# **Victorian Coastal Strategy**

Implementation Plan









#### **Acknowledgement of Country and Indigenous Australians**

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning proudly acknowledges Victoria's Aboriginal communities and their rich culture and pays respects to their Elders past and present.

#### **Author**

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## 1. Foreword

The ever-changing Victorian coastline is among the most beautiful in the world. It offers endless opportunities to enjoy the natural wonders of the coast and generates significant social, cultural and economic benefits for Victorians. The coast is also vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and pressures from a growing population and ageing infrastructure.

A key element of the State Government's commitment to protecting our coastal and marine environments is the Victorian Coastal Strategy (VCS). The VCS recognises the need to manage and protect the coast in the face of current and future challenges. This implementation plan outlines how we will give effect to the vision and objectives of the VCS.

We will strengthen Victoria's marine and coastal research program, develop a state-wide index of coastal condition and a report card to measure changes in the coastal environment over time. This will allow us to target our resources where they are needed most and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

The development of a Marine and Coastal Act will deliver on many of the actions of the VCS. We are identifying better ways to fund management of coastal Crown land and set priorities so that we can be proactive in taking action where needed.

We are investing in protecting our marine environments, rejuvenating beaches, improving access, maintaining and upgrading ageing infrastructure, supporting biodiversity, integrating marine planning and adopting a sustainable and balanced approach to improving the quality of life for everyone involved.

Achieving the objectives of the VCS relies on meaningful community engagement and effective collaboration across different communities of interest, government agencies and the dedicated boards, councils, committees, agencies, clubs, organisations, and volunteers that play such important roles in the coastal management and protection.

We are pleased to release the Victorian Coastal Strategy Implementation Plan and look forward to working together to value the coast and marine environments and tackle the challenges that lie ahead to ensure this most precious natural asset is in even healthier condition for future generations.

The Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio

Minister for Energy,

Environment and Climate Change

## 2. Introduction



The Victorian Coastal Strategy was released in 2014 and sets the long term vision and framework for how we plan and manage the coast, guided by the Hierarchy of Principles, policies and actions. The Strategy identifies five key issues that need to be addressed if our coast is to continue to provide benefits to all Victorians in the future:

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

The implementation of key priorities in the Victorian Coastal Strategy 2014 relies upon a coordinated effort across a range of agencies including the Department of Environment,

Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), the Victorian Coastal Council, the Office of the Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability, Regional Coastal Boards and a range of coastal management bodies including Parks Victoria, local government and local Committees of Management.

In its role as lead agency for the implementation of the Strategy, DELWP developed this Implementation Plan in consultation with delivery partners and the Victorian Coastal Council. The Plan will provide the basis for monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the Strategy from 2014 to 2019.

This Implementation Plan highlights the priority projects for the next two years, and outlines our progress in delivering on the Strategy so far, therefore also serving as the mid-term review. The Plan confirms the appropriate delivery partners for each action, given several organisational changes since the Strategy was published.

In developing this Implementation Plan, firstly a progress update was compiled by DELWP. This showed that the majority of actions in the Strategy were either complete or in progress, and that there were a number of actions that needed further discussion. Next, a workshop was held for the coastal planners and managers responsible for those actions, to talk about the issues and to prioritise the outstanding actions, based on criteria including compliance, risk and cost. The Implementation Plan encapsulates the outcomes of that workshop and subsequent discussions to clarify responsible agencies and confirm progress against actions.



## 3. Key Coastal Projects 2014 - 2019



Alongside implementing the Victorian Coastal Strategy, the Victorian Government is delivering a number of large scale projects to protect our marine and coastal environments and ensure Victorians can enjoy them now and into the future.

# Marine and Coastal Act and improved management arrangements

The Victorian Government is delivering on its commitment to develop a new Marine and Coastal Act and improved management and oversight arrangements for marine and coastal environments. An expert panel, working with a stakeholder reference group and DELWP, has proposed reforms aimed at bringing the management and protection of marine areas, coasts and bays into a more holistic system. The Marine and Coastal Act Consultation Paper was released for public comment in August 2016, followed by further targeted consultation to finalise draft legislation. The consultation paper outlines the proposed reforms and recommends a system designed to deliver clear governance and institutional arrangements that better link capacity, resources and responsibility. In 2017, work began on a transition plan for new management and oversight arrangements, and to introduce a Bill to Parliament to create new legislation.

The Marine and Coastal Act project addresses three of the five key issues outlined in the Victorian Coastal Strategy relating to better management arrangements for coasts and waterways, including responding to coastal hazards, and improving access to the coast. The project also brings together several actions within the Strategy in relation to research and integrated marine and coastal planning, as outlined in the attached Progress Update (Appendix 1).

#### Port Phillip Bay Environment Management Plan

The Victorian Government is committed to protecting and enhancing the health of Victoria's marine and coastal environment by developing a new environment management plan for Port Phillip Bay (the Port Phillip EMP). The revised and updated Port Phillip Bay EMP is being developed in consultation with the Victorian community, and will set up-to-date targets and actions for the management of existing and emerging threats to bay health and its important natural assets. The EMP is likely to focus on the waters of the Bay up to the high tide mark, relating to water quality, marine life and habitats.

Development of the EMP delivers on a number of objectives of the Victorian Coastal Strategy in regards to catchments and water quality, roles and responsibilities in relation to marine environmental management, waterway management, planning and practice, and research. The EMP has been through a public consultation process and is being drafted for completion in 2017.



#### State of the Bays

The first State of the Bays report was released by the Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability in late 2016. The report provides baseline information on the health of Port Phillip Bay and Western Port, including water quality, species, habitat, ecosystem function and the impacts of threats such as climate change and coastal development.

The State of the Bays report will implement parts of the Victorian Coastal Strategy in relation to environmental accounting, monitoring, reporting and evaluation, research and knowledge sharing. State of the Bay reporting will also support Port Phillip Bay EMP measures and provide the required transparency, monitoring and information to support future efforts to protect and enhance Victoria's coastal and marine environment.

The proposed Marine and Coastal Act will mandate the development of a State of the Marine and Coasts Report that provides baseline condition data and monitors change over time. The report would be aligned with development of a Marine and Coastal Strategy so that it can inform policy and priorities. To inform the report, data would be collected from a range of marine and coastal managers, policymakers and research institutions. The State of the Bays report could be transitioned into a new State of the Marine and Coasts report in future.

