

# Victoria's Marine and Coastal Reforms

## Final Transition Plan



August 2018

## Acknowledgments

DELWP proudly acknowledges Victoria's Aboriginal communities and their rich culture and pays respects to their Elders past and present. DELWP recognises Aboriginal people as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the marine and coastal environment.

## Image credits

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# Executive Summary

Victoria has 2,512km of coastline and approximately 10,000 square kilometres of marine waters. We need to care for these areas to ensure they continue to support our coastal communities.

Providing a better future for Victoria's marine and coastal environment is a priority. The Victorian Government is committed to strengthening our management system to ensure this area is protected now and into the future.

The marine and coastal environment is under threat from the long-term challenges of climate change and population growth. Ageing coastal protection structures makes it difficult to protect coastal communities and support them to adapt.

In consultation with the community and experts, a package of Marine and Coastal reforms has been developed. This includes the *Marine and Coastal Act 2018*. The reforms support the transition to stronger marine and coastal management, and provide the tools to address the long-term challenges and meet evolving public expectations. The reforms will also help to address the findings of the Victorian Auditor-General's Office (VAGO) report, *Protecting Victoria's Coastal Assets*.

This *Marine and Coastal Reforms Transition Plan* outlines the policy and practical actions as well as other measures to implement the new approach. These include:

- improving the monitoring of erosion and coastal flooding
- establishing a coastal asset database and investing in assets at critical risk
- identifying the threats to Port Phillip Bay through a coastal hazard assessment
- preparing the first state of the marine and coastal environment report
- developing a marine spatial planning framework as a component of the statewide marine and coastal policy
- delivering targeted biodiversity actions in the marine environment
- boosting the successful Coastcare program
- strengthening how planning/building systems can manage climate change hazards and adaptation
- protecting priority beaches and dune systems
- revising the siting and design guidelines for structures on the coast
- supporting managers to address risks to public safety on coastal land
- simplifying management arrangements for coastal land in priority locations
- partnering with Traditional Owners to increase their involvement in coastal and marine management.







# **Victoria's marine and coastal reforms – Transition Plan**

Victoria's coastal and marine areas have significant environmental values. They are highly valued by communities and are central to the way we live, travel, holiday and work.

Victoria has some of the best managed coastline in Australia, enabled through the *Coastal Management Act 1995*. However, with ongoing challenges such as population growth, climate change and ageing infrastructure, we need to improve and enhance our management and oversight arrangements.

The Victorian Government is committed to addressing these challenges and has developed a package of reforms to do so, led by the *Marine and Coastal Act 2018*. This *Marine and Coastal Reforms Transition Plan* outlines the wider reform package. It sets out the functions required to achieve reform and the actions to address marine and coastal management challenges. Some actions will be enabled through the new *Marine and Coastal Act 2018* and others that don't require legislation change, have already started.

The Transition Plan builds on the extensive community consultation and expert input gained through the *Marine and Coastal Act Consultation Paper* released in August 2016, the progress of the Marine and Coastal Bill through parliament and feedback on the draft Transition Plan released in December 2017. It also includes actions to address needs identified through the Victorian Auditor-General's Office (VAGO) report, *Protecting Victoria's Coastal Assets*, released in March 2018.

Thousands of Victorians make significant contributions to protecting and improving the health and values of the marine and coastal environment. They include volunteers, Committees of Management, Coastcare groups, conservation management networks, friends' groups, boating and fishing user groups, industry groups, management agencies, and local and state governments.

The breadth of people and organisations means that a collaborative approach is vital. No single agency can deliver an integrated response across the various sectors and tiers of state and local government, across agencies, non-government organisations and community groups.

Informal and formal collaboration arrangements will be required across all key agencies in the new system, including the Marine and Coastal Council (MCC), Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR), Parks Victoria, Environment Protection Authority (EPA), coastal Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs), Melbourne Water (MW), local councils along the coast and Committees of Management.





## Why we need to strengthen marine and coastal management in Victoria

### To improve how we manage issues and impacts in the marine and coastal environment

The *Marine and Coastal Act Consultation Paper* outlined the most pressing issues affecting our coastal and marine environment. These are:

- **Climate change** – planning for, and responding to, sea level rise, more frequent and extreme storms, more severe erosion, increased land and water temperatures, altered rainfall and ocean acidification.
- **Population growth** – Victoria's population will increase to an estimated 10.1 million by 2051, mostly in fast-growing local government areas adjacent to valuable marine and coastal areas. Population increase will drive more recreational use and activities, and competing demand for marine sector resources.
- **Ageing coastal infrastructure assets** (e.g. seawalls) – Thousands of these assets need to be maintained, replaced or enhanced because of increased erosion and inundation, and the increasing number of people expecting access to beaches and marine waters. A key challenge will be to determine who should pay for this work.

