

Consultation Summary

What is your vision for a healthy Port Phillip Bay?

Write or draw what you would like the Bay to look like in the future (e.g. in 10-20 years' time).

I want to help the Fish!
and all of the Creachers
in the World! including
Animals!





Port Phillip Bay is highly valued by the Victorian community. Its waters and marine life underpin many social, recreational and economic benefits that our community enjoys. The Bay provides the rapidly growing cities of Melbourne and Geelong with ‘space to breathe’.

The new *Port Phillip Bay Environmental Management Plan 2017-2027* (‘the Plan’) provides a framework for government, industry and the community to work together in managing the Bay and its catchment.

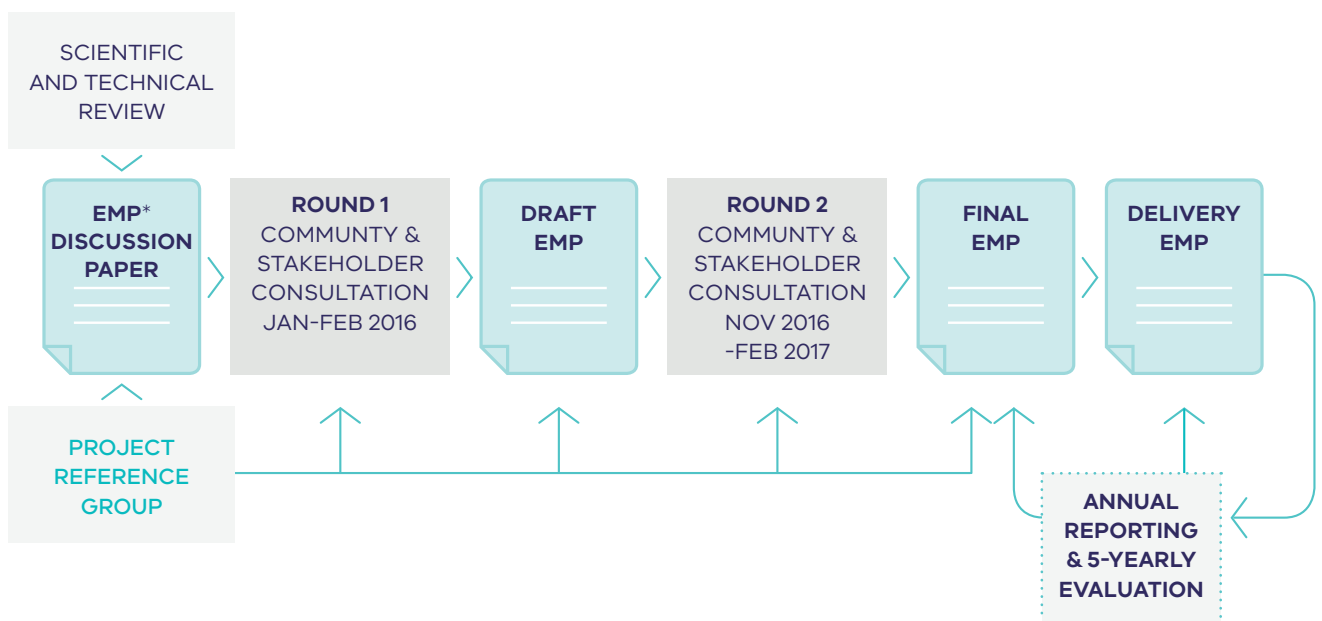
The Plan has been developed over 2½ years by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, in partnership with the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Victoria and Melbourne Water.

A collective of interested stakeholder groups including 23 state government agencies; seven water businesses; 11 Councils; two local government peak bodies; four Traditional Owner groups; and 10 special-interest, non-government organisations have contributed their time and energy to shape the Plan.

The community has provided valuable suggestions and feedback through two rounds of public consultation. Consultation for the Plan was promoted through local print media, a dedicated web page, notifications to people who registered interest, via social media (Twitter, Facebook), and through stakeholder networks. The community used a range of avenues to contribute to the Plan: they downloaded reports and papers from the website; dropped into summer beachside listening posts; attended evening workshops around the Bay; completed online surveys; and provided written submissions.