#### **Local Coastal Hazard Assessments**

Four Local Coastal Hazard Assessment (LCHA) pilot projects have now been successfully delivered by a partnership of local councils, other local and regional agencies and state government. The LCHAs trialled coastal hazard modelling at four priority locations representing a range of Victorian coastlines and landforms. The LCHA outputs show the coastal areas that are likely to flood and erode under a range of sea level rise, ocean storm and catchment flooding conditions. The LCHA outputs will inform statutory, strategic and adaptation planning as well as coastal asset maintenance schedules. Guidelines for preparing coastal hazard assessments are being prepared in 2017 and will be made widely available to coastal land managers and planners.

#### **Regional Coastal Plans**

The three regional coastal plans were released by the relevant Regional Coastal Boards in 2015 and set strategic priorities for each region through to 2020. The plans guide implementation of the Victorian Coastal Strategy within each of the three coastal regions, and provide a regional framework for planning and decision making on public and private land at the local level. Regional Coastal Plans facilitate integration across jurisdictions, identify coastal values and strategic priorities and outline solutions to systemic gaps in coastal management.

The plans were developed by the Regional Coastal Boards in collaboration with the Victorian Coastal Council and DELWP. Community members, local government, coastal planners and practitioners also provided input to the development of the plans.

#### **Coast to Coast Conference 2016**

The Coast to Coast conference was held in Melbourne in August and September 2016, and brought together marine and coastal experts and communities from across Australia. Delegates represented community and non-government organisations, coastal volunteers, universities, private companies, regional natural resource management organisations and all levels of government. The conference provided an opportunity for delegates to learn about marine and coastal issues and management strategies, and to network with their peers.

Hosted by the Victorian Coastal Council, the conference was organised in collaboration with the Australian Coastal Society, RMIT University, the Office of the Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability, Parks Victoria, Barwon Coast Committee of Management, Environment Protection Authority, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, the Association of Bayside Municipalities, Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority, and the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Energy.

The conference delivered on several actions in the Victorian Coastal Strategy, by building capacity and supporting coastal managers, and providing opportunities for networking and knowledge exchange between state, regional and local coastal communities, planners, managers and other stakeholders.

#### Victorian Coastal Awards for Excellence 2015

At the Victorian Coastal Awards for Excellence in October 2015, the Victorian Government honoured the achievements of a wide range of community groups and individuals including volunteer groups, committees of management, government and non-government organisations. Award categories included Natural Environment, Education, Community Engagement, Planning and Management, and Design and Building.

The Victorian Coastal Awards for Excellence delivered on actions in the Strategy by supporting community participation in coastal planning and management, and providing opportunities for networking for communities, planners, managers and other stakeholders.





# **4. Priority Actions 2017-2019**

Below are the priority projects for implementation for the remaining two years of the Victorian Coastal Strategy. These projects have been identified as immediate or medium priorities based on criteria related to risk, compliance with legislation or regulation, and alignment to government priorities.

Key: Resources Required							
\$	Less than \$1 million						
\$\$	\$1 - \$5 million						
\$\$\$	\$6 - \$10 million						

	Action	VCS	Agent	Agent	Priority	required		
Vo	Value and Protect							
1.1	1.1 Valuing the coast							
4	Update key policies and guidelines to include: (a) best practice environmental guidelines for dredging to reflect the lessons learned from significant projects (e.g. Port of Melbourne Channel Deepening Project) and environment management planning responses, new benchmarks in environmental controls for dredging activities and relevant national guidelines.	37	EPA	TSV, DELWP, PV.	Medium Priority 2017-19 (Immediate priority if funding is iden- tified)	Subject to funding being investigated		
1.5	1.5 Catchments and water quality							
1	Review, update and implement guidelines and requirements including: (b) on-site wastewater management in sensitive areas of the coast.	45	DELWP	EPA, DEDJTR, LG, MW, PV.	Immediate Priority 2017	Subject to funding being investigated		

Page in Lead Partner

#### Plan and Act

2.5	2.5 Community participation					
4	Undertake longitudinal social research on community attitudes to Victorian coastal and marine environments, conservation and management, with an expanded emphasis on the extent and nature of community valuation of the coast.	63	VCC	DELWP, PV.	Medium Priority 2017-19	\$



	Action	Page in VCS	Lead Agent	Partner Agent	Priority	Resources required
Us	e and Enjoy					
3.1	Coastal Buildings, infrastructure	and man	agement	:		
1	Revise the Siting and Design Guide- lines for Structures on the Victorian Coast to provide contemporary criteria and improved design guidance for coastal developments.	67	To be advised	LGs, DEDJTR, PV, HV, OVGA, VCC	Medium Priority 2017-19	\$
3.2	Visitation and tourism					
2	Provide a framework for facilitation of tourism development along the coast through a range of mechanisms including RCPs, local planning schemes, master plans and coastal management plans; a framework should include strategic planning for how increasing tourism and visitation will be experienced and managed along the coast.	69	RCBs	LGs, DELWP, DEDJTR, PV, VV. RTBs, CoM, VCC, HV	Medium Priority 2017-19	\$
3.5	Fishing and aquaculture					
1	Undertake research to identify threats to key habitats supporting fisheries resources, including biosecurity issues, and develop priority actions to address these threats. Investigate using a proportion of the revenue generated from fishing licenses to support this research.	76	DELWP	DEDJTR	Medium Priority 2017-19	\$\$
lm	plementation					
	Effective regulation and enforcer	nent				
1	In the next survey of the coastal and marine environment community attitudes and behavior (Wave 5) test the relative importance and effectiveness of the enforcement of regulations across the range of activities that impact on the coast.	83	VCC	LG, DELWP, PV, FV	Medium Priority 2017-19	\$
4.5	Monitoring, evaluation and report	ting (MEI				
2	Establish an index of coastal condition that considers environmental, social and economic values.	85	VCC DELWP		Medium Priority 2017-19	\$\$

## Appendix 1: Progress Update 2014 - 2017

The following progress update outlines the impressive amount of work being carried out by practitioners in planning and managing Victoria's coastal and marine environments.