### To build on the strengths of the current system

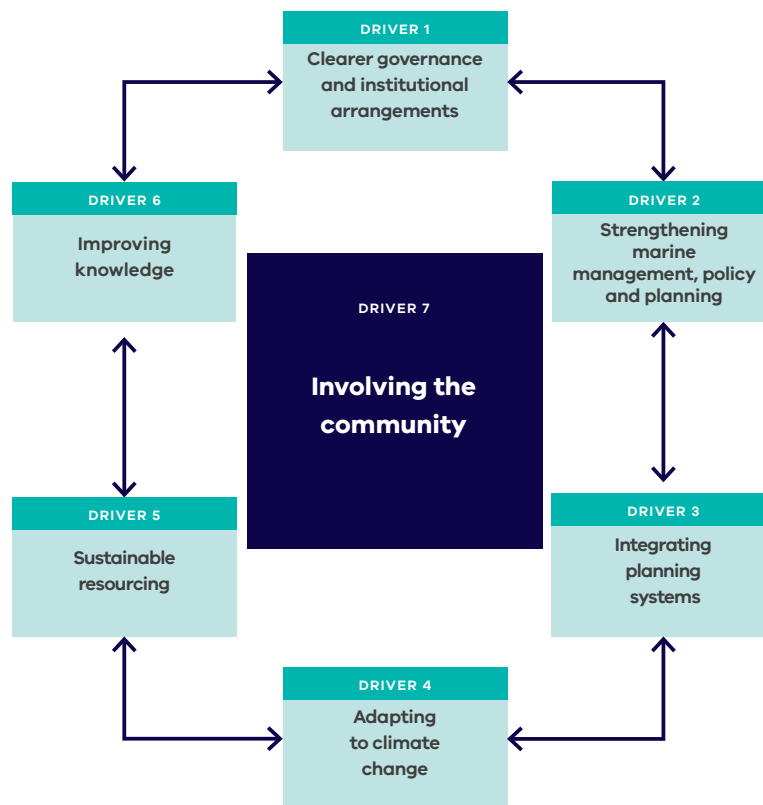
Any improvements must build on the current system's strengths including:

- 96% of the Victorian coast is in public ownership, which maintains equitable public access, supports important ecosystems and acts as a buffer to allow for the natural dynamics of the coast.
- A clear and stable policy and planning framework through the *Coastal Management Act 1995*, which has enabled the preparation of statewide and local scale policy and plans.
- Community support, involvement, connection and commitment to protecting coastal and marine areas.

### To tackle known gaps and weaknesses in the current system

The *Marine and Coastal Act Consultation Paper* outlined the gaps and weaknesses of the current system through seven key drivers for change. Submissions received in response to the consultation paper confirmed these seven drivers.





**Diagram 1: The seven drivers for change that identify ways the current system can be improved.**

In parallel with development of the Marine and Coastal reforms, VAGO conducted an audit to determine whether natural and built assets on Victoria's coastline are being protected against coastal erosion and inundation.

The VAGO *Protecting Victoria's Coastal Assets* report concluded that audited agencies (including DELWP) are undertaking good on-ground work locally to manage and protect coastal assets from current coastal inundation and erosion risks. However, the ability of agencies to do this strategically and cost

effectively is limited by weak asset management practices and other barriers.

The audit reinforced the drivers for change identified through the *Marine and Coastal Act Consultation Paper*. With the increasing challenges presented by climate change, coastal asset management practices need to improve. The barriers limiting our coastal managers' ability to do their job strategically and cost-effectively also need to be removed.

DELWP has accepted the five recommendations from the VAGO *Protecting Victoria's Coastal Assets* report that relate to the department's responsibilities. They are addressed in this Transition Plan. VAGO's other recommendations relate to other coastal managers, such as local government. These reforms seek to address these issues as well.

In summary, the recommendations relating to DELWP are:

1. Improve knowledge of coastal hazards.
2. Strengthen the oversight of all public coastal areas and managers.
3. Develop a sustainable funding model to guide effective resourcing of coastal management.
4. Address gaps in asset management practices and strategically target asset funding.
5. Assess risk from coastal hazards to coastal assets.

# An improved marine and coastal management system

## Our vision

A healthy marine and coastal environment, appreciated by all, now and in the future.

## Our aims

- Establish an integrated and coordinated 'whole of government' approach to protect and manage Victoria's marine and coastal environment.
- Provide integrated and coordinated policy, planning, management, decision making and reporting across catchment, coastal and marine areas.

## Our objectives

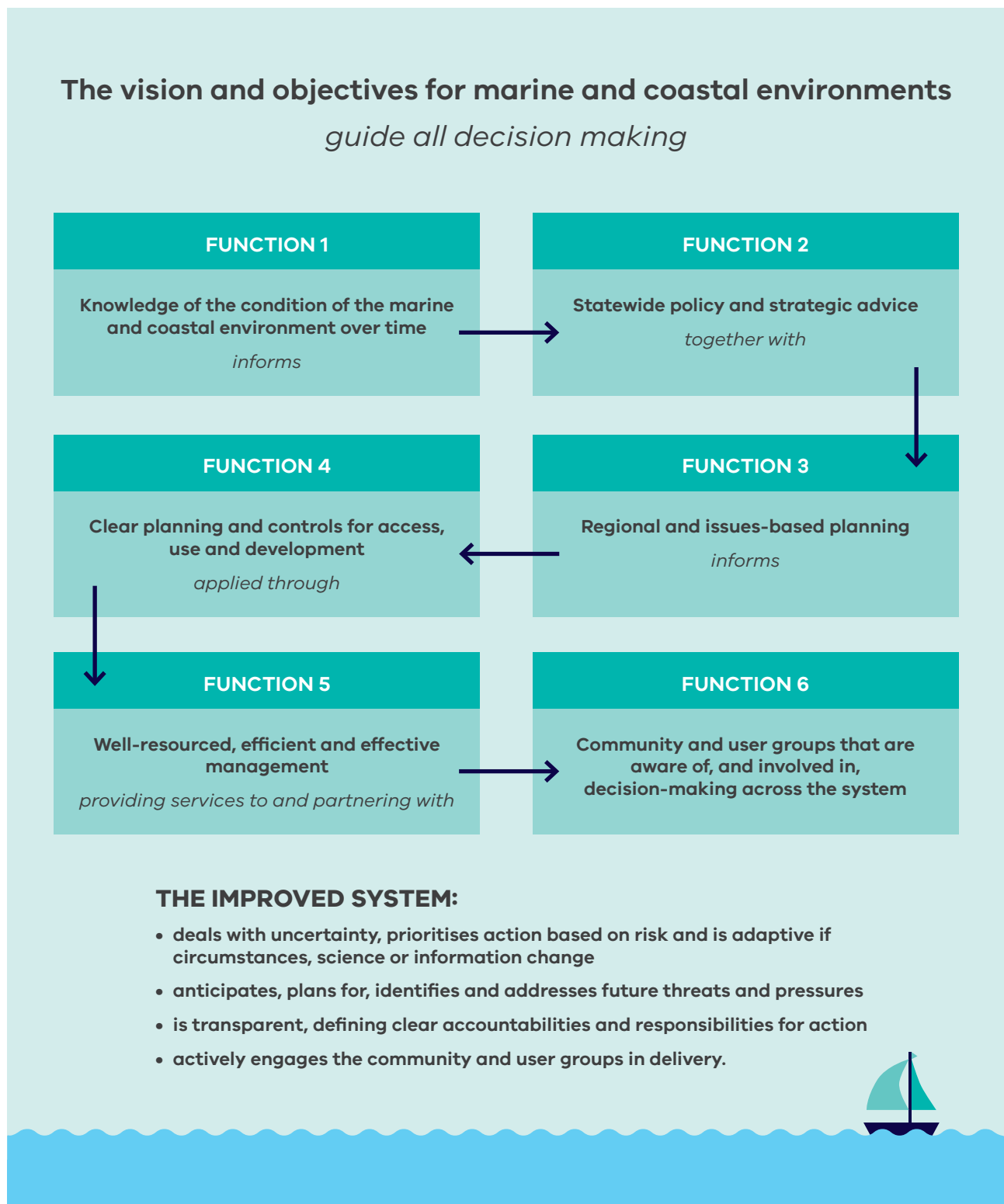
The objectives that guide all decision-making are to:

