regional Coastal Boards.</b>	Supported	Phase out Regional Coastal Boards.	Included in the proposed bill.
<b>Local</b>			
<b>Creating skilled and capable coastal managers by transitioning from smaller committees of management into either larger committees, local government or Parks Victoria</b>	Supported. Some concern about cost shifting if moving away from voluntary Committees of Management. Need a clear process involving the community.	Creating skilled and capable coastal managers by simplifying management arrangement for coastal Crown land.	Actions to simplify management arrangements are set out in proposed Transition Plan (Actions 5.1, 5.2).
<b>Maintain and promote the role of volunteers in marine and coastal management.</b>	Supported	Maintain and promote the role of volunteers in marine and coastal management.	Actions to maintain and promote the role of volunteers are set out in proposed Transition Plan (Actions 5.1, 5.2, 6.2, 6.3).
<b>Encourage greater use of shared services and better integration between coastal land managers.</b>	Supported	Greater use of shared services and better integration between coastal land managers.	Actions to are encourage greater use of shared services and better integration between coastal land managers are set out in proposed Transition Plan (Actions 5.1, 5.2, 5.6, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4).
<b>Strengthen the role of Parks Victoria in planning and managing marine and coastal protected areas.</b>	Supported. This should become a core focus for Parks Victoria.	Strengthen the role of Parks Victoria in planning and managing marine and coastal protected areas.	Actions to strengthen the role of Parks Victoria in planning and managing marine and coastal protected areas are set out in proposed Transition Plan (Actions 5.1, 5.2, 5.6, 5.7, 6.1, 6.4).
<b>A greater role for Traditional Owners in formal management and planning of marine and coastal areas.</b>	Supported, however strong recognition that Traditional Owners can also be involved in other ways.	Greater involvement of Traditional Owners in marine and coastal management.	Actions to enable Traditional Owners a greater role in the managing of marine and coastal areas are set out in proposed Transition Plan (Action 6.1).

Proposed reform	Submission feedback	Final proposed reform	Action for implementation
<b>Strengthening marine management</b>			
<b>Greater marine focus in strategy and policy.</b>	Supported. The new Act needs to recognise the three-dimensional scale of marine areas and that issues need to be dealt with at a state or national scale.	Greater marine focus in strategy and policy.	Included in the proposed bill.  Actions 2.1 and 2.3 of the proposed Transition Plan.
<b>Develop a Marine Spatial Planning Framework to guide where future planning might be needed.</b>	Supported		Included in the proposed bill.  Action 2.2 of the proposed Transition Plan.
<b>A greater focus on Port Phillip Bay by requiring an Environmental Management Plan (EMP).</b>	Supported. Also, suggested that EMPs could be enabled in other marine and coastal areas.	A greater focus on Port Phillip Bay by requiring an EMP and enabling EMPs for other parts of the marine environment.	Included in the proposed bill.
<b>Integrating Planning Systems</b>			
<b>Requiring Coastal Management Plans to be prepared.</b>	Supported	Marine and Coastal Management Plans to be prepared.	Included in the proposed bill.
<b>Maintain the ministerial veto on use and development on coastal Crown land but streamline it to focus on high risk activities.</b>	Support for simplifying and streamlining the process, though more information is needed on how this will be achieved.	Maintain the ministerial veto on use and development on coastal Crown land. In the new Act enable the development of regulations to allow streamlining of use and development approvals.	Included in the proposed bill.  Action 4.5 of the proposed Transition Plan.
<b>Reduce duplication between the consent process and Planning and Environment Act 1987 processes.</b>	Supported	Enable the development of regulations to allow streamlining of use and development approvals in the new Act.	Included in the proposed bill.  Action 4.5 of the proposed Transition Plan.
<b>Adapting to Climate Change</b>			
<b>Recognise Climate Change in the objectives of the new Marine and Coastal Act.</b>	Supported, though liability was raised as an issue for local government.	Climate change is recognised in the objectives of the Act	Included in the proposed bill.