It shows that in the two and a half years since the Strategy was published, the majority of actions are well underway. Of the 67 actions in the Strategy, 18% are complete, 70% are progressing, and 12% are outstanding, as at March 2017.

This progress update was compiled by DELWP in consultation with delivery partners. The table below outlines the status of actions in the Strategy, categorised by progress, and colour-coded as per the key below. The information was accurate at the time of preparing this document, however many of these actions will have further progressed since.

#### **Key to Status of Actions:**

	Total
Actions Completed	12
Actions Progressing	47
Actions Outstanding	8
Total actions	67

#### **Section i: Key Issues**

#### **Actions Completed**

	Action	Page	Lead Agent	Partner Agents	Implementation Notes				
Se	See also Value and Protect: 1.1 Valuing the coast								
4 Se	Develop and implement environ- mental value measurement systems and environment ac- counts that are consistent with international systems.	27/34 to the c	DELWP	VCC	This work has been done and applied in the State of the Bays report. The accounting approach is applicable to all other parts of the coast.				
5	Investigate legislative changes to ensure ongoing access to beaches and/or coastal Crown land. This may include implementing measures to address ambulatory titles.	27/71	DELWP		The MACA project investigated legislative changes and proposed to use existing planning tools instead.				

			Lead	Partner	
	Action	Page	Agent	Agents	Implementation Notes
1	Undertake an analysis of options for:  (a) improved governance, regulatory and funding arrangements for coastal Crown land, and  (b) integrated marine planning and improved governance of coastal waters.	27	DELWP	VCC, PV, DEDJTR, CoM, MAV, DTF, TSV	This is progressing through the MACA Project. In 2017 a Bill is due to be introduced to Parliament, complemented by the release of a transition plan mid-year, which will progress the non-legislative reforms.
2	Review and update planning benchmarks for sea level rise as part of future reviews of the Victorian Coastal Strategy. This includes investigating methods for deriving more detailed sea level planning allowances based on the systematic techniques developed by Hunter 2014.	27/53	DELWP		The MACA project proposed that the new marine and coastal strategy will continue to update the planning benchmarks for sea level rise, which could be articulated in the marine and coastal policy.
3	Coastal managers identify locations where visitor impacts may exceed the carrying capacity and initiate access controls where and as necessary.	27/69	DELWP	СоМ	DELWP and RCBs are scoping this project.

### **Section: 1. Value and Protect**

## **Actions Completed**

	Action	Page	Lead Agent	Partner Agents	Implementation Notes
1.1	Valuing the coast				
1	Develop and implement environmental value measurement systems and environmental accounts that are consistent with international systems and which:  (a) establish clear standards for reporting on the condition and value (environmental, social, cultural and economic) of coastal and marine assets and for identifying and explaining changes over time  (b) ensure cost-benefit analysis of coastal use and development proposals include environmental values.	34	DELWP	DTF	This work has been done and applied in the State of the Bays report. The accounting approach is applicable to all other parts of the coast.
1.3	Wetlands and estuaries				
2	Incorporate within Regional Coastal Plans information about wetlands and estuaries including: (a) significant environmental, social, cultural and economic values.	40	RCBs	DELWP, PV, CMAs, LGs	RCPs refer to particular estuaries & wetlands; but without detail. These values are addressed in the Victorian Waterway Strategy.
1.4	Onshore Environments				
1	Identify and address coastal areas of ecological significance that are vulnerable to the impacts of a changing climate by: (c) considering these areas when developing a state coastal risk plan.	42	DELWP	RCBs, PV, CoMs	c) DELWP Coastal Climate Change Risk Assessments addressed this, completed in 2015, and signed off by Secretary DELWP. Information has been presented to PV, VCC, CCB and DELWP regions to enable them to work with land managers to better manage risk.
2	Develop decision-making tools and market based instruments, such as a coastal tender program to protect existing habitats and to establish habitat linkages across private land and between Crown land and private land, to be developed in partnership with landowners and managers.	42	DELWP	CMAs. CoMs, TFN	DELWP and Corangamite CMA ran a coastal tender program from 2012 to 2015. Native vegetation offsets are happening now.
1.5	Catchments and water quality				
3	Identify water quality hotspots for priority action in Regional Coastal Plans.	45	RCBs	CMAs, WCs	Regional Coastal Plans have identified hotspots. Hotspots will also be identified through SEPP and PPB EMP (due 2017). Detailed work is now required on specific hotspot action.

	Action	Page	Lead Agent	Partner Agent	Implementation Notes
1.1	Valuing the coast				
2	Understand and reflect the nature of ecosystem goods and services in Regional Coastal Plans, Regional Catchment Strategies and Coastal Management Plans.	34	RCBs	DELWP, CMAs, CoM, LGs, PV	Guidance notes for coastal management plans are being developed by DELWP. This is a fundamental part of the regional catchment strategies.
1.2	Marine environments		,		
1	Explore a range of integrated marine planning systems and recommend an appropriate system for Victoria.	37	DELWP	VCC, VEAC	The MACA project proposed that the new marine and coastal policy should contain a marine spatial planning framework, to be agreed across government, which would outline a process for developing an appropriate planning system for Victoria.
2	Incorporate within Regional Coastal Plans information about marine areas with significant environment, social, cultural and economic values, marine ecologi- cal and oceanographic processes, and potential threats.	37	RCBs	DELWP, CMAs. OAAV, HV, LGs	This is incorporated throughout RCPs.
3	Implement agreed responses to the VEAC Marine Investigation into the management performance of Victoria's marine protected areas and the ongoing threats or challenges to their effective management.	37	PV	DELWP, LGs, CoM	Government response to the investigation was released in September 2016 and implementation has commenced.



