Minister's Foreword II
Chair's Foreword II

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The coast is close to the hearts of the many Victorians who live near it, or visit it, and enjoy all that it has to offer. Communities along the coastline are deeply connected to their local landscape and care about the future of the coast.

Our coastal environment is complex and constantly changing, and there are many pressures that need to be understood and managed better. As Minister and a Local Member of a coastal area, I appreciate how important it is to understand, protect and care for the things we love about the coast.

Victoria has a strong coastal planning and management framework, based on the Victorian Coastal Strategy (2014). The Gippsland Coastal Board has developed this Regional Coastal Plan to build on that framework and outline how the Strategy should be put into practice.

The Hon Lisa Neville MP  
Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water

This Plan will support government agencies, community and industry groups to work more collaboratively in managing the coast. It will help coastal managers and communities tackle challenges on the coast in their region more effectively, and with greater coordination. It will enable us to be more responsive and adaptable as pressures change over time, and our understanding of climate change implications improves.

The local knowledge, passion and enthusiasm of Victoria’s coastal managers and communities is invaluable, and I look forward to working together to ensure that the diverse natural, social, cultural and economic values of the coast that we enjoy today remain for future generations.

Gippsland is a uniquely spectacular part of Victoria, with its unspoilt wilderness, pristine beaches and rich array of wildlife on land and underwater. Alongside our coast’s pure white sandy beaches, headlands and peaks are the significant oil, gas and coal resources that supply much of Australia’s energy.

For Gippsland’s residents, our coast is a source of well-being and relaxation, an attractive expanse to enjoy with family and friends. Whether it’s on a boat exploring the Lakes network of waterways, camping down the Prom or Cape Conran, surfing on the Bass Coast or walking along the Ninety Mile Beach, we recognise that Gippsland is a paradise for all.

This plan acknowledges all the good work going on to identify, understand and protect the local, regional and statewide values of the coast and to support that work on the big issues at a regional level.

The actions outlined in this Plan are aimed at addressing the regional priorities identified by the Board with the help of the many people and organisations that gave feedback about the draft plan. These actions will help to:

- make sure the coast continues to be the place we love, while planning for more people wanting to visit and settle here;
- improve the way communities plan for coastal flooding so that it makes sense to them but doesn’t leave future generations with a debt they can’t pay;
- simplify foreshore management and make more out of the available resources and our joint efforts; and
- continue to support and encourage more community involvement in protecting those coastal values we love.

I would like to thank the Board for their work in developing the Plan. As well, I want to thank everyone who contributed to the Plan by coming to meetings, writing a submission and discussing these important issues. These efforts mean the Plan will make a difference to the way we look after our coast over the next five years.

Councillor Richard A Ellis  
Chair, Gippsland Coastal Board

Metung  
Photo: Roberto Seba, Tourism Victoria
1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The role of the Gippsland Coastal Board

The Gippsland Lakes and Coast Regional Coastal Board (commonly known as the Gippsland Coastal Board) is a statutory planning and advisory body with extensive experience and expertise in coastal matters. The Board provides strategic guidance for coastal management of Victoria’s Gippsland coast. It has specific functions under the Coastal Management Act 1995. These are to:

- Develop coastal action plans (including this overarching Regional Coastal Plan);
- Provide advice to the Minister, the Victorian Coastal Council and government on coastal development and other matters in the region;
- Prepare and publish guidelines for coastal planning and management in the region;
- Facilitate the implementation of the Victorian Coastal Strategy, coastal action plans and coastal guidelines for the region;
- Facilitate public awareness, consultation and involvement in the development and implementation of the Victorian Coastal Strategy, coastal action plans and coastal guidelines in the region; and
- Liaise with, and encourage the cooperation of, government departments, councils, public authorities, industry, community groups and those involved in the planning and management of the region in developing and implementing strategic solutions to matters affecting the conservation and use of the region’s coast.

More broadly, the Board seeks to be an advocate for coastal issues. It aims to work with agencies, local councils and communities in the Gippsland coastal region to shape future expectations about how the coast and use of the coast will change over time, how we should respond to those changes, and how we should use and manage the coast to protect its values.

1.2 What is the Regional Coastal Plan?

The Regional Coastal Plan for the Gippsland coastal region is a statutory Coastal Action Plan endorsed under Part 3 of the Coastal Management Act 1995. Its contents meet the requirements of section 23 of that Act.

The Victorian Coastal Strategy 2014 sets the broad framework for managing the coast and the basis for developing regional coastal plans and coastal management plans (Figure 1). The Gippsland Coastal Board has focussed this overarching Plan on identifying and prioritising those management actions that cannot be achieved more effectively at either the local or state level.

The Regional Coastal Plan provides a regional framework for planning and decision-making on both public and...

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The **Victorian Coastal Strategy 2014** identifies that the term ‘coast’ means:

- The marine environment – nearshore marine environment, the seabed, and waters out to the State limit of three nautical miles
- Foreshores – or coastal Crown land up to 200 m from the high water mark
- Coastal hinterland – land directly influenced by the sea or directly influencing the coastline, and with critical impacts on the foreshore and nearshore environment
- Catchments – rivers and drainage systems that affect the coastal zone, including estuaries and coastal wetlands
- Atmosphere – near, around and over the coast as defined above.
The principle of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) underpins the Gippsland Regional Coastal Plan. ICZM is about working across a geographic area (land to sea), across different land tenures (public and private), and across organisations and jurisdictions (national, State, regional and local). ICZM is achieved through both formal and informal collaboration and coordination between the various groups using and managing the coast.

This plan has three parts:

– Chapters 2 and 3 give an overview of the values of the Gippsland coastal region and the key issues affecting them;
– Chapters 4, 5, 6 and 7 set out the strategic objectives for the region (as regional priorities); and
– Chapters 7 and 8 explain how the Board intends to work with its partner agencies and other stakeholders, and summarises how the plan will be implemented, including the process of monitoring and reporting.

As a statutory document, the Regional Coastal Plan has important links with other statutory instruments. In particular, as outlined in the Victorian Coastal Strategy 2014, the broader land use planning system is important for the implementation of the Strategy, Regional Coastal Plans and coastal management plans (see Appendix 1).

The relationship between these policies and plans is through:

– The State Planning Policy Framework which requires coastal planning to be consistent with the Strategy and relevant coastal action plans (including the Regional Coastal Plan) and regional growth plans; and
– Sections of local planning schemes through Municipal Strategic Statements and Local Planning Policy Frameworks.
Hierarchy of Principles

The Victorian Coastal Strategy 2014 supports the hierarchy of principles introduced in previous Strategies and also recognises that the foundation of coastal planning and management is a healthy coastal and marine environment. These principles give effect to the directions in the Coastal Management Act 1995 and are included in the State Planning Policy Framework and in planning schemes throughout Victoria.

The principles are:

– Ensure the protection of significant environmental and cultural values;
– Undertake integrated planning and provide clear direction for the future; and
– Ensure the sustainable use of natural coastal resources.

Only when the above principles have been considered and addressed:

– Ensure development on the coast is located within existing modified and resilient environments where the demand for development is evident and any impacts can be managed sustainably.

The actions in this Regional Coastal Plan support these principles and work to make sure that decision making on the coast is guided by, and consistent with, the Victorian Coastal Strategy 2014.
1.4 Who we work with on land and water

Just as people use the coast for a range of reasons, there are a number of managers on land and water responsible for different areas and issues. These managers cover from the catchment to the sea. Foreshores are managed by a range of organisations. Parks Victoria is responsible for managing national parks and other conservation areas. Others with significant responsibilities in the Gippsland coastal region include committees of management, Traditional Owners, catchment management authorities, Gippsland Ports and local councils.

There are two types of statutory waterway managers in Victoria. Waterway managers are appointed under the Marine Safety Act 2010 to manage vessel activities and associated issues (along with Marine Safety Victoria). In Gippsland, catchment management authorities have statutory responsibilities under the Water Act 1989 to protect and enhance waterway health.

A number of other organisations have responsibilities in identifying and protecting the Gippsland coastal region’s community values: these include the former Gippsland Lakes Ministerial Advisory Committee, Regional Development Victoria, Fisheries Victoria, water corporations, regional tourism boards and Vic Roads.

Many of these organisations have planning processes for their coastal management responsibilities. For example, local councils have statutory planning processes and contribute to regional growth plans, and catchment management authorities have regional catchment and waterway strategies. The Board aims to use this Plan to work with these organisations to achieve the best outcomes for the Gippsland coast.

This plan helps clarify the roles and responsibilities for several specific issues particularly for managing and adapting to climate change (Chapter 6). It also identifies actions to clarify responsibilities for other issues which will help to improve coordination and collaboration between managers.
1.5 Priority actions for the Gippsland coastal region

1.5.1 Regional priorities

The Gippsland Coastal Board identified five regional priorities:

– Managing and protecting coastal values;
– Managing impacts of residential and tourism growth to balance access and protect natural, social, cultural and economic values;
– Integrating coastal planning and management on the foreshore;
– Adapting to climate change and increased coastal hazards; and
– Supporting communities to contribute to protection and management of the coast.

These regional priorities reflect:

– Key issues identified in the Victorian Coastal Strategy 2014 which are relevant for specific attention in the Gippsland coastal region (see Table 1 and Appendix 2);
– Issues identified as important by stakeholders during the consultation process; and
– Areas where the Board can provide leadership and influence.

The actions in this plan will contribute to these priorities by:

– Supporting the work of a range of organisations and groups responsible for understanding, managing and protecting the broad values of the Gippsland coast;
– Building the evidence base for ongoing management, particularly for the way we use the coast;
– Improving the integration and coordination of management; and
– Developing approaches to encourage sustainable development including better consideration of coastal hazards and impacts from climate change.

The actions apply across both public and private land tenures. None of the regional priorities can be considered in isolation. Each action is linked; recognising these linkages will lead to better outcomes from the implementation of the Regional Coastal Plan.

VCS 2014 Key Issues | Gippsland Regional Priorities
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Managing for population growth | Chapter 4 – Managing regional population and tourism pressures
Adapting to a changing climate | Chapter 6 – Adapting to climate change and increased coastal hazards
Managing coastal land and infrastructure | Chapter 5 – A regional approach to foreshore management
Valuing the natural environment | Chapter 2 – Coastal values
Integrating marine planning | Contribute to proposed review of the Coastal Management Act 1995, new Marine and Coastal Act, and new management arrangements and oversight of marine parks, coasts and bays

Integration of key issues | Chapter 3 – The dynamics of the coast
Chapter 7 – Supporting communities caring for the coast

Table 1: Gippsland regional priorities
1.5.2 The Plan at a glance

VISION

A healthy coast appreciated by all, now and in the future

KEY STATEWIDE COASTAL ISSUES (as identified in the Victorian Coastal Strategy 2014)

Managing for population growth
Adapting to a changing climate
Managing coastal land and infrastructure
Valuing the natural environment
Integrating marine planning

PRIORITY GIPPSLAND COASTAL ISSUES

Managing and protecting coastal values
Managing regional population and tourism pressures
A regional approach to foreshore management
Adapting to climate change and increased coastal hazards
Communities supported to care for the coast

THE GIPPSLAND REGIONAL COASTAL PLAN ACTIONS

CHAPTER 2 AND 3
The Gippsland Regional Coastal Board will work with relevant organisations to improve the understanding and appreciation of coastal values and processes.

