The Victorian Government is working with the Victorian Marine and Coastal Council to develop a new Marine and Coastal Policy.

The Marine and Coastal Act 2018 was released in August 2018. The act provides an integrated and coordinated approach to planning and managing the marine and coastal environment. The act requires the development of a state-wide policy and strategy.

Victoria has more than 2,500 kilometres of coastline and about 10,000 square kilometres of marine waters. The Marine and Coastal Policy will strengthen our management system to ensure these environments are protected now and into the future.

It will outline policies applying to marine and coastal environments and provide guidance to decision makers such as local councils on how to achieve the objectives of the Marine and Coastal Act 2018.

The policy will provide direction to decision makers including local councils and land managers on a range of issues, such as dealing with the impacts of climate change, population growth and ageing coastal structures.

A draft policy will be released for extensive public consultation in mid-2019, before the policy is finalised in late-2019. Until the policy is released, the Victorian Coastal Strategy 2014 will remain the state-wide policy and strategy document.

The Arch Port Campbell – Credit: Sal Ahmad

Split Point Cliff – Credit: Sal Ahmad
The Marine Spatial Planning Framework

The policy will include a Marine Spatial Planning Framework. The framework will help Victoria to plan for how we support current and future uses of the marine environment while maintaining healthy ecosystems.

The framework will provide guidance for achieving more integrated and coordinated planning and management of Victoria’s marine environment. The framework will not replace or duplicate existing planning and management of marine sectors. It will provide an overarching framework to guide planning, management and decision making by marine sectors.

A draft framework will be released for public consultation alongside the policy in mid-2019. The framework will be finalised by late 2019.

The Marine and Coastal Strategy

The Marine and Coastal Strategy will outline actions required to achieve key directions in the policy. A draft strategy will be released for public consultation in mid-2020. The final strategy will be released with an implementation plan by early-2021 and will be reviewed every five years.

Traditional Owner consultation process

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) is supporting Traditional Owners along the coast to have greater involvement in marine and coastal management. DELWP is collaborating with Traditional Owner groups, as well as with the Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations and the Victorian Marine and Coastal Council as the policy and other tools are developed.

Accessibility

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