The Future





Working in a dynamic environment

The coastal environment is the interface between the forces of the sea and those on land. It is a naturally dynamic environment and is constantly evolving. Coastal environments and landscapes are also defined by their unique biological diversity. Human use and activity adds to the complexity and dynamism of the coastal environment.

Probably the most significant dynamic element that needs to be managed in the coastal environment in the future is climate change. The best science now tells us that we can expect climate change "with certainty", and that sea level change and changing weather conditions will have the most significant impact on coastal planning and management. Enhanced coastal erosion by storm events and changed weather patterns is a likely outcome that we will need to plan for and manage over the coming years.

Direct impacts are likely to be increased and altered patterns of erosion of beach and dune systems, undercutting of cliffed coasts, increased peak flows in coastal rivers and estuaries and damage to coastal infrastructure like piers, jetties, bathing boxes, breakwaters, sea walls and coastal roads. Damage to coastal structures will heighten safety concerns and the risk situation for managers and insurers will intensify. Increased erosion will provide new unconsolidated sediment into the coastal system that may require additional dredging if important navigation channels are to be maintained. Changed climatic regimes may have an impact on tidal flows in marine embayments and on water levels during storm surges.

In built environments volumes of stormwater reaching the coast are likely to increase in many regions, which will have an impact on the water quality of coastal estuaries and the near shore marine environment.

Coastal vegetation communities and estuarine and freshwater wetlands are shaped by the dynamic interplay of natural forces such as salt laden winds, shifting sands, storms and tidal influences. These forces of nature have created ecosystems which are sensitive to introduced change. For example, erosion from foot traffic and trampling can have a major impact on the coastal environment, and vegetation loss can take a long time to recover and require significant remediation efforts. Coastal and marine structures are also constructed to provide infrastructure for industry, tourism and recreation. These structures can alter the natural coastal processes that then results in 'downstream' erosion, which requires active management. Human use and development along the coast continues to lead to serious declines in both marine and terrestrial flora and fauna.

Specific issues of major concern along the coast include:

- continuing fragmentation of habitat and consequent biodiversity loss;
- alteration of, and conflict with, ecological processes along the coast due to human development;
- weed and pest animal invasion causing landscapescale changes to coastal environments;
- impacts from coastal catchments and coastal environments including deteriorating water quality and quantity;
- maintenance or improvement of environmental flows to waterways;
- the disappearance of some narrow strips of coastal Crown land in low lying areas; and
- the massive increase in establishment of exotic marine organisms (eg. the Northern Pacific Seastar (Asterias amurensis) which is principally found in Port Phillip Bay).

The naturally dynamic nature of the coastal environment has meant that it has always been important that decisions impacting on the future coastal environment be made with caution. With the impacts of climate change being modelled and better understood, the need to prepare strategies which allow for the widest possible range of future outcomes is even more important. Our growing understanding of climate change, coupled with the nature of coastal ecosystems that are sensitive to introduced change, points to the need for caution in decision making as a minimum and for efforts to protect or rehabilitate our coastal environment wherever possible.





Demographic trends

Coastal Victoria incorporates diverse land uses and varies significantly in its population density and demographic characteristics of its settlements, many of which are changing.

The population of coastal Victoria increased by more than 10% between 1991 and 2001. This was considerably faster than Victoria as a whole, which resulted in coastal Victoria forming a larger share of Victoria's population. This pattern of population growth is expected to continue into the future, albeit at lower rates. This pattern of slowing growth is consistent with trends in most parts of Victoria, as the population ages.

Figure 3: Summary of historical and projected population trends (1991, 2001 and 2011)¹

Area	Population			Actual Change 1991-2001		Projected Change 2001-2011	
	1991	2001	2011	Net	%	Net	%
Coastal Victoria*	889,613	980,050	1,063,099	90,437	10.2	83,049	7.8
Share of Victoria's							
population (%)	20.1	20.5	20.8	-	-	-	-
Victoria	4,420,373	4,770,414	5,099,070	350,041	7.9	328,656	6.4

* Coastal Victoria is defined by statistical local areas (refer to Figure 4).

How does the current coastal age structure compare to Victoria as a whole?

The age structure of coastal Victoria is relatively similar to Victoria as a whole. However on the coast, there is a lower proportion of the population under the age of 50 and a larger share over the age of 50. This is consistent with the role that the coastal regions play outside Melbourne, with significant relocation of retirees (50 + years) to coastal Victoria.

How has the age structure changed and how will it change in the future?

Between 1991 and 2001, the population of coastal Victoria increased in most age groups, especially those aged 35 years and above. The increase relates to the ageing of the 'baby-boomers', a large generation of people born after the Second World War. There were decreases in the number of people aged 15-24.

This is a pattern that relates to the ageing of the population, falling fertility rates over the previous two decades and the movement (or relocation) of young people from coastal areas in regional Victoria to metropolitan Melbourne and regional centres. There has also been an increase in the number of children, although the number of 0-4 year olds has fallen by 5,000.

The population of coastal areas is estimated to age further between 2001 and 2011. The number of people aged between 45 and 69 is projected to increase strongly, while people aged 15-24 and 70 and over are also set to increase over this period. However, there is expected to be a fall in those aged 0-14 and 25-34. This is consistent with patterns of declining numbers of young families across the State.



Figure 4: Projected population change in coastal Victoria, 2001-2011²



How does the population of coastal Victoria vary at different times of the year?

The coast experiences great variations in the size of coastal town populations at different times of the year. For example, figures prepared by the Department of Infrastructure suggest that towns such as Lorne can experience a 500% increase in their population during the peak summer season. Increases such as these can place huge pressure on the natural coastal environment and existing services, infrastructure and amenities, which normally cater for substantially fewer people.

Key trends and emerging demographic issues Overall we can expect:

 an ageing population means that many areas will have a more dependent population in the future, which may require different facilities and services;

- the average number of people in each household will decrease, as the population ages and as families become smaller;
- as a result of the ageing population, many coastal areas will have an increase in population not related to dwelling construction, with the conversion of holiday homes to permanent residences;
- many areas will have pressure to increase housing densities, most notably in Melbourne and along key holiday areas, such as Mornington Peninsula, Surf and Bass Coasts;
- coastal Victoria will continue to grow at faster rates than Victoria as a whole and increase its share of population; and
- visitor numbers to coastal areas will continue to increase as a result of improved mobility and regional access.



Economic value of the coast

80% of Victorians visited the coast in 2000.³

The ports of Victoria are key economic drivers for the State. In total, 15.7 million tonnes were loaded in Victorian seaports in 1999-2000, a 16% increase from the previous year.⁴ A coastal location is valued in a number of different ways by a cross-section of the community. Industry and business value the coast for the tangible (eg. ports, jetties, quality soils, etc.) and intangible assets provided (eg. the view from a restaurant) and consequently, pay premiums for coastal land. Residents and visitors pay premiums in land prices or accommodation rates respectively. Day trip visitors to the coast are willing to pay significant sums to travel to, and enjoy the coast.

Figure 5: Victoria's industrial employment – comparison of coastal and non-coastal locations⁵ (includes Melbourne and Geelong)



Industrial Employment Types





- Victoria's coastal areas generally have high concentrations of employment in hospitality based industries (eg. accommodation, cafes and restaurants) when compared to the rest of Australia. These industries rely on amenity and access issues such as views, development control, maintained and clean beaches and the coastal 'experience'. The relatively high concentration of these industries suggests that they export their services to consumers originating from outside the local area (ie. they attract visitors).⁶
- The coastal areas outside Melbourne have greater employment in the agriculture, forestry and commercial fishing industries when compared to the rest of Australia. This, in part, represents the rural quality of much of the coast and its proximity to fish stocks. These industries also export value beyond the local area into the broader community.⁷
- The ports of Victoria are key economic drivers for the State, handling some \$50 billion worth of import and export trade each year.[®] The Port of Melbourne alone contributes \$5.8 billion annually to the State economy.[®] In 1999-2000 the Port handled in excess 1.3 million containers, retaining its position as Australia's largest container port and one of the world's top 40 container ports.¹⁰
- Melbourne's coastal area is valued by cultural and recreational industries. These industries rely on safety and maintenance of the coastal area's recreational sites, and conservation of its amenity.¹¹
- Non-users also value and appreciate the coast, as they value the ability of others (including future generations) to use and enjoy the coastal and marine environment.¹²

Tourism

- Overnight visitors to the coast pay a premium that equates to \$700 million p.a.¹³
- Day trippers conservatively spend \$166 million p.a. to get to coastal destinations. This figure does not include the value of travelling time, vehicular wear and tear, and consumer surplus (ie. some individuals would be willing to pay more if they had to).¹⁴
- Over 70 million visits are made to the coast each year by Victorians alone.¹⁵

Land values

- Property prices for most residential coastal locations are higher than those at non-coastal areas. The value of the premium paid by Victorian coastal residents equates to \$250 million p.a.¹⁶ These higher values should also impact on the value of commercial use of public land, as reflected in leases and licenses.
- An analysis of property price movements in Victoria over the past decade suggests that there are certain coastal locations that not only currently have higher median property prices but have also experienced rapid growth in land values when compared to non-coastal locations and municipal benchmarks. Specifically, locations on the Mornington Peninsula and the Surf and West Coasts appear to enjoy residential property premiums that are linked to their coastal proximity. These findings provide evidence that there is a link between residential property premiums and proximity to the Victorian coast.¹⁷





Principles for Coastal Planning & Management





Framework

Principles for coastal planning and management are outlined to guide the direction of this Strategy. These principles have been developed with the international, National and State context in mind and aim to ensure that management practices, development and use of the Victorian coast will be ecologically sustainable.

The concept of ecologically sustainable development (ESD) is becoming well embedded in Victorian policy for the management of ecological, social and economic resources. An understanding of, and framework for, ESD was established in the 1992 National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development which used the following definition:

Development that improves the total quality of life, both now and in the future, in a way that maintains the ecological processes on which life depends.

In more simple terms:

ESD is development which aims to meet the needs of people today without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Integral to the above understanding of ESD is:

- the need to consider the environmental, social and economic implications of decisions in an integrated way (ie. triple bottom line); and
- taking a long, rather than a short, term view when making those decisions.

What does ESD mean for the Victorian coast?

By any environmental, social or economic measure, the Victorian coast is a highly valued, finite resource. Planning and management agencies are the custodians of the coast on behalf of all Victorians and have a responsibility to recognise these values in decision making. The *Coastal Management Act* 1995 directs that the Victorian Coastal Strategy will provide for the long term planning of the Victorian coast:

- (a) to ensure the protection of significant environmental features of the coast;
- (b) to provide clear direction for the future use of the coast including the marine environment;
- (c) to identify suitable development areas and development opportunities on the coast; and
- (d) to ensure the sustainable use of natural coastal resources.

This Strategy uses the above to establish principles to guide the long term planning of the coast, consistent with the concepts of ecologically sustainable development and integrated coastal zone planning and management.

The Victorian coast remains a predominantly free, large scale recreational experience and is highly valued by the community - over 60% of Victorians use the coast to escape from the pressures of everyday life.¹⁸



Figure 6: Ecologically sustainable development and the Victorian Coastal Strategy principles



Hierarchy of principles for coastal planning and management

This hierarchy of principles for coastal planning and management will provide a pathway for decision making that leads to triple bottom line outcomes. Decisions are made daily to manage the environmental, social and economic forces impacting on the coastal environment. The following is a hierarchy of principles to guide the decision making process. Decision makers' priorities will be to:

- 1. provide for the protection of significant environmental features;
- 2. ensure the sustainable use of natural coastal resources;
- 3. undertake integrated planning and provide direction for the future; and
- 4. when the above principles have been met, facilitate suitable development on the coast within existing modified and resilient environments where the demand for services is evident and requires management.