CHAPTER 4
1. Work with partner organisations to implement actions in the Gippsland Boating Coastal Action Plan.
2. Work with public land managers and waterway managers to:
   a. map and categorise visitation infrastructure throughout the region;
   b. develop a service-level hierarchy for visitation infrastructure; and
   c. document and analyse effectiveness of existing approaches to demand management (including parking fees, entrance fees, camping fees, leasing arrangements, licensing arrangements and the use of smart-phone apps).
3. Identify priority areas for visitation demand management. In particular:
   a. resilient parts of the landscape where visitation can be encouraged;
   b. vulnerable parts of the landscape where demand might be reduced by encouraging visitors towards alternative sites; and
   c. vulnerable parts of the landscape with unique visitor experiences and limited scope to reduce demand.
4. Using the data from actions 1, 2 and 3, develop a Visitation Demand Framework to guide local decisions, support investment and communicate with users.

CHAPTER 5
1. Prepare guidelines for the development of coastal management plans.
2. Develop a process that brings local managers to work together where it is sensible for a coastal management plan to be developed across multiple land managers. From this, local public land managers can put together precinct or master plans.
3. Work with Traditional Owners preparing multi park plans that include coastal areas.
4. Ensure there are current coastal management plans (including foreshore management plans) in place in the Gippsland coastal region where needed.

CHAPTER 6
1. Develop a systematic approach to prioritise areas for detailed coastal hazard assessments and adaptation planning.
2. Refine methodologies for conducting detailed coastal hazard assessments to identify high risk areas, and clarify the role of flood studies in the hazard assessment process.
3. Refine methodologies for local adaptation planning, including addressing barriers to practical local adaptation actions.
4. Continue, or undertake new, detailed coastal hazard assessments and adaptation planning, particularly for the priority areas identified in 1.
5. Implement identified adaptation responses through local decisions, for example updating local planning schemes, coastal management plans and emergency plans, and prioritising future works.

CHAPTER 7
1. Work with partner organisations to improve understanding of coastal values and processes by organising:
   a. biennial regional coastal conference; and
   b. regular information sharing events – such as the Corner Inlet Connections Partner Group and Gippsland coastal inter-agency forums.
2. Work with statewide community groups and programs to:
   a. support all community coastal volunteers to collect data about the coast to inform local decision-making;
   b. support community groups to better link with Traditional Owners to work on joint coastal projects; and
   c. attract volunteers from a broad range of age groups, particularly young people.
3. Promote and support the work done by local coastal and marine community groups, including, but not limited to, Reefwatch, Seasearch and EstuaryWatch.
2 COASTAL VALUES

The Gippsland coastal region provides significant environmental, cultural, social, and economic values for all Victorians (see Figure 3). The region’s sandy lagoons, numerous sheltered inlets and spectacular stretches of beach are unlike any other coastal region. Understanding these values is essential for effective decision-making. This broad range of values is managed and monitored by different organisations including catchment management authorities, Parks Victoria, local councils, committees of management, VicRoads, water corporations, Gippsland Ports, Traditional Owners, the Environment Protection Authority, regional bodies and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

2.1 Environmental values

The Gippsland coast features extensive and diverse natural environments, as noted in The Gippsland Coastal and Marine Asset Framework (2011). Its environmental values are of national and international significance. With its overlapping cool and warm temperate zones, the region supports over 3000 plant species, 500 terrestrial vertebrate species, several hundred fish species and a vast number of invertebrate fauna.

Numerous species and ecological communities are listed as vulnerable, threatened or endangered, including the nationally vulnerable subtropical and temperate coastal saltmarsh community. Some significant habitats for vulnerable fauna include nesting and roosting sites for fairy terns and hooded plovers, migration paths and aggregation areas for blue, southern right and humpback whales, and breeding colonies for Australian and New Zealand fur seals. Inter-tidal habitats, such as sand flats, rocky shores and rock pools, support diverse marine life and seabirds. Other significant coastal and marine habitats include seagrass meadows along parts of the Gippsland coast and the southern most global extent of mangroves in Corner Inlet. Over 60 per cent of important bird areas (defined by Birds Australia) within the state occur in the region.

The natural environments vary dramatically. They include large areas of relatively untouched rugged coastline in the Croajingolong National Park and at Wilsons Promontory, extensive dune barriers, estuary and wetland systems in the Gippsland Lakes and the Ninety Mile Beach area, coastal embayments such as Corner Inlet, Shallow Inlet and Andersons Inlet in South Gippsland and the drowned river valley of Mallacoota Inlet. The region’s estuaries link catchments to the coast and the marine environment. This creates a diverse mix of highly productive ecosystems that support a rich and diverse range of wildlife, vegetation communities and nursery areas for many animals.

Coastal vegetation and sediments provide ecosystem services by sequestering carbon (known as ‘blue carbon’) in mangroves, seagrass meadows and coastal saltmarshes. The Gippsland coastal region supports many species listed in migratory bird agreements with Japan (JAMBA), China (CAMBA) and the Republic of Korea (ROKAMBA) as well as threatened species, such as the little tern, Lathams snipe and hooded plover. Places like Shallow Inlet and Nooramunga Marine and Coastal Park – Victoria’s largest marine protected area – have long been identified for their state significant coastal habitat for waterbirds.

Parts of the Gippsland Lakes and Corner Inlet are wetlands listed under the international Ramsar Convention. The Gippsland Lakes are one of Victoria’s most important environmental assets and a local, national and international icon. The Lakes are a major tourist destination, recreation area and home to a growing population. The Gippsland Lakes Ramsar site covers an area of 58,824 hectares and includes Lake Wellington, Lake Victoria, Lake King, Lake Bunga, Lake Tyers, Macleod Morass and Lake Reeve. The Corner Inlet Ramsar site covers 67,192 hectares including a unique system of barrier islands and tidal mudflats. It is a feeding, nesting and breeding area for thousands of waterbirds and one of the most important areas in Victoria for resident and migratory shorebirds. It also has the world’s most southerly population of white mangrove. The Croajingolong National Park has been internationally recognised as a Biosphere Reserve since 1977; it is one of only 15 in Australia.

2.1.1 Marine Ecosystems

Australia’s southern coast is unique. There is no other east–west expanse of temperate shoreline in the southern hemisphere. Some of Victoria’s marine species, such as the eastern blue groper, occur nowhere else in the world. Gippsland is home to marine habitats of state significance, such as the Corner Inlet Marine and Coastal Park which has the largest area of broad-leaved seagrass in Victoria.

The Burrunan dolphin, only recently classified as a new dolphin species, is endemic to southern Australian waters and is most commonly seen in two resident populations in coastal Victoria: the Gippsland Lakes and Port Phillip. The Gippsland Lakes Environment Fund supported research into the dolphin and its habitat requirements.

Principle

The Gippsland Regional Coastal Board will support and work with all coastal managers to improve the understanding, appreciation and protection of the Gippsland coast’s values.
Figure 3 Indicative map of the key regional social, economic and environmental values of the Gippsland coastal region (not to scale).
2.2 Social values

The Gippsland coastal region has a wealth of social resources. The larger towns of Warragul, Traralgon, Sale and Bairnsdale have social networks associated with employment, training institutions, sporting and artistic life. Smaller coastal settlements like Venus Bay, Port Albert, Loch Sport and Marlo have strong links to neighbourhood, family and place. Many locations along the Gippsland coastline like Lakes Entrance, Paynesville and Mallacoota are major tourist towns that represent strong long-standing connections for the families and friends who share these places.

People are attracted to life on the Gippsland coast by its scenic beauty, recreational amenity and housing affordability. Coastal settlements in Gippsland range from towns such as Lakes Entrance to villages and hamlets such as Bemm River, Gipsy Point, Sandy Point and Seaspray. Around 40 per cent of Gippsland’s population is located in villages and settlements of less than 500 people.

The importance of the coast to the community is evidenced by the high level of volunteerism. People willingly give their time to be involved in monitoring, managing, protecting and restoring coastal values.
2.2.1 Amenity values

Many factors affect people's enjoyment of the coast and contribute to their well-being by providing amenity values. Figure 4 describes how different attributes of the coast can contribute to the way people appreciate and value it. Some aspects of amenity are tangible, such as paths and natural vegetation. Others are intangible, such as open space, views, links to places or people, or the knowledge that wildlife is present.

The sense of wellbeing people derive from the coast is intrinsically linked to our ability to maintain or enhance the quality and extent of natural views, native vegetation and natural landscapes. The built environment also contributes to people's enjoyment of the coast: it provides us with physical and visual access to the natural environment and its associated intangible values.

For example, the tracks, paths and boardwalks that allow people to move from or along the beach help improve amenity. At the same time they provide people with access to the sights and sounds of the ocean. Similarly, picnic facilities enable people to enjoy the time they spend beside the coast.

High amenity values also create health benefits by encouraging people to be more active by involving themselves in bushwalking, boating, cycling, canoeing, surfing, snorkelling, diving, fishing and a range of other activities.

Amenity values are diminished by the presence of inappropriate or intrusive development, degraded environments, odour, litter and noise.

2.2.2 Cultural heritage values

The Gippsland coastal region is endowed with significant coastal cultural heritage. Some of these values are embodied in tangible objects, such as buildings, landscapes, shipwrecks, places of significance and artefacts. Some cultural values, though, are intangible: they include the connections to traditions many people feel, including Aboriginal, maritime and agricultural history. Other forms of cultural value arise from holidaying and recreational customs. Connections to natural heritage, including culturally significant landscapes and biodiversity, are also meaningful.

The Gippsland coast has other abundant heritage values as well. Its rich maritime history is a prime example. The wreck of the Sydney Cove longboat in 1797 was the first recorded wreck of a European vessel along Victoria's coastline; it also resulted in the first European exploration of Bass Strait.

Port Albert, established in 1841, is noteworthy as Gippsland's first port. Several buildings and sites in Port Albert are listed in the Victorian Heritage Register. Other sites listed on the register include:
- The area associated with construction of the artificial entrance to the Gippsland Lakes at Lakes Entrance;
- The light stations at Gabo Island, Point Hicks and Wilsons Promontory; and
- The Paynesville government slip and winch shed.

The wilderness values of the Gippsland coast are important to Victoria. There is nowhere else like it. Its wilderness provides insights into the natural connections between land and water. It also holds cultural significance for many.

2.2.3 Aboriginal cultural heritage

The Gippsland coastal region has cultural heritage significance to its Traditional Owners, including the Gunaikurnai. Aboriginal people of the area have strong connections with the region: their stories of place, and the tens of thousands of years of physical evidence of their presence, remind us of these links. The region contains many archaeological sites, such as midden sites, artefact scatters, scar trees and camping places. The ancestors of these groups managed traditional areas now inundated; groups moved as the coast line changed over thousands of years.

Aboriginal people have an ongoing and intimate relationship with coastal and marine environments, with continuing social, spiritual or traditional connection. Land and sea country is a term for the whole environment, integrating land, intertidal areas and sea, and including natural, heritage, material and spiritual components. This connection is the basis for maintaining cultural traditions and passing on knowledge across generations.

