

Summary of Consultation

Draft Marine and Coastal Policy



March 2020

VICTORIA
State
Government

We asked

Overview of consultation approach

- ✓ In July and August 2019 the Victorian Government asked the community and stakeholders to have their say on Victoria's draft Marine and Coastal Policy.
- ✓ The draft Policy was developed in consultation with Traditional Owners and stakeholders across marine and coastal sectors, and with the guidance of the Victorian Marine and Coastal Council. The draft marine spatial planning framework was developed collaboratively through a co-design process with marine stakeholders.
- ✓ The draft Policy was available for public comment for two months on the Engage Victoria website. Information sessions were held across Victoria for community members, practitioners and other interested stakeholders during this time.
- ✓ Over 200 submissions were received from key stakeholders from across marine and coastal sectors including individuals, community and interest groups, industry, peak bodies, non-government organisations, government agencies, local government and land managers. The final Marine and Coastal Policy (the Policy), released in 2020, was refined and informed by these submissions.

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Consultation statistics



Regional information sessions

- 7 community information sessions
- 7 practitioner information sessions



Engage Victoria website

- Over 6000 visits
- Over 200 submissions

Who we heard from



103 INDIVIDUALS



**33 COMMUNITY/
INTEREST GROUPS**



**17 GOVERNMENT
DEPARTMENTS/
AGENCIES**



**8 PEAK
BODIES**



**MARINE AND
COASTAL
POLICY**



**4 LAND
MANAGERS**



**12 INDUSTRY
GROUPS**



**18 LOCAL
GOVERNMENT
COUNCILS**



**7 NON-GOVERNMENT
ORGANISATIONS**





You said



We did

We support -

- The need to care for the marine and coastal environment.
- The 'Planning and Decision Pathway.'
- Acknowledging Traditional Owner rights, aspirations and knowledge.
- The need to address climate change.
- An integrated and co-ordinated approach to planning for the marine environment.



How this feedback was considered in the final Policy

- The Policy has retained the items that were supported and further strengthened items where relevant.



The Vision could be strengthened to reference the intrinsic value of the environment.



- The Policy has been amended with an expanded Vision that includes the words 'valued in its own right'.

Tell us clearly how this Policy integrates with other marine and coastal legislation and related documents



- The Policy now includes further information about how it sits within the broader legislative framework.

Traditional Owner values could be better integrated throughout the Policy.



- The Policy gives greater emphasis to Traditional Owners' values, rights and roles, throughout the document.

There is a gap in addressing potential marine-based impacts on Ramsar sites.



- The Policy has been amended to more clearly address potential marine-based impacts on Ramsar sites.

The Policy should expand the marine protected area estate.

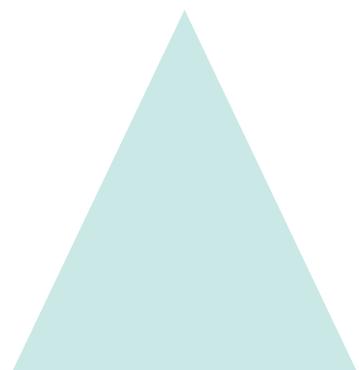


- The Policy has not been amended as changing the extent of marine protected areas is outside of the scope.

The Policy should better recognise sustainable industries (e.g. ports, fishing and boating) that require access to marine and coastal Crown land.



- The Policy has been amended to more clearly recognise the need for sustainable industries to be located on marine and coastal Crown land. Greater emphasis has been placed on strategic planning to support ongoing sustainable industry.





You said



We did

How this feedback was considered in the final Policy



The 2040 sea level rise planning benchmark was confusing and no longer relevant. It should be removed from the Policy.

- The 2040 sea level rise planning benchmark has been removed from the Policy. The 2100 benchmark has been retained (noting the gradual rate of sea level rise should be considered in planning and decision making).
- The Policy has been amended to include a new statement that recognises the importance of regionalised projections to better inform local planning decisions.

The Policy should strengthen adaptation planning through creating a hierarchy of adaptation actions.

- The Policy now includes a hierarchical assessment of appropriate adaptation actions.

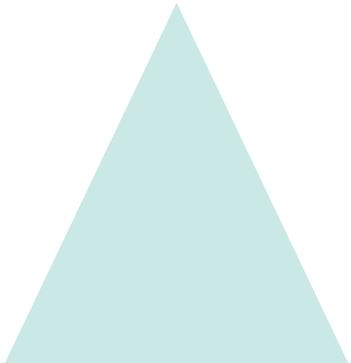
Policies of avoiding development in low-lying areas were overly restrictive on marine and coastal access infrastructure.



- The Policy clarifies that avoiding low-lying development refers to settlements, not ports or other marine access infrastructure. Many structures (e.g. boat ramps) have a functional need to be located in low-lying areas and would not be restricted by these policy statements.
- The Policy clarifies that well designed and safe access will be provided to marine and coastal Crown land.
- The Policy supports community based clubs that facilitate the broader community to access the marine and coastal environment.

The table in the draft Policy discussing types of buildings and structures functionally dependent on being in or near the water, is confusing. There is concern that structures such as bathing boxes and private jetties could be arbitrarily removed.

- The table in the Policy has been amended to clarify examples of what is functionally dependent on being in or near the water and what may be appropriate to support that use. Bathing boxes and boatsheds have been added as examples of structures that are functionally dependent.
- There are no plans to relocate or remove bathing boxes or private jetties.
- Any structures on the coast may need to be removed or relocated if their location or condition pose a risk to public safety or the environment.





You said



We did

How this feedback was considered in the final Policy

The Policy should specifically recognise and address the environmental impacts of industry, and industry dependence on, a healthy marine and coastal environment.



- The Policy has been amended with directions to minimise or avoid environmental harm from industry. It also acknowledges that industries rely on a healthy marine and coastal environment for their ongoing success.



The chapter titled "Funding" did not give clear direction on how implementation of the Policy would be funded.



- The chapter has been renamed to "Funding for sustainable management of marine and coastal Crown land" to better reflect its content.
- The chapter provides direction on the development of sustainable strategies to fund planning and management of marine and coastal Crown land.
- The chapter now clearly states that it does not outline funding commitments for the implementation of the Policy. The Marine and Coastal Strategy will support and give effect to Policy and detail priority actions. It will be accompanied by an implementation plan.

The initiation and implementation of marine spatial planning needs to be clear and simple.



- The Policy has been amended to clarify where and when marine spatial planning will be initiated and implemented, and to clarify that it will be guided by a state-wide approach.

The marine spatial planning framework is long, complex and needs to integrate better with the rest of the Policy.



- The Policy has been amended to include a shorter, simpler marine spatial planning framework which is more aligned with the rest of the Policy.
- Detailed instructions for undertaking marine spatial plans will be included in supporting guidelines to be released in 2020.

Accessibility

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