	Action	Page	Lead Agent	Partner Agent	Implementation Notes
4	Update key policies and guidelines to include:  (b) roles and responsibilities of DELWP, PV and TSV in environmental management, waterway management, planning and practice  (c) protocols for preventing, detecting, reporting and responding to marine emergencies in state coastal waters, including marine pest incursions, pollution, diseases, and marine entanglement, with details of roles and responsibilities for detection and response.	37	(b) DELWP (c) DEDJTR	(b) PV, TSV (c) DELWP, PV, EPA, WCs, CMA, TSV	b) Roles are clear under legislation, and are outlined on the Yarra and Bays website, and in the new EMP for Port Phillip Bay (due for completion in 2017). The MACA consultation paper also addresses this. c) Marine pollution emergency: VicPlan is being revised and will be called the State Maritime Emergencies (non-Search and Rescue) Plan; marine pollution state plan has been updated. The Victorian Cetacean Emergency Plan was released mid-2015, with training rolled out to support implementation. The revised response plan for wildlife affected by marine pollution was released for targeted consultation in 2016. It will be finalised following endorsement of the Maritime Emergencies (Non Search and Rescue) Plan Part B. Competency based training has been developed and delivered for the assessment and treatment of small oiled seabirds. A Marine Pest Incursion response plan is being developed.
5	Develop improved understanding about the amount of carbon stored in Victoria's marine and coastal ecosystems.	37	DELWP	CMAs, universi- ties and independ- ent research- ers	DELWP is a partner in a new Australian Research Council Linkage Grant by Deakin University looking at carbon capture by marine habitats such as seagrass, mangroves and saltmarsh. The project runs from 2016 to 2020 and will examine the factors that influence variability and rates of carbon sequestration in different locations.
6	Communicate the benefits of Marine National Parks and Sanc- tuaries to the broad community, for example the benefits of protecting important habitat.	37	PV	NGOs, DELWP	This is core business for Parks Victoria.

	Action	Page	Lead Agent	Partner Agent	Implementation Notes				
1.3	1.3 Wetlands and estuaries								
1	Identify high value coastal wetlands and estuaries that are vulnerable to sea level rise and quantify risks and opportunities for adaptation to predicted future salinity and water regimes.	40	DELWP	CMAs, MW, RCBs, GLMAC	Work is progressing on climate change adaptation and wetlands. DELWP is developing a generic Decision Support Framework to assess the vulnerability and adaptive capacity of coastal wetlands to the impacts of climate change and provide guidance on potential management objectives and actions. A final report will be published early 2017. The framework will be useful for land managers such as DELWP, local government, CMAs and PV.  Work on climate change and estuaries, being led by East Gippsland CMA, commenced mid-2016.				
2	Incorporate within Regional Coastal Plans information about wetlands and estuaries including: (b) vulnerability to the potential impacts of a changing climate and population growth, use and development, and a process to regularly assess and review their condition.	40	DELWP	CMAs, LG, PV	<ul> <li>b) DELWP has been proposed to become a lead agent instead of RCBs, and partner agencies remain CMAs, Local Government and Parks Victoria.</li> <li>There is not a process in RCPs to regularly assess and review condition of wetlands and estuaries, however this is addressed in the following programs and documents:</li> <li>Victorian Waterway Management Strategy;</li> <li>VCMC catchment management and condition reports every 5 years;</li> <li>CMAs' Waterway Strategies;</li> <li>Resource condition monitoring process for rivers, wetlands and estuaries, to be coordinated through the Victorian Waterway Management Program; and</li> <li>All coastal CMAs have completed Regional Natural Resource Management (NRM) Climate Change Strategies.</li> </ul>				
3	Investigate removal of levee banks and other artificial structures that inhibit wetland migration / retreat.	40	CMAs	WCs, RCBs, DELWP, PV, LGs	This is part of CMAs' ongoing work.				
4	Review and update current Estuary Management Plans and develop new plans as required.	40	CMAs	WCs, PV	This is an ongoing action in the Victorian Waterway Management Strategy.				

	Action	Page	Lead Agent	Partner Agent	Implementation Notes
1.4	Onshore Environments				
1	Identify and address coastal areas of ecological significance that are vulnerable to the impacts of a changing climate by:  (a) making use of existing information and methodologies  (b) incorporating these areas into Regional Coastal Plans, park management plans and Coastal Management Plans.	42	DELWP	RCBs, PV, CoM.	a) the DELWP coastal climate change risk assessments looked at areas of ecological significance at a national, state, and regional level and their susceptibility to coastal hazards such as coastal flooding, storm surge and erosion. There needs to be a more comprehensive look at risk from fire, heat, drought, riverine flood etc. b) there is reference to climate change impacts and ecological attributes of areas in Regional Coastal Plans. All NRM regions in Australia have completed Regional NRM Climate Change Strategies including all coastal CMAs in Victoria. These will complement this action.
1.5	Catchments and water quality				
1	Review, update and implement guidelines and requirements including:  (a) urban stormwater management for urban development, and facilitate and support best practice  (c) State Environment Protection Policy (Waters of Victoria)  (d) Environmental Management Plan for Port Phillip Bay  (e) Environment Management Plan for Corner Inlet & Western Port.	45	DELWP	EPA, DEDJTR, LG, MW, PV	a) The EMP for PP Bay is looking at stormwater. Clause 56 of the Planning Scheme provides a mechanism for councils to control stormwater. c) SEPP is being reviewed. A draft for public comment is expected late 2017 (pending Minister approval of the date). d) Progressing. e) Water Quality Plan for Corner Inlet was published in 2013. The Western Port Ramsar Site Management Plan is being reviewed and out for public comment.

	Action	Page	Lead Agent	Partner Agent	Implementation Notes
2	Review, revise (where necessary) and implement response plans and protocols for events such as mass fish deaths, marine pollution and algal blooms in bays and estuaries and on the open coast.	45	DELWP	CMAs, PV, WCs, EPA, DEDJTR	<ul> <li>Port Phillip Bay EMP refers to algal bloom as an issue.</li> <li>The Yarra and Bays Action Plan and website refer to roles and responsibilities of various agencies.</li> <li>Marine pollution emergency is the responsibility of DEDJTR. The current response plan is being revised and will be called the State Maritime Emergencies (non-Search and Rescue) Plan.</li> <li>DELWP is the lead agency in relation to wildlife affected by marine pollution, cetacean entanglements, strandings and vessel strike and marine pest incursions.</li> <li>The Victorian Cetacean Emergency Plan was released mid-2015 with training developed to support implementation.</li> <li>The revised response plan for wildlife affected by marine pollution has undergone initial consultation and will be finalised once the State Maritime Emergencies (non-Search and Rescue) Plan has been approved.</li> <li>Competency based training has been developed and delivered for the assessment and treatment of small oiled seabirds.</li> <li>A Marine Pest Incursion response plan is being developed. Discussions are currently underway to transfer the responsibility of Marine Pest incursions from DELWP to DEDJTR.</li> </ul>