In 2010, the Gunaikurnai were recognised under the Native Title Act 1993 as Traditional Owners of approximately 1.3 million hectares in Gippsland extending from near Warragul to the Snowy River, north to the Great Dividing Range, and including 200 metres of offshore sea territory. This area includes the coastline between Corner Inlet and the Snowy River. The Gunaikurnai have a close relationship with, and traditional responsibility for, the land (Wurruk), waters (Yarndi) and air (Watpoootjan) as a connected whole that forms the basis of their cultural practices.

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Figure 4 Managing visitor satisfaction with their coastal experience – key amenity values (derived from Melbourne Water)
The Gunaikurnai are also the Registered Aboriginal Party for this area with statutory roles under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006. The Gunaikurnai also have joint management responsibilities for significant areas. In their recognition and settlement agreement with the state government, several parks and reserves were transferred to them under the Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010 to be jointly managed with the State. This includes several areas around Gippsland Lakes (Gippsland Lakes Coastal Park, Lakes National Park, Gippsland Lakes Reserve on Raymond Island), Lake Tyers State Park, Corringle Foreshore Reserve, Mitchell River National Park, Buchan Caves Reserve, New Guinea Cave (in Snowy River National Park) and Tarra-Bulga National Park. The agreement also includes rights to access and use Crown land for traditional purposes including fishing, hunting, camping and gathering in accordance with existing laws.

There are significant cultural values, interests and aspirations throughout the complex of marine, coastal and national parks on and around Wilsons Promontory. Traditional Owners in the region have a strong interest in being more effectively involved in coastal management. Protecting cultural heritage is a major concern, as is sharing the responsibility for caring for country. Traditional Owners bring together natural and cultural values by working on country. The Gunaikurnai seek to contribute their skills and knowledge in managing country as a partner in land and sea management to improve the well-being of their communities and protect cultural heritage and the condition of the natural environment. They are also interested in establishing marine ranger teams to achieve this.

2.3 Economic values

The commercial uses of the Gippsland coastal region include recreation, coastal tourism, agriculture, commercial and recreational fishing, shipping, renewable energy and petroleum extraction. Each of these has direct and indirect benefits to local and regional economies.

Gippsland’s coastal economy is based largely on natural resources. Coastal dependent economic sectors include oil and gas in Bass Strait, fisheries, commercial ports, shipping, commercial boating and services supported by coastal settlements and tourism.

The Gippsland coastal region is an important centre for commercial and recreational fisheries with large commercial fishing fleets operating out of Lakes Entrance, Corner Inlet and Port Franklin. Together with the eastern zone abalone fishery based at Mallacoota, Gippsland’s estimated annual commercial catch contributes over $20 million to the Victorian economy. The economic contribution of recreational fishing will be boosted by the Victorian Government’s Target One Million plan to improve fishing opportunities and increase participation.

The coastal towns of Mallacoota, Lakes Entrance, Port Albert, Port Welshpool, Port Franklin and Warrnambool have long-standing ties to the commercial fishing industry, which in some cases is still a major economic driver for the settlements. Commercial fishing is still a major source of employment for settlements such as Lakes Entrance, Port Welshpool and Port Franklin.

Agriculture, forestry and fishing are collectively the biggest employers. They provide 26 per cent of jobs and 13 per cent of total regional output. Tourism generates five per cent of jobs and three per cent of output. Recreational boating in Gippsland Lakes for example adds $163 m to the regional economy. Key tourism assets in the coastal zone include the Gippsland Lakes, Wilsons Promontory and Mallacoota Inlet.

Tourism, recreation and economic development are all supported by the road network managed by Vic Roads.

Non-commercial economic values include storm and flood protection, erosion buffers and nutrient cycling. These ecosystem services provide significant benefit to the community. For example, mangroves protect against wave erosion, sea grass beds act as nurseries for important fish species (such as bream and whiting) and coastal vegetation including saltmarshes, mangroves and seagrasses fix nutrients and carbon.
2.4 Protecting coastal values

The diverse and highly valued environmental, social, cultural and economic values of the coast are affected by a range of pressures and threats, such as increasing use, coastal development, invasive pest plants and animals, pollution, litter (particularly plastics) and climate change.

Under the Coastal Management Act 1995, regional and local decision-makers must have regard for the coastal values described above when working with their communities on coastal planning and management.

The Victorian Coastal Strategy 2014 identifies a hierarchy of principles to guide planning and decision making. The Board uses this as the basis for developing policies and actions to manage the factors that contribute to coastal values. Appendix 3 lists coastal plans in the region.

The hierarchy of principles helps us to be explicit and consistent about how we refer to the different types of values, and how we prioritise actions and investment. Regionally, this helps us identify where these values are most concentrated, and, in particular, helps us recognise where they may be at risk due to coastal processes or human activities.

Figure 5 provides a regional snapshot of some of the values within the Gippsland coastal region and how these guide decisions by coastal planners and managers.

It also identifies key plans and work done by those agencies with significant responsibilities on the coast. In particular, the Board notes the work by catchment management authorities in estuaries and wetlands in response to statewide directives in the Victorian Coastal Strategy 2014 and the Victorian Waterway Management Strategy 2013. The catchment management authorities' regional catchment strategies and waterway strategies identify significant natural values to prioritise investment.

Similarly, the Board notes work by local councils in planning and managing community coastal values within their planning schemes and urban design. They work with land holders, developers and public land managers to make sure impacts of increasing urbanisation and use of the coast are managed to meet community expectations.

The Board also notes the importance of the Gippsland Lakes Environmental Strategy in protecting the environmental, social and economic values of the Lakes. The Strategy set the direction for future investment, coordination, research and monitoring of the health of the Lakes, particularly the processes affecting, and implications from, water quality issues. It is built on working with a broad range of partner organisations and groups. The Strategy was supported by the 2001 Gippsland Lakes Environmental Study commissioned by the Board and subsequent work about salinity issues, environmental watering, algal blooms and other water quality issues. The 2015 Corner Inlet Water Quality Improvement Plan is another key planning document addressing water quality issues.

Much work has been achieved, and continues, in identifying and monitoring the condition of the Gippsland coast, and in protecting its values. One example is the Gippsland State of the Coast Update report, which summarises planning, management and research about the region's coast and identifies future potential work. Another example is the Gippsland Lakes Natural Assets Report Card; it identifies key environmental indicators such as water quality, wetlands and seagrass, as well as a methodology for monitoring the overall health of this important area.

The following chapters outline actions to address priority regional issues including population changes, coordination of management, and the implications of climate change, particularly the effects of flooding and erosion.

Case study – Ninety Mile Beach

The management of development at Ninety Mile Beach highlights the importance of having appropriate well considered planning in place to protect coastal values.

The beach between Bass Strait and Lake Reeve is the longest stretch of uninterrupted beach in the country. Between 1955 and 1969, areas along the beach were subdivided into about 11,800 lots which were sold. It later became apparent that the physical characteristics of the land made these areas unsuitable for development. These characteristics included easily erodible coastal soils, poor conditions for effluent disposal and high quality vegetation and landscape.

Various planning and management programs were applied from the mid-1970s with limited success. Wellington Shire Council’s Ninety Mile Beach Plan was developed to resolve the long running planning and management issue, and comprises planning controls to restrict further inappropriate development and a program to assist the transfer of private lots into public ownership.

The development of the Ninety Mile Beach Plan followed several years of extensive collaboration between local and state governments. The Council’s long-term strategy for the area was backed by a detailed Land Capability Assessment which supported the finding that further development should be prohibited. This culminated in approval of a four year funding agreement with the Victorian Government in June 2011 for $6 million for the Council’s Voluntary Assistance Scheme.

Interim planning controls were applied from June 2011 until permanent planning controls were finalised under Amendment C71 of the Wellington Planning Scheme in May 2013. This amendment applies to a 10.8 kilometre section of the Ninety Mile Beach area between the settlements of Paradise Beach/Golden Beach and The Honeysuckles, up to Glomar Beach. It affects more than 3,700 inappropriately subdivided lots.

This amendment also ensured that inappropriate development outside identified settlement boundaries is addressed through local policy and appropriate land use planning responses.
Figure 5 Community coastal values guide decisions in the Gippsland coastal region
3 THE DYNAMICS OF THE COAST

Regional Coastal Plans must allow for the dynamic nature of the coast. That dynamism is manifested through:
- Natural coastal processes;
- Climate change;
- Connections to catchments;
- Demographic trends;
- Visitation trends; and
- Industrial processes.

3.1 Coastal processes

The coast is the interface between land and sea. It is not static; it changes with the influence of tides, wind, waves and weather systems such as storms. Coastal processes interact with different landforms (sandy beaches, rocky headlands, low-lying mudflats and estuaries) to create complex and dynamic systems.

The Gippsland coast is particularly at risk of erosion. Less than 10 per cent of it consists of the rocky headlands that resist erosion. The rest is made up of soft shorelines such as dunes and sandy beaches.

Accretion can also diminish access particularly to waterways and bays and affect safety and environmental condition. Removing such barriers increases the costs to land and waterway managers.

Coastal flooding is also experienced on the Gippsland coast, particularly when storm surges combine with high tides and extreme wave events. The impact can be worse in estuaries receiving rainfall from coastal catchments.

Coastal processes can lead to coastal hazards if they create risks of property damage, loss of life or environmental degradation. Coastal hazards are created by people’s interactions with coastal processes.

Coastal acid sulfate soils occur naturally along the Victorian coast in low lying coastal areas, such as wetlands and estuaries. If undisturbed, these soils are harmless. If exposed to air, they react with oxygen to form sulfuric acid which can lead to release of other toxic elements, killing plants and animals, contaminating water and corroding infrastructure. Drainage, excavation, drought and climate change can trigger these reactions. The Victorian Coastal Acid Sulfate Soils Strategy and the Victorian Best Practice Guidelines for Assessing and Managing Coastal Acid Sulfate Soils give advice about identifying and managing these soils.

Some algal blooms can be a serious issue, particularly in the Gippsland Lakes and adjoining estuaries. Relevant agencies have established a well-integrated process to respond to blooms to protect human health. Responding to these events places significant pressure on the resources of these agencies.

Coastal processes can lead to coastal hazards if they create risks of property damage, loss of life or environmental degradation. Coastal hazards are created by people’s interactions with coastal processes.

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The Victorian Coastal Strategy states that coastal planners and managers should respect natural coastal processes wherever possible.

In order to minimise or avoid coastal hazards, the structures placed along the coast must take into account its dynamic nature. Public buildings and structures including life saving clubs, boat ramps, jetties, picnic and toilet facilities, boardwalks and seawalls, must be designed and sited in ways that take into account the risks from erosion and inundation.

Because of the need to ensure safety and amenity, coastal structures generally have high maintenance and replacement costs. For this reason, future buildings and structures with high social or economic value should not be placed where coastal hazards may affect them. If, because of the nature of the structures, there are no alternatives but to locate them on the coast (jetties and boat ramps, for example), then the higher costs of maintenance and replacement, and the effects on coastal processes, must be planned for. Floating jetties illustrate an approach to deal with the seasonal opening and closing of some estuaries; but they do incur greater costs.

