

The aims of the SPP are supported.

The focus of my comments is the southern arm of Swan Bay (see arrow on map extract below). This is a coastal reserve although not part of the Ramsar area. It extends between Murray Road and the peninsula served by McDonalds Road.

The southern arm seems to be forgotten in planning strategies and visions for improvement. It has played a critical role historically, environmentally and in landscape terms.

The status it is given in the SPP is arguably not clearly articulated. References to Swan Bay seem to refer to the wetland/large section of the bay.

It is consistent with the aims of the Bellarine SPP to articulate a vision for the southern arm that protects, improves and enhances its environmental values. There are many opportunities for improvements as part of the wider vision, if authorities can be further encouraged through the SPP. Perhaps even to the extent that one day it can be added to the marine reserve and Ramsar protected area.

The southern arm should be added to the significant landscape on Map 4. Its southern extent should be the northern side of Murray Road. Specific reference to the southern arm in the document and on the mapping would assist to distinguish it (as needed at this time) from the much larger Ramsar wetlands. Providing a vision for the southern arm would assist to support planning controls and strategies by the Borough of Queenscliff to maintain an appropriate interface between the Bay and settlement that is to south of the rail trail and the peninsula (Fellows Road – McDonalds Road) that is shown as part of Point Lonsdale.