- Protect and enhance the marine and coastal environment.
- Promote the resilience of marine and coastal ecosystems, communities and assets to climate change.
- Respect natural processes in planning for and managing current and future risks to people and assets from coastal hazards and climate change.
- Acknowledge Traditional Owner groups' knowledge, rights and aspirations for land and sea country.
- Promote a diversity of experiences in the marine and coastal environment.
- Promote the ecological sustainable use and development of the marine and coastal environment and its resources in appropriate areas.
- Improve community, user group and industry stewardship and understanding of the marine and coastal environment.
- Engage with Aboriginal groups, the community, user groups and industry in coastal and marine planning, management and protection.
- Build scientific understanding of marine and coastal environments.



# Functions of an improved marine and coastal management system

Diagram 2: The functions of an improved marine and coastal management system.







# Function 1



# Knowledge of the condition of the marine and coastal environment over time

Our goal is to improve the extent of what we know about the condition of the marine and coastal environment, and use that knowledge to inform decision-making and evaluate the effectiveness of those decisions.

## Background

Access to long-term data and knowledge on the condition of the natural marine and coastal environment, including the biophysical and physical environment and built assets of public value, can improve the management of the marine and coastal system in a variety of ways. The benefits include:

- Helping identify change over time, the impacts of management actions and threats to the system.
- Improving our understanding of the changing condition of environmental assets to help us identify threats, initiate responses and monitor their effectiveness.
- Assisting public land managers fulfil a duty of care for public safety and respond to changing expectations.
- Building a story that allows more accurate prediction of emergencies. This knowledge can be used to plan more effective responses to these events and avoid development in high-risk areas.
- Giving more certainty to modelling of future climate change scenarios and setting realistic trigger points for action.
- Helping us understand whether our management actions are having the desired impact.
- Improving our ability to oversee and prioritise the management of coastal assets across the state.
- Informing the development of policy, strategy and plans for all aspects of the marine and coastal environment that guide decision makers.

Feedback on the *Marine and Coastal Act Consultation Paper* strongly supported the proposed reforms to improve knowledge of coastal and marine environments.

A first step is to clearly understand what information we have and how it can be more easily accessed and

coordinated. The actions outlined in this Transition Plan include collating the current information on marine habitats; consolidating data and information on coastal stability, erosion and inundation; identifying coastal protection assets within one system; and continuing the longitudinal study of community attitudes to marine and coastal environments. Once we have this information, we can more easily identify gaps in our knowledge and prioritise monitoring requirements. The plan also proposes actions to determine how managers and communities can best access this information.

The Victorian Environment Assessment Council will provide a comprehensive, robust and independently collated evidence base of marine values, a review of the number and types of coastal reserves and an inventory of values and uses of the reserves. This will collate our knowledge of marine and coastal values, making it more readily accessible to guide decisions in marine and coastal environments.

DELWP is also preparing guidance for coastal managers to support access to, and use of, the information in asset management. This includes a coastal infrastructure decision framework, visual condition assessment manual and a visitor experience framework.

The actions will build monitoring programs across Victoria's marine and coastal habitats, and establish a baseline from which to monitor their condition over time. This will allow us to measure the impacts that management, activities, uses and climate change are having. The results can be used to guide and support decision-making in coastal and marine planning and management.

The *Marine and Coastal Act 2018* requires a State of the Marine and Coastal Environment Report ( Action 1.13). This is a legislative requirement to report on the current and changing condition of the marine and coastal environments over time.

## Victorian Environment Assessment Council- Statewide Assessment of Public Land

In May 2017, the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council (VEAC) released its *Statewide Assessment of Public Land Final Report*. VEAC made 30 recommendations to the Victorian Government, grouped into the following key themes:

- public land classification
- reform of land legislation
- improving management effectiveness
- addressing the backlog of implementation of government-accepted public land use recommendations
- protecting the rights and interests of Traditional Owners and native title holders
- priorities for further assessment or review

- supporting community based committees of management
- public information.