Hard structures such as groynes and seawalls are often used to mitigate erosion. These structures also affect coastal processes: they alter sand movement and the effects of wave energy. Interrupting the natural long shore drift of sand can result in the loss of beaches and foreshore in one area and cause accretion in another.

Because of the dynamic nature of coastal processes, all proposals for protective works on the coast - on private or public land - must be considered and designed as part of larger ‘whole of coastal cell system’, rather than an individual site. That is, they must be designed and managed with an understanding of coastal processes and the wider impacts on coastal values beyond the location of the works.

The concept of coastal compartments provides the basis for effectively and consistently managing physical hazards. Coastal compartments are areas with the same physical characteristics (such as landforms) and the same processes (such as patterns of sediment movement).

The Gippsland coast contains extensive areas of natural forests and woodlands. This brings risks from bushfires for some coastal towns, like Loch Sport and Bemm River, and the coastal environment. Planned burning is important in managing the risk, but those risks are likely to be exacerbated by climate change. Given the need for shelter during bushfires, this has implications for coastal infrastructure.

3.2 Climate change

Climate change will cause many significant changes to the region’s coastal and marine environments with far reaching consequences.

Rising sea levels are predicted to cause increased inundation and flooding of low lying coastal areas, greater coastal erosion, accretion, higher storm surges and higher costs of managing coastal land. In some areas, increased inundation or erosion could lead to the loss of narrow coastal reserves. As the oceans absorb more carbon dioxide from the atmosphere they will become more acidic leading to changes in marine and coastal ecosystems. Higher ocean temperatures and the predicted changes to ocean currents will also have long-lasting effects on marine and coastal environments. Higher temperatures will bring longer, hotter and drier periods and greater threats from bushfires.

More intense rain events will exacerbate riverine and estuarine flooding and higher inflows of catchment nutrients. The high biodiversity of the region’s coastal and marine environment will be affected by all of these changes.
Case study – Gippsland Lakes and 90 Mile Beach Local Coastal Hazard Assessment

The Victorian Government’s Future Coasts Program undertook four pilot Local Coastal Hazard Assessments to better define and understand the risks associated with coastal hazards. The assessment for the Gippsland Lakes and 90 Mile Beach aims to improve our information base and understanding of coastal vulnerability under existing and future coastal scenarios. It uses the best available science to provide information about erosion and inundation impacts under a number of different scenarios including existing conditions and varying sea levels, storm surges, and flood events. Catchment management authorities, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, the Gippsland Coastal Board, and East Gippsland and Wellington Councils are involved in the work.

The information gained from the studies will help key decision makers to:
– assess risks and plan for coastal impacts from climate change;
– inform settlement and land use plans and other statutory tools (for example municipal planning schemes and floodplain management);
– help make decisions about infrastructure and assets such as roads and services;
– monitor and evaluate change in coastal hazards over time;
– support emergency management planning; and
– provide data for risk assessment and scenario planning for localised adaptation responses.

The outcomes from the assessment will be used to plan for and manage existing and future impacts with local communities.

To counter those risks, we need to balance current use and development opportunities with potential future costs and the long-term health of the coast. We also need to address the legacy of earlier land use decisions. Where property and infrastructure are now at risk from erosion or flooding, we need to adapt to changing circumstances. The options may include living with the risk for the economic life of existing assets, removing or relocating the assets, or protecting from the hazard.

The Victorian Climate Change Adaptation Plan (2013) sets out how the Victorian Government is managing these risks (amongst others) and acknowledges the contribution by all tiers of government, business and communities in this work.

Given the dynamics of this coast, much work has been done to try to understand how to respond to climate change predictions. A 2008 Gippsland Coastal Board report summarises the effects of climate change on physical processes and identifies risks to specific coastal infrastructure to inform future management.

The knowledge gained from local studies provides the foundation for the next phase of community-driven adaptation planning. For example, the next steps in using the information presented in the Gippsland Lakes and 90 Mile Beach Coastal Hazard Assessment will be in working with local communities to assess the risk of the hazards to their community and arrive at decisions that make their community more climate resilient.
3.3 Connections to catchments

Catchments, coast and marine areas form a continuum. What happens in catchments affects the coast and near-shore marine environments. Catchment management therefore plays an integral role in protecting downstream environments and amenity of the coast.

These linkages are particularly evident for waterways which flow through their catchments to estuaries and the sea. Runoff supports the plant and animal communities in estuaries and nearby marine areas. It can also generate riparian and estuarine flooding which can cause significant disruption and losses as well as exacerbating coastal hazards.

Water flows and water quality are often linked, and variations in river and estuarine flows can improve or worsen water quality. Some water quality issues are natural processes that affect social and economic use of the coast. Human activity has exacerbated some of these processes and created new problems. For example, nutrient inputs into the Gippsland Lakes exacerbate algal blooms. Similarly, nutrient inputs and turbidity add to problems at Corner Inlet. In other parts of Gippsland, stormwater from coastal cities and towns adds to water quality issues.

Catchment management authorities have regional catchment and waterway strategies to help maintain or improve the quality of water reaching coastal areas.

3.4 Demographic trends

Many people choose to live beside the coast, but population growth creates challenges in meeting future infrastructure and employment needs. Achieving this balance means coastal settlements need to be planned according to regional strengths and around the relationships with hinterland townships and the larger regional towns that form hubs for employment and services. The framework for Gippsland coastal settlements is included in the Gippsland Regional Growth Plan. It identifies current and future settlement patterns along the Gippsland Coast and plays a significant role in shaping the land use planning decisions made by local councils. The Gippsland Regional Growth Plan identifies coastal values and addresses sensitive coastal areas in growth planning.

Changes in demographics are a key driver for development and land use along the Gippsland coast. Data on age demographics, population projections and peak populations was synthesised in the 2006 State of the Gippsland Coast Report and the East Gippsland and Wellington shires Coastal Towns Design Framework (Meinhardt 2007). Key pressures identified in those studies included population growth above regional average and an ageing population, driven in part by the ‘sea change’ phenomenon. A synthesis of recent census data on Gippsland coastal towns shows that the ‘sea change’ phenomenon has slowed or halted. Average population growth over the last ten years has been less than the Victorian regional average and decreases have occurred in some towns.

The population continues to age across most coastal towns, although the rate of population ageing appears to be slowing against the regional average. Mobile populations outside the metropolitan areas also have impacts on coastal areas. These include people with holiday homes that lead to large seasonal fluctuations in population.

3.5 Visitation trends

An increase in boating visitation and changes in boating preferences are key factors for change in the Gippsland port and waterway areas. Trends in boating visitations rates have been estimated by Gippsland Ports using boat registration data. Registrations in Gippsland have been increasing by an average of 2.8 per cent per year from 2003 to 2012, with particularly high growth in the Anderson Inlet (3.0 per cent), Gippsland Lakes (2.9 per cent) and Mallacoota (2.9 per cent) regions. The rates of growth exceed general population increases. The average boat size also appears to be increasing.

Visitation and tourism are key economic drivers for Victoria and for Gippsland coastal communities. All these attractions draw significant numbers of visitors and it is to be expected that these numbers will continue to increase. The economic opportunities associated with these trends need to be handled in a way that protects significant coastal features and landscapes from the environmental impacts that can accompany high visitor numbers.

The impact of increased visitation at key coastal sites on the ‘visitor experience’ (that is, how an individual interacts and enjoys a site) is an emerging issue for nature-based tourism. While visitation dispersal opportunities at some sites should be considered, identifying ways for visitors to contribute financially to the renewal and maintenance of facilities as well as preservation activities that contribute to maintaining a quality visitor experience also deserve consideration. Further studies that describe the visitor experience at coastal sites with increased use should be a priority.
Regional scale strategic planning can help to address these issues by identifying opportunities to tailor the service levels at different sites to expected visitation demand. The key here is to do that in ways that help to minimise pressures on the vulnerable parts of the coast.

As discussed in Chapter 4, the Gippsland Boating Coastal Action Plan is an example of how some things can and should be managed at the regional-scale. Its key actions will be implemented under this plan.

### 3.6 Industrial processes

Emerging industries and the changing markets for oil, gas, brown coal and renewable energy will present new challenges for management of the Gippsland coastal region.

Offshore oil and gas fields affect coastal areas because the oil and gas must be moved through the foreshore to the processing plants near Orbost and at Longford. Servicing the needs of those industries also has generalised effects upon the regional economy.

Where projects require access to coastal foreshore to transport materials, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning works with public land managers to manage this use.

Land subsidence is a significant concern in the region. It is evident in the Latrobe valley and has the potential to be an issue in the mid to long-term in coastal areas. It occurs when underground layers compress, for example due to the extraction of groundwater, oil and natural gas and mine dewatering. The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, the University of NSW and Monash University recently completed a pilot study using radar techniques to identify and measure subsidence along the Gippsland coast. In addition to effects around the coal mines near Morwell which are monitored through mine management plans, it found subsidence in localised areas near Stradbroke and the Holey Plains State Forest, the latter possibly due to changes to plantation land uses. The results of the study will be used to develop a longer term monitoring program.

While the region’s production of crude oil, coal and gas is important to Victoria in the short-and-medium term, there are also plans to transition and diversify these traditional energy industries. Future opportunities have been identified in the Gippsland Regional Plan, such as the development of coal-to-products (for example briquettes or fertiliser) and research and development in technology such as carbon capture and storage.

The emergence of new energy industries in the Gippsland coastal area, such as wind energy, coal seam gas, and geothermal power may offer opportunities for economic development, while simultaneously presenting new threats and pressures to natural and social values.

The scope for tidal and wave power has been investigated for Gippsland. However at this stage, it does not appear to be a priority area for investment. The East Gippsland Basin has been identified as potentially suitable for geothermal power generation, and there is some potential for additional wind generation at Toora, Bald Hills and further west.

Risks from further potential port developments associated with increased shipping traffic in Corner Inlet include oil spills, ballast water discharge, spread of invasive species and potential impacts associated with dredging and port maintenance.
4.1 Background

A variety of public land and waterway managers regulate access to coastal land and marine environments (see Chapter 5). They aim to balance access between users with protecting natural values and the amenity of other users. This is achieved by providing facilities such as walking tracks, boat ramps, car parks, picnic facilities, boardwalks, jetties and caravan parks.

Balancing access to these facilities is best considered at the regional-scale. Carefully distributing facilities and service levels across the region enhances accessibility. It also helps reduce potential conflicts between different uses, such as boating and swimming. Communicating the availability of alternative facilities and targeting investment in priority sites can also be beneficial.

There are different types of residents and visitors to the coast. These include local residents, people with ‘weekenders’ and holiday homes, itinerant travellers such as ‘grey nomads,’ and people on longer vacations. Collectively, the way they interact with the coast can be referred to as ‘visitation’.

Demand can be managed by ensuring that the service levels provided by visitation facilities are tailored to the resilience of the landscape. In general, high levels of service are best concentrated in resilient areas, for example in identified activity nodes.

The unique amenity values at some vulnerable sites, however, often call for a different response. In those cases, it may be necessary to offer very high service levels such as boardwalk access, sophisticated parking arrangements, tourism services and the like. This is particularly true of places like Wilsons Promontory and Lakes Entrance.

Periods of congestion during peak visitation to an area are frustrating to experience and particularly challenging to manage.