1. Protection of significant environmental features

is about the conservation of biological diversity, physical diversity and ecological integrity, or the preservation and maintenance of essential ecological processes and life support systems. Aboriginal and other sites of cultural, historic or scientific value will also be protected.

- Coastal and marine features of ecological, geological, geomorphological, cultural, landscape, scientific and historical significance will be protected.
- Parts of the coast will remain largely inaccessible to protect and retain areas with a sense of remoteness and exploration.
- Aboriginal communities will be involved in the protection and management of Aboriginal sites and the use and development of their history and culture.
- Active involvement by the broader community in the conservation and rehabilitation of Victoria's natural and cultural coastal environment will be encouraged and assisted.
- Net gain in the quantity and quality of coastal indigenous vegetation and habitat will be encouraged.
- The comprehensive and representative system (CAR) for establishment of parks and reserves will be implemented to ensure protection of representation of Victoria's biodiversity.
- Public funds will generally not be used to protect or repair damage caused to coastal private land by erosion.

2. Sustainable use of natural

coastal resources

is about ensuring intergenerational equity, that is, meeting the needs of people today without compromising the needs of future generations.

- Future generations will be considered equally with current users.
- Coastal and marine environments are recognised as long term public assets which should not be compromised by inappropriate short term decisions or developments.
- Natural dynamic processes and systems which shape and maintain the coastline and its living resources must be respected and adverse activities avoided or minimised.
- Risk will be actively managed.
- The use and management of the coast will be designed to work with nature rather than against it, to minimise impacts which occur downstream or offsite, reducing long term community costs.
- Continuous improvement in processes, activities and discharges that have an adverse impact on coastal values shall be encouraged.
- Coastal catchment planning and management will take account of coastal values.
- Public understanding and appreciation of coastal values will be fostered and facilitated over time.
- The conservation and where possible, the use of historic features will be encouraged and facilitated.
- Market rent and appropriate rates and taxes will be levied for all commercial use of coastal Crown land to discourage its use as a cheap alternative to private land.
- Revenue generated from coastal Crown land will be directed to coastal management, protection and the development or maintenance of appropriate infrastructure as determined by the relevant coastal manager.
- User and polluter pays principles will be pursued to recover the cost of long term coastal use or damaging processes.
- Renewal and redevelopment will improve environmental, social and economic outcomes.

The Victorian coastal environment boasts a wide variety of internationally significant features, including the Twelve Apostles, Ramsar wetlands, historic shipwrecks, and a diverse range of unique flora and fauna.

Many urban

development and other infrastructure sites of great historic, cultural and economic significance are present along the Victorian coastline.



3. Direction for the future

is about providing integrated coastal zone planning and management which has regard to the environmental, social and economic implications of decisions and takes a long, rather than short, term view when making those decisions.

- Coastal planning and management will:
- be vertically and horizontally integrated across government's jurisdictional boundaries;
- set clear objectives;
- be strongly lead by a coastal agency (the Victorian Coastal Council);
- be based on ESD principles;
- employ research and education programs to inform decision making;
- have real involvement from the community; and
- be adequately resourced.
- There will be a net gain in the quality and quantity of the public land estate along the coast through land swaps, donations and purchase.
- Community use of foreshore land, buildings and other assets will be managed to return the greatest public benefit while protecting heritage values where they may exist.
- Public access to coastal Crown land will be maintained, except where the interests of security, safety or protection of coastal resources predominate.
- Local management, community involvement and voluntary participation will be increased and encouraged as essential elements of coastal and marine management, conservation and decision making.
- · Accountability for outcomes will be identified.
- Resources will be targeted to minimise duplication and waste.
- Plans (eg. coastal action plans, coastal management plans) consistent with the Victorian Coastal Strategy will continue to be developed and integrated with planning schemes at the local and regional level to provide detail and give attention to regional or local issues.

4. Suitable development on the coast

is that which provides an environmental, social and/or economic benefit, enhancing the community's value of the coast. It will generally be coastal dependent or related to coastal dependent uses.

Suitable coastal development can range from small scale infrastructure, such as boardwalks and picnic tables, through to larger scale developments, such as major visitor centres, maritime related industry, ports, sustainable energy infrastructure and recreation and water access infrastructure.

- There are relatively pristine areas and important vistas along the coast where no development will be appropriate.
- · Appropriate coastal development is development that:
 - enhances protection and rehabilitation of the natural environment and biodiversity;
 - results in increased public benefit, having regard to environmental, social and economic implications;
 - is sensitively sited and designed, having regard to the 'Siting and Design Guidelines for Structures on the Victorian Coast' and 'Landscape Setting Types for the Victorian Coast';
 - minimises public risk;
 - is set back from the coast as far as practicable in line with vulnerability assessments;
 - facilitates multiple-use of sites and existing infrastructure, without resulting in over-use;
 - facilitates improvements of sites or existing developments that have poor environmental or social performance; and
 - is consistent with the requirements of coastal planning strategies and plans, and relevant planning schemes.
- Where there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation (the precautionary principle - National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development 1992).



Challenges, Outcomes & Actions



Objectives and actions designed to achieve the vision of this Strategy are grouped under 6 major themes:

Marine & estuarine environments

Natural onshore environment

People on the coast

Access

Built environment & coastal infrastructure

Coastal dependent industry

For each theme, this Strategy identifies:

- values and challenges;
- · objectives; and
- actions to achieve each objective.

The agency that is primarily accountable to ensure that the action takes place, is listed under each objective as the lead agent.

The other major stakeholders with an interest or responsibility in a specific objective or action are listed as partners next to the lead agent. The listed agencies include all divisions and delegations within it (eg. Department of Natural Resources and Environment covers Fisheries Victoria, Aboriginal Affairs Victoria, etc.). It is also important to note that not all bodies involved are listed, and many, particularly the community, have a vital role in these actions.



Victorian marine waters are magnificent, with features such as 30 metre high kelp forests and many reef environments where the colour and variety of flora and fauna and the numbers of fish create an underwater landscape that is comparable to tropical reefs.¹⁹

The coastal waters of Victoria are some of the most biologically diverse in Australia,²⁰ and have one of the highest numbers of endemic marine species anywhere in the world.²¹

Values and Challenges

The southern coast of Australia is one of the most significant sections of south facing coast in the southern hemisphere and contributes to the unique status of Victoria's marine and estuarine flora and fauna. This relatively compact and accessible environment is amongst the richest and most diverse in Australia. Marine parks and reserves have been established in recognition of its significance.

The marine and estuarine environments have inestimable intrinsic value for their biological diversity and as accessible wildernesses that many use to recharge the human spirit. They are also valuable resources for the commercial, recreational and tourism opportunities they provide. Much of Victoria's reef areas are easily accessible by small boat or directly from the shore and are popular with recreational divers. Over-fishing is a threat within some fisheries and the recreational collection of organisms in the intertidal zone is now prohibited along some sections of the coast as a result of a marked decline in numbers. The sensitivity of marine and estuarine environments is well understood, however our detailed knowledge of these ecosystems is far from complete. There is considerable concern regarding the reduction of seagrass communities, particularly in Western Port and Corner Inlet. While it is known that sediments, nutrients and pollutants are factors in this decline, further investigation is required to build consensus on the appropriate long term and cost effective actions to ensure improvement in these environments.

Other pressures on the marine and estuarine environments include urban, agricultural and industrial pollution (the run off from coastal catchments), oil spills, antifoulants, physical disturbances resulting in excessive sedimentation and the introduction of exotic marine organisms. These marine pests are introduced and spread through a variety of ways (eg. ship ballast water) and are a major threat to economic activity and environmental values, including biological diversity.

Marine & estuarine environments

Estuaries and the near shore environment are critical habitats (eg. important for fish breeding) and interact closely with processes taking place on land often with dramatic impacts, as evidenced in areas such as the Gippsland Lakes. The quality of water draining from coastal catchments is a major determinant of the health of estuarine and marine environments.

Objectives

1.1.

Protect and improve the condition of estuarine biological diversity

1.2.

Establish a representative system of marine protected areas

1.3.

Protect and improve intertidal habitat, flora and fauna

1.4.

Protect and improve the condition of marine biological diversity

1.5.

Minimise the risks posed by exotic marine organisms

1.6.

Reduce the impact of effluent in the marine and estuarine environments

1.7.

Reduce the impact of sea based activities on water quality

1.8.

Improve Victoria's marine and estuarine research and scientific capability



Marine & estuarine environments (cont.)

95% of Victorians believe that the living things in the marine environment are important. Most people feel the marine environment is under threat.²²

Objective / Actions

1.1. Protect and improve the condition of estuarine biological diversity

Lead Agent: Department of Natural Resources and Environment in partnership with Parks Victoria, Catchment Management Authorities, Regional Coastal Boards.

- 1.1.1 Opportunities will be actively sought to provide adequate environmental flows to estuaries through the Victorian Environmental Flows program that encompasses the Surface Water Allocation process, the Stressed Rivers program and general catchment management planning processes.
- 1.1.2 Opportunities will be actively pursued to better understand ecological processes and determine and address key management requirements in enclosed marine waters (eg. Gippsland Lakes, Western Port, Environmental Management Plan for Port Phillip Bay) and other major estuaries.
- **1.1.3** A strategic approach to protecting and improving the condition of coastal and estuarine wetlands, including mangrove, seagrass and saltmarsh areas, will be developed.
- **1.1.4** Best practice guidelines for the management of estuarine mouth openings will be developed, incorporating environmental, social and economic issues.

1.2. Establish a representative system of marine protected areas

Lead Agent: Department of Natural Resources and Environment in partnership with Parks Victoria.

1.2.1 Implement the Government's response to the Environment Conservation Council's Marine Coastal and Estuarine Investigation report to Parliament.

1.3. Protect and improve intertidal habitat, flora and fauna

Lead Agent: Department of Natural Resources and Environment in partnership with Parks Victoria, Committees of Management.

- 1.3.1 The protection of intertidal areas will be improved primarily through public awareness (Fishcare, Coast Action / Coastcare), local area planning (eg. management plans), regulation and compliance activity.
- **1.3.2** Opportunities to increase the understanding, protection and monitoring of vulnerable habitats particularly seagrass, mangroves and saltmarsh will be actively sought.
- **1.3.3** The impact on intertidal areas will be a major consideration when providing access to beaches and estuarine areas to ensure sensitive areas are protected and enhanced.

1.4. Protect and improve the condition of marine biological diversity

Lead Agent: Department of Natural Resources and Environment in partnership with Regional Coastal Boards, Catchment Management Authorities, Parks Victoria, Local Government.

- 1.4.1 A key focus for implementation of Victoria's Biodiversity Strategy over the next five years will be actions relating to natural seascapes (including bays, inlets, estuaries and open coast).
- **1.4.2** The fishing industry will be encouraged and assisted to further adopt technologies and develop codes of practice to minimise damage to sea bed habitats and impact on non-target species.
- **1.4.3** Opportunities to improve water quality will be actively sought by addressing catchment management activities that reduce unnatural inputs into the marine and estuarine environments.



- **1.4.4** In the urban environment, priority will be given to actions in Stormwater Management Plans that address source control and are consistent with water sensitive urban design principles.
- **1.4.5** Local government in metropolitan areas will be encouraged to complete stormwater action plans.
- **1.4.6** Potentially threatening processes for rare and threatened species will be addressed through the preparation and implementation of Action Statements prepared under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act* 1998.