Many of VEAC's recommendations will influence marine and coastal management in Victoria and complement the marine and coastal reform program. These recommendations include the proposal to review coastal reserves and the marine environment when habitat classifications are complete.

Other recommendations that will support marine and coastal management include developing new public land legislation, reducing the complexity and improving the consistency of leasing and licensing, and providing stronger support to community-based Committees of Management.



## What success looks like

- We understand the known values and condition of the marine and coastal environment.
- We can effectively identify knowledge and information gaps.
- We can effectively translate knowledge into decision-making.
- We have a comprehensive assessment of the known values of the marine environment, threats to those values, and the values and uses of coastal reserves.
- We use this understanding to inform development of marine and coastal policy, a marine spatial planning framework, and a marine and coastal strategy.
- There is a coordinated collection of coastal hazard information.
- We understand the condition of coastal assets across the state and prioritise management using a risk-based approach, informed by coastal hazard information and known values.
- We understand the current and changing condition of the marine and coastal environment, and use that understanding to inform policy, planning and management.
- We can clearly determine the impact and outcome of policy, planning and management on the condition of our marine and coastal environment.



## Actions

### 1.1 Assess the values of Victoria's marine environment

On 4 March 2018, the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change requested that the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council undertake an assessment of the values of Victoria's marine environment. This assessment will provide a comprehensive, robust and independently collated evidence base.

Who	When	Scope	Success measures
Lead Partner			
VEAC	By mid 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encompass all State coastal waters, bays and estuaries (including the Gippsland Lakes) and have due regard to the interaction of processes and values of the coastal zone.</li> <li>• Identify current environmental, economic, social and cultural values of Victoria's marine environment, including their spatial distribution where relevant.</li> <li>• Identify current and likely future threats to these values.</li> <li>• Provide independent advice on future patterns, trends and direction related to existing and emerging uses.</li> <li>• Determine a process to systematically classify data and an approach to describe social and economic values and uses of Victoria's marine waters.</li> <li>• Provide an inventory of available knowledge and data on existing values, uses and threats and advise on any significant gaps.</li> </ul>	<p>We have a comprehensive, robust and independent assessment of the values of Victoria's marine environment.</p> <p>The assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• informs the development of a statewide marine and coastal policy and strategy</li> <li>• helps identify gaps in marine policy that should be filled through the statewide marine and coastal policy</li> <li>• supports the development of the Marine Spatial Planning Framework (Action 2.2).</li> </ul>



## 1.2 Assess Victoria's coastal reserves

The Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change requested that the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council undertake an assessment of Victoria's coastal reserves, including compiling an inventory and spatial distribution of the values and uses of the coastal reserves.

Who	When	Scope	Success Measures
Lead partners			
VEAC	By late 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review the number and types (reservation status) of coastal reserves in Victoria.</li> <li>Identify reserves with high environmental, cultural heritage, social and economic values and identify values at risk from the impacts of climate change.</li> <li>Identify current and emerging uses of the coastal reserves.</li> <li>Compile an inventory, including spatial distribution, of values and uses of the coastal reserves.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We have a comprehensive, robust and independent assessment of Victoria's coastal reserves. The assessment:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– informs the development of a statewide marine and coastal strategy</li> <li>– assists future planning and decision making for the Victorian coast.</li> </ul> </li> <li>The community is engaged in the project</li> </ul>

## 1.3 Develop and implement a marine and coastal biodiversity information program

DELWP will develop and implement a marine and coastal biodiversity information program to consolidate and secure marine and coastal information.

Who	When	Scope	Success measures
Lead partners			
DELWP	2018-22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and implement a marine and coastal data management system, including coastal risk assessment, spatial inventories and marine habitat mapping.</li> <li>Align the data management system with DELWP's Nature Kit (online portal).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relevant marine and coastal environment data is consolidated.</li> <li>A coastal data management system ('Coastkit') and decision support tools are publicly accessible via an internet portal.</li> <li>Results from this project are fed into the State of the Marine and Coastal Environment Report (Action 1.13)</li> </ul>

#### 1.4 Develop and implement a Victorian Coastal Monitoring Program and establish a database for coastal hazard information

DELWP will continue to develop and implement the Victorian Coastal Monitoring Program and a database for the coastal hazards for flooding and erosion information that links to the Victorian Flood Database.

Who	When	Scope	Success Measures
Lead partners			
DELWP Academic institutions	By mid-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consolidate data and information on coastal erosion and inundation to inform a statewide (2nd Pass scale) hazard assessment.</li> <li>Prioritise coastal areas for future focus and identify critical monitoring needs.</li> <li>Monitor, understand and forecast changes in the condition of public assets (natural and built) of the coastal zone in relation to natural forces on those assets and their relative exposure and sensitivity to hazards (erosion, inundation, wave climate).</li> <li>Provide communities with data and information that underpins decision support tools.</li> <li>Inform risk assessment and facilitate planning, investment and adaptation decisions.</li> <li>Develop indicators for reporting on condition.</li> <li>Measure success in meeting objectives.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A statewide coastal hazard assessment (2nd Pass scale) is completed and made publicly accessible.</li> <li>Monitoring projects are established with institutional and citizen science partners.</li> <li>A coastal data management system ('Coastkit') and decision support tools are publicly accessible via an internet portal.</li> <li>Communication materials are developed and made accessible.</li> <li>Results from this project are fed into the State of the Marine and Coastal Environment Report. (Action 1.13).</li> </ul>





### 1.5 Develop and implement a coastal asset database

DELWP will develop and implement a coastal protection asset database on the number, type and condition of coastal protection structures on coastal public land and waters. This will enable a greater ability to prioritise maintenance and protection works on the most valuable assets in areas of most need and determine those assets that no longer serve a useful purpose.