There is a balance to be achieved between continually upgrading facilities at popular sites and promoting the availability of alternative sites. Queuing, parking fees, site-use fees and ballots are all legitimate ways to manage access, but they need to be evaluated against the alternatives.

Peak demand strains assets and infrastructure and can reduce the natural and amenity values that attract people to the coast.

Fortunately, the fluctuations in demand for some community assets can ease demand from coastal visitation. School grounds are a good example: peak demands for coastal visitation include the school holiday period. Some communities, such as Venus Bay where there is a scarcity of space available for extra parking, are now using school grounds and shuttle buses to offer park and ride services during peak times.

At the other end of the spectrum, uncontrolled camping at less popular parts of the coast can create problems as well. Several land managers have expressed concerns about the increasing impacts of litter and refuse, and increased costs of addressing those impacts, as uncontrolled camping levels increase.

Regional and state tourism bodies have responsibility to plan for and manage tourism to balance the economic benefits with the protection of the values that attract many tourists (and residents) to the region.

The actions in this Plan will contribute to planning for tourism development by bringing together better information about visitation demands and opportunities, encouraging more integrated management of foreshores and improving planning for the impacts of climate change.
4.2 The Boating Coastal Action Plan

The Gippsland Boating Coastal Action Plan 2012 (Boating CAP) is an example of how the Board has shown that some things are best managed at the regional scale. It shows that there are significant opportunities to manage demand, while maintaining community and environmental coastal values.

The Boating CAP provides an inventory of the region’s recreational boating facilities, including local ports, and classifies each of them into one of five different categories (state, district, regional, local, basic and informal facilities) based on the level of service they each provide (see Figure 6). To some extent, every facility in a given category provides interchangeable and complementary services. Therefore, if one site is congested, it may be possible to receive similar services at an alternative site.

The Boating CAP takes a positive step towards planning for the development of recreational boating facilities, including some local port infrastructure, to balance community expectations and demands with ensuring environmental and social values are understood and considered.

The level of service approach outlined in the boating plan can be applied more broadly in coastal management. Taking this approach at the regional scale lends itself to better management of all facilities that hold the potential to provide interchangeable and complementary coastal experiences.

Figure 6 Indicative map of current boating hierarchy of facilities from the Gippsland Boating Coastal Action Plan 2013. For full details, refer to the Boating CAP.
4.3 Activity and recreation nodes

The Victorian Coastal Strategy 2014 notes that in coastal settlements, recreation and tourism developments are focused around activity and recreation nodes. These create efficient relationships between buildings and infrastructure and they minimise development impacts on the coast.

Activity nodes provide for community recreation facilities and tourism activities. They are within settlements and are adjacent to the activity centres identified in planning schemes. They include public and private land. For example, the Board’s 2008 Boating Amenity and Sustainable Infrastructure Study identified activity nodes in and around the Gippsland Lakes where future boating development should occur.

Recreation nodes are located on coastal Crown land, outside activity nodes. They provide access and infrastructure for recreation and water-related activities.

Any development on coastal Crown land within an activity node and recreation node should satisfy the criteria for use and development on coastal Crown land established by the Victorian Coastal Strategy 2014.
4.4 Key challenges and actions

The coast is valued for a range of uses. Coastal planners and managers aim to provide facilities to enhance access while maintaining the values that attract users to the site in the first place.

Population pressures and increased tourism visitation will increase the importance of getting this balance right.

A regional approach will help identify where visitation is best directed and those areas that will need further protection. The actions in this chapter will provide key information about existing infrastructure that supports visitation to the Gippsland coast. They will build collaboration and coordination between land and waterway managers, and assist in sharing and learning from the different experiences of each of those managers. The work will be used to develop a Visitation Demand Framework, which will guide consistent local decisions, support investment and explain to coastal users the long-term goals of managing access to the coast.

### Chapter 4 – Visitation Actions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Lead</th>
<th>Partner Agents</th>
<th>By When</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Work with partner organisations to implement actions in the Gippsland Boating Coastal Action Plan</td>
<td>GCB</td>
<td>Local councils, CoM, Gippsland Ports, PV</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Work with public land managers and waterway managers to:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. map and categorise visitation infrastructure throughout the region;</td>
<td>DELWP</td>
<td>GCB, PV, Local councils, CoM, Gippsland Ports</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. develop a service-level hierarchy for visitation infrastructure;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. document and analyse effectiveness of existing approaches to demand management (including parking fees, entrance fees, camping fees, leasing arrangements, licensing arrangements and the use of smart-phone apps).</td>
<td>GCB</td>
<td>DELWP, VCC</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Identify priority areas for visitation demand management. In particular:</td>
<td>GCB</td>
<td>Local councils, DELWP, CoM, Tourism boards, TOs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. resilient parts of the landscape where visitation can be encouraged;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. vulnerable parts of the landscape where demand might be reduced by encouraging visitors towards alternative sites; and</td>
<td>GCB</td>
<td>Local councils, DELWP, CoM, Tourism boards, TOs, PV</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. vulnerable parts of the landscape with unique visitor experiences and limited scope to reduce demand.</td>
<td>GCB</td>
<td>Local councils, DELWP, CoM, Tourism boards, TOs</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Using the data from actions 1, 2 and 3, develop a Visitation Demand Framework to guide local decisions, support investment and communicate with users.</td>
<td>GCB</td>
<td>Local councils, DELWP, PV, user groups, CoM, Tourism boards</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


### Outcomes

1. Matching recreational boating expectations with strategically and safely located facilities;
2. Balancing recreational and commercial coastal uses to minimise the social and environmental impacts;
3. Recreation and tourism expectations matched with a level of service that accounts for the function, risks, and social and economic benefits; and
4. Sustainable public access for a range of recreation and tourism uses.
5.1 Background

Coastal experiences involve the use and enjoyment of the hinterland, foreshore and marine environments. The foreshore is the bridge between the other two environments and is often a focus for use and visitation pressures. It is an important part of the coast to plan for and manage.

The Victorian foreshore is 96 per cent publicly owned. As illustrated in Figure 7, in the Gippsland coastal region the foreshore is managed by a variety of groups including Parks Victoria, local councils, committees of management and Gippsland Ports. The Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation also jointly manage five coastal parks with Parks Victoria.

Different land managers in the region face a range of very different demands. For example, East Gippsland Shire manages several intensively used urban foreshore areas such as those around Lakes Entrance. Other land managers, such as Parks Victoria, are responsible for extensive areas where use is more dispersed.

Where there are high levels of use, or there are some opportunities for the users of the foreshore to contribute to the cost of providing visitation infrastructure and services, a local council, Parks Victoria or a committee of management is generally responsible for managing the land.22

Traditional Owners have a range of rights and responsibilities for their custodial land (including Native Title and Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010 agreements). Their aspirations for coast and sea country are also formally recognised through joint management and co-management arrangements, with Parks Victoria, for five coastal parks in the Gunaikurnai determination area. These are the Lakes National Park, Gippsland Lakes Coastal Park, Gippsland Lakes Reserve, Corringle Foreshore Reserve and Lake Tyers Catchment Area.

Gippsland Ports, Parks Victoria, East Gippsland Shire Council and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning as designated Waterway Managers under the Marine Safety Act (2010) are responsible for boating and shipping safety. The Victorian Coastal Strategy and elements of the Victorian Planning Provisions (including Clause 18.03 that lists port land use and development strategies) guide land-use planning within designated ports. The amenity values offered by ports are also recognised within regional growth plans.

Foreshore managers have a number of tools to guide and support their decisions. A range of tools to implement these decisions are also provided for in the Coastal Management Act 1995 and the Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978.23 Where there is high demand for use of the foreshore – to the point where there is competition between potential users – exclusive use may be provided to particular groups through private leasing of buildings on the foreshore (including camping grounds, marinas and cafes). Public land managers may also licence particular uses at popular sites.24 This is important to better manage demand, for example in some areas tour operator licences for certain activities are allocated competitively.

The rent paid to lease or licence coastal Crown land represents a payment to the community for the private use of a publicly owned resource. By paying rent, those receiving a private benefit from the right to occupy and use coastal foreshore make an appropriate payment for that use. Further, rental payments are one of the only sources of income available to foreshore managers to meet the cost of managing and improving the land under their control. The most commonly used mechanism used to set rentals on Crown land is through a market valuation assessment conducted by a qualified valuer.25

The foreshore is rich in coastal values; community expectations for its management are set within the Victorian Coastal Strategy 2014. One of the desired outcomes from that strategy is for the built environment on foreshores to be confined to structures whose functionality depends on them being near the water – while also providing significant community benefit.

Surf lifesaving club lookout towers, marina and boat sheds are examples of buildings whose functionality depend on being near the water. Foreshore managers need to work with the lessees of these buildings to ensure that the siting and design of facilities do not increase coastal hazards (including bushfire risk) or reduce amenity for other users. The Board believes that innovative designs that do this and capture the coastal character of foreshore should be encouraged.

Decisions about how to manage the variety of coastal values on the foreshore are made through the development of coastal management plans and local planning schemes. The Victorian Coastal Strategy 2014 specifies criteria for use and development on coastal Crown land (including reuse and redevelopment). The Visitation Demand Framework outlined in Chapter 4 will help to ensure that the levels of service offered at different sites will conform with those criteria.
Figure 7: Indicative map of foreshore and waterway managers.
5.2 Integrated coastal management

The efforts and expertise offered by local foreshore managers, government agencies and volunteers, provides an immense advantage in managing the values associated with coastal land. The Coastal Management Act (1995) provides for coastal management plans (sometimes called foreshore management plans) on public land but good practice in the Gippsland coastal region has seen the foreshore managers of both public and private land working with adjacent land holders and waterway managers to manage coastal values together. Clarifying the boundaries of coastal reserves, including consistent responsibilities for boundaries related to tidal height, helps to improve this co-operative management.

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning is developing guidelines for coastal management plans (including foreshore management plans). The guidelines will also facilitate future revision of existing plans when needed. They will recognise that good management should not be bounded by land tenure; good management means working across land boundaries where it is sensible to do so. This includes addressing the impacts of private land activities on adjacent or nearby foreshores.

Case study – Integrated management of algal blooms in the Gippsland Lakes

Blue-green algae (BGA) occur naturally in aquatic environments such as the Gippsland Lakes. Occasionally, blooms can be so severe that they reduce water quality, prevent or minimise use of the Lakes and threaten parts of the estuarine environment such as fish. Such blooms can have far-reaching effects on a broad range of activities and interests.

When regular monitoring reveals trigger levels of BGA, an emergency response and management system is activated to coordinate the response of many organisations.

The Gippsland Blue-Green Algae Regional Response Plan details the specific responsibility of each agency involved with a BGA bloom. The plan helps to define if and when different agencies need to be involved in managing the bloom and its consequences. For example, when monitoring indicates risks to human health, the Department of Health is a key part of the response. When there are risks for fishing, Fisheries Victoria and Primesafe will act to protect the fishery and seafood consumers.

Much like a bushfire, BGA blooms are managed with public safety and clear information as priorities. Press releases, signage, and other forms of communication are carefully coordinated by agencies such as the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Parks Victoria and local government.

