

Adapt West - Shaping our Shores

Factsheet 1: Project overview



We are developing a strategic plan to manage coastal hazards and build resilience for the Port Phillip Bay western shoreline.

The project

The Port Phillip Bay western shoreline is a unique part of the bay landscape with diverse marine and coastal values. These include Traditional Owner values and connection to Country, internationally significant ecosystems such as Ramsar-listed wetlands, parks and reserves, and a marine sanctuary.

The area is home to key facilities such as the Werribee agriculture precinct, Western Treatment Plant, oil refineries, Avalon Airport, and strategic national defence sites. It is also one of the fastest growing populations in Victoria.



Natural coastal processes such as inundation (flooding), erosion and groundwater changes shape the shoreline. When these natural processes impact on how we use and enjoy the coast, they can become **coastal hazards**.

Coastal hazards currently impact the western shoreline. With a changing climate, the region faces some of the highest risk for flooding of residential and industrial land across Victoria's coast.

The Port Phillip Bay Western Shoreline Regional and Strategic Partnership (RaSP) is delivering the **Adapt West** project to respond to these challenges and develop a Coastal Hazard Adaptation and Resilience Plan (CHARP) for the region.

Through the Adapt West project, we'll be bringing together a range of information to create an adaptation plan for the region. This includes:



Rightsholder, stakeholder and community values across the coastal and marine environment



Technical understanding of coastal processes and how these may change over time



Strategic thinking and planning, in alignment with Statewide legislation, policy and guidance



Houses bordering Laverton Creek. Credit: Alluvium



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Regional and Strategic Partnerships

Regional and Strategic Partnerships are a tool of the *Marine and Coastal Act 2018*, created to bring rightsholders and stakeholders together as partners to act on regionally significant issues.



The Port Phillip Bay Western Shoreline RaSP has been established to:

- respond to climate change and coastal hazard impacts on the marine and coastal values of the Port Phillip Bay western shoreline.
- develop an overarching Coastal Hazard Adaptation and Resilience Plan (CHARP);
- strengthen relationships and partnerships amongst key rightsholders and stakeholders.

The Port Phillip Bay Western Shoreline RaSP has been established between nine partners (Table 1). It provides a forum for partners to collaborate, share knowledge and strategically plan for the future.

RaSP partners have committed to working together to develop a CHARP. The CHARP will direct a coordinated response to coastal hazard impacts for the region that cut across jurisdictional boundaries



RaSP Project Working Group workshops and site visits

Credit: DEECA (top), Alluvium (bottom)

Table 1. The RaSP partners

RaSP partner	Reason for selection
Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action  Energy, Environment and Climate Action	Lead partner agency, asset and land manager and lead department for the <i>Victoria's Resilient Coast – Adapting to 2100+</i> program.
Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation 	Registered Aboriginal Party representing Bunurong community and protecting cultural and heritage values for the Sea Country of eastern Port Phillip Bay, across west to the Werribee River.
Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation 	Registered Aboriginal Party representing Wadawurrung community and protecting cultural and heritage values for Sea Country from the Werribee River to Limeburners Bay and beyond.
Hobsons Bay City Council 	Local Government authority and land manager for coastal areas from Spotswood to Altona Meadows.
Wyndham City Council 	Local Government authority and land manager for coastal areas from Sanctuary Lakes / Point Cook to Little River.
City of Greater Geelong 	Local Government authority and land manager for coastal areas from Little River to Limeburners Bay and beyond.
Corangamite Catchment Management Authority 	Agency with responsibilities for catchment and floodplain management.
Melbourne Water 	Agency with responsibilities for stormwater & wastewater infrastructure (including the Western Treatment Plant), inland waterways, catchment and floodplain planning and advice.
Parks Victoria 	Local manager for land and marine parks and reserves.

The study area

The study area extends from Greenwich Reserve in Williamstown to Limeburners Bay (Hovells Creek estuary), north of Geelong.

The region covers Bunurong and Wadawurrung Country and three local government areas.

Marine and coastal areas across this region include many varied coastal landscapes, values, uses and infrastructure.