Who	When	Scope	Success Measures
Lead partners			
DELWP	2018 -19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a statewide protection coastal asset database framework.</li> <li>Use the same platform as is used for other DELWP assets (roads and bridges).</li> <li>Ensure the database is compatible with local government assets databases.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A coastal asset database supports identification, assessment, and prioritisation of works to maintain and protect Victoria's beaches.</li> <li>Results from this project are fed into the State of the Marine and Coastal Environment Report (Action 1.9).</li> </ul>

### 1.6 Develop coastal protection structures visual condition assessment manual

DELWP will develop a visual condition assessment manual to allow land managers and DELWP officers to assess and monitor the condition of coastal protection structures.

Who	When	Scope	Success measures
Lead partners			
DELWP	By late 2018	<p>The manual will guide the visual assessment of protection structures to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>assess the overall condition of the structure and any necessary additional features</li> <li>enable land managers and DELWP officers to assess asset condition based on obvious visual defects</li> <li>identify general maintenance/ remediation requirements or need for engineer assessment to inform works program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The document is trialled in the Barwon South West Region (BSW).</li> <li>Workshops are run with land managers in BSW Region.</li> </ul> <p>Results of the visual assessments used to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>prioritise maintenance works</li> <li>track asset condition over time for long-term works planning</li> <li>inform funding bids</li> <li>increase stakeholder risk awareness.</li> </ul>

### 1.7 Develop improved climate change impact projections for the Victorian coast

DELWP will develop improved climate change projections for the Victorian coast to better understand localised impacts and develop appropriate local responses.

Who	When	Scope	Success Measures
Lead partners			
DELWP	2018 -19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop improved high-resolution projections for the whole of the Victorian coastline, particularly on priority issues (e.g. wave height and direction, sea level rise, ocean currents, temperature, salinity and other factors) affected by climate change.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government and community better understand localised impacts through provision of updated sea level rise and wave climate projections.</li> <li>Results from this project are fed into the State of the Marine and Coastal Environment Report (Action 1.13).</li> </ul>

### 1.8 Develop a marine knowledge framework

MCC and DELWP will develop a marine knowledge framework to facilitate a more integrated approach to research efforts and undertake more frequent and extensive monitoring of marine habitats by embracing new technology.

Who	When	Scope	Success measures
Lead partners			
MCC DELWP	2018-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a risk- and evidence-based framework to guide the provision of science and knowledge to inform decision-making on the marine and coastal environment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An end-to-end policy-management-science framework guides evidence-based decision-making.</li> <li>Results from this project are fed into the State of the Marine and Coastal Environment Report (Action 1.13).</li> </ul>

## 1.9 Scope the development of a marine and coastal hub or centre

DELWP will scope the development of a hub that connects people in the marine and coastal management sector so that science, research and technical expertise and education underpin excellence in decision-making in the marine and coastal environment.

Who	When	Scope	Success measures
Lead partners			
DELWP	2018-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determine the scope of a hub that provides a point of connectivity, and facilitates strategic decision-making by providing access to information, science and expertise in the Victorian marine and coastal space.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A hub model is scoped that meets the needs of Victorian coastal and marine decision-makers and managers.</li> <li>A pilot project is planned for future testing.</li> <li>Coastal and marine decision-makers have ready access to leading edge science, research and technical expertise.</li> </ul>

## 1.10 Develop a Sustainable Coastal Visitation Framework

Building on the work of the former Regional Coastal Boards, DELWP will continue to develop a Sustainable Coastal Visitation Framework on the coast. The framework will consider the experiences of all types of visitor, from the local users through to holiday makers.

Who	When	Scope	Success measures
Lead partners			
DELWP	2018-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capture and understand the current recreation opportunities in coastal and marine areas across the state.</li> <li>Provide the best information available and a planning tool for land managers to address visitor experiences and help meet future challenges.</li> <li>Help identify priorities for investment and/or improved management of visitor experiences.</li> <li>Map and categorise visitation infrastructure and develop a service-level hierarchy.</li> <li>Map information on visitor/tourism use of the coast at a landscape scale.</li> <li>Identify prioritised visitor experience areas, considering opportunity/demand and other key factors.</li> <li>Develop strategic principles for visitor/tourism use of the coast.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Priorities for investment in coastal facilities/management are identified.</li> <li>Coastal values are protected and future visitor and tourism needs met.</li> <li>A 'levels of service' approach is used with complex issues.</li> <li>The data is useful and easy to access.</li> </ul>



### 1.11 Undertake next wave of the longitudinal social research of community attitudes to the Victorian marine and coastal environment

DELWP and partners will engage the community in the coastal and marine management process and document community views and opinions on a range of issues and topics related to the marine and coastal environment.

Who	When	Scope	Success measures
Lead partners			
DELWP MCC PV OCES	2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute to the longitudinal dataset of more than 20 years established through previous research waves.</li> <li>Establish what the community values about Victorian marine and coastal environment.</li> <li>Understand and measure usage and behaviours in relation to the marine and coastal environments.</li> <li>Identify what the community regards as the 'hot' issues affecting the Victorian marine and coastal environment and their relative importance.</li> <li>Explore the perceptions, expectations and future priorities for marine and coastal planning and management in Victoria.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The survey assists in the formulation of policies and strategies for the long-term management of the Victorian marine and coastal environment.</li> <li>We can track how community attitudes have changed over time.</li> <li>The survey is compatible and comparable with previous surveys to ensure the integrity of the longitudinal aspects of the data and to allow valid comparisons to track changes in attitudes and behaviour over time.</li> <li>The survey provides the basis to use up-to-date technology and methods more effectively for future surveys.</li> </ul>



### 1.12 Develop a coastal infrastructure decision-making framework

DELWP will develop a coastal infrastructure decision-making framework to transparently and logically allocate funds and resources for the maintenance of ageing coastal infrastructure.