Proposed reform	Submission feedback	Final proposed reform	Action for implementation
<b>Provide strong, policy guidance and technical expertise on the process of adapting to climate change, aligned with the revised Climate Change Act and the broader climate change agenda.</b>	<p>Support for DELWP to take leading role in coastal climate change.</p> <p>Need greater technical capacity within the system to provide guidance.</p>		<p>Included in proposed bill.</p> <p>Actions to provide guidance and technical expertise on the process of adapting to climate change are set out in proposed Transition Plan (Actions 1.3, 1.5, 2.1, 2.3, 3.2, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3).</p>
<b>Sustainable resources</b>			
<b>Better reporting and awareness to increase transparency of revenue and spending.</b>	<p>Supported. Some concern that efforts to improve transparency should not be overly burdensome or discourage disclosure of information.</p> <p>Transparency measures should be accompanied by education to better understand how coastal and marine management is funded.</p>	Provide greater transparency, better reporting and awareness of revenue generated and spent on the coast.	Action 5.6 of proposed Transition Plan.
<b>Review fees and charges to identify where the beneficiary pays principle can be applied most efficiently and equitably.</b>	Supported, however recognition that such fees and charges cannot be the only funding mechanism for the coast.	Review of fees and charges on coastal Crown land.	Action 5.7 of proposed Transition Plan.
<b>Improve the distribution of revenue generated on the coast to where it is most needed through a levy on some Crown land managers.</b>	Levy not supported (unlikely to be efficient/effective), range of ideas on user pays, broad taxes/levies.		
<b>Determine appropriate cost sharing arrangements for coastal infrastructure.</b>	Some support, though significant consultation needed, concern about cost shifting.	Scope and implement co-investment arrangements for coastal infrastructure	Actions 5.6 and 5.8 of proposed Transition Plan.
<b>Continuing to invest in capacity building, sharing technical expertise and supporting volunteer programs.</b>	Supported		Actions to invest in capacity building, sharing technical expertise and supporting volunteer programs are set out in proposed Transition Plan (Actions 1.7, 4.4, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4).

Proposed reform	Submission feedback	Final proposed reform	Action for implementation
<b>Improving Knowledge</b>			
<b>Require a State of the Marine and Coastal Environments report to be periodically prepared.</b>	Strongly supported. Recognise the need to establish a consistent and appropriate approach to monitoring and collecting data, and outline indicators of a healthy marine and coastal environment.	Require a State of the Marine and Coastal Environments report.	Included in proposed bill Action 1.9 of the proposed Transition Plan.
<b>Involving the Community</b>			
<b>Encourage all Victorians to participate in managing and protecting our coastal and marine environments.</b>	Supported. Community understanding of coastal and marine environment should be increased, building capacity and transfer of knowledge is critical.	Encourage all Victorians to participate in managing and protecting our coastal and marine environments.	Actions to encourage all Victorians to participate in managing and protecting our coastal and marine environments are set out in proposed Transition Plan (Actions 5.1, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4).
<b>Enhance opportunities for informal and formal involvement in marine and coastal management.</b>	Supported, however more work is required to understand how communities want to be engaged.	Enhance opportunities for informal and formal involvement in marine and coastal management.	Actions to enhance opportunities for informal and formal involvement in marine and coastal management are set out in proposed Transition Plan (Actions 5.1, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4).
<b>Provide clear and transparent pathways for community input to decision-making.</b>	Supported	Provide clear and transparent pathways for community input to decision-making.	Actions to provide clear and transparent pathways for community input to decision-making are set out in proposed Transition Plan (Actions 4.5, 5.1, 5.2, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4).

# Glossary

## Adaptation

Adaptation is the process of becoming adjusted to new conditions in a way that makes an individual, community or system better suited or more resilient to its environment.

## Adaptation planning

A means to look ahead to the future despite change – giving people a degree of certainty as to what they can expect in the future and a greater ability to cope with change.

## Asset (Coastal)

A thing of value in the coastal and marine environment

- *Built*: amenities including public toilets, boat ramps, jetties, piers, staircases
- *Protection*: groynes and seawalls that provide protection from coastal erosion and storm events.
- *Natural*: resources of the natural environment – biological assets, land and water areas with their ecosystems.

## Biodiversity

The variability among living organisms from all sources, including, terrestrial, marine, and other aquatic ecosystems, and the ecological complexes of which they are part: this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems.

## (Community) Capacity building

The process of local communities developing and strengthening the skills needed to address problems in a way that helps them shape and exercise control over their physical, social, economic and cultural environments.

## Catchment

An area which, through run-off or percolation, contributes to the water in a stream or stream system.

## Catchment Management Authority (CMA)

Established under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* to achieve integrated and sustainable catchment management.

## Coastal Catchment Management Authority (CMA)

A Catchment Management Authority whose catchment and land protection region, in whole or in part, abuts with the marine and coastal environment. There are five coastal CMAs in Victoria. – Glenelg Hopkins CMA, Corangamite CMA, Port Phillip and Western Port CMA, West Gippsland CMA and East Gippsland CMA.

## Citizen science

Participation by members of the public in scientific research.

## Climate Change

A change of climate attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate vulnerability over comparable time periods.

## Committee of Management (CoM)

Established under the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978*. The role of a CoM is to “manage, maintain and control” an allocated Crown land reserve on behalf of the Minister.

## Community engagement

A two way process of dialogue by which the aspirations, concerns, needs and values of the community are incorporated into policy development, planning, decision making, service delivery and assessment.

## Coastal compartment

A section of coastline which is defined by its landform and sediment transportation processes. Primary secondary and tertiary compartments are identified for different planning and management purposes.