The community’s views and interests have helped to shape and refine the final Port Phillip Bay Environmental Management Plan.

Development of the Plan



* EMP = Environmental Management Plan



Overview of Community Consultation Results

ROUND 1
January–February 2016
Discussion Paper



- 1508 people participated in consultation activities
- 430 people attended one of four beachside listening posts around the Bay
- 1058 people completed the online survey
- 13 people provided written submissions
- 7 stakeholder meetings were held.

The first round of consultation helped us to identify why the Bay is important to the community, and (along with scientific and technical studies) to develop the draft *Vision, Goals and Actions*.

ROUND 2
November 2016–February 2017
Draft EMP



- 2540 people visited the project website
- 745 people downloaded draft Plan documents
- 135 people attended six workshops around the Bay
- 33 people completed the online survey
- 16 people and 21 groups provided written submissions.

The second round of consultation confirmed the Plan's *Vision*, clarified the *Goals*, and helped us to refine *Actions*. People and groups already involved in caring for the Bay also told us what they are doing that could support the Plan's implementation.



Throughout consultation, community and stakeholders clearly stated their vision...

The Bay continues to support diverse and abundant marine life, a wide range of community uses and the Victorian economy.

Government, business and the community work collaboratively to ensure that all contributions to maintaining a healthy Bay are complementary and aligned.



Management of the Bay responds to the pressures of population growth and climate change.

All Victorians care deeply for the Bay, enjoying the benefits that it provides, and being actively and enthusiastically engaged in ensuring the Bay and its marine life are thriving.

SHARED VISION
A healthy Port Phillip Bay that is valued and cared for by all Victorians

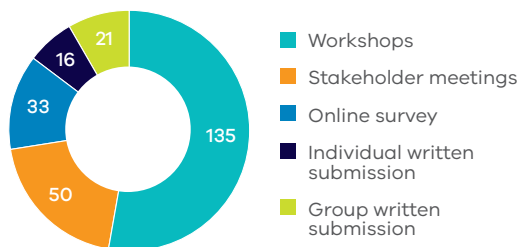


What we heard about the Draft Plan

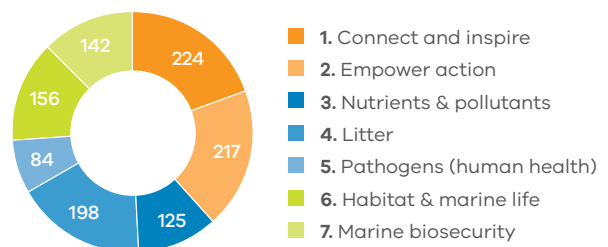
ROUND 2 CONSULTATION

November 2016-February 2017

How people participated in consultation



Comments by priority area



Feedback from Round 2 Consultation included these key messages

There is wide support for the Vision, Goals and Priority Areas

People love the Bay and want to be involved in its care

Clarity is needed around which government agencies are responsible for management in the Bay

Water quality and marine life underpin all other values in the Bay

Catchments are the source of most pollutants and litter, so the Plan needs to focus upstream

It will be a challenge to find funding and resources for all of the activities under the Plan

People are concerned that many important Bay issues such as dredging, fishing, coastal erosion, noisy marine vessels and conflicting uses are outside the scope of the Plan

The Plan should encourage citizen science, and this should be complemented with a robust and defensible technical scientific program

There needs to be more open sharing of Bay knowledge, successes, scientific data and research methodologies

Strong leadership by government and industry is needed for waste reduction, re-use and recycling

Population growth and climate change are major, long-term threats to the health of the Bay

The Delivery Plan needs to have accountability and a clear and public reporting process