	Action	Page	Lead Agent	Partner Agent	Implementation Notes
1.6	Heritage				
1	Progressively update asset and heritage registers and local planning schemes by:  (a) undertaking comprehensive studies and statutory listing process; and  (b) assessing the vulnerability of heritage places to climate change.	47	(a) OAAV, HV, LGs (b) HV	(b) OAAV, LGs	Local government is required to do asset management planning under the Local Government Act.  a) Statutory listing is continuously undertaken in accordance with Heritage Victoria's annual BP3 measures (in 2015-16 this was 45 places or objects assessed for the Victorian Heritage Register).  Undertaking comprehensive studies is no longer valid. Note: the criteria of the Heritage Council of Victoria, does not include 'vulnerability to climate change' as a consideration when listing.  b) Assessed as part of the investment in heritage places in the Victorian Heritage Register Places and Objects Fund.
2	Pilot three indigenous knowledge hubs, to be maintained by Traditional Owners/RAPs involved in the co-management of public land, for the recording and sharing of local/regional traditional knowledge.	47	DELWP	PV, OAAV, VAHC	The Aboriginal knowledge project is addressing this action; this is a joint project by DEDJTR and DELWP. The first stage is complete: an environmental scan of staff knowledge. The second stage included consultation with TO groups in during 2016 and 2017 regarding data from the first stage and to gain feedback on how to protect and include Aboriginal knowledge. The final stage of the project will produce a DELWP action plan outlining best practice, due in mid 2017.
3	Undertake a strategic review of gaps in heritage recognition and protection (including Aboriginal, historic and shared value) along the coast.	47	LG	OAAV, HV, PV	The Victorian Aboriginal Local Government Action Plan released in 2016 encourages greater collabora- tion between local government, Registered Aboriginal Parties and Traditional Owner groups for the protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage and management of Crown lands.
4	Incorporate cultural heritage and traditional knowledge into Regional Coastal Plans, Regional Catchment Strategies, Coastal Management Plans and management agreements.	47	RCBs	CoMs, LGs, PV, CMAs	This is included in Regional Catchment Strategies.  RCPs acknowledge the importance of doing this. More work is needed.  Draft guidelines for Coastal Management Plans refer to the need to consider Aboriginal knowledge and cultural heritage in sensitive areas on the coast when looking at protection of values or looking at potential activity nodes on the coast.

## **Actions Outstanding**

	Action	Page	Lead Agent	Partner Agents	Implementation Notes
1.1	Valuing the coast				
4	Update key policies and guidelines to include:  (a) best practice environmental guidelines for dredging to reflect the lessons learned from significant projects (e.g. Port of Melbourne Channel Deepening Project) and environment management planning responses, new benchmarks in environmental controls for dredging activities and relevant national guidelines.	37	(a) EPA	(a) TSV, DELWP, PV,	The Best Practice Environmental Management (BPEM) Guidelines for dredging are called up under SEPP (WoV). The need to update those clauses relating to dredging and spoil management including the BPEM Guidelines is being examined in the context of the current SEPP review by DELWP in 2016-17. EPA will work with DELWP on the guideline revision if required. CoM and local government would be consulted in development of the guidelines.
1.5	Catchments and water quality				
1	Review, update and implement guidelines and requirements including: (b) on-site wastewater management in sensitive areas of the coast.	45	DELWP	EPA, DEDJTR, LG, MW, PV.	b) The new SEPP will provide guidance on wastewater management but not necessarily specific to coast. EPA Code of Practice – Onsite Wastewater Management 2016 provides general guidance. DELWP commissioned an investigation of on-site wastewater solutions for fire-affected areas of Wye River and Separation Creek. A report of the investigation was produced in April 2016.

### **Section 2: Plan and Act**

## **Actions Completed**

	Action	Page	Lead Agent	Partner Agent	Implementation Notes
2.1	Coastal hazards and processes				
4	Develop Regional Coastal Risk Assessments to strategically and consistently identify and prioritise coastal hazard management for key public (environmental, cultural and economic) assets. Include information about natural and built assets at risk of loss from erosion, inundation and cliff hazards in Regional Coastal Plans and consider adaptation respons- es. Together, these plans will provide a statewide perspective of coastal risk in Victoria.	53	DELWP	PV, HV, CMAs, WCs, LGs, CoM	DELWP Coastal Climate Change Risk Assessments are complete.
2.2	Coastal settlements and comm	unities			
1	Update the State Planning Policy Framework (SPPF) of the Victorian Planning Provisions (VPP) to include the policies for deci- sion-making contained in the Victorian Coastal Strategy 2014.	57	DELWP		The Minister for Planning approved changes to the Victoria Planning Provisions via VC127. The amendment was Gazetted on 4 February 2016. SPPF Clauses 11.05-5 (Coastal settlement), 12.02 (Coastal areas), 13.01-1 (Coastal inundation and erosion) were updated as were redundant references to previous VCS iterations in the local sections of relevant planning schemes.
2.3	Port precincts				
2	Within Regional Coastal Plans establish a strategic planning framework for local ports and plan for local port infrastructure to meet the current and future needs of recreation and tourism activities and to continue positively to the local character.	59	RCBs	DEDJTR, Port Managers	Recreational Boating Facilities Framework incorporated into RCPs, and actions for monitoring and mid-term review in RCB Business Plan.