## Coastal erosion and flooding

Coastal flooding and erosion is a term covering beach erosion, shoreline recession, coastal lake or watercourse entrance instability, coastal inundation, tidal inundation, coastal cliff or slope instability and erosion and inundation of foreshores caused by tidal water and waves including the interaction of those waters with catchment flood waters.

## Coastal hazards

The interaction of coastal processes with human use, property or infrastructure, the action of which adversely affects or may adversely affect human life, property or assets.

## Coastal processes

Marine, physical, meteorological and biological activities that interact with the geology and sediments to produce a particular coastal system.

## Coastal protection works

Engineering works to prevent erosion or recession; includes hard protection works that armour the beach such as concrete and rock, seawalls, groynes and artificial reefs that encourage the accumulation of sand on the coast, and sand nourishment to artificially replenish sand lost from the shore.

## Coastal zone

Includes the foreshore and near-shore zone, and the coastal region that is likely to be affected by sea-level rise and marine-related climate change (storm surge and exposure to storms tracking inland from the sea).

## Crown land

Public land not vested in a public authority, including land temporarily or permanently reserved under the Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978.

## Ecosystem

A system that includes all living organisms as well as its physical environment interacting together as a unit.

## Estuaries

The region near a river mouth in which the fresh water of the river mixes with the salt water of the sea.

## Foreshore

The coastal fringe - generally, the land between the coastal road and the low water mark.

## Geomorphological unit

See coastal compartment

## Groyne

A shore protection structure built (usually perpendicular to the shoreline) to trap littoral drift or retard erosion of the shore.

## Infrastructure

Physical structures which facilitate use of the coast, such as roads, paths, piers, toilet blocks.

## Jurisdictional boundaries

The legal boundaries of organisations whom administer justice within a defined field of responsibility.

## Marine Spatial Planning Framework

A framework which establishes a process for achieving coordinated strategic planning of the marine environment.

## Natural resource management

Refers to the protection and improvement of environmental assets such as soils, water, vegetation and biodiversity.

## Planning scheme

A legal document prepared by the local council or the Minister for Planning and approved by the Minister under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. A planning scheme sets out policy and requirements for use, development and protection of land. It consists of a written document and any maps and plans it refers to.

## Public land

Unalienated land of the Crown (refer to Crown land) or land vested in a public authority.

## Regional and Strategic Partnerships

A partnership established to respond to an identified regional issue relating to or affecting the marine and coastal environment.

## Renourishment

The deliberate addition of sand to beaches where erosion is a major problem, in order to stabilise losses and restore badly eroded (and sometimes unsightly) beaches. Also known as replenishment.



### **Regional Catchment Strategies (RCSs)**

RCSs are the primary integrated strategic planning mechanism for the management of land, water and biodiversity resources in each region.

### **Resilience (of ecosystems)**

The ability of an ecosystem to recover from disturbances or withstand ongoing pressures and to continue functioning.

### **Risk assessment**

A systematic process of evaluating the potential risks that may be involved in a projected activity or undertaking.

### **Sea level rise**

An increase in the mean level of the ocean.

### **Stakeholders**

Individuals or groups with a vested interest in or who are affected by a project or process.

### **Stewardship**

The responsible overseeing and protection of something, for example, natural resources.

### **Storm surge**

A temporary increase in the height of the sea at a particular location because of extreme meteorological conditions (low atmospheric pressure, strong winds, or both). The storm surge is the excess height of water above the level expected from tidal variation alone at that time and place.

### **Traditional owners**

People who, through membership in a descent group or clan, have responsibility for caring for particular Country. A Traditional Owner is authorised to speak for Country and its heritage as a senior Traditional Owner, an Elder or, in more recent times, as a registered native title claimant.

### **Vulnerability to climate change**

The degree to which a system, sector or social group is susceptible to the adverse effects of climate change; vulnerability depends on the nature of the climate changes to which the system is exposed, its sensitivity to those changes and its adaptive capacity.

## Acronyms

ABM – Association of Bayside Municipalities

CMAs – Catchment Management Authorities

CoMs – Committees of Management

DELWP – Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

DEDJTR – Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources

DJR – Department of Justice and Regulation

DPC – Department of Premier and Cabinet

DTF – Department of Treasury and Finance

EMP – Environmental Management Plan

EPA – Environment Protection Authority

MCC – Marine and Coastal Council

MAV – Municipal Association of Victoria

MW – Melbourne Water

NGOs – Non-government organisations

OCES – Office for the Commissioner of Environmental Sustainability

RASP – Regional and Strategic Partnership

RCBs – Regional Coastal Boards

VCC – Victorian Coastal Council

VCMC – Victorian Catchment Management Council

VCS – Victorian Coastal Strategy

VEAC – Victorian Environmental Assessment Council