Who	When	Scope	Success measures
Lead partners			
DELWP	2018-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a decision support tool that ranks projects in priority order (determined by evaluating project benefits against costs).</li> <li>Develop a structured process to address other important factors that are not factored into the decision support tool (such as legislation, policy and strategy alignment, political considerations and public equity)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public resources are effectively allocated to improve asset utility and benefit.</li> <li>Decisions are aligned with risk management standards and expectations</li> <li>Decision support tool is used to justify where and how funding and resources are invested.</li> </ul>

### 1.13 Prepare a State of the Marine and Coastal Environment Report

The Office of the Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability, in partnership with DELWP and other data custodians, will prepare a State of the Marine and Coastal Environment Report that will establish a baseline of environmental condition and enable monitoring of change over time. The report will inform the Marine and Coastal Policy, Marine and Coastal Strategy and the Marine Knowledge Framework (actions 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3).

Who	When	Scope	Success measures
Lead partners			
OCES DELWP EPA	2021-22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report on the condition, extent and benefits of natural marine and coastal values, consistent with the Commissioner's Environmental Reporting framework.</li> <li>Report on the threats affecting marine and coastal values.</li> <li>Establish trends where possible.</li> <li>Build on the State of the Bays and the Victorian Coastal Monitoring program database management system and digital reporting.</li> <li>Build on catchment condition reporting by the Victorian Catchment Management Council.</li> <li>Identify actions to improve marine and coastal monitoring.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clear and repeatable indicators of a healthy marine and coastal environment are outlined.</li> <li>The impact that management is having on the marine and coastal environment is measured.</li> <li>The report provides a clear understanding of the current and changing condition of the marine and coastal environment.</li> <li>The report informs improved monitoring and research programs and management settings.</li> </ul>





## Function 2



# Statewide policy and strategic advice

Our goal is to set clear and well-informed statewide policy and strategy to guide decisions and deliver on-ground actions.

## Background

Clear policy and strategy at a statewide level is critical if we are to improve marine and coastal management. The Victorian Coastal Strategy was a strength of the *Coastal Management Act 1995*. The reforms will build on this strength by emphasising the marine environment and separating policy and strategy into separate documents. This separation will make the strategy more targeted in outlining how and when specific challenges will be addressed.

*The Marine and Coastal Policy* will deal with issues of relevance across the marine and coastal environment and guide decision-makers in implementing the objectives of new marine and coastal system. It will not replace or duplicate policy setting for the management of specific sectors. It will focus on the cross-cutting policy issues to better articulate what all sectors need to consider in decision-making. The policy must balance environmental, social/cultural and economic issues and needs.

The policy will include development of a State Marine Spatial Planning Framework. As a public resource, the marine environment and the uses associated with it are managed across government on behalf of all Victorians. There is a need to prepare for, and

balance, increased use of the marine environment to ensure existing and future uses are provided for, and that the health of the marine environment and the benefits it provides are maintained.

Development of the Marine Spatial Planning Framework will commence with discussion between marine sectors and resource users, government agencies and the community about Victoria's long-term marine planning requirements. This project will deliver a clear and agreed process to plan for Victoria's marine environment in an integrated, coordinated, sustainable and equitable way.

*The Marine and Coastal Strategy* will outline the actions to achieve policy positions outlined in the Marine and Coastal Policy and the *Marine and Coastal Act 2018*. It will have a much greater focus on issues that cut across sectorial boundaries. Importantly, it will be released with an accompanying implementation plan. The implementation plan will clearly outline how actions are to be prioritised, resourced and implemented.



## What success looks like

- The Marine and Coastal Policy clearly articulates existing policy positions and fills policy gaps.
- Decision-makers are certain of policy positions.
- There is clear direction, guidance, coordination and integration of activities, uses and developments in the marine and coastal environment.
- The intrinsic values of the marine and coastal environment, and ecosystem services of social, cultural and economic importance for all Victorians, are acknowledged.
- Government agencies that manage marine sector activities are fully engaged in the development and implementation of the policies and strategies that deal with cross-cutting issues.
- The Marine and Coastal Strategy clearly outlines how actions to achieve policy positions are prioritised, resourced and implemented.



## Actions

### 2.1 Prepare a statewide policy for the marine and coastal environment

DELWP will prepare a statewide policy for the marine and coastal environment for approval by the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, and endorsement by relevant Ministers. Preparation of the policy will be guided by the Marine and Coastal Council in consultation with relevant departments and agencies. The policy will be co-endorsed by Ministers with portfolios relevant to the marine and coastal environment.

Who	When	Scope	Success measures
DELWP with guidance from the MCC	Due 31 December 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clearly articulate statewide policy positions and frameworks.</li> <li>Provide guidance to decision-makers to meet the objectives of marine and coastal planning and management under the <i>Marine and Coastal Act 2018</i>.</li> <li>Focus on cross-cutting policy issues to provide for integrated management of the marine and coastal environment.</li> <li>Include policy and guidance for adapting to climate change consistent with the Climate Change Act.</li> <li>Articulate coastal asset management roles and responsibilities of agencies and land managers, including accountabilities and performance measures.</li> <li>Be a long-term policy position for the marine and coastal environment that can only be amended through community consultation and parliamentary processes.</li> <li>Not replace or duplicate policy setting for the management of specific sectors.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The statewide policy is used to guide consistent decision-making.</li> <li>The policy is endorsed by relevant agencies and implemented across the whole of government.</li> </ul>

## 2.2 Develop a Marine Spatial Planning Framework (as a component of the statewide policy)

DELWP will lead development of a marine spatial planning framework to deliver a clear and agreed process to plan for Victoria's marine environment in an integrated, coordinated, sustainable and equitable way.