Following a bloom, the agencies involved collaborate to learn from the process and improve the system. As an example, local government followed up on concerns about impacts on tourism and initiated a study to gather this information. The results were used by agencies to better position the tourism sector for such incidents.
5.3 Key challenges and actions

A range of different organisations manage the coast. There are synergies to be achieved by helping to coordinate their efforts across land boundaries. The Board will work with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning to encourage land and water managers to collaborate wherever possible and work with their communities to achieve the best outcomes for the coast.

The Board will work with the Traditional Owners to support them to develop plans to better manage their land and sea country, and to integrate that management with adjacent land and water managers. This will encourage planning and management to cover areas of the coast with similar issues and processes. It will guide local decisions while maintaining consistency and high standards of planning and management, and supporting future investment.

Under the Coastal Management Act 1995, coastal management plans apply to public land on the coast. The development of the new marine and coastal act by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning provides an opportunity to explore issues, such as where and when coastal management plans should apply.

### Chapter 5 – Foreshore Manager Actions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lead</th>
<th>Partner Agents</th>
<th>By When</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DELWP</td>
<td>GCB, CoM, Local councils, PV</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DELWP</td>
<td>GCB, Local councils, CoM, GP, PV</td>
<td>2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PV</td>
<td>TOs, GCB, CMAs, DELWP, Aus Government</td>
<td>2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCB</td>
<td>DELWP; Local councils</td>
<td>2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


### Outcomes

1. Improved efficiency and effectiveness of coastal managers;
2. Management better aligned with the Victorian Coastal Strategy 2014 and the Regional Coastal Plan priorities;
3. Improved governance, oversight and support for committees of management; and
4. Strong community engagement in planning for the coast.
6 ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND INCREASED COASTAL HAZARDS

6.1 Background

As outlined in Section 3.2, climate change is expected to cause significant changes to Gippsland’s coastal and marine environments. Potential impacts on the coast include loss of public land (including beaches), damage to buildings and other infrastructure, changes in coastal and marine ecosystems, and destruction of cultural heritage.

If we are to adapt, these impacts will need to be addressed at the appropriate scale and over different time periods. Increasing ocean temperatures and acidification are global scale impacts; they are being addressed through international and national initiatives. Some regional-scale impacts, such as changes to biodiversity, fire regimes and water supply, are being addressed across broad landscapes by state and regional organisations.

This Regional Coastal Plan focuses on hazards that are unique to the coast – coastal flooding, erosion, accretion and long-term recession, driven by rising sea levels. There is a clear need to improve regional and local planning for these, and this Plan outlines significant improvements.

Key terms
- Coastal flooding - temporary or permanent flooding of low-lying areas by ocean waters caused by high sea level events, with or without the impacts of rainfall in coastal catchments
- Coastal erosion - short-term retreat of sandy and soft rock shorelines and dunes as a result of storm effects and climatic variations
- Coastal recession - progressive and ongoing retreat of the shoreline
- Coastal accretion - the accumulation of beach sediments
- Coastal adaptation planning - the process of understanding the physical processes and community values that determine hazards, assessing risks and identifying actions that will increase resilience
- Coastal Hazard - when coastal processes (flooding, erosion and recession) have a negative impact on life, property or other assets
- Risk - the effect of uncertainty on objectives

( Derived from the Victorian Coastal Hazard Guide 2012)

6.2 Adaptation planning to manage flooding and erosion

The primary causes of coastal inundation and flooding are storm surges combining with high tides (especially storm-tides), extreme wave events and, sometimes, estuarine flooding. Erosion risks are determined by tides, wave action, sea levels and geology. Rising sea levels, resulting from climate change, will cause increased rates of erosion and more extensive flooding.

The Victorian Climate Change Adaptation Plan, released in 2013, sets out priorities for adaptation including partnering with local government and communities. The Victorian Government has provided funding and support for local government adaptation planning and action, including through a pilot mentoring initiative. The Climate Change Adaptation Memorandum of Understanding between state and local government also identifies sea level rise as one of the agreed priority areas for clarification of responsibilities.

The Government's Future Coasts program produced guidelines, comprehensive data sets and digital models to help Victorians better understand the hazards and plan for the risks associated with sea level rise and storm surge. It also worked with local councils to engage their communities in investigating local needs and opportunities.

The Victorian Government has established long term sea level rise benchmarks and floodplain management guidelines to inform local planning and development. The Victorian Coastal Strategy 2014 sets the policy for planning for an increase of not less than 0.8 m by 2100 and 0.2 m by 2040 may be used for urban infill. The floodplain guidelines apply unless a council’s adaptation planning makes specific alternative arrangements.

The Victorian Coastal Strategy 2014 envisages that increased threats from coastal hazards will be strategically managed, on both public and private land, through regional and local adaptation planning. This involves the use of coastal hazard assessments to identify areas of public and private land vulnerable to inundation, erosion or recession, and understanding how the community’s values in these areas are affected. This informs the assessment of future risks and adaptive management responses.
Many adaptation responses are possible. The relevance of each will vary from place to place. Broadly, risks can be:

- avoided, for example, by updating planning schemes to implement State coastal planning policy;
- reduced through planned retreat or protection (such as sea walls, beach renourishment or improved building construction);
- shared through insurance and better information sharing; or
- transferred, for example by accepting and living with the risk or dealing with it through emergency responses.

Certain adaptation responses may be triggered by observed changes in the environment (for example, increasing height of sea walls or relocating infrastructure when sea level reaches a predefined height, or when specific areas are flooded with a certain frequency). This allows certain actions and investments to be postponed until risks in particular locations are more certain, to avoid costly over-reaction.

The research into the physical risks associated with sea-level rise along the Gippsland coast is extensive, and has heightened awareness among decision-makers about the need for adaptation to be considered in some areas. However, there is little known in Gippsland or elsewhere about how potential responses to these risks might impact on the values of coastal residents.

The Gippsland Coastal Board worked with the University of Melbourne to develop a project to assess the issue of social equity in adaptation. Partners in the project included East Gippsland and Wellington shire councils, the former Department of Sustainability and Environment, and the former Department of Planning and Community Development.

The 2014 project report outlined ‘lived values’ that define what is important in the lives of people and in the places they live. Knowledge of these lived values is important to understand the impact of different adaptation strategies. For example, a newly erected rock wall might interfere with a widely held shared value attached to sea views in a coastal community. Adaptation response can compromise some values over others, and the project helps to consider those values that may be adversely affected by certain strategies.

The report describes social triggers for acceptance of adaptation responses as well as the need for scoping adaptation decisions and activities. The report includes A Guide for Government to Incorporate Community Values into Climate Change Planning which outlines a step-based participatory planning process for undertaking the Values Approach for Adaptation Planning.

Having the appropriate authority engaging with the local community – the people directly affected by the risk and in the best position to manage it – is the best way to go about adaptation planning. Therefore much adaptation planning needs to be led at the local level in close consultation with the affected community.

The map in Figure 8 shows three areas where detailed coastal hazard assessment and adaptation planning are likely to be needed. This includes the recently finished Gippsland Lakes and 90 Mile Beach assessment as well as two new areas where further detailed hazard assessment and adaptation planning are likely to be needed: around Corner Inlet and Port Albert; and around Anderson Inlet and Venus Bay. These areas have particularly significant natural or built assets in low lying areas susceptible to coastal flooding, and/or are in sandy areas susceptible to erosion.

Additional funding will be needed to carry out detailed local coastal hazard assessments and adaptation plans. This Plan provides the framework for state, regional and local agencies to work together on attracting funding to carry out this work. Assessments of the benefits and costs of responses should take account of a broad range of social, environmental and economic values associated with the coast, such as the value of beaches and the costs if they are not able to be used by the community.

Case study – Equitable local outcomes in adaptation to sea-level rise

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The report describes social triggers for acceptance of adaptation responses as well as the need for scoping adaptation decisions and activities. The report includes A Guide for Government to Incorporate Community Values into Climate Change Planning which outlines a step-based participatory planning process for undertaking the Values Approach for Adaptation Planning.

Case study – Balancing environmental, social and economic aspects of climate change adaptation

Two projects funded by the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility and completed in 2013 considered environmental, social and economic change that may result from climate change to develop a broader framework to assist adaptation decision-making.

The multi-disciplinary work found that a prescriptive approach to settlement and infrastructure for coastal communities is less important than a decision-making process that is open, transparent, inclusive and adaptive, and involves all levels of government and the community. It also demonstrated the importance of local knowledge in understanding the impact of climate change on specific environments and communities, and therefore how a community can be involved in adaptation on a personal and community basis.

Both studies indicate the importance and need for well-informed communication about climate change adaptation and responses appropriate to particular areas and regions. A more collaborative regional approach with wider representation may be the best way forward for adapting to climate change on the coast.
Figure 8 Map indicating areas for hazard assessment and adaptation planning (based on coastal instability and low lying areas).

LEGEND
- Muddy shores
- Sandy shores
- Muddy shores backed by soft/hard rock
- Sandy shores backed by soft/hard rock
- Soft rock shores
- Hard rock shores
- Low lying area with potential for inundation
- Built up areas

Vulnerable locations where coastal hazard assessments have occurred
Vulnerable locations which would benefit from coastal hazard assessment because of -
- high social, economic and environmental assets
- low lying areas subject to inundation
- vulnerable coastal profile

DISCLAIMER: The data used in this map is from the Victorian Coastal Inundation Dataset and the Smartline Coastal Geomorphic Map of Australia and is intended to be used at a regional scale to assist strategic planning and risk management.
6.3 Key challenges and actions

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning will work on a systematic regional approach to prioritise areas for more detailed coastal hazard assessment where adaptation planning would be beneficial. Priorities will be set in partnership with local councils and catchment management authorities, who are working on regional prioritisation to manage the risks of riverine and estuary flooding.

Local councils and catchment management authorities will then need to work in partnership with Commonwealth and Victorian Government agencies to attract funding for coastal hazard assessments, flood studies and adaptation planning in priority areas. Community engagement to understand values and preferences is essential at each stage of adaptation planning.

Where the results of these assessments determine a future risk of inundation to property and life, flood overlays or erosion management overlays should be incorporated into local planning schemes and building controls. Local emergency plans should also reflect and plan for the potential risk. Community consultation will be a central part of these and other potential adaptation responses.

The Board will also encourage continual improvement in adaptation planning in the light of new data, new knowledge and emerging risks. In particular, there is a need to build reliable data sets to assess erosion risks in coastal hazard assessments.

### Outcomes

1. Findings from local coastal hazard assessments are applied locally to address hazards;
2. Areas at high risk are identified and adaptation responses are included in local planning schemes, coastal management plans and emergency management plans;
3. The full range of options for adapting to flooding and erosion risks to public and private land are properly considered (including benefits and costs) and reflected in local decisions;
4. The community has a shared understanding of erosion and flooding risks and adaptive management responses; and
5. Gippsland region coastal communities are resilient to coastal hazards.
7 SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES CARING FOR THE COAST

7.1 Background

Victoria’s volunteers and community groups make valuable contributions to coastal management; they help to protect coastal values and in so doing they raise broader community appreciation of those values.

