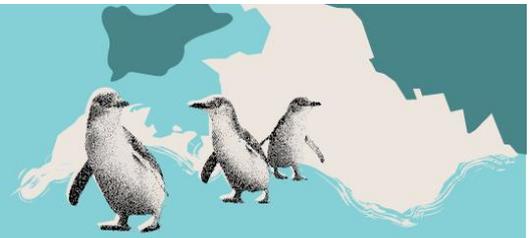


BASS COAST

Distinctive Area and Landscapes Project



Environment and Biodiversity

What we heard from previous engagement

What you value:

- Beaches, wetlands, sand dunes, and coastal environments
- Native vegetation and wildlife corridors
- Native fauna, including penguins and koalas
- Recreational values such as walking and rail trails

What concerns you:

- Overdevelopment and urban expansion
- Vegetation loss
- Weeds and pests
- Climate change and rising levels

The Bass Coast is renowned for its coastal habitats: its beaches, marine parks, coastal cliffs, reefs and rockpools. Its biodiversity-rich wetlands — the Ramsar-listed wetlands of Western Port and the nationally important wetlands of the Powlett River mouth and Anderson Inlet — are sustained by rainfall on the steep slopes of the Strzelecki Ranges and Bass Hills that flows into the Bass and Powlett rivers, Bourne Creek and other waterways.



These precious habitats are threatened by a combination of residential and tourism-related development and climate change, especially rising sea levels. Vegetation loss has a significant impact on land stability in the steeper areas of the Bass Coast Shire, which increases the effects of erosion and agricultural run-off and degrades internationally important wetlands downstream.

Restoring landscapes to their natural state through increasing vegetation cover, developing wildlife corridors, and reinstating natural water cycles will increase environmental resilience and ensure current and future generations can continue to enjoy the region's cherished environment.

Strategic Directions

The Bass Coast Statement of Planning Policy could include strategies to:

- Retain and increase native vegetation
- Identify, protect and enhance biolinks connecting high value ecological areas
- Reduce the impact of weeds and pests
- Set effective planning controls to manage urban development near high value ecological areas
- Introduce land management strategies to reduce urban and agricultural run-off into the natural environment
- Utilise knowledge and practices of traditional custodians to improve land management.

Tell us more

What other strategies could be considered to protect and enhance biodiversity and environmental values in the Bass Coast?

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 provide feedback through the online form.