Water quality in the marine environment Lead Agent: Environment Protection Authority in partnership with Department of Natural Resources and Environment.

- **1.4.7** Specific water quality standards for coastal waters will continue to be established through State Environment Protection Policies.
- **1.4.8** Community monitoring of coastal and estuarine water quality will continue through programs such as Waterwatch and Beach Report.

1.5. Minimise the risks posed by exotic marine organisms

Lead Agent: Department of Natural Resources and Environment in partnership with Environment Protection Authority.

- **1.5.1** An integrated national ballast water system will be implemented and promoted to minimise the introduction and spread of marine pests.
- **1.5.2** Effective techniques will be developed and implemented to manage other vectors that lead to the introduction and spread of marine pests (eg. fouling of small vessels and associated equipment).
- **1.5.3** The interim Victorian Protocol for Managing Exotic Marine Organism Incursions will be implemented as necessary to respond to new introductions and existing incursions of marine pests.

1.5.4 An industry and community extension program will promote the uptake of practices that reduce the chance of marine pests being introduced and spread.

1.6. Reduce the impact of effluent in the marine and estuarine environments

Lead Agent: Water Authorities in partnership with Environment Protection Authority, Catchment Management Authorities, Local Government, Committees of Management.

- **1.6.1** In the establishment of sewerage backlog programs, priority will be given to ameliorating the areas that have the most significant negative environmental and social impact on coastal environments.
- **1.6.2** Proponents of development in non-sewered areas will demonstrate no adverse impacts on receiving waters.
- **1.6.3** Reviews will be carried out in sewered areas to ensure that existing sewerage systems have sufficient capacity to contain storm or peak load overflows to a recognised standard.
- **1.6.4** Public amenities on the coast will be reviewed through management planning processes to ensure that sewerage systems have sufficient capacity to cope with high visitation periods such as summer and large festivals and events.

Sewerage outfalls to the ocean and bays Lead Agent: Environment Protection Authority in partnership with Water Authorities.

- **1.6.5** Performance requirements for ocean discharges will continue to be established in line with a philosophy of best practice environmental management and continuous improvement.
- **1.6.6** The use of coastal waters to receive new effluent discharges will only proceed where there is no viable alternative and where there has been broad community input to decision making.



Marine & estuarine environments (cont.)

More than 500 fish species and hundreds of crustaceans, molluscs and other life forms are found along the Victorian coast.²³

The southern waters of Australia are unique. They support the world's highest diversity of red and brown seaweeds, sea mosses, crabs, shrimps and sea squirts. 90-95% of species in most groups occur only in southern waters and nowhere else on earth. **Our southern marine** communities are as distinctively Australian as our terrestrial marsupials and other flora and fauna.

- **1.6.7** Standards for treatment of effluent and discharge to freshwater systems which drain to the coast must consider the potential cumulative impact on the coastal environment.
- **1.6.8** All ocean outfalls will be progressively upgraded to meet standards for treatment and where possible relocated to a non-ocean area for disposal.
- **1.6.9** Reuse and water conservation programs will be pursued as a way to minimise volumes discharged.

Effluent management for ports and marinas Lead Agent: Environment Protection Authority in partnership with Department of Infrastructure, Marine Board of Victoria, Melbourne Ports Corporation, Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Parks Victoria.

1.6.10 A strategic program to minimise sewage discharge from boats and ships into coastal waters will be established, including the development of national standards, the provision of sewage pump-out facilities and installation of sewage holding tanks.

1.7. Reduce the impact of sea based activities on water quality

Addressing the impact of shipping activities Lead Agent: Environment Protection Authority.

- 1.7.1 The adverse impact of shipping on marine water quality will be addressed according to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships 1973, amended 1978 (MARPOL convention). This includes actions to address:
 - port waste reception facilities; and
 - marine based litter and debris.

Coordinating action to combat marine pollution Lead Agent: Marine Board of Victoria.

- 1.7.2 Contingency plans for marine pollution (eg. oil spills) will be kept updated and arrangements will be clearly communicated to agencies, on-ground managers and interested parties.
- **1.7.3** Regular training of personnel and exercise of plans will continue.

Continuous improvement in the conduct of dredging operations

Lead Agent: Department of Natural Resources and Environment in partnership with Environment Protection Authority.

1.7.4 Dredging proponents will be encouraged to develop long term dredging strategies in accordance with the Best Practice Environmental Management Guidelines for Dredging to continuously improve practices.

Managing industrial and extractive uses Lead Agent: Department of Natural Resources and Environment in partnership with Department of Infrastructure.

1.7.5 Approvals agencies will consider the potential impacts on biological diversity from industrial and extractive uses (eg. port use, petroleum production, boat building, pipelines and shell grit extraction) and seek advice on appropriate environmental assessment, including the need for an Environment Effects Statement.

1.8. Improve Victoria's marine and estuarine research and scientific capability

Lead Agent: Victorian Coastal Council in partnership with Department of Natural Resources and Environment.

- **1.8.1** Recommendations from the Southeast Australian Marine Research Education Consortium feasibility study will be progressed, including strengthening collaborative research and scientific capabilities, and strengthening the role of the Marine and Freshwater Resources Institute and the Queenscliff Marine Station.
- **1.8.2** An information sharing framework will be developed to ensure coastal information and data can be accessed across all levels of government, private sector and the community.
- **1.8.3** Arrangements for improved storage and archiving of historic and scientific research relating to Victoria's coastal and marine areas will be investigated and implemented.



96% of Victoria's coastline is in public ownership, with two thirds being protected, reserved and managed as national, state or coastal park or conservation reserve.²⁵

The coastline of Victoria contains a wide range of physical

environments, ranging from exposed sandy beaches and rocky shores, to sheltered bays, inlets and estuaries,²⁶ such as the Gippsland Lakes – the largest estuarine lake system in the Southern Hemisphere.²⁷

Values and Challenges

The Victorian coastline is characterised by rugged, eroded and often dynamic land forms. Parts of the coast are naturally unstable as a result of exposure to wind and waves from the southern ocean. Land forms have the capacity to change dramatically within relatively short periods of time when compared to more stable inland environments. Embayments provide protection from the impact of waves and have led to the development of diverse ecological communities.

Vegetation helps to stabilise the coastal environment and provides habitat for wildlife, most notably small mammals and birds, including Little Penguins and many migratory species from the northern hemisphere. Fur Seals also use the coast to raise their young. The Victorian coast is unique in the industrialised world, being largely intact due to it having remained almost entirely within public ownership as national parks or reserved for other forms of public use. It also has great biological diversity due to Australia's geographic isolation from the rest of the world. The coast's aesthetic and ecological values give rise to what is collectively one of Victoria's most important tourist icons, with the Great Ocean Road, Wilsons Promontory and the Little Penguins at Phillip Island being of international renown. Tourist appreciation of the natural values of the Victorian coastline and associated facilities contributes considerably to the Victorian economy.

Native flora and fauna along the coast is threatened, mainly through loss, fragmentation and degradation of habitat. They are also threatened by introduced animals such as cats and foxes, which have a dramatic impact on populations of small mammals and birds. Environmental weeds have colonised many disturbed sections of the coast, and altered fire regimes have changed the distribution of some native species. To reverse these degrading processes in fragile coastal ecosystems, careful planning and

Natural onshore environment

improved management will be needed. Managing the impact of these processes is more complex when it involves adjoining privately owned land and is potentially exacerbated by increased urbanisation along the coast.

Biodiversity values can best be managed in their bioregional context – that is, within regions that reflect underlying environmental and ecological features. For each bioregion, plans are being developed that will systematically identify local areas for targeted onground management of threatened species and ecological communities and threatening process like predation by foxes. Nine of Victoria's 23 terrestrial bioregions occur along the coast in addition to the five marine bioregions.

Objectives

2.1.

Protect and improve the condition of coastal biological diversity

2.2.

Improve Victoria's coastal research and scientific capability

2.3.

Ensure a well managed system of representative coastal parks and reserves

2.4.

Protect coastal habitats and associated native flora and fauna

2.5.

Improve conservation outcomes on freehold land

2.6.

Improve the integration of catchment and coastal management



Natural onshore environment (cont.)

Over 80 species of sea birds have been recorded in Victoria,²⁸ including many significant populations of international migratory wader birds that feed along the coastal strip.²⁸

The southern Australian coast contains rich flora and fauna with a high level of diversity and endemicity.³⁰

Objective / Actions

2.1. Protect and improve the condition of coastal biological diversity

Lead Agent: Department of Natural Resources and Environment in partnership with Regional Coastal Boards, Parks Victoria, Local Government.

- 2.1.1 Coastal action plans prepared under the *Coastal Management Act* 1995 will consider catchment wide strategies to redress threatening processes and identify priorities for action.
- 2.1.2 Planning schemes will be used to address threats to significant coastal environments and will restrict development on or disturbance to significant sites.
- **2.1.3** Action statements will be prepared and implemented for potentially threatening processes and species listed in Schedule 3 of the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act* 1998.
- **2.1.4** Sites of significance, especially for colonial roosting or breeding species, will continue to be identified and protected.

2.2. Improve Victoria's coastal research and scientific capability

Lead Agent: Department of Natural Resources and Environment

- **2.2.1** Opportunities to finalise ecological vegetation class mapping along the coast will be actively sought.
- **2.2.2** Core data sets on the biological and physical attributes of Victoria's coastal environment will be established to support strategic ecologically sustainable development decisions.
- 2.2.3 An information sharing framework will be developed to ensure coastal information and data can be accessed across all levels of government, private sector and the community to improve local integrated planning and management.

2.2.4 A monitoring program consistent with statewide biodiversity monitoring will be progressed.

Investigation and monitoring of subsidence Lead Agent: Gippsland Coastal Board in partnership with Department of Natural Resources and Environment.

2.2.5 An investigation of coastal subsidence and the relationship to fluid and gas extraction, incorporating mechanisms for monitoring, will be undertaken.

Establishing forums for Victorian coastal and marine research and development

Lead Agent: Victorian Coastal Council in partnership with Department of Natural Resources and Environment.

- **2.2.6** Regular forums will be held to assess research and development requirements to improve the management of Victoria's marine and coastal environment and to provide a network for researchers.
- 2.2.7 A biennial coastal and marine conference will be delivered in Victoria.

2.3. Ensure a well managed system of representative coastal parks and reserves

Lead Agent: Department of Natural Resources and Environment in partnership with Parks Victoria.

- 2.3.1 A comprehensive and representative system of coastal parks and reserves will be maintained and augmented.
- **2.3.2** Planning for coastal parks and reserves will include effective community consultation processes, to have regard to the broader regional context in which the park sits.





2.4. Protect coastal habitats and associated native flora and fauna

Lead Agent: Department of Natural Resources and Environment in partnership with Parks Victoria, Committees of Management.

- 2.4.1 Priorities for remediation or restoration programs which address habitat issues for threatened species along the coast will be set through bioregional plans.
- 2.4.2 Opportunities will be actively sought to reduce the impact of introduced predators, particularly foxes, cats and dogs, on coastal fauna (eg. Little Penguins, Little Terns, Ground Parrots, Hooded Plovers and Bristlebirds).
- 2.4.3 Opportunities will be actively sought to restore, rehabilitate and manage coastal vegetation, habitats, and communities with reference to bioregional planning priorities and Victoria's Biodiversity Strategy.

2.5. Improve conservation outcomes on freehold land

Lead Agent: Department of Natural Resources and Environment in partnership with Local Government.