	Action	Page	Lead Agent	Partner Agent	Implementation Notes						
2.1	2.1 Coastal hazards and processes										
1	Review and update planning benchmarks for sea level rise as part of future reviews of the Victorian Coastal Strategy. This includes investigating methods for deriving more detailed sea level planning allowances based on the systematic techniques developed by Hunter 2014.	53	DELWP		The MACA project proposed that the new marine and coastal strategy will continue to update the planning benchmarks for sea level rise, which could be articulated in the marine and coastal policy.						
2	Compile and share the findings and learning from the Local Coastal Hazard Assessment pilot projects, and other relevant work, to identify further areas across Victoria where this work can be used. Following this, determine the next steps required to progress agreed adaptation approaches and land use responses.	53	DELWP	LGs, CoM, CMAs, WCs	Four pilots in Westernport, Port Fairy, Bellarine and Gippsland Lakes were completed by mid-2016. Guidelines for preparing coastal hazard assessments will be released in 2017. Evaluation of governance and engagement processes is due to finish in 2017.						
3	Complete a review of the number and types (reservation status of Crown land reserves along the Victorian coast. Once documented, identify reserves with high environmental, social and economic value and identify values at risk from the impacts of climate change.	53	DELWP	VEAC, VCC, RCBs	Both components of this action are progressing: the first through the VEAC Statewide Assessment of Public Land; the second part was completed through the DELWP Coastal Climate Change Risk Assessments.						
5	Explore and implement options for maintaining or enhancing public benefits (environmental, social and economic) that are provided by Coastal crown land in situations where Crown land is likely to be at risk of loss due to the impacts of a changing climate.	53	DELWP	PV, LGs, CoM	Being considered in MACA project.						
6	Use existing planning tools, such as the native vegetation precinct plans, to plan and manage for adaptation of natural coastal environments and to support broader integrated strategic planning.	53	LGs	DELWP	Local councils are progressing this. The precinct structure planning process is complicated as MPA have taken on a greater role and work in conjunction with councils.						

	Action	Page	Lead Agent	Partner Agent	Implementation Notes
2.3	Port precincts				
1	Monitor risk mitigation strategies adopted by the local and commercial ports for port infrastructure identified as vulnerable to extreme climate events.	59	DEDJTR	Port Managers	Under the Port Management Act, ports (commercial and local) are required to have Safety and Environmental Management Plans. These are reviewed annually and audited every three years. Where extreme climate events are identified as a risk for the port, this will be included in the plan and appropriate controls and actions put in place. The audit process is used to monitor this.
2.4	Research and knowledge sharin	g			
1	Develop and promote the use of existing central platforms and databases for coastal planners and managers. These should bring together relevant marine, coastal and administrative data that is standardized, at an appropriate scale, and fit for purpose.	61	DELWP	PV, VCC	Propose lead agency is DELWP, not VCC. Propose VCC becomes a partner agent, with PV.  Action is progressing through SotB, MACA project and PV research program.  DELWP is developing a web-based biodiversity information portal that will be publicly accessible. Version 1 is due for release by mid-2017. It is a key deliverable of the plan, Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2036.  DELWP, PV and OCES are using the QCore monitoring database. The OCES is developing a digital reporting system for State of the Bays report and State of the Environment, which will draw on data from disparate datasets across government.  DELWP hosts the Vic Biodiversity Atlas to record species occurrence state-wide. Data is available online and on data.vic.  DELWP also hosts STAR, which records management activities, mainly of pest plants and animals, launched in December 2015. This focusses on terrestrial environments but could be used for coastal and marine. DELWP will look to enable sharing of data across platforms in future.  DELWP is reclassifying the state's entire habitat mapping data (through Deakin University) starting with the two bays. Deakin University is developing a database to interrogate this data and DELWP will make it available on data.vic.

	Action	Page	Lead Agent	Partner Agent	Implementation Notes
2	Develop an inventory of knowledge gaps and a collaborative research agenda (between researchers, managers and planners) to	61	VCC, DELWP	PV, EPA	Propose VCC and DELWP jointly lead this action, instead of ICC. VCC suggest PV and EPA are also partners.
	improve scientific baseline knowledge about coastal, estuarine and marine ecosystems, key ecological processes and the impacts of threats to the functioning of these ecosystems.				This action is being considered as part of the MACA project and will be included in a transition plan outlining the non-legislative reform program, due to be released mid 2017. There are pieces of work that contribute to the research component of the action, as below.
					Port Phillip Bay Environmental Management Plan (EMP);
					Melbourne Water science review for Westernport Bay;
					Seagrass and Reefs program;
					The State of the Bays reporting program to describe change in environmental health;
					PV environmental research strategy;
					Conservation Action Planning process.
3	Support active citizen science and monitoring programs to collect information for planning, manage-	61	PV	DELWP, CMAs, WCs	PV supports the Sea Search citizen science program in the Marine Protected Areas.
	ment and decision-making.				There are plans to seek funding for a new Sea Search app and web platform to facilitate data collection and queries for volunteers
					and queries for volunteers.  PV is a partner supporting the Reef Life Survey (RLS) program run out
					of the University of Tasmania. Linkage projects and surveys are conducted in Port Phillip Heads Marine National Park and Beware Reef Marine Sanctuary. PV is exploring opportunities to expand the RLS program in future.
					All data from Sea Search program and RLS data for the Victorian MPAs are stored in PV's new monitoring database.
2.5	Community participation				
1	Implement the Coastcare Victoria Strategy 2011-2015 and develop new pathways and programs for coastal volunteers to continue their work (including monitoring activities) and improve the coast for the benefits of all Victorians.	63	DELWP	PV, CoM, LGs, CMAs, WCs	The majority of actions are progressing. The strategy is out of date and needs to be reviewed but there are not sufficient resources available. The Coastcare program is under-resourced, providing basic support to volunteers but not developing new opportunities.

	Action	Page	Lead Agent	Partner Agent	Implementation Notes
2	Provide opportunities for networking and knowledge exchange between state, regional and local coastal communities, planners, managers and other stakeholders.	63	RCBs	VCC, CoM, LGs, CMAs	Regional Coastal Boards provided opportunities for stakeholders to network via consultation on the draft Regional Coastal Plans and board meetings.
3	Recognise and reward community leadership and innovation through annual coastal awards for excellence.	63	VCC	RCBs	Awards were delivered in October 2015. VCC has written to Minister suggesting biennial awards and reviewing and refreshing purpose and categories of awards.

## **Actions Outstanding**

	Action	Page	Lead Agent	Partner Agent	Implementation Notes
2.5	Community participation				
4	Undertake longitudinal social research on community attitudes to Victorian coastal and marine environments, conservation and management, with an expanded emphasis on the extent and nature of community valuation of the coast.	63	VCC	DELWP, PV.	VCC is seeking to do this in partnership with another agency in 2017. DELWP coordinates annual research on community satisfaction on behalf of 74 of 79 councils; this could complement the coastal social research.