Members of the seven community-based committees of management on the Gippsland coast contribute thousands of hours of their time to manage parcels of coastal Crown land. There is also a broad range of passionate, enthusiastic and skilled groups active in coastal management in Gippsland. This includes numerous Coastcare, Landcare, conservation and ‘friends’ groups, and each of them has a wide range of members. For example, Birds Australia has 930 volunteers working to protect coastal bird habitat along the Victorian coast, actively contributing to community education, doing bird counts and recording bird sightings. This is just one example of the important role of citizen science in gathering better information and monitoring coastal values.

In some areas volunteers play a critical role because they do most of the management and maintenance of local public open space and recreation facilities. Often they do this with few resources.

Volunteers give generously of their time, knowledge and energy to deliver on-ground projects that contribute to our knowledge, improve environmental outcomes and make a difference to local communities.29

Community awareness and education about our coastal and marine areas is essential to improve our understanding of community values. Programs such as Summer by the Sea foster volunteer community groups and coastal management agencies to share their expertise and local experience with residents and visitors over summer. User groups such as Victorian surf lifesaving, angling and boating groups are also involved in building community understanding of the coast.

Community involvement in ‘hands-on’ management (for example as part of a community group, such as a foreshore care group) and in planning and decision-making (for example as a member of a committee of management, Regional Coastal Board or Victorian Coastal Council) is central to Victoria’s model of coastal management. The Gippsland Coastal Board is committed to enabling and nurturing active community involvement in managing the coast.

There are opportunities for local landholders and community groups to work with the Victorian Government to protect community coastal values.

Local public land managers throughout the Gippsland Region provide incentives and grants to engage the wider public and involve them in work to protect coastal values.

One area of community action that has proven popular is the monitoring of the beach. In line with the Coastcare Strategy 2011-2015, the Board sees the opportunity for a statewide initiative like Coastcare to better promote the use of local community data by coastal planners and managers and develop monitoring guidelines to improve the comparability of data collected.30

The Board also sees coastal volunteering as having potential to benefit the region’s youth and would like to see Coastcare continue to target this demographic.

Community groups in the Gippsland Region are keen to learn from the Traditional Owners of the region; they should be supported in their efforts to work on joint coastal projects with them. Opportunities to raise the cultural awareness of coastal communities should also be pursued.

In doing this, it is important to provide clarity about the roles, responsibilities and expectations for all regional agencies involved in managing the coast – especially where operating boundaries overlap. The Board will work to clarify regional roles and responsibilities and ensure that important initiatives are not delayed.

The Board also has a role in providing opportunities for networking and knowledge exchange between different groups and agencies. Our coastal communities continue to change, and there is an ongoing need to support information sharing to make the most of our coastal management experience and promote innovation.
7.2 Actions

The actions in this chapter recognise the broad range of groups contributing to the protection, management and monitoring of our coast. They aim to build the capacity of individuals, community organisations and managers by providing support and building networks to encourage learning.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter 7 – Community Support Actions</th>
<th>Lead</th>
<th>Partner Agents</th>
<th>By When</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Work with partner organisations to promote better understanding of coastal values and processes by organising:</td>
<td>GCB</td>
<td>DELWP, CMAs, Local councils, TOs, CoM</td>
<td>2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. biennial regional coastal conference; and</td>
<td>GCB</td>
<td>CMAs, Local councils, DELWP, CoM</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. regular information sharing events - such as the Corner Inlet Connections Partner Group and Gippsland coastal inter-agency forums.</td>
<td>GCB</td>
<td>DELWP, GCB, TOs, CMAs, Local councils, CoM, VCC</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Work with statewide community groups and programs to:</td>
<td>DELWP</td>
<td>GCB, CMAs, Local councils, TOs, CoM</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. support all community coastal volunteers to collect data about the coast to inform local decision making;</td>
<td>DELWP</td>
<td>GCB, VCC, CMAs, Local councils, CoM</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. support community groups to better link with Traditional Owners to work on joint coastal projects; and</td>
<td>DELWP</td>
<td>GCB, CMAs, Local councils, TOs</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. attract volunteers from a broad range of age groups, particularly young people.</td>
<td>DELWP</td>
<td>GCB, CMAs, Local councils, TOs</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Promote and support the work done by all local coastal and marine community groups, including but not limited to Reefwatch, Seaearch and EstuaryWatch.</td>
<td>GCB</td>
<td>CMAs, Local councils, DELWP</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
</tr>
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</table>


Outcomes

1. Community organisations working on the coast understand and are engaged in the delivery of outcomes of the Victorian Coastal Strategy 2014 and the Regional Coastal Plan;
2. Information from citizen science projects about coastal values and pressures is utilised by coastal land and water managers; and
3. The broader community develops greater appreciation of coastal issues and is encouraged to be active in protecting coastal values.
Monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the condition of the coast and the implementation of actions is fundamental to the efficient and effective protection and enhancement of coastal values. The Victorian Coastal Council, in partnership with the Gippsland Coastal Board and other agencies, will develop a state framework to monitor the condition of Victoria’s coast and the delivery of actions set out in the Victorian Coastal Strategy, regional coastal plans and coastal management plans (and foreshore management plans). The Board’s 2013 Gippsland State of the Coasts Update Report will be important input for this work.

The condition of Gippsland’s coastal values is evaluated by a number of agencies, including the catchment management authorities, Parks Victoria and local councils. Results are publicly reported in documents such as the 2011 Gippsland Lakes Report Card, the Index of Stream Condition and the Index of Estuary Condition. The following tables outline the actions from this Plan.

The Board will develop an implementation plan for the actions in the Regional Coastal Plan within six months of the Plan being endorsed by the Minister.

### 8 MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REPORTING

The accountabilities and timelines for the delivery of these actions provide the basis for reporting on the implementation of this Plan. The Board will report annually to the Victorian Coastal Council on progress and the Plan will be reviewed in 2020.

There is much existing information base available about the condition of the region’s coastal values and the processes and pressures that affect them. More information is needed though to better understand those values, processes and pressures so that managers can adapt to the dynamic physical, biological and social nature of the coast.

It is also important to monitor the condition of coastal values so that we can be confident that we are maintaining or improving them. The five-yearly State of the Bay report recently proposed by the Victorian Government will give information about the health of coasts, bays and waterways throughout Victoria, and help to build evidence about the success of this Plan.

The monitoring evaluation and reporting actions set out in the Plan focus on assessing our progress in implementing the Plan. The budgets of coastal management agencies at state, regional and local levels are expected to remain highly constrained over the next few years given the current economic conditions. Therefore this Plan has been designed to set realistic expectations about what can be delivered and by when. The Board anticipates that most of the key actions can be delivered within existing budgets of management agencies. However additional funding will be needed to carry out some further planning and management steps such as detailed coast hazard studies and adaptation plans. Over the next five years the Plan provides the framework for state, regional and local agencies to work together on attracting funding to carry out these additional pieces of work.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter 4 – Visitation Actions</th>
<th>Lead</th>
<th>Partner Agents</th>
<th>By When</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Work with partner organisations to implement actions in the Gippsland Boating Coastal Action Plan.</td>
<td>GCB</td>
<td>Local councils, CoM, Gippsland Ports, PV</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Work with public land managers and waterway managers to:</td>
<td>DELWP</td>
<td>GCB, PV, Local councils, CoM, Gippsland Ports</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. map and categorise visitation infrastructure throughout the region;</td>
<td>DELWP</td>
<td>GCB, VCC</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. develop a service-level hierarchy for visitation infrastructure; and</td>
<td>GCB</td>
<td>DELWP, PV, Local councils, CoM</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. document and analyse effectiveness of existing approaches to demand management (including parking fees, entrance fees, camping fees, leasing arrangements, licensing arrangements and the use of smart-phone apps).</td>
<td>GCB</td>
<td>DELWP, PV, Local councils, CoM</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Identify priority areas for visitation demand management. In particular:</td>
<td>GCB</td>
<td>Local councils, DELWP, CoM, PV, Tourism boards, TOs</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. resilient parts of the landscape where visitation can be encouraged;</td>
<td>GCB</td>
<td>Local councils, DELWP, CoM, PV, Tourism boards, TOs</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. vulnerable parts of the landscape where demand might be reduced by encouraging visitors towards alternative sites; and</td>
<td>GCB</td>
<td>Local councils, DELWP, CoM, PV, Tourism boards, TOs, PV</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. vulnerable parts of the landscape with unique visitor experiences and limited scope to reduce demand.</td>
<td>GCB</td>
<td>Local councils, DELWP, CoM, PV, Tourism boards, TOs</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Using the data from actions 1, 2 and 3, develop a Visitation Demand Framework to guide local decisions, support investment and communicate with users.</td>
<td>GCB</td>
<td>Local councils, DELWP, PV, user groups, CoM, Tourism boards</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Chapter 5 – Foreshore Manager Actions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lead</th>
<th>Partner Agents</th>
<th>By When</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Prepare guidelines for the development of coastal management plans.</td>
<td>DELWP GCB, CoM, Local councils, PV</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Develop a process that brings local managers to work together where it is sensible for a coastal management plan to be developed across multiple land and water managers. From this, local public land managers can put together precinct or master plans.</td>
<td>DELWP GCB, Local councils, CoM, GP, PV</td>
<td>2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Work with Traditional Owners in preparing multi park plans that include coastal areas.</td>
<td>PV TOs, GCB, CMAs, DELWP, Aus Government</td>
<td>2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Ensure there are current coastal management plans (including foreshore management plans) in place in the Gippsland coastal region where needed.</td>
<td>GCB DELWP, Local councils</td>
<td>2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Chapter 6 – Flooding and Erosion Actions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lead</th>
<th>Partner Agents</th>
<th>By When</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Develop a systematic approach to prioritise areas for detailed coastal hazard assessments and adaptation planning.</td>
<td>DELWP GCB, Local councils, CMAs</td>
<td>2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Refine methodologies for conducting detailed coastal hazard assessments to identify high risk areas, and clarify the role of flood studies in the hazard assessment process.</td>
<td>DELWP CMAs, GCB, Local councils</td>
<td>2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Refine methodologies for local adaptation planning, including addressing barriers to practical local adaptation action.</td>
<td>DELWP GCB, Local councils, RDV, CMAs, SES, PV</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Continue, or undertake new, detailed coastal hazard assessments and adaptation planning, particularly for the priority areas identified in 1.</td>
<td>Local Councils DELWP, GCB, RDV, CMAs, PV</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Implement identified adaptation responses through local decisions, for example updating local planning schemes, coastal management plans and emergency plans, and prioritising future works.</td>
<td>Local councils CMAs, DELWP, PV, SES, CoM</td>
<td>2020</td>
</tr>
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### Chapter 7 – Community Support Actions

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<td>1. Work with partner organisations to promote better understanding of coastal values and processes by organising:</td>
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<td>2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. biennial regional coastal conference; and</td>
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<td>b. regular information sharing events - such as the Corner Inlet Connections Partner Group and Gippsland coastal inter-agency forums.</td>
<td>GCB CMAs, Local councils, DELWP, CoM</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Work with statewide community groups and programs to:</td>
<td>DELWP GCB, VCC, CMAs, Local councils, CoM</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. support all community coastal volunteers to collect data about the coast to inform local decision making;</td>
<td>DELWP GCB, TOs, CMAs</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. support community groups to better link with Traditional Owners to work on joint coastal projects; and</td>
<td>DELWP GCB, TOs, CMAs</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
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<td>c. attract volunteers from a broad range of age groups, particularly young people.</td>
<td>DELWP GCB, CMAs, CoM, Local councils, TOs</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Promote and support the work done by all local coastal and marine community groups, including but not limited to Reefwatch, Seasearch and EstuaryWatch.</td>
<td>GCB CMAs, Local councils, DELWP</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**GCB** – Gippsland Coastal Board, **DELWP** – Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, **PV** – Parks Victoria, **CoM** – Committees of Management, **TOs** – Traditional Owners, **VCC** – Victorian Coastal Council, **CMAs** – Catchment Management Authorities, **SES** – State Emergency Service, **GP** – Gippsland Ports
9 REFERENCES

