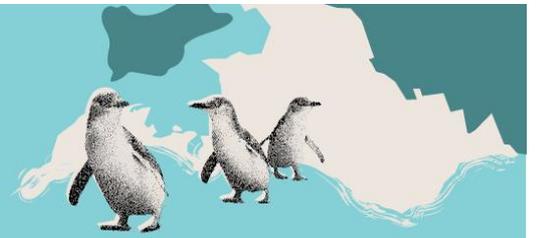


# BASS COAST

## Distinctive Area and Landscapes Project



## Declaration

Protecting the attractive environment, landscape and lifestyle of the Bass Coast.

Declaring the Bass Coast as Distinctive Area and Landscape is the first step in delivering permanent protections to safeguard the precious landscape from overdevelopment and degradation.

The Bass Coast is renowned for its excellent beaches, coastal biodiversity, wetlands of international significance and a wealth of recreation and tourism opportunities.

Due to the attractive and relaxed lifestyle, and Phillip Island's prominence as one of Victoria's iconic tourism destinations, the area has been under increasing visitor and urban development pressure as well as impacts of climate change.

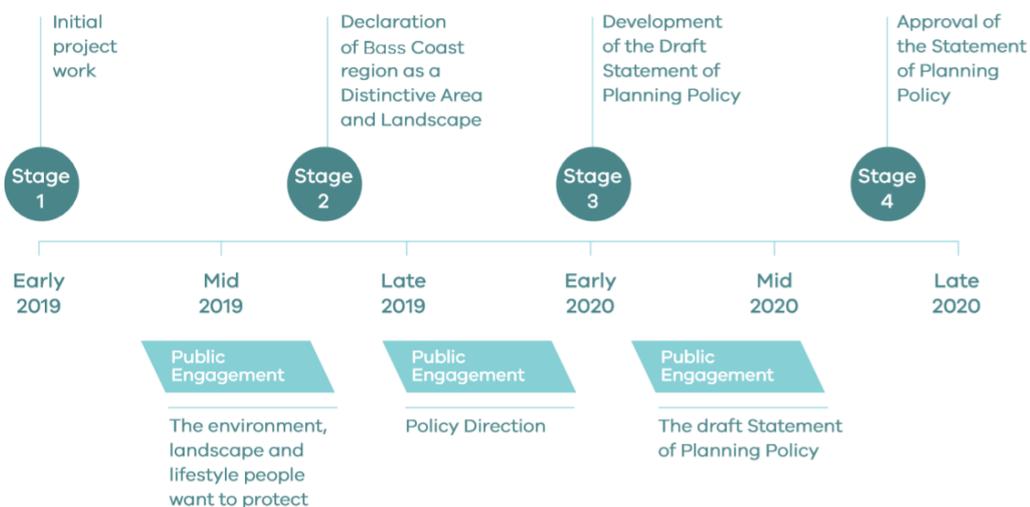
To ensure the region's long-term sustainability, the declaration delivers greater protection of the unique features and characteristics of the Bass Coast, while providing certainty for the preferred places for growth.

## The Declared Area



See full map at: [engage.vic.gov.au/distinctive-areas-and-landscapes-program/](https://engage.vic.gov.au/distinctive-areas-and-landscapes-program/)

## Timeline



# BASS COAST

## Distinctive Area and Landscapes Project



### Public Engagement

Phase one public engagement ran between 10 July 2019 to 12 August 2019.

Feedback was sought on:

- ✓ What is most valued about the Bass Coast?
- ✓ What threats there are to these values?
- ✓ Ways we could protect what is valued?
- ✓ The vision for the future of the Bass Coast?

### Snapshot of community participation

5	Community open houses
222	Participants at open houses
232	Online and written submissions
1001	Mapped comments
1896	Visitors online

### Where to from here...

Now that the Bass Coast has been declared a [Statement of Planning Policy](#) will be prepared in collaboration with the Bass Coast Shire Council and the Bunurong People, and with input from local communities and other key stakeholders.

The policy statement will guide the future use and development of land in the declared area, making sure the distinctive attributes are protected and enhanced for the benefit of current and future generations.

It will include a vision statement for the next 50 years, strategies for achieving the vision and an integrated strategic framework plan to guide the future land use and development of the region, including specifying long-term settlement boundaries for townships.

### Key findings



Beaches, pristine environments, Aboriginal heritage, township character and green breaks between settlements, and tourism were the most highly valued attributes.



Many participants focused on the importance of native vegetation, wildlife corridors, wetlands, and significant marine environments.



The valued landscapes and views include the rugged coastline, connection between the beaches and farmland, and rolling Bass Hills.



Participants felt that urban expansion, overdevelopment, vegetation removal and climate change were the major threats to these attributes.



Limiting development, better planning mechanisms, protection of habitat and farming land, and education were frequently cited as important ways to protect the Bass Coast.



Participants' 50-year vision for the Bass Coast was one of protection and improvement of coastal areas, the natural environment, township character, and economic sustainability.

### More information

There will be more opportunities to 'have your say' about the Bass Coast protections in the coming months.

Read the Public Engagement Findings Report, at: [engage.vic.gov.au/distinctive-areas-and-landscapes-program/bass-coast](https://engage.vic.gov.au/distinctive-areas-and-landscapes-program/bass-coast)