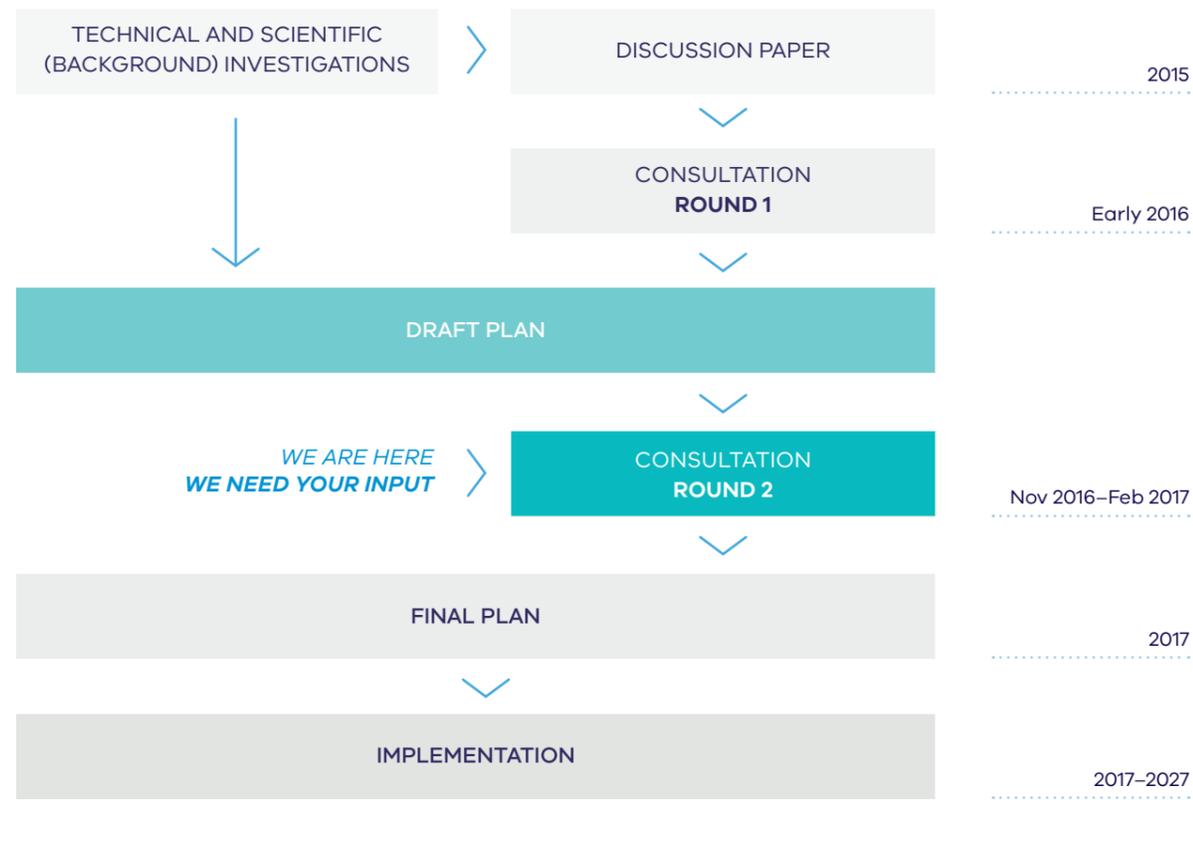


Draft Port Phillip Bay Environmental Management Plan 2017–2027

Seeking your input on the draft Plan

How the Plan is being developed



HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE DRAFT PLAN

We encourage you to read the draft Plan and comment on the proposed priority areas and actions. Share your ideas, suggest opportunities to build on the implementation of proposed actions, and tell us how you or your organisation would like to be involved. Public consultation on the draft Plan will be open until 10 February 2017.

To find out more and provide your feedback, please visit haveyoursay.delwp.vic.gov.au/healthofthebay
Follow us on Facebook or Twitter #healthofthebay

The draft Plan has been developed by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) in partnership with Melbourne Water and the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Victoria.