2. Coastal values
1. West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (2014) Regional Catchment Strategy
10. Victorian Coastal Council (2008) Climate Change, Sea Level Rise and Coastal Subsidence along the Gippsland Coast - Phase 2 of the Gippsland Climate Change Study
11. West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (2014) Regional Waterway Strategy
13. Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure Towns in Time database
15. National Sea Change Taskforce (2013) Time and tide: moving towards an understanding of temporal population changes in coastal Australia
16. Department of Environment and Primary Industries (2014) Trial of satellite radar interferometry (InSAR) to monitor subsidence along the Gippsland Coast

3. The dynamics of the coast
14. Gippsland Coastal Board (2008) Climate Change, Sea Level Rise and Coastal Subsidence along the Gippsland Coast - Phase 2 of the Gippsland Climate Change Study
15. West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (2014) Regional Waterway Strategy
17. Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure Towns in Time database
20. Department of Environment and Primary Industries (2014) Trial of satellite radar interferometry (InSAR) to monitor subsidence along the Gippsland Coast

4. Managing regional population and tourism pressures

5. A regional approach to foreshore management
27. National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (2013a) South East Coastal Adaptation (SECA): Coastal urban climate futures in SE Australia from Wollongong to Lakes Entrance

6. Adapting to climate change and increased coastal hazards

7. Supporting communities caring for the coast
33. National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (2013a) South East Coastal Adaptation (SECA): Coastal urban climate futures in SE Australia from Wollongong to Lakes Entrance
34. National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (2013b) What would a climate-adapted settlement look like in 2030? A case study of Inverloch and Sandy Point

8. Supporting communities caring for the coast
Appendix 1 - Coastal management and planning connections in Victoria (from Victorian Coastal Strategy 2014, page 7)

Coastal management
Coastal Management Act 1995

- State-wide vision
- Policies and actions
- Guidance for Regional Coastal Plans
- Roles and responsibilities

Victorian Coastal Strategy
(Private and public land)

- Private Coastal and public land

Regional Coastal Plans
(Private and public land)

- Regional vision
- Regional issues, threats and gaps
- Agreed integrated strategic directions
- Support for place based management
- Coastal hazards

Coastal Management Plans
(Public land)

- Vision for coastal reserve
- 3 year business plan with actions
- Land manager directions for reserve

Regional Growth Plans
(Private and public land in designated area)

- Strategic land use and infrastructure directions
- Direction for accommodating growth
- Issues and challenges

Municipal Planning Schemes
(Private and public land)

- Municipal strategic statement
- Local plans and policies
- Structure plans and settlement boundaries
- Recreation and activity nodes
- Coastal development policy

Freehold land

- Land use controls
- Title restrictions
- Incentives
- Bush tender etc.

Public land

(Managed by coastal CoMs, local government, Parks Victoria, local community groups)

- Coastal Management Act consents
- Master plans to guide developments on coastal reserves
- Operational plans
- Budgets etc.
### Appendix 2 – Aligning actions in the Gippsland Regional Coastal Plan with Key Issues and Desired Outcomes in the Victorian Coastal Strategy 2014

Note: (i) Victorian Coastal Strategy 2014 Key Issues:
1. Managing population growth
2. Adapting to a changing climate
3. Managing coastal land and infrastructure
4. Valuing the natural environment
5. Integrating marine planning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gippsland Regional Coastal Plan</th>
<th>Victorian Coastal Strategy 2014</th>
<th>Key Issues (i)</th>
<th>Desired Outcome (page)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.1 The Board will support and work with all coastal managers to improve the understanding appreciation and protection of the coastal values in the region.</td>
<td>2.1 Valuing the coast - intrinsic characteristics valued, environment values recognised (33)</td>
<td>1.1 Valuing the coast - intrinsic characteristics valued, environment values recognised (33)</td>
<td>1.1 Valuing the coast - intrinsic characteristics valued, environment values recognised (33)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3 The Board will support actions in the regional catchment and waterway strategies that aim to improve the condition of coastal values, particularly to improve water quality in estuaries, embayments and coastal waters.</td>
<td>2.3 Catchments and water quality - better planning and management framework and collaboration (43)</td>
<td>1.5 Catchments and water quality - better planning and management framework and collaboration (43)</td>
<td>1.5 Catchments and water quality - better planning and management framework and collaboration (43)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1 Work with partner organisations to implement actions in the Gippsland Boating Coastal Action Plan.</td>
<td>3.1 Coastal buildings, infrastructure and management - building and infrastructure planning across boundaries (65)</td>
<td>1.5 Catchments and water quality - better planning and management framework and collaboration (43)</td>
<td>1.5 Catchments and water quality - better planning and management framework and collaboration (43)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2 Develop a Visitation Demand Framework to guide local decisions, support investment and communicate with users.</td>
<td>3.2 Visitation and tourism - diverse visitation in suitable areas, capacity guides service level (68)</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3 Develop a process that brings local managers to work together where it is sensible for a coastal management plan to be developed across multiple land and water managers. From this, local public land managers can put together precinct or master plans.</td>
<td>3.2 Visitation and tourism - diverse visitation in suitable areas, capacity guides service level (68)</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4 Work with Traditional Owners in preparing multi park plans that include coastal areas.</td>
<td>3.2 Visitation and tourism - diverse visitation in suitable areas, capacity guides service level (68)</td>
<td>1.5 Catchments and water quality - better planning and management framework and collaboration (43)</td>
<td>1.5 Catchments and water quality - better planning and management framework and collaboration (43)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5 Ensure there are current coastal management plans (including foreshore management plans) in place throughout the region where needed.</td>
<td>3.2 Visitation and tourism - diverse visitation in suitable areas, capacity guides service level (68)</td>
<td>1.5 Catchments and water quality - better planning and management framework and collaboration (43)</td>
<td>1.5 Catchments and water quality - better planning and management framework and collaboration (43)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter</td>
<td>Action</td>
<td>Gippsland Regional Coastal Plan</td>
<td>Victorian Coastal Strategy 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Develop a systematic approach to prioritise areas for detailed coastal hazard assessments and adaptation planning.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Refine methodologies for conducting detailed coastal hazard assessments to identify high risk areas, and clarify the role of flood studies in the hazard assessment process.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Refine methodologies for local adaptation planning, including addressing barriers to practical local adaptation action.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Continue, or undertake new, detailed coastal hazard assessments and adaptation planning, particularly for the priority areas identified in 1.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Implement identified adaptation responses through local decisions, for example updating local planning schemes, coastal management plans and emergency plans, and prioritising future works.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>1 a, b</td>
<td>Work with partner organisations to promote better understanding of coastal values and processes by organising biennial regional coastal conferences and regular information sharing events.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Work with statewide community groups and programs to:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>a. support all community coastal volunteers to collect coastal data to inform local decision-making;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>b. support community groups to better link with Traditional Owners to work on joint coastal projects, and</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>c. attract volunteers from a broad range of age groups, particularly young people</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Promote and support the work done by all local coastal and marine community groups.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Appendix 3 – List of Coastal Management Plans in the Gippsland Coastal Region

### Previous Coastal Action Plans (under the Coastal Management Act 1995)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title of Plan</th>
<th>Responsible Agent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gippsland Boating Coastal Action Plan 2013</td>
<td>Gippsland Coastal Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gippsland Estuaries Coastal Action Plan 2006</td>
<td>Gippsland Coastal Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrated Coastal Planning for Gippsland 2002 – Coastal Action Plan</td>
<td>Gippsland Coastal Board</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Other Coastal Plans

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title of Plan</th>
<th>Responsible Agent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andersons Inlet Fisheries Reserve Management Plan</td>
<td>DELWP, Fisheries Victoria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beware Reef Marine Sanctuary Management Plan</td>
<td>Parks Victoria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Howe Marine National Park Management Plan</td>
<td>Parks Victoria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coastal Towns Design Frameworks 2007</td>
<td>EGSC and WSC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corner Inlet Marine National Park Management Plan</td>
<td>Parks Victoria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draft Estuary Entrance Management Protocols July 2013</td>
<td>East Gippsland CMA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Gippsland Regional Catchment Strategy</td>
<td>East Gippsland CMA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Gippsland Waterway Strategy 2014-2022</td>
<td>East Gippsland CMA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equitable Local Outcomes in Adaptation to Sea Level Rise June 2014 (Final Project Report)</td>
<td>The University of Melbourne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gippsland Lakes Environmental Strategy</td>
<td>Gippsland Lakes MAC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gippsland Lakes/90 Mile Beach Local Coastal Hazard Assessment Project April 2014</td>
<td>DELWP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governance of the Gippsland Lakes, Roles and Responsibilities for Management and Decision Making</td>
<td>Gippsland Lakes MAC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Wellington Wetlands Management Plan</td>
<td>Parks Victoria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ninety Mile Beach Marine National Park Management Plan</td>
<td>Parks Victoria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Point Hicks Marine National Park Management Plan</td>
<td>Parks Victoria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review of the Gippsland Lakes Ramsar Site, Strategic Management Plan</td>
<td>East Gippsland CMA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Gippsland Regional Catchment Strategy</td>
<td>West Gippsland CMA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Gippsland Waterway Strategy 2014-2022</td>
<td>West Gippsland CMA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilsons Promontory Marine National Park Management Plan</td>
<td>Parks Victoria</td>
</tr>
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### Management Plans (under the Coastal Management Act 1995)

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<tr>
<td>Bemm River Foreshore Management Plan</td>
<td>EGSC/DELWP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lakes Entrance Foreshore Management Plan</td>
<td>EGSC/DELWP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loch Sport Crown Reserves Management Plan</td>
<td>CoM/DELWP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mallacoota Inlet Foreshore Management Plan</td>
<td>EGSC/DELWP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marlay Point Foreshore Reserve Management Plan</td>
<td>DELWP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marlo Foreshore Management Plan</td>
<td>EGSC/DELWP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metung Foreshore Management Plan</td>
<td>EGSC/DELWP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Franklin Crown Reserves Coastal Management Plan</td>
<td>CoM/DELWP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandy Point Foreshore Management Plan</td>
<td>CoM/DELWP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seaspray Reserves Management Plan</td>
<td>CoM/DELWP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shallow Inlet Foreshore Management Plan (Suspended – DELWP liaising with Parks Vic to transfer management)</td>
<td>CoM/DELWP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamboon Inlet Foreshore Management Plan (Cancelled)</td>
<td>EGSC/DELWP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodside Beach Foreshore Management Plan</td>
<td>CoM/DELWP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walkerville Foreshore Coastal Management Plan</td>
<td>CoM/DELWP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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