## Section 3: Use & Enjoy

## **Actions Completed**

	Action	Page	Lead Agent	Partner Agent	Implementation Notes				
3.3	3.3 Access to the coast								
5	Investigate legislative changes to ensure ongoing access to beaches and/or coastal Crown land. This may include implementing measures to address ambulatory titles.	27/71	DELWP		The MACA project investigated legislative changes and proposed to use existing planning tools instead.				
3.4	Boating and water-based activi	ties							
1	Incorporate existing Boating Coastal Action Plan information and the recreational boating framework into regional Coastal Plans.	73	RCBs	DEDJTR	Boating CAP and Recreational Boating Framework incorporated into RCPs; and actions for monitor- ing and midterm review included in RCB Business Plan.				

	Action	Page	Lead Agent	Partner Agent	Implementation Notes
3.5	Fishing and aquaculture				
5	Implement the Victorian Climate Change Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture 2008-2018 to facilitate adaptation to the risks and impacts of a changing climate in both the commercial and recreational fishing sectors.	76	DEDJTR		The Climate Change Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture was delivered in 2013 through the South Eastern Australian program for Fisheries and Aquaculture. The majority of its outputs related to the delivery and communication of research. This was initially coordinated by Fisheries Victoria but was largely handed over to the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation.

	Action	Page	Lead Agent	Partner Agents	Implementation Notes				
3.2	3.2 Visitation and tourism								
1	Coastal managers identify locations where visitor impacts may exceed the carrying capacity and initiate access controls where and as necessary.	69	DELWP	СоМ	DELWP and RCBs are scoping this project.				
3.3	Access to the coast								
2	Implement programs that reduce risk from ageing infrastructure, aquatic safety, access and emergency events.	71	DELWP	DEDJTR, LGs, PV, CoM	The four-year Coastal Environment Programs (CEP) which end in June 2017, address this.  CEP 1 Public Access & Risk – grants program for land managers, e.g.  CoM. lifesaving clubs and local councils. Provides funding for aquatic safety & access.  CEP 2 provides funding for ageing infrastructure and access, and has provision for emergency repairs  Protecting Port Phillip Beaches and Foreshores program, which ends in June 2017, aids access to beaches (beach renourishment).  These programs address social, economic, environmental, and planning risks.				
3.4	3.4 Boating and water-based activities								
2	Identify accountability for plan- ning and management of boating activities.	73	DEDJTR	TSV, LGs, PV, CoM, waterway managers	The Safe and Accessible Waterways Strategy will address this. Public consultation for the strategy occurred in late 2016, and the strategy likely to be considered by Government in early 2017.				

	Action	Page	Lead Agent	Partner Agents	Implementation Notes			
3.5	3.5 Fishing and aquaculture							
2	Assess fish stocks, measure fish catches and conduct targeted and ongoing biological research for key commercial and recreational species and apply the results to ensure adaptive fisheries management.	76	DEDJTR		In progress through fisheries management and science program.			
3	Undertake large-scale quantitative surveys of recreational fishing participation, distribution and total catch every five years. These surveys could be conducted using existing mechanisms such as the fishing licence renewal process.	76	DEDJTR		Target One Million includes a commitment to undertake recreational catch surveying.  The Fishing Licence Renewal process does not provide a suitable mechanism for estimating participation, distribution and catch.			
4	Work with recreational fishers to build advocacy for the environment through the fish habitat network and by securing Recreational Fishing Licenses co-investment.	76	DEDJTR		Advocacy is part of Fisheries Victoria's core role. Recreational fishing licence revenue is used for grants.			
6	Undertake best practice research, monitoring and evaluation of artificial reefs to determine their long-term ecological sustainability and value.	76	DEDJTR		Port Phillip Bay shore-based reefs were deployed in 2012. Monitoring and evaluation over the following two years indicated that reefs were colonised by a range of animals and plants and enjoyed by recreational fishers.  Gippsland reefs were deployed in 2014 and since then DEDJTR has undertaken two separate monitoring exercises to map the development of the reefs.  Torquay reefs were deployed in 2015 and DEDJTR are committed to 6 monthly inspections to 2017.  Fisheries Victoria is expected to continue formal monitoring in future. The formal monitoring frequency may change to annually or even bi-annually with local recreational fishers' and divers' reports and diaries also used to monitor the reef development.			

	Action	Page	Lead Agent	Partner Agents	Implementation Notes				
3.6	3.6 Coastal energy resources								
1	Develop a marine energy atlas to identify areas of the coast potentially suitable for marine energy developments.	78	DELWP		A statewide map was completed in 2012. A national platform is being established which will include mapping of marine energy resources - this is a project funded by ARENA.				
2	Develop a strategic and integrated process for assessing marine energy proposals. This should include details of any required impact assessments and approvals, and a mechanism for tenure allocation that:  (a) ensures the Victorian public receives the best outcome from private use of coastal Crown land, and  (b) prevents land banking (tying up parcels of seabed/land for future use so they cannot be utilised in the present).	78	DELWP	DEDJTR	An internal guideline was developed by DELWP in late 2014. There is need to test if the current work is sufficient or if it needs to be refined to include impact assessment/approval information as was suggested in the original discussion paper.				

## **Actions Outstanding**

	Action	Page	Lead Agent	Partner Agent	Implementation Notes
3.1	Coastal buildings, infrastructure	and m	anageme	ent	
1	Revise the Siting and Design Guidelines for Structures on the Victorian Coast to provide con- temporary criteria and improved design guidance for coastal developments.	67	ТВА	LGs, DEDJTR, PV, HV, OVGA, VCC	It has been proposed that VCC is not the appropriate lead; however, an alternative needs to be agreed on. RCBs are not appropriate partners.
3.2	Visitation and tourism				
2	Provide a framework for facilitation of tourism development along the coast through a range of mechanisms including RCPs, local planning schemes, master plans and coastal management plans; a framework should include strategic planning for how increasing tourism and visitation will be experienced and managed along the coast.	69	RCBs	LGs, DELWP, DEDJTR, PV, VV. RTBs, CoM, VCC	DELWP and RCBs are scoping this project.