- 2.5.1 Opportunities to improve the long term management or conservation status of freehold land along the coast will be pursued through voluntary conservation covenants and other incentive schemes.
- 2.5.2 Volunteer groups will be encouraged to assist landowners to undertake conservation works on private land adjacent to the coast which complements activities on public land.
- 2.5.3 Planning schemes will be the primary mechanism to identify significant conservation values on freehold land and restrict development on or disturbance to these valuable sites. Planning schemes should also be used to address threats from future development proposals on freehold and adjacent public land.

- 2.5.4 Development proposals on private land will need to demonstrate how 'no net loss' of native vegetation will be achieved.
- **2.5.5** A program to raise awareness and understanding of threats to the coast from private land and the appropriate management practices and solutions will be pursued.

2.6. Improve the integration of catchment and coastal management

Lead Agent: Department of Natural Resources and Environment in partnership with Catchment Management Authorities, Local Government, Regional Coastal Boards.

- **2.6.1** Integration between catchment and coastal agencies will be enhanced through mechanisms including:
 - joint membership on boards;
 - targeted and agreed program priorities and outcomes; and
 - joint meetings, seminars and conferences.
- 2.6.2 Management outcomes established through regional and management plans for coastal areas will incorporate a catchment wide context by involving the relevant Catchment Management Authority in the development phase of plans.
- 2.6.3 Management outcomes established through regional catchment strategies or accredited regional plans will incorporate a coastal context to ensure that estuarine and coastal issues are considered by involving the relevant coastal manager or Regional Coastal Board.



There are over 350 Coast Action / Coastcare groups in Victoria with a volunteer base of more than 20,000.³¹

Aboriginal people have a long history of association with the Victorian coast. Indigenous cultural sites, some up to 12,000 years old, are found from one end of the Victorian coast to the other. More than 4,000 sites have been located to date, and this number is increasing every year.³²

Values and Challenges

Victorians and visitors to Victoria clearly value the coast and the near shore environment. This is evidenced by the number of people who choose to spend their leisure time in coastal areas. The coast attracts 70 million visits each year from Victorians alone, more than any other recreational area in the State. There is also considerable evidence that the coast's abundance of food and materials supported indigenous Australians for thousands of years.

With the high value placed on the coast by the community comes an expectation of being able to use the coast. Infrastructure such as life saving clubs, car parking, amenity blocks and pathways are provided on the coast to both facilitate visitors' enjoyment, needs and safety and also to control access to more sensitive areas. Large numbers of people accessing the coast requires intensive management to minimise their impact on the environment and to protect those qualities which visitors expect to experience. Similarly, some recreational pursuits have the potential to damage the coast or conflict with other people's safety and enjoyment, requiring particular attention of managers.

Community education and involvement in management is one of the most effective means of ensuring the long term sustainability of the coast and its natural systems. Victorians' enthusiasm for the coast is evident in the number of people who volunteer their time and labour to directly manage or undertake practical works along the coast. Perhaps more important than the physical resource this represents is the role that this involvement has in informing and educating the community on coastal values and processes. The sense of community 'ownership' these programs encourage over local sections of the coast and the protection this custodianship affords is invaluable.

People on the coast

Objectives

3.1. Improve enjoyment and safety for beach and water users

3.2. Improve awareness and understanding

3.3. Ensure active management of public risk

3.4.

Improve communication with Aboriginal communities in coastal areas

3.5.

Protect Aboriginal sites and places from inappropriate site development

3.6.

Improve management and standards of accommodation on coastal Crown land

3.7.

Improve shore based recreational fishing facilities

3.8.

Manage tourism to maximise environmental, social and economic outcomes





Objective / Actions

3.1. Improve enjoyment and safety for beach and water users

Lead Agent: Department of Natural Resources and Environment in partnership with Department of State and Regional Development, Parks Victoria, Local Government, Committees of Management.

- **3.1.1** Opportunities will be actively sought to carry out improvement works along the coast that will provide safe, family friendly beaches (eg. access tracks, disabled access, car parks and amenities).
- **3.1.2** A strategic audit of water safety signage will be undertaken along the Victorian coast. A program of installation and improvements to water safety signage will be implemented based on these recommendations and be consistent with Australian standards.
- **3.1.3** A public information campaign to ensure an awareness and understanding of water safety signage and issues at the coast will be undertaken.
- **3.1.4** Beach renourishment works will be targeted using environmental, social and economic criteria including: highest use and safe beaches; protection of significant public assets; and risk management.
- **3.1.5** Regional water safety response plans will be established to coordinate life saving activities of search and rescue and other water safety services.

3.2. Improve awareness and understanding

Increasing community awareness Lead Agent: Department of Natural Resources and Environment in partnership with Victorian Coastal Council, Regional Coastal Boards.

3.2.1 Priority will continue to be given to increasing community awareness of catchment, coastal and marine issues through groups and programs such as Coast Action / Coastcare, Land for Wildlife, Fishcare, Landcare and the Trust for Nature.

- **3.2.2** Opportunities to improve sharing and access to coastal information and databases for the community and between government agencies will be pursued.
- **3.2.3** A comprehensive education strategy will be developed for the delivery of marine and coastal education and information incorporating: formal and community education; media; and multicultural perceptions and needs.

Increasing opportunities for capacity building, community participation and education Lead Agent: Department of Natural Resources and Environment in partnership with Victorian Coastal Council.

- **3.2.4** Training opportunities to enhance management and technical skills and promote an integrated approach to catchment, coastal and marine management will be delivered for Victorian coastal managers, planners and workers.
- **3.2.5** Regular forums, including a biennial conference, will be delivered to improve the planning and management of Victoria's coastal and marine environment.
- **3.2.6** Annual awards which recognise the community's contribution and promote professionalism and excellence in the coastal and marine environment will continue.
- **3.2.7** Programs to increase opportunities for community involvement and participation in coastal management will be encouraged and supported.
- **3.2.8** Opportunities to increase participation in current programs such as Coast Action / Coastcare and Fishcare will be actively sought.





People on the coast (cont.)

On the bays and coast of Victoria there are 57 Royal and Surf Life Saving Clubs, with a total voluntary membership of approximately 21,000. During 00/01 life saving volunteers rescued 1021 people, a further 487 were rescued by paid life saving services.³³

Recreational fishing is a wide spread leisure activity of considerable social and economic importance in Victoria.^{*} It involves an estimated 28% (over 1.2 million) of Victorians each year, with about half fishing mainly in marine and/or estuarine waters. **Recreational fishing** contributes \$1.3b a year to the State economy and generates 27,000 jobs.

3.3. Ensure active management of public risk

Lead Agent: Department of Natural Resources and Environment, in partnership with Committees of Management, Parks Victoria.

- 3.3.1 Opportunities to identify and manage ongoing and emerging public risks along the coast will be actively sought with particular emphasis on:
 dangerous and unstable cliffs;
 - emergency situations (eg. storm events);
 - changed climatic conditions and enhanced erosion;
 - protection of critical or key public assets;
 - unsafe beaches;
 - overhanging and raised structures; and
 - maintenance of coastal infrastructure (eg. seawalls, breakwaters).
- **3.3.2** A program of vulnerability and risk assessment will be undertaken to identify coastal buffer zone widths required to maintain biological and physical processes, and to accommodate public infrastructure, use and access for a 100 year planning period.
- **3.3.3** Vulnerability assessments will provide the basis for determining set back lines to indicate coastal land which may be unsuitable for the location of buildings and infrastructure of varying levels of investment.
- **3.3.4** Revegetation of cleared land abutting very narrow coastal reserves, that are likely to be threatened by erosion, will be encouraged to establish improved natural buffers to future erosion activity.

3.4. Improve communication with Aboriginal communities in coastal areas

Lead Agent: Department of Natural Resources and Environment in partnership with Parks Victoria, Committees of Management.

3.4.1 Protocols for consultation with, and involvement of, Aboriginal people along the coast will be developed and implemented.

3.5. Protect Aboriginal sites and places from inappropriate site development

Lead Agent: Department of Natural Resources and Environment in partnership with Committees of Management, Parks Victoria.

- **3.5.1** Aboriginal sites and places will be protected from damage, wherever possible, in consultation with relevant Aboriginal groups.
- **3.5.2** Community awareness of Aboriginal heritage, including sites and places, will be encouraged and promoted, consistent with the wishes of Aboriginal communities.

3.6. Improve management and standards of accommodation on coastal Crown land

Lead Agent: Department of Natural Resources and Environment in partnership with Parks Victoria, Tourism Victoria, Committees of Management.

- **3.6.1** Managers of coastal caravan parks and camping areas on Crown land will be encouraged to undertake planning and works to improve user amenity and reduce detrimental environmental effects.
- **3.6.2** Best practice guidelines for the management of caravan parks and associated issues on coastal Crown land will be developed.
- **3.6.3** Long term exclusive occupancy for greater than 12 months on Crown land, of coastal caravan and camping sites will be discouraged to ensure sites and facilities are accessible to all prospective users.





3.7. Improve shore based recreational fishing facilities

Lead Agent: Department of Natural Resources and Environment in partnership with Parks Victoria, Committees of Management.

- **3.7.1** Recreational Fishing Licence funds will be directed to enhance recreational fishing facilities, education and rehabilitation of fish habitat.
- **3.7.2** Public access to existing shore-based fishing facilities such as piers, jetties and wharves will be maintained except where safety and security issues predominate. New structures will accommodate access for fishing where appropriate.

3.8. Manage tourism to maximise environmental, social and economic outcomes

Planning and development of tourism infrastructure Lead Agents: Department of Natural Resources and Environment in partnership with Tourism Victoria, Parks Victoria, Local Government.

- **3.8.1** Planning for coastal and marine related tourism shall seek to maximise the quality of experience, encourage a diversity of experience for all market segments, encourage greater economic yield through enhanced product development and facilitate the application of best practice in all aspects of the industry.
- **3.8.2** Nature based tourism developments will be encouraged at suitable locations along the coast having regard to the principles for ecologically sustainable development outlined in this Strategy, and Victoria's Nature Based Tourism Directions and Opportunities for Victoria 2000.
- **3.8.3** Tourism ventures on coastal Crown land that facilitate an experience and understanding of the coastal environment and heritage will have priority over ventures not dependent on a coastal location. Strategic opportunities for key tourism infrastructure projects will be identified.

- **3.8.4** The provision of museums and visitor/tourism information and interpretation centres will be planned in a regional context and should be designed to integrate tourism efforts across local government, the public and private sectors.
- **3.8.5** A strategic approach to tourism and visitor signage will be encouraged to ensure effective strategic direction and minimise proliferation of unnecessary or poorly located or designed signage.

Tourism Marketing

Lead Agent: Tourism Victoria in partnership with Parks Victoria, Country Victoria Tourism Council, Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Department of Infrastructure.

- **3.8.6** Strategic marketing and communications for tourism and recreation in coastal areas should recognise and promote ecologically sustainable development principles.
- **3.8.7** Coastal land managers and tourism businesses should work within broader marketing strategies and programs for the Victorian tourism industry to maximise marketing impact and efficiency.
- **3.8.8** Coastal land managers and tourism businesses should pursue continuous improvement in the quality of services, experiences and products offered to visitors.