Who	When	Scope	Success measures
DELWP	Mid-2018 (commencement of <i>Marine and Coastal Act 2018</i> ) to late 2019.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The framework will investigate and advise on the long-term priorities, timeframes and approach for marine spatial planning in Victoria, and</li> <li>Provide a process to establish and implement integrated and coordinated planning of the marine environment, including how to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– plan for and zone the marine environment</li> <li>– determine if, where and when marine spatial plans or other planning tools are required, and outline the format and process to develop them</li> <li>– address competing use and resource challenges and conflicts through an ecosystem based approach</li> <li>– enable co-existence of compatible activities where possible</li> <li>– integrate with land planning and promote cooperation across jurisdictional boundaries.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Framework is developed and endorsed for implementation by government.</li> <li>Marine sectors, resource users, and government agencies actively participated in development of the Framework.</li> <li>Framework is supported by marine sectors and is responsive to their various issues and needs.</li> <li>Clarity or certainty for marine resource use is increased.</li> <li>Integration across jurisdictional boundaries is improved.</li> </ul>



## 2.3 Prepare statewide strategy for marine and coastal environment

DELWP will prepare a statewide strategy for the marine and coastal environment accompanied by an implementation plan for approval by the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, and endorsement by relevant Ministers. Preparation of the strategy will be guided by the Marine and Coastal Council, in consultation with relevant portfolio Ministers. The strategy will be co-endorsed by Ministers of applicable Acts relevant to the marine and coastal environment.

Who	When	Scope	Success Measures
DELWP with guidance from the MCC	Late 2019 to late 2020.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outline actions to achieve the objectives of the <i>Marine and Coastal Act 2018</i>, and the Marine and Coastal Policy.</li> <li>Outline how and when specific challenges, issue and threats will be addressed.</li> <li>Focus on marine and coastal issues that cut across sectorial boundaries.</li> <li>Be accompanied by an implementation plan and evaluation plan.</li> <li>Be an adaptation action plan of the coastal and marine sectors under the <i>Climate Change Act 2017</i>.</li> <li>The strategy will be updated every five years.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategy and implementation plan are endorsed by Government.</li> <li>Achievable and resourced actions deliver on the objectives of the Marine and Coastal Act.</li> <li>Relevant departments and land managers are committed to delivering actions in accordance with the implementation plan.</li> </ul>

## 2.4 Transition to the new advisory structure under the *Marine and Coastal Act 2018*

DELWP will facilitate the process of transition to the new statewide advisory Marine and Coastal Council (MCC), including the set-up of administrative and governance arrangements for the MCC, and establishing clear expectations and a productive working partnership for MCC and DELWP.

Who	When	Scope	Success Measures
DELWP	2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set up MCC administrative office and operations, including recruitment of staff.</li> <li>Induct all MCC members in good governance practices consistent with their responsibilities.</li> <li>Outline roles and responsibilities of DELWP and the MCC under the Act and agreed on expectations and working partnership for MCC and DELWP.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MCC office set up and operating.</li> <li>Induction of MCC members complete.</li> <li>Agreed understanding by MCC members and DELWP key staff on the role of MCC and DELWP in coastal management.</li> <li>Productive working relationship for MCC and DELWP that fosters a cooperative and innovative culture that delivers outcomes for the marine and coastal environment.</li> </ul>





# Function 3



## Regional and issues-based planning

Our goal is to deliver strong, integrated regional and issues-based planning.

### Background

Integrated coastal zone management is a core principle of the *Marine and Coastal Act 2018*. This principle aims to integrate the water cycle and ecosystem processes from ocean to land to atmosphere.

Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs) are the key regional organisations charged with integration of natural resources management in Victoria (*CALP Act 1994*). The five coastal CMAs already have some responsibilities to plan for natural resource management along the coast, in estuaries and in the marine environment out to three nautical miles. As outlined in the *Marine and Coastal Act Consultation Paper*, a major reform in the improved marine and coastal management system is to strengthen that role.

The five CMAs will be enhanced (in terms of both skills and expertise) to deliver strong leadership in integrating natural resource management across catchment, coasts and marine environments. The scope of their Regional Catchment Strategies will be expanded. DELWP will support the CMAs with guidance on approaches to strengthen consideration of threats to the marine and coastal environment by working closely with the Victorian Catchment Management Council.

These actions will complement, and be complemented by, other areas of reform.

### **‘Our Catchments, Our Communities’**

‘Our Catchments, Our Communities’, the statewide strategy for integrated catchment management, highlights the need to strengthen the diversity and equity of community representation in the catchment and land protection advisory system. It proposes that appointment processes consider geographic representation, knowledge of the marine and coastal environment, and climate change to better

reflect emerging issues. It also outlines the need to amend the Statements of Obligations for Catchment Management Authorities to clarify obligations and performance standards in relation to their functions under the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 and the Water Act 1989, and articulate new state government policy directions.

### Victoria's Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2017-2020:

- builds a detailed understanding of Victoria's exposure to climate change risks and impacts
- catalyses partnerships for integrated and effective responses to climate change
- tackles immediate priorities to reduce climate change risks.

Priority actions in the plan contribute directly to improved marine and coastal outcomes to help the community understand and manage the risks and impacts of climate change.

These include:

- Guidance and information as our understanding of potential climate change impacts becomes more sophisticated.

- Climate change vulnerability assessments to build the knowledge base and analyse sectoral and regional vulnerability. The first phase of these assessments will address fire and riverine flood. The second phase will address other issues such as sea level rise and storm surge. The sectors being assessed for vulnerability include tourism and the natural environment. It is this information and guidance that communities and decision-makers rely on to manage their adaptation risks.
- Working with local government to create a community of practice for adaptation. Local governments are primary partners in supporting the community to adapt, and the Government is committed to revitalising a strong and productive partnership with local government on climate change.

