

Draft Marine and Coastal Strategy

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is a Marine and Coastal Strategy being developed?

Development of a Marine and Coastal Strategy is a requirement of Victoria's *Marine and Coastal Act* 2018, which sets principles and objectives for planning and managing this sensitive part of our environment.

The Marine and Coastal 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 draft Marine and Coastal Strategy identifies how we will achieve this vision. It is the first of three strategies that will deliver the objectives of the policy and lays the foundation for the next 15 years of work to preserve our marine and coastal environment.

What is the process for developing the Marine and Coastal Strategy?

The first step in developing the Marine and Coastal Strategy is a draft for public consultation. A draft Marine and Coastal Strategy is now available for public consultation at <https://www.engage.vic.gov.au/>.

Once submissions have been received, they will be considered in developing the final Marine and Coastal Strategy. A final Marine and Coastal Strategy will be prepared for government approval towards the end of 2021.

Who developed the draft Marine and Coastal Strategy?

The draft Marine and Coastal Strategy was developed through 2020 and 2021 by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, working closely with Traditional Owners and the Victorian Marine and Coastal Council.

State government departments, local governments, marine and coastal managers and peak bodies with marine and coastal interests were also involved, with online tools used to gather ideas for priority actions.

What does the draft Marine and Coastal Strategy include?

The draft Marine and Coastal Strategy seeks to:

- 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 capabilities of communities, managers and governments to plan and manage a healthy and resilient marine and coastal environment.

It will do this by:

1. Supporting Traditional Owners to embed their rights and obligations into planning and management of the marine and coastal environment.
2. Improving the condition and connectivity of habitats and respect and care for marine and coastal areas.

3. Supporting sustainable use and development of the marine and coastal environment by encouraging industries and recreational activities that are sustainable and adaptable, and by providing access to information and building skills of decision makers.
4. Adapting to impacts of climate change by:
 - normalising public conversations about climate change
 - applying knowledge and science of climate impacts in the planning of adaptive responses
 - creating and adopting a state-wide approach to improve long-term resilience and adaptation to coastal hazards.
5. Implementing integrated planning of the marine environment.
6. Identifying the resource needs and funding for sustainable marine and coastal management.

How will Victorians benefit from a Marine and Coastal Strategy?

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.

Our coasts also form a core part of our shared cultural identity and lifestyle, whether visiting or living near city beaches, smaller seaside towns or remote untouched wilderness across Victoria.

These experiences are only possible because they are supported by a healthy and resilient marine and coastal environment. Clean water, diverse species, and sufficient space for shorelines to shift and change are important for generations of Victorians to continue enjoying our coastal environments.

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What does the draft Marine and Coastal Strategy mean for marine and coastal industries?

Marine and coastal industries rely on and are supported by a healthy marine and coastal environment.

The draft Marine and Coastal Strategy will help industries make smart and sustainable investments in our marine and coastal environment.

It does this by promoting integrated and coordinated strategic planning for intensive uses like boating access, port access and tourism, and fostering the development of strategic tools like Coastal and Marine Management Plans across Victoria.

These actions will support sustainable industries now and for the future by protecting the ecosystems and resources on which those industries depend.

What funding is committed under the draft Marine and Coastal Strategy to tackle challenges facing the marine and coastal environment?

While the draft Marine and Coastal Strategy sets the priority actions for the next five years, these may change based on feedback from public consultation on the draft, but some actions are already funded. For example, the Government has allocated \$4.52 million for marine spatial planning, Victoria's Resilient Coast adaptation framework and activities led by Traditional Owners.

Further funding will be subject to budget and service delivery priorities. The final Marine and Coastal Strategy will detail future investment.

Why has the planning benchmark for sea level rise to 2100 not been changed?

The Marine and Coastal Policy 2020 determines that the sea level rise planning benchmark will be updated as necessary and that this will be supported by modelling that places global projections into the Victorian context.

As we develop the draft Marine and Coastal Strategy, we are also reviewing sea level rise planning benchmark based on the latest projections from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and how these relate to Victoria.

Revised modelling is underway and will be incorporated into the Marine and Coastal Policy if the Government approves any changes.

How does the draft Marine and Coastal Strategy relate to the draft climate change Adaptation Actions Plans (AAPs)?

Adaptation Action Plans (AAPs) are a commitment under Victoria's Climate Change Act 2017 to prepare for and respond to the changing climate.

The Victorian Government is preparing AAPs for seven systems to ensure Victoria's climate resilience. These are:

- primary production
- built environment
- education and training
- health and human services
- transport
- natural environment and the water cycle.

The seven AAPs harness the opportunities and tackle the impacts of climate change, and bolster Victoria's economy.

Coastal and marine adaptation has been considered in the draft AAPs. These complement the draft Marine and Coastal Strategy, which will be the key mechanism for addressing these new and challenging adaptation issues in the marine and coastal environment.

What other marine and coastal reforms are happening?

The Marine and Coastal Act, the Marine and Coastal Policy, and this draft Marine and Coastal Strategy are the major state-wide components of the marine and coastal reforms program.

Other programs that support the reforms and implement the Marine and Coastal Policy across the state include:

- State of the Marine and Coastal Environment Report
- Cape to Cape Resilience Project in South Gippsland (Regional and Strategic Partnership)
- Port Phillip Bay Environmental Management Plan

- The Great Ocean Road and Coastal Parks
- Implementing Coastcare Victoria Strategy
- Victorian Coastal Monitoring Program
- Renourishing priority beaches and maintaining critical coastal protection infrastructure
- Developing Coastal and Marine Management Plans
- Developing regulations for the Marine and Coastal Act.

How will Traditional Owners be involved in implementing the Marine and Coastal Strategy?

The draft Marine and Coastal Strategy empowers Traditional Owners to build their cultural values, uses and practices into healing and managing Country.

The draft Marine and Coastal Strategy empowers Traditional Owners to manage coastal and marine areas, and offers them the resources and tools they need to realise their obligations in this space.

It encourages Traditional Owners to embed their rights and their obligations into the planning and management of coastal and marine environments.

Will private jetties or bathing boxes be removed under the draft Marine and Coastal Strategy?

No. The draft Marine and Coastal Strategy does not propose removal or relocation of private jetties or bathing boxes from Victorian beaches and coastal lakes.

Does the draft Marine and Coastal Strategy look at the issue of ambulatory titles?

An ambulatory title is a property that has a body of water defining part of the property boundary. Approximately 96% of the Victorian coast is in public ownership. The Victorian Government has held a longstanding policy position to provide public access, use and enjoyment of beaches in Victoria.

While the draft Strategy does not include a specific action on ambulatory titles there are a suite of activities that relate to managing erosion, inundation and sand movement on the high-water mark. These activities are about maintaining public access and use of beaches.

Concurrently to the draft Marine and Coastal Strategy actions, Government is considering options to provide more certainty around this issue.

How can I have a say on the draft Marine and Coastal Strategy?

Please go to engage.vic.gov.au/draft-marine-and-coastal-strategy to access the draft Marine and Coastal Strategy and provide your comments.