Altona Beach and Laverton Spit Credit: Alluvium



Cultural significance for Wadawurrung and Bunurong Traditional Owners including important tangible and intangible values, places and connection to Country



Significant ecosystems including Ramsar-listed wetlands, a marine and coastal sanctuary and many coastal parks and reserves.



Supporting livelihoods and providing liveability through amenity and recreation opportunities for an increasing number of residents, commercial enterprises



Key economic and social assets such as the Werribee Agriculture precinct, the Western Treatment Plant, Avalon Airport, oil refineries, and strategic national defence sites.



Figure 2: Adapt West (Port Phillip Bay Western Shoreline RaSP) project extent.

Adaptation Planning

Adaptation planning under the Adapt West project is aligning with the *Marine and Coastal Act 2018*, Policy (2020), Strategy (2022), and following guidance set out in the *Victoria's Resilient Coast – Adapting to 2100+* (VRC) framework.

The VRC framework (Figure 4) provides a statewide strategic approach to long-term coastal hazard risk management and adaptation. The framework was developed by DEECA in collaboration with Traditional Owners, and a range of Victorian agencies, authorities, and peak bodies with an interest in coastal hazard adaptation.



Figure 4. The seven stages of the Victoria's Resilient Coast - Adapting to 2100+ framework.

The Adapt West project will produce an overarching Coastal Hazard Adaptation and Resilience Plan for the Port Phillip Bay western shoreline, developed through seven framework stages (Table 2).

Early scoping commenced in 2022-23, and the project delivery phase is through to 2026.



Avalon Coastal Reserve and wetlands.
Credit: Alluvium.

Table 2. The VRC framework stages and purpose

	Stage 1: Project establishment,	
Provide a foundation for adaptation planning, aligned to best practice guidance. This involves steps such as defining the need for action and establishing a collaborative process (e.g. a RaSP).		
	Stage 2: Values, vision and objectives	
Ensure adaptation planning is underpinned by place-based values. Cultural, ecological, social and economic values studies will be conducted, alongside community engagement to develop a shared vision and objectives.		
	Stage 3 Coastal hazard exposure	
Assess coastal hazard exposure throughout the Port Phillip Bay western shoreline. This stage includes adopting scenarios that enable best practice approaches to assessing current and emerging risk.		
	Stage 4 Vulnerability and risk	
Explore place-based coastal hazard vulnerability and risk to values and assets to enable strategic consideration of adaptation needs and priorities across the region.		
	Stage 5 Adaptation actions and pathways	
Identify, assess, consult on, and select a diversity of integrated adaptation actions across land management, planning and design, nature-based, and engineering themes. Develop and refine appropriate adaptation pathways.		
	Stage 6 Plan and implement	
Develop a CHARP with details for implementation, including priority actions, shared roles and responsibilities, triggers for review and resource requirements.		
	Stage 7 Ongoing monitoring and review	
Develop a tailored monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement framework to support adaptation.		

Working with the community

Communication, engagement and collaboration are embedded in all stages of the adaptation planning process. Community input informs adaptation planning by:



Highlighting core community values and aspirations to guide adaptation objectives and a vision for the future.



Helping us build understanding of local history, coastal processes, how these have changed over time, and what the future might hold.



Determining the impacts or consequences of coastal hazards on people and communities, which helps us determine the risk.



Providing ideas, feedback and preferences on adaptation options and actions to inform the adaptation plan.

We have a genuine desire to co-develop our adaptation plan with the community. We will be guided by a shared vision for a resilient Port Phillip Bay western shoreline, shaped by community and stakeholder values and aspirations.

There will be multiple opportunities to get involved throughout the Adapt West project.



Jawbone Flora and Fauna Reserve

Credit: Parks Victoria.

How can I get involved?

To share your thoughts and inform adaptation planning visit the Engage Victoria website at:

engage.vic.gov.au/adapt-west

There you can:

- Take part in our interactive activities
- Follow the project to ensure you keep up to date with the project and upcoming activities
- Read our latest project updates and factsheets
- Email us at: **adapt.west@deeca.vic.gov.au**

We acknowledge Victorian Traditional Owners and their Elders past and present as the original custodians of Victoria's land and waters and commit to genuinely partnering with them and Victoria's Aboriginal community to progress their aspirations.



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