Access

Victorians make 70 million visits to the coast each year,³⁶ with the annual value of all day trips and overnight visitor stays to the region estimated as being in the order of \$870 million.³⁷

There are more than 120,000 powered boats and a large number of unpowered crafts in Victoria, of which 93% are trailerable. The total value to the Victorian economy of recreational boating is over \$1.3b per annum.³⁸

Values and Challenges

While most Victorian coastal land is in public ownership, the physical nature of the coast dictates that accessibility varies markedly along its length. Parts of the Victorian coastline are readily accessible, particularly in the highly trafficked urban centres and tourism areas. Relatively remote and largely inaccessible wilderness areas remain at isolated locations along the coast. Given public ownership of most of the coast, reasonable access for all levels of mobility and modes of transport is expected by Victorians and is appropriate to facilitate appreciation of what the coast has to offer. It is, however, neither possible nor desirable to provide a uniformly high level of access to all parts of the coast.

Parts of the Victorian coastline are paralleled by a coastal road and while stretches such as the Great Ocean Road are now cultural icons of international standing, other sections are poorly located aesthetically and do not reflect the dynamic nature of the coastal environment. Construction of roads and car parks in foredunes and other sensitive areas frequently results in a very unstable environment which cannot be viably maintained over time. Inland routes which generally parallel coastal routes and feeder roads are a preferable alternative to new or upgraded linear roads abutting the coast. Car parks servicing the coast require sensitive location as far back as is practicable from dune systems and cliffs. Vehicle access to beaches will generally be discouraged and only allowed in accordance with an approved coastal management plan. The provision of pedestrian access will be designed, sited and managed to minimise public risk, enhance environmental protection, minimise risks of erosion and improve access.

Victorians have a high level of boat ownership reflecting our proximity to the marine environment, which in turn requires specialist facilities for launching, mooring and safety. There is currently a shortage of these facilities in Victoria due to a lack of suitably protected sites, the high cost of construction and maintenance, and the potential they have to cause significant environmental impact. Upgraded and additional appropriately sited and well managed boating facilities are required to provide safe and affordable access to the marine environment.

Objectives

4.1.

Improve opportunities for safe boating and water based activities

4.2.

Reduce the impact of vehicles in the coastal environment

4.3.

Promote and protect the values of scenic coastal roads

4.4.

Improve signage to and along the coast

4.5.

Improve access at strategic locations along the coast



Objective / Actions

4.1. Improve opportunities for safe boating and water based activities

Lead Agent: Regional Coastal Boards in partnership with Parks Victoria, Local Government, Marine Board of Victoria.

- **4.1.1** The overall objective for boating is to enhance water safety outcomes through infrastructure, training, and integrated safety networks, including strategic assessment of coastal radio and communications systems. Planning for the provision of boating access and safe and functional facilities will seek to ensure that best use is made of existing infrastructure.
- **4.1.2** Coastal and bay locations that have natural benefits, such as sheltered boating locations due to protection from prevailing winds and sea conditions, shall be identified through a recreational boating strategy or regional boating plans. Planning should give priority to maritime related uses at these locations (refer to Figure 7).
- **4.1.3** Regional boat launching and retrieval facilities will be designed to provide all tide and all weather facilities where possible. The provision of services, including effluent disposal facilities at strategic boating locations, will be encouraged.
- **4.1.4** Destination points and boat harbours will be identified and developed to provide a range of services for visiting boats, including ferries, commercial charter, tour and training boats.
- 4.1.5 A consistent approach to communicating marine regulations and safety through signage and education programs will be implemented.
- **4.1.6** The provision of boating facilities and strategic planning for boating use will be consistent with fisheries management, conservation aims, boating demands and safety requirements, and will consider potential impacts on amenity and quality of experience for other coastal and beach users (eg. noise from personal water craft).

4.2. Reduce the impact of vehicles in the coastal environment

Lead Agent: Local Government in partnership with Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Department of Infrastructure, Parks Victoria, VicRoads.

- **4.2.1** Vehicle access to key coastal locations will be managed and improved through the development of regional access strategies that consider all transport modes. Priority will be given to the development of the Great Ocean Road Region Strategy.
- **4.2.2** Local traffic management plans for coastal townships will be developed to minimise traffic impacts on resident and visitor enjoyment of the coast, including consideration of "Park and Ride" schemes, township by-passes and minimising car parking on foreshore land.
- **4.2.3** Alternative modes of transport in and around coastal townships will be encouraged, primarily by the provision of safe pedestrian and bicycle tracks.
- **4.2.4** Regional priorities to rationalise and improve foreshore car parking areas will be established. This will include establishing new areas or improving existing areas through works to stabilise, revegetate, relocate, replace or remove poorly located roads and car parks.
- **4.2.5** Any new access roads to the coast will be from existing feeder roads, and should not be constructed as parallel roads to the coast. Any opportunities that arise to remove or relocate existing parallel roads will be investigated.
- **4.2.6** Where there is an identified need to control or moderate aircraft operations (including scenic flights and whale watching), Fly Neighbourly Agreements (code of practice) will be developed with operators to minimise impact on wildlife and protect the amenity of other visitors to the coast.
- **4.2.7** Public transport services (eg. buses) to and along the coast will be encouraged and promoted.



Access (cont.)

The Great Ocean Road and Port Phillip / Western Port coastal regions are the 5th and 7th most visited tourism regions in Australia.³⁹

The average Victorian travelled to the coast 14.7 times in the last 12 months, with day trips being the most popular style of visit (82% of all coastal trips).⁴⁰

4.3. Promote and protect the values of scenic coastal roads

Lead Agent: Regional Coastal Boards in partnership with Tourism Victoria, Local Government, Department of Infrastructure, VicRoads.

- **4.3.1** Planning schemes will be the primary mechanism to protect scenic and other values along coastal roads.
- **4.3.2** The development of a Victorian Scenic Coastal Drive will continue. Existing coastal roads between Warrnambool and Inverloch and between Seaspray and Loch Sport will be designated and promoted as scenic drives or tourist roads, with improved signage and facilities.

4.4. Improve signage to and along the coast

Lead Agent: Regional Coastal Boards in partnership with Tourism Victoria, Local Government, Parks Victoria, VicRoads.

4.4.1 A strategic approach to orientation signage, interpretation and historic places will be reinforced along the coast to improve visitor awareness, understanding and experiences.

4.5. Improve access at strategic locations along the coast

Lead Agent: Department of Natural Resources and Environment in partnership with Parks Victoria, Local Government, Committees of Management, Department of Infrastructure.

- **4.5.1** Access for all levels of mobility will be provided at appropriate locations along the coast.
- **4.5.2** Priority should be given to identifying strategic regional access points, infrastructure and management requirements, particularly in areas that will experience pressure from high levels of future regional population growth or enhanced mobility. Priority areas include the Surf Coast area to Apollo Bay, the northern end of Western Port and the west coast of Port Phillip Bay.
- **4.5.3** A series of strategically located coastal walks, incorporating short and long distances, will be progressively established to improve opportunities to enjoy the coast by foot and will incorporate:
 - the Great South West Walk;
 - the Bay Trail; and
 - the Bass Coast Trail.

Figure 7: Recreational boating facilities hierarchy to 2010

State Marine Precinct

These include ports, marinas, charter boat facilities, slip facilities, waterfront activities, marine services, piers, jetties A State Marine Precinct incorporates facilities of international, national, State, regional and local significance. and ramps. Such a location would generate major investment to harness and use the synergy of facilities.

Safe Harbour

regional significance. It would include marinas, protected harbours, jetties and ramps, hire facilities, waterfront A Safe Harbour would be a major regional boating destination and a major activity focus of national, State and activities and marine services. A site satisfying this level of hierarchy generates activities and synergies that contribute to highly active waterfront areas.

Regional Boat Ramp

onshore facilities such as fish cleaning facilities, wash down areas and toilets. A site satisfying this level of hierarchy These include multiple boat ramps, jetties, substantial car parking, safety measures where required and significant A Regional Boat Ramp accommodates a significant amount of recreational boating in appropriate conditions. generates a significant level of boating activity from a wide catchment.

Note : Other existing local boat ramps will operate as provided for in relevant management plans.

Mallacoota

Lakes Entrance

Metuna





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The population along the Victorian coast increased by more than 10% between 1991 and 2001. This was considerably faster than Victoria as a whole, which resulted in coastal Victoria forming a larger share of Victoria's population. This pattern of population growth is set to continue in the future.⁴¹

Values and Challenges

A significant proportion of the Victorian population lives within the coastal zone. Built infrastructure associated with coastal dependent land uses has impacts on coastal landscape, environmental and sustainability values. Land suitable for uses with specific requirements along the coastal strip is scarce and competition intense between different activities and land uses, such as housing, tourism, agriculture, ports and other industrial and transport infrastructure.

While most of the immediate coastal strip is reserved in public ownership and largely managed for its natural and recreational values, the development of adjoining coastal communities has dramatically impacted upon the coast. The objective is to ensure that any future built form is sensitively located, ecologically sound and respects visually sensitive landscapes so that loss of habitat, loss of amenity and potential erosion is minimised. Urban development also presents challenges, in particular in terms of aesthetics, waste disposal and sewage treatment. There are numerous examples of inappropriate subdivisions along the Victorian coast where expensive remedial actions have been necessitated in recognition of the environment's inability to sustain such development.

Growth of existing coastal settlements presents additional challenges as their popularity increases and as the proportion of permanent residents rises with retirees and others seeking a permanent coastal lifestyle or 'seachange'. Similar pressures exist around Port Phillip Bay with demand for higher density development close to the water. Increasingly, the coast is important for informal recreation as residential densities in established areas continue to grow. At a regional level, significant urban growth planned for in eastern and western growth corridors will result in the need to plan for and manage increased use of nearby coastal locations, and provide improved access to areas best able to sustain increased use.

The development of a strategic, regional approach to the sustainability of coastal urban development, services, access and safety will be encouraged through initiatives such as the Great Ocean Road Region Strategy or through regional coastal action plans.

Built environment & coastal infrastructure

This Strategy provides guidance on where development is appropriate and the principles which should be observed when developing that land (refer to 'Principles for coastal planning and management' page 17). Detailed guidance on design is available in the 'Siting and Design Guidelines for Structures on the Victorian Coast' and the accompanying 'Landscape Setting Types for the Victorian Coast' from the Victorian Coastal Council.

Infrastructure and buildings are required in coastal reserves to provide for visitor safety and amenity such as toilet blocks, life saving clubs, visitor centres, recreational infrastructure and maritime related industry. Commercial facilities also exist providing food and services. New structures in coastal reserves should be sensitively sited to minimise visual and ecological impact. Where appropriate, existing structures should be consolidated, redesigned, resited or landscaped where this minimises visual and ecological impacts. The rejuvenation of historic buildings also has the potential to accommodate new uses and contribute positively to the coastal environment and experience.

Objectives

5.1.

Integrate planning and approval processes in the coastal and marine environment

5.2.

Provide direction for the location and scale of use and development on the coast

5.3.

Improve design outcomes for buildings and structures in foreshore and coastal areas

5.4.

Ensure sensitive sites are identified to protect against inappropriate development and use

5.5.

Improve processes and consultation for major development and events

5.6.

Protect, improve and utilise the historic buildings and features along the coast



Objective / Actions

5.1 Integrate planning and approval processes in the coastal and marine environment

Coastal land - public and private Lead Agent: Department of Natural Resources and Environment in partnership with Department of Infrastructure, Local Government.

- **5.1.1** Opportunities will be actively sought to improve and better integrate the processes and objectives of the *Coastal Management Act* 1995 with the *Planning and Environment Act* 1987, with a view to eliminating duplications in development approvals.
- 5.1.2 Opportunities to implement agreed recommendations from the Coastal and Marine Planning Programs will be actively pursued.

The marine environment

Lead Agent: Department of Infrastructure in partnership with Local Government, Department of Natural Resources and Environment.

