

# BASS COAST

## Distinctive Area and Landscapes Project



## Culture and Heritage

### What we heard from previous engagement

#### What you value:

- Aboriginal cultural heritage
- Historic cultural heritage, including settlement history pre-dating Melbourne
- Quiet, waterside township characteristics, including old structures

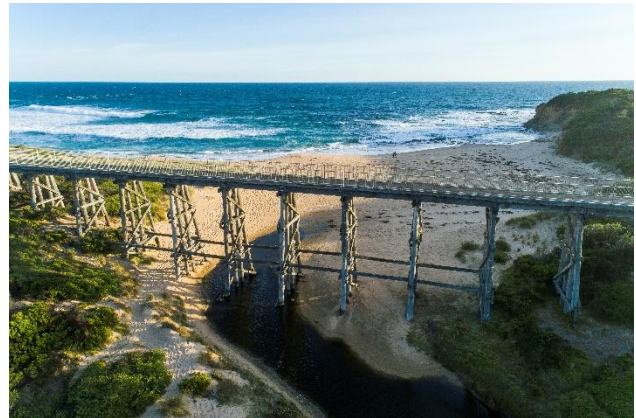
#### What concerns you:

- Overdevelopment and urban expansion
- Lack of awareness and education
- Inadequate planning responses and controls

The Bass Coast contains significant Aboriginal and historic cultural heritage places. These places are important to the cultural and economic development of Victoria, and provide a window into agricultural, surfing, mining, maritime, and industrial heritage.

The Traditional Owners of the Bass Coast declared area are the Bunurong of the Kulin nation who have occupied the area for over 35,000 years. There are a number of sites of significance, many of which are located along the coast and waterways providing evidence of long-term occupation.

These precious sites are threatened by a combination of factors including urban and tourism development. Climate change impacts such as erosion, rising sea levels and warmer weather all pose threats to Aboriginal and historic cultural heritage places.



### Strategic Directions

The Bass Coast Statement of Planning Policy could include strategies to:

- Actively involve the Bunurong in the management, protection and enhancement of Aboriginal cultural heritage
- Build awareness and knowledge of Bunurong heritage, language and cultural practices
- Identify and monitor sites of heritage significance and fill existing knowledge gaps
- Ensure heritage sites are appropriately protected.

### Tell us more

*What other strategies could be considered to protect and enhance cultural heritage in the Bass Coast?*

Get involved online at [engage.vic.gov.au/distinctive-areas-and-landscapes-program/bass-coast](https://engage.vic.gov.au/distinctive-areas-and-landscapes-program/bass-coast) where you can view and download the discussion paper and background information and provide feedback through the online form.