	Action	Page	Lead Agent	Partner Agent	Implementation Notes				
3.5	3.5 Fishing and aquaculture								
1	Undertake research to identify threats to key habitats supporting fisheries resources, including biosecurity issues, and develop priority actions to address these wthreats. Investigate using a proportion of the revenue generated from fishing licences to support this research.	76	DELWP	DEDJTR	Propose that DELWP lead this action (originally DEPI) with DEDJTR as partner. This requires further discussion at ICC.  FV (DEDJTR) manages threats to marine habitats when specifically related to fishing practices. FV recovers funds from commercial fishing licence holders to support research specific to the fishery in which that licence operates e.g. for stock assessments or species monitoring.  The recreational fishing grant program is supported by revenue from recreational fishing licences. "Recreational fisheries' sustainability and habitat improvement" is one of the 4 funding categories in the "Large Grant Program Guidelines and Conditions".  The Seagrass and Reefs program completed in 2015 undertook research into threats but not specific to fisheries, and it focussed on Port Phillip Bay.  The Port Phillip Bay EMP will identify catchment-based threats to habitats and fisheries. The EMP will also set out actions to understand what habitats exist, how they function, and how to manage, protect and restore them.  DELWP will undertake marine habitat mapping for the entire Victorian coastline in 2016-17. This is a deliverable of the plan, Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2036. There will be opportunities for citizen science input.  CMAs may have some research that relates to this.				

## **Section 4: Implementation**

## **Actions Completed**

	Action	Page	Lead Agent	Partner Agent	Implementation Notes
4.1	Implementation Coordinating Co	ommitt	ee		
2	Undertake an assessment of the potential cost and resources implication of all actions identified in this Strategy. Based on the outcomes of this assessment, prepare an implementation within the first year after release of this Strategy. The Implementation Plan should outlined clear responsibility and accountability with resources identified and timeframes for delivering the actions in the Strategy. The plan should also identify where business cases for particular actions may be needed.	81	ICC	DELWP	Implementation Plan is complete. A resource assessment was conducted only on outstanding actions, as a basis for the Implementation Plan, rather than for actions that are already complete or in progress.

	Action	Page	Lead Agent	Partner Agent	Implementation Notes
4.1	Implementation Coordinating Co	ommitt	ee		
1	Reconvene and support the operation of the Victorian Coastal Strategy Implementation Coordination Committee.	81	DELWP	VCC	DELWP and VCC will establish the ICC in early 2017, with VCC to chair the committee going forward. The ICC would meet periodically, comprise of senior executives from the delivery agencies, and would focus on high priority, high impact actions.
4.2	Building capacity and supporting	ng coas	tal mana	gers	
1	Prepare guidance for the development of Coastal Management Plans and Regional Coastal Plans.	82	DELWP	VCC, RCBs, ICC	The draft CMP Guidelines have been prepared, and stakeholder comments have been received on the draft.
2	Host the national Coastal conference (Coast to Coast) in Victoria and a State coastal conference within the period of this Strategy.	82	VCC	RCBs, DELWP, PV, LGs	The national Coast to Coast conference was held in August to September 2016. State conference is still to be considered, subject to resourcing.
3	Support new and existing regional coastal forums and networks.	82	VCC	RCBs, DELWP, PV, LGs	This is reflected in VCC's draft business plan.
4	Implement agreed actions related to coastal Committees of Management arising from the Victorian Auditor General's report on Oversight and Accountability of Committees of Management 2014.	82	DELWP		Progressing.  DELWP has delivered on all commitments in respect to the audit, with the exception of one action, which is ongoing.

	Action	Page	Lead Agent	Partner Agent	Implementation Notes
4.5	Monitoring, evaluation and repo	rting (I	MER)		
1	Develop and implement a MER framework for the Strategy.	85	VCC	ICC, DELWP	VCS Implementation Plan will help inform MER.
3	Publish the mid-term review together with a report card of outcomes and a statement of the major changes that have been evidenced along the coast for the life of Strategy with successes and learning.	85	VCC	DELWP	Progressing. VCS Implementation Plan will serve as the mid-term review.

## **Actions Outstanding**

	Action	Page	Lead Agent	Partner Agent	Implementation Notes
4.4	Effective regulation and enforce	ement			
1	In the next survey of the coastal and marine environment community attitudes and behavior (Wave 5) test the relative importance and effectiveness of the enforcement of regulations across the range of activities that impact on the coast.	83	VCC	LG, DELWP PV, FV	VCC propose to do this in partnership with another agency in 2017-18. Propose additional delivery partners: DELWP Regulation and Compliance, Parks Victoria and DEDJTR (FV). Local government undertakes a relevant survey supported by DELWP; this may complement the VCC social research.
4.5	Monitoring, evaluation and repo	rting (I	MER)		
2	Establish an index of coastal condition that considers environmental, social and economic values.	85	VCC, DELWP		This translates to a priority action in the VCC draft Business Plan 2015-18:  1. d) iii) Preparing a 'State of the Coast' report card. This links to MER and baseline information.  Proposed lead agents are DELWP and VCC.  Some existing projects contribute to this action:  State of the Bays Report.  DELWP data management system, including development of environmental indicators, which will inform the first SotBs report.  coastal monitoring, and an Index of Estuarine Condition, to be considered in future State of the Bays reporting.  DELWP is preparing case studies on social and economic values and accounting to provide in the first SotBs report.  It is likely that future SotBs reporting will be rolled out more broadly across the state and will include metrics for social and economic values.  Local government may have some work on coastal condition that could be drawn on for this action.
34	VCS Implementation Plan Appendix				

# **Appendix 2: Glossary of Acronyms**

AV	Aboriginal Victoria	NGOs	Non-government organisations
СМА	Catchment Management Authority	PV	Parks Victoria
СоМ	Committee of Management	RCB	Regional Coastal Board
DELWP	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	RCP	Regional Coastal Plan
DEDJTR	Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources	SEPP	State Environment Protection Policies
DTF	Department of Treasury and Finance	SotB	State of the Bay report
EMP	Environment Management Plan	SPPF	State Planning Policy Framework
EPA	Environment Protection Authority	TFN	Trust For Nature
GLMAC	Gippsland Lakes Ministerial Advisory Committee	TSV	Transport Safety Victoria
HV	Heritage Victoria	VV	Visit Victoria
ICC	Implementation Coordinating Committee	VAHC	Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council
LCHA	Local Coastal Hazard Assessment	VEAC	Victorian Environmental Assessment Council
LG	Local Government	VCC	Victorian Coastal Council
MACA	Marine and Coastal Act project	VPP	Victoria Planning Provisions
MAV	Municipal Association of Victoria	WC	Water Corporations
MW	Melbourne Water		