5.1.3 Consistent coastal planning scheme boundaries in the marine environment will be pursued subject to consultation (notionally 600m from high water mark) to establish a planning framework for use and development in the near shore and marine environment.

5.2. Provide direction for the location and scale of use and development on the coast

Identifying coastal settlements (activity nodes) and recreational nodes

Lead Agent: Regional Coastal Boards in partnership with Local Government, Department of Infrastructure, Committees of Management, Parks Victoria.

- 5.2.1 Opportunities will be actively sought to ensure that Municipal Strategic Statements take account of the special nature and character of the coast and the characteristics and role of the coastal cities, towns, villages and bayside suburbs.
- **5.2.2** The essential character of coastal settlements, undisturbed areas between settlements and the developed populated coast will be protected through mechanisms such as the development of local guidelines and planning scheme overlays, for the siting and design of structures on the coast.
- **5.2.3** The planned growth of coastal towns will be managed through the establishment of township boundaries in planning schemes. This will ensure that growth in coastal areas is planned, coastal values protected (eg. environmental, scenic, cultural) and the needs of future generations respected.
- **5.2.4** Planning schemes will be the primary tool used to avoid proliferation of development outside existing settlements and in the vicinity of free standing major visitor centres or resorts, and inappropriate development within existing settlements.
- **5.2.5** Priority will be given to regional coordination through regional planning such as the Great Ocean Road Region Strategy.
- **5.2.6** Excluding the urban settlements around Port Phillip, appropriate areas for coastal developments will be confined to activity and recreation nodes within existing settlements defined with the community having regard to the criteria outlined in Figure 8.



Built environment & coastal infrastructure (cont.)

The average price paid for a coastal house in Victoria is more than \$14,500 higher than a non-coastal house.⁴²

The Victorian public is concerned that Victorian coastal towns are beginning to look like Australian suburbs, and sees building aesthetics as the No.1 issue for coastal development.⁴³

- **5.2.7** Within the urban settlements around Port Phillip, appropriate areas for coastal developments will be confined to activity and recreational nodes in conformity with the policies for clustering of activity contained in the metropolitan strategy having regard to the criteria outlined in Figure 8.
- **5.2.8** Detailed management planning for coastal Crown land shall have regard to the indicative coastal land use identified in Figure 9.
- 5.2.9 Opportunities will be actively sought to restructure old and inappropriate subdivisions where identified conflicts with coastal vulnerability and environmental values can be reduced.

Protecting the scenic landscape

Lead Agent: Local Government in partnership with Regional Coastal Boards.

5.2.10 The application of planning scheme overlays to manage development in visually sensitive and prominent areas as determined in the 'Landscape Setting Types for the Victorian Coast' will be encouraged.

5.3. Improve design outcomes for buildings and structures in foreshore and coastal areas

Siting and design guidelines for new buildings Lead Agent: Victorian Coastal Council in partnership with Department of Infrastructure, Local Government.

- 5.3.1 Siting and design outcomes will be improved on the coast by applying local guidelines which will have regard to the 'Landscape Setting Types for the Victorian Coast' and 'Siting and Design Guidelines for Structures on the Victorian Coast'.
- **5.3.2** Seminars on best practice in coastal siting and design and on integrating coastal siting and design considerations and approvals will be held for practitioners, coastal planners and decision makers to provide relevant and consistent advice on coastal planning and approvals issues.

5.3.3 A program to promote sustainable and sensitive coastal architecture and design will be established to improve coastal design. Displays to promote local examples of excellence in design along the coast will be encouraged.

Improving or relocating existing activities and infrastructure on coastal Crown land Lead Agent: Department of Natural Resources and Environment in partnership with Parks Victoria, Committees of Management.

5.3.4 Priorities for improvement, removal or relocation of infrastructure to less physically and visually sensitive inland sites should be determined on an ongoing basis as the opportunity arises and through management plans.

Providing direction for community use of foreshore facilities

Lead Agent: Victorian Coastal Council in partnership with Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Parks Victoria.

- 5.3.5 Guidelines for the commercial and community use of buildings and facilities on the foreshore will be developed to provide a consistent approach and to maximise the community's access and use of foreshore buildings.
- **5.3.6** Coastal Crown land leases should incorporate measures to widen community access to, and use of coastal and water based facilities and experiences.



5.4. Ensure sensitive sites are identified to protect against inappropriate development and use

Lead Agent: Department of Natural Resources and Environment in partnership with Parks Victoria, Local Government.

- 5.4.1 Information on sensitive sites (vegetation, fauna, cultural, geomorphological, coastal forms and processes, landscape units) will be identified and made available to coastal managers.
- **5.4.2** Access to, and use of, information on sensitive Aboriginal cultural sites and places will be subject to prior approval by relevant Aboriginal community groups.
- 5.4.3 Recipients of sensitive sites information will be assisted, or appropriately trained, in how to access and interpret the data for decision making.
- 5.4.4 Development of planning scheme overlays to address significant environmental issues will be encouraged.

Acid sulfate soils

Lead Agent: Department of Natural Resources and Environment in partnership with Environment Protection Authority, Local Government.

- 5.4.5 A Victorian strategy for minimising potential adverse environmental and economic impacts from coastal acid sulfate soils will be developed. The strategy will consider:
 - a program of mapping;
 - use of environmental significance overlays and other planning mechanisms;
 - training and awareness raising; and
 - review of other regulations, including the acid sulphate soils industrial waste minimisation policy.

5.5. Improve processes and consultation for major development and events

Lead Agent: Department of Natural Resources and Environment in partnership with Department of State and Regional Development, Department of Infrastructure.

5.5.1 For major projects that involve important investment, key infrastructure implications or may have potentially significant environmental impacts, an agency coordination group will be established to facilitate consideration of the requirements of legislation and Government policy and approvals processes.

5.6. Protect, improve and utilise the historic buildings and features along the coast

Lead Agent: Department of Natural Resources and Environment in partnership with Department of Infrastructure.

- **5.6.1** A priority is to identify historic buildings and places and ensure an appropriate level of statutory protection on both public and freehold land will be actively sought.
- **5.6.2** Reuse of historic buildings, features and sites will be encouraged to provide for their conservation wherever possible.

Figure 8: Coastal development

What defines suitable or appropriate development on the coast?

Appropriate coastal development is any type of development, from low-key conservation works to large-scale resorts on public or private land that meets the principles for coastal planning and management outlined in this Strategy. This Strategy's objectives are that:

- · the extent of settlements is defined;
- areas between settlements remain largely undeveloped; and
- the extent of recreational nodes are defined, having regard to the principles for coastal planning and management outlined in this Strategy.

In the urban settlements around Port Phillip, much of the coast is already used extensively for recreation and other uses. Planning for these areas needs to recognise that some areas may be nearing or at maximum capacity. The primary issue is the relationship between development on private land and the impacts for public foreshores (eg. issues of potential overshadowing of beaches, design, amenity, congestion and capacity). Local government is a key player in this.

For the remaining coastal areas, the primary issue is the establishment of the limits of settlements, the broad scale protection of coastal landscapes and the determination of the scale and role of other facilities that are required and are appropriate, within and outside settlements.

Where is development on the coast appropriate?

A primary focus of this Strategy is to protect the values of the coastal environment whilst providing for appropriate sustainable use. To this end, development pressure and infrastructure will be directed away from sensitive areas (most of the coast) and managed within:

- 1. defined existing settlements (activity nodes); and
- 2. recreational nodes.

Directing development to discrete locations is designed to:

- minimise the overall impact of use and development on the coast and protect more sensitive areas;
- contain use and development on the coast to a limited number of locations;
- define the scale of use;
- properly establish boundaries for development areas;
- manage the development pressures that currently exist in some locations; and

 provide a focus for use and facilities that have an explicit relationship with the coast.

In most cases, existing settlements (activity nodes) and recreational nodes are, or will be, identified and defined by detailed planning by Regional Coastal Boards, local government, committees of management and Parks Victoria through coastal action plans, planning schemes and management plans in accordance with the ecologically sustainable development principles for coastal planning and management outlined in this Strategy. The intervening lands will remain in non urban use.

Existing settlements (activity nodes)

Existing settlements range from coastal cities and towns, to smaller coastal townships.

Coastal cities and towns are areas:

- · that are generally significant population centres;
- that generally exhibit a high level of use and regional visitation;
- that may be able to be further developed while meeting the ecologically sustainable development principles for coastal planning and management outlined in this Strategy;
- that have identified strategic priorities for the provision of improved facilities or sites where existing facilities provide an opportunity for redevelopment or expansion to increase public benefit;
- that may have priority for coastal and marine access, such as regional boat ramps and boat harbours;
- with significant planned population growth in the future; and
- with the infrastructure able to sustainably support further development.

The objective for these areas is to provide for development, within defined limits (both in extent and intensity) to protect areas of environmental significance and to preserve areas between settlements in non-urban use.

Smaller coastal townships in non-urban areas are settlements:

- that are not significant population centres;
- that generally exhibit a lower level of use and regional visitation;
- that provide limited opportunities for development in accordance with the ecologically sustainable development principles for coastal planning and management outlined in this Strategy;

- that have identified strategic priorities for limited provision of improved facilities or sites where existing facilities provide a limited opportunity for redevelopment or expansion to increase public benefit;
- that have lower priority for coastal and marine access, such as regional boat ramps and boat harbours;
- with no significant planned population growth in the future; and
- with limited infrastructure to sustainably support further development.

The objective for smaller coastal townships is to limit the scale and intensity of development to that appropriate to a township in a non-urban environment in accordance with the ecologically sustainable development principles for coastal planning and management outlined in this Strategy.

Recreational nodes

These are areas on the coast outside of existing settlements:

- that generally exhibit a high-level of use and regional visitation generally for recreation and water related activity;
- that may be able to be further developed, while meeting the ecologically sustainable development principles for coastal planning and management outlined in this Strategy;
- that have identified strategic priorities for the provision of improved facilities or sites where existing facilities provide an opportunity for redevelopment or expansion to increase public benefit;
- that may have priority for coastal and marine access, such as regional boat ramps and boat harbours; and
- with the recreational infrastructure able to sustainably support further development.

The objective for recreational nodes is to limit the scale and intensity of development to that appropriate to the area in accordance with the ecologically sustainable development principles for coastal planning and management outlined in this Strategy. This Strategy does not define the precise location, scale of function or hierarchy of recreational nodes, rather, recreational nodes will be defined by the Regional Coastal Boards, working in conjunction with local government, committees of management and Parks Victoria, in terms of:

- precise location;
- appropriate use and development;
- scale;
- hierarchy;
- function; and
- boundaries.

Coastal action plans and management plans, prepared under the *Coastal Management Act* 1995 can be used to define activity nodes and guide the application of the planning scheme.



Coastal Recreation Zone

Areas capable of sustaining recreational opportunities for large numbers of people. This zone should be managed to minimise impacts on remnant values and the coastal environment.

Coastal Protection Zone

Areas in relatively natural condition or which are significant for botanical, zoological, geological or geomorphological, archeological or historical reasons, including sites or fragile environments that are sensitive to modification. This zone should be managed to protect the natural values of the zone.

The coastal zoning applies to coastal public land outside parks and conservation reserves, and does not prevent fishing in adjacent waters.

Detailed prescriptive statements on activities that would be permissable or not permissable in these zones have been avoided to provide flexibility in onground management, and acknowledge the wide variety of local circumstances that are experienced in these locations.

Recreation is an appropriate use in both Coastal Recreation and Coastal Protection Zones – it is the capacity for, and scale of associated development that will vary.