GOAL 1 Stewardship	
What we heard	How this has affected the Plan
Acknowledge and celebrate the cultural values and connections that Traditional Owners have with the land and sea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traditional Owners have stated how they can support implementation of the Plan Traditional Owner groups are included as potential partners in 10 of the Plan's 21 actions Action 11 focuses on Aboriginal cultural values and connections to Country
Aboriginal people want to participate in Bay and catchment management and see an expansion of indigenous training and employment opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action 11 supports opportunities for Traditional Owners to strengthen their connections to Country, and to lead on cultural values assessments Action 2.3 supports a greater representation of Traditional Owners in management activities for the Bay Aboriginal groups are included as potential partners in 10 of the Plan's 21 actions
Incorporate Bay values and threats into education programs that will reach a wide range of audiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action 11 includes the development of opportunities to educate the broad community about cultural values Action 1.2 is focused on the development and delivery of programs to inspire greater appreciation of the Bay's values, including community-based 'citizen science' Research organisations (e.g. universities) are potential partners in 13 of the Plan's 21 actions
Help people understand how the Bay is impacted by their behaviour on the coast, on the streets, in the water and in the catchments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priority Area 1 specifically references an appreciation of the Bay's 'connections to catchment' Action 1.2 provides for behavioural change programs, promotes education and citizen science, and encourages greater community connection to nature Action 4.2 supports programs that reduce littering on land and water
Bay issues are shared problems: we all have a role to play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Plan ensures that Government supports and works with community and industry to achieve better Bay health Government is a partner on all 21 actions, community on 12 actions, and various industries on 13 actions, demonstrating that there are roles in the Plan for all sectors of society Priority Areas 1 and 2 focus on inspiring, connecting, educating and empowering community, government and business
Celebrate and publicise what's important about the Bay, using art, events, signage and multi-media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actions 1.2 and 2.2 enable Bay appreciation, communication and promotional opportunities in all their forms Action 1.3 delivers information about the agencies that care for the Bay, their on-ground activities, and the environmental, social and economic values they work to protect
Communicate who is responsible for Bay management, make it easy to report incidents, and give confidence that the Bay is being actively looked after	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action 1.3 provides programs, tools and events, and helps to communicate management responsibilities, promote what is happening around the Bay, share knowledge and grow awareness of Bay management Action 2.3 supports collaboration between community, government and industry to share information and align aims



GOAL 2 Water Quality	
What we heard	How this has affected the Plan
Water quality affects the environmental health and enjoyment of the Bay, and must be improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The water quality goal includes reference to 'environmental health' as well as community enjoyment • The water quality goal recognises the need to improve water quality from the catchments
Stormwater infrastructure must be improved and upgraded, not just maintained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action 3.1 includes an audit of stormwater management infrastructure to improve understanding of what is flowing to the Bay, how well existing infrastructure is operating and what options there are to improve or offset impacts • Action 3.1 states the need to reduce nutrient, pollutant and sediment loads to the Bay through infrastructure maintenance and improvement programs
Improve management of stormwater flows, contaminants and sediment from rural and developing urban areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action 3.3 supports ongoing land management programs to improve runoff and stormwater quality across the catchment • Action 3.3 includes a review of the performance of planning controls for stormwater management across all development in the catchment
Don't just focus on known pollutants; keep up to date with contaminants of emerging concern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action 3.1 incorporates research into contaminants of emerging concern • Priority Area 4 supports the study of litter types, sources, impacts and pathways (including microplastics), and mechanisms for their prevention and clean-up
Septic systems are problematic and poorly regulated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action 3.2 improves understanding and control of nitrogen discharging into the Bay from off-site wastewater systems and on-site systems (e.g. septic) • Action 5.2 supports research into, and control of, sources of faecal contamination
Encourage water-sensitive urban design and integrated water catchment management practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action 3.1 includes implementing the most effective water-sensitive urban design to reduce stormwater impacts • Integrated water catchment management is incorporated into Action 3.3, with development of catchment modelling and monitoring to assess loads of nitrogen and sediment
Support community groups doing litter clean-ups around the Bay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action 4.1 and Action 4.3 support and encourage community, government and businesses to continue clean-up efforts • Action 4.1 encourages the use of litter research to collect data on the volumes, types and sources of litter in the Bay and its catchment and to develop and evaluate litter prevention strategies • Action 2.3 encourages the sharing of knowledge and research methodologies • Action 2.1 includes the development of innovative tools to support citizen science and community action
How much litter and debris is already in the Bay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action 4.1 includes an activity to improve understanding of how much litter exists in the Bay, and volumes entering from both catchment and marine
Government needs to provide leadership in issues around product stewardship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action 4.2 targets litter prevention, and clearly recognises the role of government in leading product stewardship initiatives that encourage waste reduction, re-use and recycling throughout society
People in the catchments and people on the water need to understand that their waste and litter affects the Bay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action 4.2 promotes litter reduction from sources around the Bay and its catchment, and from water-based activities • Action 2.2 encourages catchment-wide community awareness and supports behavioural change programs
The Bay should be clean enough to swim in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority Area 5 focuses on improving our understanding of health risks, pathogen sources and control, and informing the public of health risks from swimming



GOAL 3 Habitats and Marine Life	
What we heard	How this has affected the Plan
The diversity of marine habitat and marine life is what gives the Bay its value to our community and economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priority Area 6 focuses on better understanding the ecology of the Bay, and promoting conservation and restoration to ensure marine life remains resilient and healthy in the face of a changing climate and greater population pressure Actions throughout the Plan (particularly Priority Areas 3, 4 and 5) protect water quality, which underpins the health of marine life
Data on habitats and marine life is plentiful, but is often difficult to access or not publicly available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action 2.3 encourages collaboration and the sharing of data, collection methods and knowledge of activities around the Bay and catchment State of the Bays reporting will provide a collation of marine habitat and species data which will be used to help assess achievements of the Plan
We need better mapping and understanding of Bay habitats, and improved data collection techniques	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action 6.1 involves mapping and monitoring of key habitats to improve understanding of changes in extent and condition, and monitoring of indicator species Action 6.1 also opens the opportunity for innovative techniques/technology and supports citizen science programs Action 2.3 encourages collaboration, and the sharing of data and methods
Increases in recreational fishing will put pressure on marine life, particularly target species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fishing is managed under the Fisheries Act, and not through this Plan. However, the Plan will help to inform future fisheries management Priority Area 6 includes monitoring of key habitats and indicator species, improving understanding of threats to marine life, and restoration of important marine habitat
Appreciate, maintain and improve marine protected areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As manager of Victoria's marine protected areas, Parks Victoria is a potential partner in 10 of the Plan's 21 Actions Priority Area 6 focuses on improved understanding and long-term conservation and restoration of the Bay's habitats and marine life Priority Area 7 focuses on the protection of the Bay's endemic marine life from introduced marine pests Actions under the water quality goal address significant challenges to improving water quality flowing into the Bay, and this in turn will protect marine life
Need to understand all significant impacts to marine life, including from humans, dogs, noise and water traffic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action 6.2 aims to improve our understanding of threats and stressors to the Bay's marine life and ecosystem processes and includes impacts from other uses of the Bay
A marine spatial planning framework should be considered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Plan is currently based on a pressure-response model New Marine & Coastal legislation being developed for Victoria will consider the development of a marine spatial planning framework
Citizen science and peer-reviewed scientific research are both important	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actions under Priority Area 6 support all levels of scientific endeavor and reporting Actions 2.1 and 2.3 encourage collaboration, information sharing and capacity building between community and research organisations
Coastal ecosystems need to be protected in the face of climate change and coastal development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action 6.2 specifically aims to improve understanding of the threats and stressors on ecological systems, including climate change impacts on the structure and function of intertidal and coastal habitats
More progress needs to be made on marine pest management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actions under Priority Area 7 will address regulation, awareness, monitoring and response to marine pests

DELWP would like to acknowledge and thank all groups and individuals who have given time to review and provide comment during development of the Port Phillip Bay Environmental Management Plan.

The Plan is now complete and will be implemented over the next 10 years.

To obtain a copy of the Port Phillip Bay Environmental Management Plan

- Download documents from DELWP's website:
<https://www.coastsandmarine.vic.gov.au/coastal-programs/port-phillip-bay>
- Call DELWP on **136 186** and ask for a copy to be posted
- For queries, email **Bay.Plan@delwp.vic.gov.au**

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