

Draft Marine and Coastal Policy

This information has been developed to assist Victorians to get involved in the draft Marine and Coastal Policy consultation process.

Our Vision is for a healthy, dynamic and biodiverse marine and coastal environment that benefits the Victorian community now and in the future.

What's happening?

The Victorian Government, with guidance from the Victorian Marine and Coastal Council, has developed a draft Marine and Coastal Policy and are seeking feedback from the Victorian community to ensure it reflects your views on how the marine and coastal environment should be planned for and managed.

Why are we developing a new Marine and Coastal Policy?

Development of a Marine and Coastal Policy (the Policy) is a requirement of the *Marine and Coastal Act 2018* and must be made by 31 December 2019.

The Policy is needed to guide planning and decision making in the marine and coastal environment to achieve the objectives and guiding principles of the *Marine and Coastal Act 2018*.

What information was used to develop the draft Policy?

The draft Policy builds on strong policy in the *Victorian Coastal Strategy 2014* and fills identified gaps.



In developing the draft Policy, DELWP drew on technical expertise from across government and sought high-level direction from key marine and coastal stakeholders.

Additionally, information and recommendations from the following have informed development of the draft Policy:

- the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council's report *Assessment of the Values of Victoria's Marine Environment 2019*
- *State of the Bays 2016* (Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability Victoria); and
- the Victorian Auditor-General's Office report *Protecting Victoria's Coastal Assets 2018*.

The latest sea level rise projections from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change will also be used to inform the final Policy once they are released later in 2019.

New or changed direction in the draft Policy

New and important policy direction in the draft includes:

- Recognising and respecting Traditional Owners' rights, aspirations and knowledge;
- Improved guidance and direction on planning for climate change; and
- A much-needed focus on the marine environment, including Victoria's first Marine Spatial Planning Framework to manage new and competing uses in the marine environment.

The draft Marine Spatial Planning Framework provides guidance and a process for achieving integrated and coordinated planning and management of Victoria's marine environment. The framework does not replace or duplicate existing planning and management. It provides overarching guidance and details the essential steps necessary for completing marine spatial planning.

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How will the Policy impact other projects in the marine and coastal environment?

Once finalised, the Marine and Coastal Policy will provide overarching policy for all planning and management in the marine and coastal environment.

Tools under the *Marine and Coastal Act 2018* such as Regional and Strategic Partnerships, environmental management plans, and marine and coastal management plans will be guided by and must be consistent with the final Marine and Coastal Policy.

The Policy will also provide guidance for planning and management affecting the marine and coastal environment that is undertaken under other legislation such as the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

Location-specific projects such as the Great Ocean Road Action Plan and Distinctive Areas Landscapes will be informed and guided by the final Policy.

How can you have your say?

Public submissions will be open from 4 July to 15 August 2019 and DELWP strongly encourages anyone with an interest in the marine and coastal environment to make a submission.

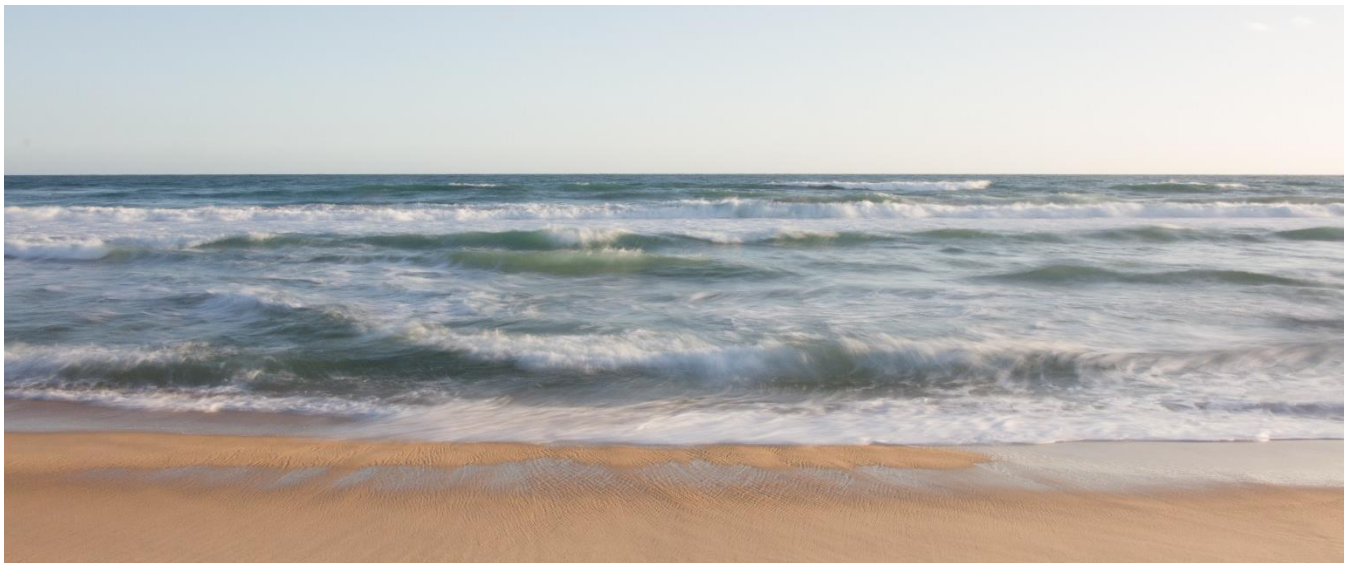
DELWP will be holding information sessions to answer questions regarding the draft Policy in person.

To make a submission on the draft Policy or learn more about regional information sessions, visit Engage Victoria <https://engage.vic.gov.au/draft-marine-and-coastal-policy>

The DELWP team can also be reached via email at marine.coastalpolicy@delwp.vic.gov.au

How will the draft Policy be finalised?

DELWP will consider all submissions made on the draft Policy in finalising the Policy by 31 December 2019.



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