Detailed local planning for individual coastal reserves, taking into account the broad directions of the coastal zoning, will be undertaken by local managers and will involve public consultation.

Existing National Parks & Conservation Reserves

Private Land

Major Urban & Metropolitan Environment







Coastal dependent industry

The catching sector of the Victorian commercial fishing industry directly employs 1890 licensed fishers on a fleet of about 1000 Victorian registered fishing vessels.⁴⁴The landed value of the commercial fishing catch in Victoria was estimated at approx. \$140 m for the year 99/00.⁴⁵

Values and Challenges

Victoria's ports are one of the primary means of moving goods in and out of the State and are hence vital to the economy. The Port of Melbourne is a container and general cargo port and the busiest in Australia. Other major ports such as Hastings, Geelong and Portland cater to more general cargo. There are over a dozen smaller ports which service the commercial fishing, recreational boating and other offshore industries, such as the gas and petroleum sector. Suitable sites of deep water, safe access and with large adjoining areas of industrial land are scarce.

The development of environmental management plans is addressing the effects of port development including water quality, flora and fauna management, public amenities and visual and noise pollution. Environmental management plans will provide a risk mitigation frame work for sustainable operation and future development of Victorian ports.

The commercial fish and shellfish industries have historically been the economic mainstay of many coastal townships and remain significant for some. Careful management of the fishing industry, both commercial and recreational, is required to ensure these important industries survive. The emphasis is on managing for sustainable harvest and minimising adverse environmental impacts associated with fishing methods.

Aquaculture continues to grow in Victoria, however, production from marine based systems is likely to be lower than in other states, partly due to a lack of suitable sites. Victoria has a high energy open coastline, with the best sites limited to Port Phillip Bay and other relatively protected waters. The sustainable development of this industry is dependent on appropriate siting and management to ensure that locally significant environmental values are not compromised, exotic species are not released and adequate flushing is available to avoid nutrient enrichment.

The generation of sustainable energy, or 'clean green' electricity, by harnessing the power of wind, waves or

tides is an emerging industry, offering alternatives to the burning of fossil fuels and the associated environmental costs. The exposure to Bass Strait and the southern ocean means that sections of the Victorian coast are well suited to these technologies and a number of projects are well advanced. While these projects offer significant environmental benefits, a strategic approach to siting is important to ensure minimal impact on the aesthetic values of the coast and on marine and bird communities.

Coastal tourism is a major contributor to the Victorian economy providing accommodation and other services to people visiting the coast. Nature and culturally based tourism is a growing part of this industry and caters for those seeking more of a wilderness experience or those who have an interest in the ecological processes and history which underpins the coastal environment. The long term viability of the tourist industry, beach resorts, dive schools and remote area bushwalking, is dependent upon ecologically sensitive management of the coast.

Objectives

6.1.

Ensure equitable and sustainable fish harvesting and the conservation of fish stocks

6.2.

Ensure appropriate port and coastal dependent industrial development

6.3.

Ensure appropriate local port infrastructure for commercial fishing and recreation

6.4.

Promote a sustainable aquaculture industry

6.5.

Facilitate sensitively sited sustainable energy infrastructure

6.6.

Improve facilities for tourism and provide opportunities for cultural and nature based tourism



Cargo through the Port of Melbourne, the largest container port in the Southern Hemisphere, totalled 44.5 million revenue tonnes during 99/00, equating to \$56.9b in value.⁴⁵ Total shipping calls to the Port of Melbourne are expected to more than double over the next 30 years.⁴⁷

Objective / Actions

6.1. Ensure equitable and sustainable fish harvesting and the conservation of fish stocks

Lead Agent: Department of Natural Resources and Environment.

6.1.1 Fisheries Victoria will:

- secure the sustainable use and production of Victoria's fish resources, including the development of fisheries and aquaculture management plans;
- develop appropriate ESD indicators as part of a national framework for all major fisheries and commissioning of stock assessment, monitoring and research programs;
- increase community benefits through diverse and innovative use of fish resources for commercial and recreational fishing, cultural, conservation, trade and tourism purposes; and
- encourage shared ownership of fisheries management through cooperative and partnership arrangements.

6.2. Ensure appropriate port and coastal dependent industrial development

Lead Agent: Department of Infrastructure in partnership with Environment Protection Authority, Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Local Government.

- **6.2.1** Coastal land with deep water access will be maintained for appropriate port and industrial development. Commercial port uses at Portland, Geelong, Hastings and Melbourne will be maintained.
- **6.2.2** Proposals for new industries or large scale expansion to existing coastal industry or infrastructure should be subject to appropriate environmental assessment to determine whether the likely effects on the environment, including cumulative and long term effects, are acceptable and have appropriate mitigation and management measures.

Coastal dependent industry (cont.)

6.3. Ensure appropriate local port infrastructure for commercial fishing and recreation

Lead Agent: Department of Natural Resources and Environment.

- **6.3.1** The network of local ports will continue to be maintained and strengthened with community and local user input, improved safety and risk management arrangements.
- **6.3.2** Future investment decisions relating to specific infrastructure in local ports for the commercial fishing fleet and recreational boating sector will be determined through the recommendations of the Strategic Review of Local Ports.

6.4. Promote a sustainable aquaculture industry

Lead Agent: Department of Natural Resources and Environment in partnership with Parks Victoria.

- **6.4.1** The outcomes of the Environment Conservation Council's Marine Coastal and Estuarine Investigation report to Government relating to aquaculture will be implemented.
- **6.4.2** The priority for coastal aquaculture development will be land based systems which provide appropriate waste minimisation, containment and treatment to ensure that impacts on the receiving marine environment are minimised.
- **6.4.3** A profitable, diverse, sustainable and well managed aquaculture industry will be pursued through the implementation of the Victorian Aquaculture Strategy.
- 6.4.4 Management plans will be prepared under the *Fisheries Act* 1995 for each aquaculture zone. The plans will be developed in consultation with the community and industry and will specify:
 - baseline and ongoing monitoring requirements;
 - access to the zone by other users;
 - design;
 - construction and maintenance; and
 - visual impact of structures.





- **6.4.6** A translocation protocol will be developed for the movement of aquatic organisms and equipment for aquaculture purposes to ensure a benign environmental impact.
- **6.4.7** Public consultation on environmental and resource issues will be a fundamental part of the approval of marine aquaculture.

6.5. Facilitate sensitively sited sustainable energy infrastructure

Lead Agent: Department of Natural Resources and Environment in partnership with Department of Infrastructure, Victorian Coastal Council, Department of State and Regional Development.

- 6.5.1 Proposals for large scale sustainable energy systems on the coast shall be subject to comprehensive planning assessment and required to consider :
 - environmental impacts and benefits;
 - social impacts and benefits; and
 - economic impacts and benefits.
- **6.5.2** Best practice guidelines on siting and design of wind farms will be developed. The cumulative impacts of adjoining proposals on coastal values and community enjoyment of the coast will be assessed.

6.6. Improve facilities for tourism and provide opportunities for cultural and nature based tourism

Lead Agent: Regional Coastal Boards in partnership with Parks Victoria, Tourism Victoria, Department of Natural Resources and Environment.

6.6.1 Key user groups, including the tourism industry, will be consulted on all major access, signage and infrastructure projects.

Enhancing nature based tourism Lead Agent: Tourism Victoria in partnership with Regional Coastal Boards, Parks Victoria, Department of Natural Resources and Environment.

- **6.6.2** Tourism ventures on coastal Crown land, which provide an incentive to protect the coast (eg. nature based) will have priority over ventures not dependent on a coastal location.
- **6.6.3** Nature based tourism opportunities and developments will be encouraged at appropriate locations along the coast.

Enhancing heritage based tourism Lead Agent: Tourism Victoria in partnership with Regional Coastal Boards, Parks Victoria, and Department of Infrastructure.

- **6.6.4** Tourism proposals and developments which illustrate the historic use of the coast and which utilise historic buildings and features will be encouraged.
- **6.6.5** Opportunities to link historic sites and interpret their values in a strategic manner will be actively sought.
- **6.6.6** The recommendations of the Victorian Heritage Strategy 2000-2005 will be implemented.





Integration & implementation

This Strategy will be successfully implemented with the coordination and committment of lead agents, partners and stakeholders, all of whom have responsibilities and interests in the coast.

Many of the actions identified are part of existing programs being undertaken by various agencies, others are new initiatives. The role of this document is to provide coordination and integration, facilitating a common understanding between all stakeholders so that the vision for the future of the coast becomes a reality.

The role of the lead agent, partner and stakeholder

A lead agent has been identified as being primarily accountable for ensuring that individual actions are implemented. The lead agent will need to engage and form partnerships with other agencies or groups, particularly where there are existing statutory responsibilities. Partners are identified for each objective and the associated actions.

Appendix B provides an outline of the relationship between relevant State Government agencies and their reporting arrangements.

Lead agents, partners and stakeholders include:

- The community is a principal stakeholder in the coast. Few of the outcomes and actions identified in this Strategy are achievable without their support. Community ownership is encouraged through involvement in decision making processes and participation in programs such as Coast Action / Coastcare.
- State Government Departments and Agencies will continue to develop and set statewide policy and strategic directions for natural resource management and planning decisions. State Environment Protection Policies (SEPPs) prepared under the *Environment Protection Act* 1970 will provide the leadership, legal and statuatory basis for improvements to water quality in the marine environment.

Victorian Coastal Council and Regional Coastal Boards have a responsibility to facilitate coordination of the implementation of this Strategy and to work with Lead Agents responsible for each action to assess progress towards their implementation. The Council will ensure that this Strategy remains relevant and responsive to regional issues in a statewide context. The Regional Coastal Boards will continue to provide advice on coastal development and management issues in each region to Council.

A key mechanism for implementing this Strategy and coordinating planning along the coast is the development of coastal action plans under the *Coastal Management Act* 1995. The Boards will have primary responsibility for ensuring their implementation.

- Delegated managers (Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Parks Victoria and Committees of Management) have provided a valued and important role in managing coastal reserves for many decades. Their continued role in providing a link to the community and opportunities for individuals to be involved in coastal management and planning is vital to achieving the vision for the coast.
- Local government will play a major role in implementing this Strategy primarily through applying the planning principles outlined in this Strategy to coastal planning decisions, including the development of their Municipal Strategic Statements and in the administration of their Planning Schemes. Local government also acts as the Committee of Management for many coastal reserves and provides infrastructure to enhance conservation, recreation, business and tourism objectives along the coast.





Integration & implementation (cont.)

- Commonwealth Government will continue to coordinate and develop national policy and funding under the various programs in partnership with the States and Territories. Other roles include ensuring that Australia meets its obligations under international agreements.
- Statutory authorities and key advisory bodies, such as Catchment Management Authorities and Water Authorities, will be responsible for coordinating many of the actions in this Strategy relating to catchment and waterway management and recreational boating. Advisory bodies will also coordinate their respective stakeholders and provide input on coastal and marine issues on behalf of these stakeholders.

Funding

Much of this Strategy is about providing clear direction for the coast and improving existing systems and processes for which resources are already allocated. The result is better targeting of resources committed to works on the coast. One of the keys to successful implementation of this Strategy is the commitment of all stakeholders and the effective and efficient use of available funds. Funding for various aspects of this Strategy will continue to be established through annual budget processes.

There is additional scope for private sector, State, Commonwealth and local government investment, particularly in infrastructure development on the coast.