The Victorian Government is committed to conserve and enhance the health of the state's marine and coastal environments. The *Port Phillip Bay Environmental Management Plan 2017–2027* is an important step towards achieving this goal.

Port Phillip Bay is a unique natural asset, supporting a wide range of community uses, rich and diverse marine life, spectacular scenery, and providing significant benefits for local businesses and the Victorian economy.

This draft Plan builds on the good work that is already being done to maintain the health of the Bay. It aligns government, industry and community groups on actions that will address challenges resulting from population growth, urbanisation and climate change.

Understanding this Plan framework

This framework focuses action and investment on priority issues affecting Bay health. Priorities were identified through background investigations, and community and agency consultation.

Goals, priority areas and actions in this framework are based on:

- what the science has identified as key threats to the health of the Bay
- what stakeholders and the broader community want action on
- which issues need more attention or coordination
- which actions will have the most impact on protecting long-term Bay health.

Following public consultation on this draft Plan, the final Plan will include a more detailed list of sub-actions, with clearly identified lead organisations. Actions will be implemented over the next ten years, and where possible, will follow an adaptive management approach. Specific interventions and activities will be aligned to, and in some cases delivered by, broader state or regional plans and strategies (such as whole of catchment planning or integrated water cycle management).

VISION	A healthy Port Phillip Bay that is valued and cared for by all Victorians						
GOALS	Stewardship of the Bay is fostered across community, industry and government		Health and community enjoyment of the Bay is enhanced by best practice water quality management			The Bay's habitats and marine life are thriving	
PRIORITY AREAS	Connect and inspire	Empower action (work together)	Nutrients and pollutants	Litter	Pathogens (human health)	Habitat and marine life	Marine biosecurity
STRATEGIES	Improve appreciation and understanding of Bay values	Improve collaboration and partnerships across community, industry and government	Nutrient and sediment loads do not exceed current levels and pollutant loads are reduced where practicable	Reduce litter loads to the Bay	Minimise risks to human health from pathogens	Conserve and restore habitats and marine life	Manage risks from marine pests
							
PRIORITY ACTIONS	<p>1.1 Work with Aboriginal groups to improve understanding of Aboriginal cultural values and interests in the Bay and support connections to Country</p> <p>1.2 Develop and deliver programs to inspire greater appreciation of the Bay's values</p> <p>1.3 Build understanding of management responsibilities and programs for the Bay and its catchment</p>	<p>2.1 Build capacity and collaborations within community and industry networks</p> <p>2.2 Empower the broader community to get more actively involved in caring for the Bay</p> <p>2.3 Support stronger partnerships across community, industry and government to ensure aims and outcomes are aligned</p>	<p>3.1 Effectively maintain existing stormwater infrastructure and programs to mitigate loads to the Bay, or secure via equivalent means</p> <p>3.2 Prevent increases in nutrient loads from wastewater systems and where practicable reduce loads of other pollutants</p> <p>3.3 Ensure all urban and rural land use effectively controls impacts from stormwater and runoff, and that controls are in place to manage increases in loads</p>	<p>4.1 Establish baseline estimate of the volume of litter entering the Bay and its impact, including accumulation points</p> <p>4.2 Support capability and capacity building programs that target litter prevention, including reduction of microplastics</p> <p>4.3 Identify and prioritise litter hotspots around the Bay and undertake prevention and on-ground stormwater management actions to address sources</p>	<p>5.1 Improve understanding of links between pathogen concentrations and human health for swimming and consumption of shellfish</p> <p>5.2 Adopt a risk-based approach to mitigate sources of pathogens found in the Bay</p> <p>5.3 Improve monitoring and reporting to better detect and communicate human health risks from pathogens</p>	<p>6.1 Monitor Bay habitats at priority locations and improve habitat mapping tools</p> <p>6.2 Improve understanding of ecological processes, threats and pressures</p> <p>6.3 Improve overall extent and condition of the Bay's natural ecosystems</p>	<p>7.1 Prevent introduction and dispersal of marine pests</p> <p>7.2 Monitor priority locations for early detection of marine pest introductions</p> <p>7.3 Respond rapidly to new introductions of marine pests</p>

Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement