

# Draft Marine and Coastal Strategy

## Summary

Victorians value our coast and ocean - choosing to live nearby, visit often and experience everything our coast and ocean has to offer. Coastal and marine-dependent industries like fishing, tourism, ports and shipping support and create jobs for Victorians. These industries make significant contributions to local and regional economies. DELWP is leading the development of a Marine and Coastal Strategy (the Strategy). The Strategy will identify the priority actions for the next five years to lay the foundations for achieving long term outcomes for our marine and coastal environment.

## Highlights of the Strategy

The draft Strategy will:

- Empower Traditional Owners to fully integrate cultural values, uses and practices in the healing and ongoing management of Country.
- Build the foundations for long term climate adaptation in Victoria's marine and coastal environment.
- Improve integration and co-ordination across governments, industries, and communities when planning and managing marine and coastal areas.
- Build the skills and capability of communities, managers, and governments to effectively plan and manage for a healthy and resilient marine and coastal environment.

## It will do this by implementing six priority actions

<b>Action 1.</b>	Traditional Owners determine how their rights and obligations are embedded into planning and management of the marine and coastal environment.	<b>Action 4.</b>	Adapt to impacts of climate change by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• normalising public conversations about climate change</li><li>• applying knowledge and science of climate impacts in the planning of adaptive responses</li><li>• creating and adopting a state-wide approach to improve long-term resilience and adaptation to coastal hazards.</li></ul>
<b>Action 2.</b>	Improve the condition and connectivity of habitats and respect and care for marine and coastal areas.	<b>Action 5.</b>	Implement integrated planning of the marine environment.
<b>Action 3.</b>	Support sustainable use and development of the marine and coastal environment by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• encouraging industries and recreational activities that are sustainable and adaptable</li><li>• providing access to information and building skills of decision makers.</li></ul>	<b>Action 6.</b>	Identify resource needs and funding for sustainable marine and coastal management.

## Have your say

The draft Strategy is currently available for public comment on Engage Victoria. We invite you to help ensure the Strategy reflects Victoria's priorities for action over the next five years by heading to [engage.vic.gov.au/draft-marine-and-coastal-strategy](https://engage.vic.gov.au/draft-marine-and-coastal-strategy) and sharing your thoughts.

## Why develop a Marine and Coastal Strategy

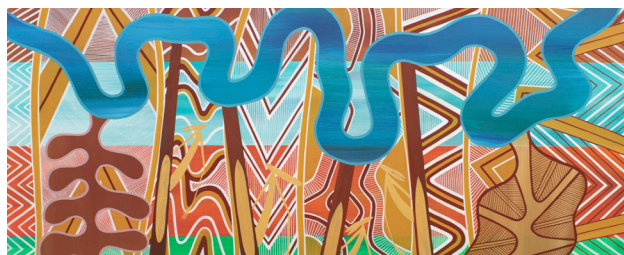
The *Marine and Coastal Act 2018* outlines principles and objectives for planning and managing our marine and coastal environment, so that future generations can continue to experience and enjoy its multiple benefits.

The *Marine and Coastal Policy* (the Policy), released in March 2020, sets a 15-year vision for "A healthy, dynamic and biodiverse marine and coastal environment that is valued in its own right, and that benefits the Victorian community, now and in the future."

The *Marine and Coastal Strategy* (the Strategy) identifies **how** we will achieve the Policy's vision. It is the first of three five-year strategies. It will outline priority actions to achieve the intended outcomes of the Policy over the next 15 years, including timeframes and responsibilities for delivery.

## Working together

The draft Strategy was developed by the Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning, working closely with Traditional Owners and the Victorian Marine and Coastal Council, and in consultation with state government departments, local government, marine and coastal managers, and peak bodies with marine and coastal interests.



## Acknowledgment

Traditional Owners have an unbroken custodianship of the land and seas that extends back tens of thousands of years. Their knowledge, understanding and relationships to Country are fundamental to the health of the environment and the success of any strategy to manage the natural environment.

Traditional Owner management of Country is a valued and time-tested application of knowledge about environmental management. Both access to and management of Country enable the self-determination of Aboriginal peoples and promotes environmental sustainability and connected Country outcomes. The Strategy therefore proposes to support Traditional Owners to determine how their rights and obligations are embedded in planning and management.

We acknowledge and respect Victorian Traditional Owners as the original custodians of Victoria's land and waters, their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it. We honour Elders past and present whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices.

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Cape Conran Coastal Park - East Gippsland. **Credit:** Andrew Bray

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