Several directions in this Strategy, in line with competition policy guidelines, suggest that the use of Crown land on the coast for commercial activities will be subject to the principles of competitive neutrality. Managers or occupiers of coastal Crown land will not enjoy an undue advantage over businesses operating on private land. Where applicable, additional funds generated from this policy will be directed to coastal reserve management, under the requirements of the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act* 1978. Coastal managers will be encouraged to investigate cost recovery and user pays options for services and facilities where appropriate and practical. While this does not mean charging for visiting the beach, charges for ancillary services, such as parking, should be investigated. The provision of facilities for everyday beach use is clearly a public benefit.

Implementation

Whilst this Strategy seeks to provide leadership and ensure coordination of action across the State, implementation will be achieved through the responsibilities of agencies and groups, guided to a large extent by existing statuatory mechanisms.

The Victorian Coastal Council will host an annual forum of lead agents and partners to review progress towards implementing the action and principles of this Strategy. The forum will provide opportunity for lead agents and partner agents to outline program and business planning commitments relevant to implementation of this Strategy, as well as particular initiatives that have been implemented, including monitoring of outcomes. The results of the forum will be published.

A coordination group will be formed to facilitate the preparation of the annual implementation program and a set of core environmental, social and economic indicators for the coastal environment.

Glossary

Activity nodes	existing developed areas in a modified and resilient environment, that are most able to meet ecologically sustainable development principles for coastal planning and management.	
Aquaculture	cultivation of fish, molluscs and other aquatic organisms in fresh or salt water for human use.	
Ballast water	water carried in a ship's tanks for stability, which is normally discharged to the sea whe the ship is loaded and can be contaminated with pollution or exotic organisms.	
Biodiversity	the diversity of plants, animals and micro-organisms and the ecosystems they form.	
Biological diversity	the variability among living organisms from all sources, including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part, this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems.	
Bioregion	an area that reflects underlying environmental and ecological features.	
Catchment	the area of land that drains to a watercourse or estuary.	
Coast (Victorian)	It is broadly defined in this Strategy to include: the sea and the seabed to the State limit - three nautical miles or 5.5 kms; and land and inland waters within the coastal catchment.	
Coastal action plan	plan that identifies strategic directions and objectives for use and development in the region or part of the region to facilitate recreational use and tourism, and to provide for protection and enhancement of significant features coast, including the marine environment.	
Coastline	is generally where the land meets the sea.	
Committee of Management	appointed under the <i>Crown Land (Reserves) Act</i> 1978 to manage reserved Crown land on behalf of the Minister. For coastal land, Committees are either an agency (eg. the local municipality, Parks Victoria or the Department of Natural Resources and Environment) or appointed through an expression of interest process.	
Conservation covenants	a legal agreement by private land owners to protect conservation elements on private land, that is administered by the Trust for Nature.	
Crown land	public land not vested in a public authority, including land which has been temporarily or permanently reserved under the <i>Crown Land (Reserves) Act</i> 1978.	
Ecologically sustainable development	development that improves the total quality of life both now and in the future, in a way that maintains the ecological processes on which life depends.	
Ecologically sustainable use	the use of a species or ecosystem which allows it to naturally renew.	
Ecosystem	a dynamic complex of organisms in a community and their associated non living environment.	
Effluent	a liquid, partially or completely treated or in its natural state, flowing from a water or sewage treatment plant.	
Endemic	native to a particular area, and not found naturally anywhere else.	
Environmental flow	minimum flows of water (by volume and season) necessary to maintain all aquatic life.	
Estuary	inlet or river mouth that is influenced by tides and freshwater inputs from the catchment.	
Exotic marine organism	refer to 'pest'.	
Fire regime	the patterns of fire (frequency, intensity and seasonality) that have an impact on an ecosystem.	
Foreshore	the coastal fringe. Generally the land between the coastal road and the low water mark.	
Freehold land	refer to 'private land'.	
Geomorphology	science of the evolution of landforms and geological formations and the processes that shape them.	
Habitat	the preferred location, or 'home' for each species of plant and animal.	
Historic building	site, building or group of buildings which have aesthetic, historic, scientific or social value for the past, present or future generations.	

Glossary (cont.)

Indigenous people	the people that are descendants of Aboriginal tribes in Australia.		
Indigenous species	species that occur naturally in a region.		
Infrastructure	physical structures which facilitate use of the coast (eg. roads, paths, toilet blocks).		
Integrated coastal zone management (ICZM)	a framework that attempts to integrate planning and management in a region (eg. The State of Victoria) across the land and sea interface and the private and publi land interface, to treat the coastal zone as one biophysical entity.		
Intertidal zone	area between low and high tide which is subject to daily changes in physical and		
	biological conditions from tide movement (also known as littoral zone).		
Municipal strategic statement	t a concise statement of the key strategic planning, land use and development objectives for a municipality and the strategies and actions for achieving those objectives.		
Nature-based tourism	involves educating tourists about the natural environment and is ecologically sustainable		
Ocean outfall	sewerage pipes which discharge to the ocean.		
Pest	plant or animal which is or has the potential to become a serious threat to the indigenous flora and fauna.		
Planning scheme overlay	additional requirements to a planning zone which provide for specific development issues or policy matters.		
Planning scheme	legal instrument, developed by municipalities under the <i>Planning and Environment Act</i> 1987, that sets out policy and requirements for use, development and protection of land. It consists of a written document and any maps and plans it refers to.		
Private land	land which is under freehold tenure (privately owned).		
Public land	land which is unalienated land of the Crown (refer to Crown land) or land vested in a public authority.		
Recreational Nodes	are areas outside established settlements that have priority for recreation and water related activities or improved facilities and that can be developed consistent with the ESD principles of this Strategy		
Remnant vegetation	principles of this Strategy.		
nonmant vogotation	the remaining natural vegetation.		
Sediment	the remaining natural vegetation. insoluble material suspended in water that contains mainly particles derived from rock, soil and organic material.		
Sediment Sewage	the remaining natural vegetation. insoluble material suspended in water that contains mainly particles derived from rock, soil and organic material. household and commercial waste water that contains human or trade waste.		
Sediment Sewage Sewerage	the remaining natural vegetation. insoluble material suspended in water that contains mainly particles derived from rock, soil and organic material. household and commercial waste water that contains human or trade waste. the system which facilitates the collection, transport, treatment and discharge of sewage.		
Sediment Sewage Sewerage Stakeholders	the remaining natural vegetation. insoluble material suspended in water that contains mainly particles derived from rock, soil and organic material. household and commercial waste water that contains human or trade waste. the system which facilitates the collection, transport, treatment and discharge of sewage. an individual or group who has a vested interest in or may be affected by a project or process.		
Sediment Sewage Sewerage Stakeholders Stormwater	the remaining natural vegetation. insoluble material suspended in water that contains mainly particles derived from rock, soil and organic material. household and commercial waste water that contains human or trade waste. the system which facilitates the collection, transport, treatment and discharge of sewage. an individual or group who has a vested interest in or may be affected by a project or process. runoff from land during and following rain. Stormwater removes accumulated material including litter, soil, nutrients, pathogens, chemicals, pesticides, oils and grease.		
Sediment Sewage Sewerage Stakeholders Stormwater Subdivision	the remaining natural vegetation. insoluble material suspended in water that contains mainly particles derived from rock, soil and organic material. household and commercial waste water that contains human or trade waste. the system which facilitates the collection, transport, treatment and discharge of sewage. an individual or group who has a vested interest in or may be affected by a project or process. runoff from land during and following rain. Stormwater removes accumulated material including litter, soil, nutrients, pathogens, chemicals, pesticides, oils and grease. the division of land into two or more parts which can be separately sold.		

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Subject

Aboriginal / Indigenous Activity Nodes Aquaculture Beaches Biodiversity Biological diversity Boating/Shipping Catchment Climate Change Coastal Action Plans Conservation Cultural Development

Dredging

Ecologically Sustainable Development Education Effluent Estuaries Fishing

Heritage Historic site/place/building Industry Intertidal Integrated Coastal Zone Management Life saving Marine Pests/Exotic Marine Organisms Mining National Parks Planning

Ports Principles, hierarchy Recreation

Recreational Nodes Risk Safety Scientific Stormwater Sustainable Energy Tourism

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Footnotes

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- 32 Aboriginal Affairs Victoria
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- 39 Melbourne Bays and Peninsulas, 'News', 2000
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- 47 Victorian Channels Authority, Annual Report, 2000

Appendix A: International, National and State conventions and strategies

International

- Agreement for the Protection of Migratory Birds and Birds in Danger of Extinction and their Environment between the Government of Australia and the Government of Japan (JAMBA), 1974
- Agreement for the Protection of Migratory Birds and their Environment between the Governments of Australia and the People's Republic of China (CAMBA), 1986
- Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region (SPREP), 1986 and related protocols
- Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, 1972
- Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), 1973
- Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention), 1979
- Convention on the Conservation of Nature in the South Pacific (Apia Convention), 1976
- Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention), 1971
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) International Code of Conduct for Sustainable Fishing, 1995
- International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), 1973/78
- International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974
- International Convention on Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and other Matter (London Dumping Convention), 1972
- Kyoto Declaration and Plan of Action on the Sustainable Contribution of Fisheries to Food Security, 1997
- South Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP) Protocol concerning co-operation in Combating Pollution Emergencies in the South Pacific Region, 1986
- South Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP) Protocol for the prevention of Pollution of the South Pacific Region by Dumping, 1986
- The Jakarta Mandate on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity, 1995
- The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), 1982
- UN Agreement on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, 1995
- United Nations Commission on Environment and Development (UNCED), 1992
- Agenda 21, Chapter 17 (Covers the protection and use of oceans, seas and coastal areas), 1992
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climatic Change, 1992

National/Federal

- Australia's Ocean Policy, 1998
- Good Practice Guidelines for Integrated Coastal Planning, 1998
- Living on the Coast: Commonwealth Coastal Policy, 1998
- National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development, 1992
- National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity, 1996
- National Strategy on Aquaculture, 1994
- The Inter-Governmental agreement on the Environment (IGAE), 1992
- The National Greenhouse Strategy, 1998

State

- Landscape Setting Types for the Victorian Coast, 1998
- Victorian Heritage Strategy 2000-2005, 2000
- Victorian Heritage Strategy: Shipwrecks 2000-2005, 2000
- Siting and Design Guidelines for Structures on the Victorian Coast, 1998
- State environment protection policies
- Victoria's Biodiversity: Directions in Management, 1997
- Victoria's Biodiversity: Our Living Wealth, 1997
- Victoria's Biodiversity: Sustaining Our Living Wealth, 1997
- Victorian Planning Provisions
- Nature Based Tourism Directions and Opportunities for Victoria 2000-2003, 2000
- Draft Victorian Trails Strategy 2001-2004, 2001
- Victorian Ports Strategic Study, 2001
- Draft Victorian Recreational Boating Strategy, 2001

Local/Regional

- Coastal action plans including:
- Anglesea Coastal Action Plan, 1999
- Gippsland Lakes Coastal Action Plan, 1999
- Lorne Coastal Action Plan, 1998
- Warrnambool Coastal Action Plan, 1999
- Waterfront Geelong Coastal Action Plan, 1998
- Moyne Coastal Action Plan, 2001
- Skenes Creek to Marengo Coastal Action Plan, 2001
- Gippsland Coastal Waters Coastal Action Plan, 2001
- Regional catchment strategies and catchment action programs
- Fisheries and park management plans and strategies
- Management plans for foreshore areas and national parks and reserves
- Proposed metropolitan strategy for Melbourne
- Planning schemes Municipal Strategic Statements
- Draft Strategy for Melbourne's Open Space: Linking people and spaces, 2001
- Proposed Great Ocean Road Region Strategy