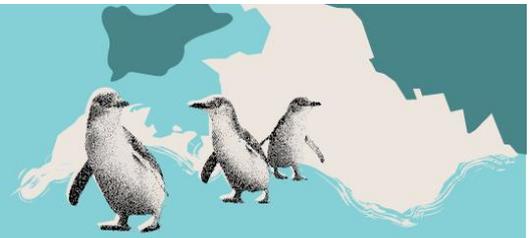


BASS COAST

Distinctive Area and Landscapes Project



Developing a shared vision

The Bass Coast SPP will set out a long-term vision for the Bass Coast DAL, which governments and communities can work together to achieve. The following draft vision for the Bass Coast DAL for the next 50 years to 2070 reflects community input during the phase 1 engagement process.

In 2070, the Bass Coast values and protects its iconic natural coastline. Major coastal landforms — The Nobbies, Pyramid Rock, Cape Woolamai and Eagles Nest among others — are recognised, visited and admired for their natural beauty, as are the views away to Andersons Inlet and French Island.

The biodiversity values of the important wetland and coastal habitats — the Western Port Ramsar-listed wetlands (including Rhyll Inlet, Swan Bay and Churchill Island), Anderson Inlet and the mouths of the Powlett River, Bass River, Bourne Creek and Wreck Creek among others — are safeguarded and managed as living entities. Habitat protection is important for everyone, residents and visitors alike.

The undeveloped coastline, long exposed surf beaches and inland areas are protected from vegetation clearance and intrusive development. Coastline and coastal settlement vistas, enhanced as they are by the Strzelecki Ranges backdrop, feature uninterrupted ridgelines and view lines. Green breaks are visible between settlements, and rural land is put to productive agricultural uses. Integrated water management safeguards precious water supplies and minimises harm from stormwater and wastewater. Remnant vegetation and habitats are connected by wildlife corridors, increasing vegetation cover across the Bass Coast.

The healthy, balanced ecological system incorporates Bunurong cultural (including natural) values, stories and creations. There is a widely recognised connection to land, sea, sky and water; sacred sites are respected; and the Bunurong cultural heritage landscape is appreciated for its ancient and contemporary uses and conserved for future generations.

The local economy has resilient, growing industries, particularly agriculture — the Bass Coast is Melbourne's, and Victoria's, food bowl — and tourism — the coast is a year-round destination managed to be an environmentally conscious, authentic place of outstanding natural beauty. The areas rich terrestrial and marine life including Fairy Penguins and seals, are a major draw card for visitors and residents.

The unique character of settlements is maintained and enhanced. Wonthaggi provides jobs and education and other services to the region. Revitalised town centres provide for the economic and social needs of residents and visitors. Urban growth is well-planned, situated in appropriate locations and respectful of distinctive areas, high-quality agricultural land and the natural environment. Communities are strengthened by good transport routes and accessible outdoor activities.

The Bass Coast engages with technologies for sustainability — to transition away from fossil fuels, to minimise resource use and waste, and to achieve and exceed emissions targets. Climate change impacts — coastal erosion, flooding, rising sea levels, bushfires and extreme weather events — are managed, and settlement areas and infrastructure are planned to mitigate climate change risks.

Tell us more

Do you agree with this vision?

Do you have any suggestions on how this could be improved? Is anything missing?

Get involved online at 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.