In many circumstances, cross-jurisdictional cooperation is the preferred mechanism to tackle challenges arising from erosion, flooding, rising sea levels, frequent floods and coastal storms, and population growth. *The Marine and Coastal Act 2018* enables Regional and Strategic Partnerships as a mechanism specifically designed to deal with cross jurisdictional issues. This Transition Plan proposes that DELWP work with the new Marine and Coastal Council to identify criteria for a Regional and Strategic Partnership and plan, with potential partners, a suitable pilot/s.

While the Act provides the ability to establish new legislated partnerships, there are already many partnerships along Victoria's coast established to tackle common problems. For example, regional partnerships have been established to support strong coordinated adaptation to climate change. This regional partnership approach is consistent with Victoria's *Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2017-2020*. Climate change vulnerability assessments are being completed for sectors, and communities of practice on adaptation are being developed across local governments.

One such shared problem is the need to better plan, manage and prepare for present and future coastal hazards in Port Phillip Bay. A partnership between state and local government agencies is funding a coastal hazard assessment to better understand coastal processes and potential coastal hazards in Port Phillip Bay. Similarly, six partners across the Barwon South West have harnessed their combined resources to scope a similar coastal hazard assessment for that region.

A partnership approach has been established to implement actions to improve the health of Port Phillip Bay through the *Port Phillip Bay Environmental Management Plan 2017-2027*. To strengthen and give greater statutory backing to this approach, the *Marine and Coastal Act 2018* requires an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) specifically for Port Phillip Bay and an ability to prepare EMPs for other priority areas.



## What success looks like

- CMAs play a lead role in integrating natural resource planning and management across catchments, coasts and marine environments.
- CMAs prepare Regional Catchment Strategies with strong marine and coastal components, that integrate the planning of land, water and biodiversity and focus on impacts from catchment and coastal areas on the marine environment.
- Decision-makers and coastal and marine managers have an improved understanding of vulnerabilities of the marine and coastal environment to climate change.
- Local governments across the coast share knowledge through communities of practice.
- There is improved understanding of coastal processes and potential coastal hazards. Local, State Government and management agencies can plan, manage and prepare for impacts of coastal hazards now and in the future.
- Environmental Management Plans are prepared for Port Phillip Bay and other priority locations deliver management targets for the range of threats affecting the health of the Bay and other areas of the marine environment.
- Regional and Strategic Partnerships provide strong cooperative delivery of outcomes for the management of issues that cross jurisdictional boundaries.





## Actions

### 3.1 Strengthen coverage of marine and coastal issues in Regional Catchment Strategies

In partnership with the Victorian Catchment Management Council, DELWP will support the coastal Catchment Management Authorities to strengthen the coverage of coastal and marine issues in the development of the next Regional Catchment Strategies, including catchment-based impacts on the marine environment.

Who	When	Scope	Success Measures
VCMC DELWP CMAs	Post 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen the coverage of coastal and marine issues in the development of the next Regional Catchment Strategies due in 2019-20.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guidelines contain directions to coastal CMAs on how to strengthen the coverage of coastal and marine issues.</li> <li>They include engagement with relevant coastal and marine managers and networks.</li> </ul>

### 3.2 Complete a Coastal Hazard Assessment and subsequent adaptation planning for Port Phillip Bay

DELWP will lead a partnership to develop a coastal hazard assessment for Port Phillip Bay. This assessment will deliver a better understanding of the coastal processes and potential coastal hazards. This will be an important step in planning, managing, preparing for and adapting to present and future coastal hazards.

Who	When	Scope	Success Measures
DELWP ABM MW Local Governments	2018-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare a coastal hazard assessment, primarily focused on inundation and erosion hazards.</li> <li>Improve the understanding of coastal processes in the bay and potential coastal hazards.</li> <li>Closely align the assessment with monitoring studies being done through the Victorian Coastal Monitoring Program and programs of other partners.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A coastal hazard assessment for Port Phillip Bay is delivered.</li> <li>Regularly updated monitoring data is collected and used to update the assessment.</li> <li>The coastal hazard assessment is used to inform hazard management and future planning around the bay.</li> </ul>



### 3.3 Pilot a Regional and Strategic Partnership (RASP)

DELWP and the Marine and Coastal Council (MCC) (in consultation with key stakeholders) will identify criteria for a pilot RASP. DELWP, MCC and relevant partners will identify a suitable pilot/s in the central region that has multiple participants and a clearly identifiable cross jurisdictional issue.

Who	When	Scope	Success Measures
DELWP (relevant partners)  MCC	2018-22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify criteria for a suitable pilot RASP, including, for example:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>multiple stakeholders (all levels of government, marine and coastal managers, community and diverse parties, e.g. Parks Victoria, community groups, local government, NGOs and industry.</li> <li>sustainable funding</li> <li>a clearly identifiable issue</li> <li>Focus on areas or sites of significance.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Identify a suitable pilot RASP.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Regional and Strategic Partnership is identified, established and trialled.</li> </ul>

### 3.4 Implement the Port Phillip Bay Environmental Management Plan 2017–2027

DELWP and partners will continue to implement the Port Phillip Bay Environmental Management Plan over the next 10 years. The 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.

Who	When	Scope	Success Measures
DELWP  EPA  MW  PPWPCMA	To 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinate implementation of the actions identified in the management plan to manage future challenges in maintaining the health of the bay.</li> <li>Implement an adaptive management approach.</li> <li>Align interventions and activities with whole of catchment planning and integrated water cycle management.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stewardship of Port Phillip Bay is improved (more people are involved in caring for the bay).</li> <li>Water quality is improved</li> <li>Marine biodiversity is improved.</li> </ul>



# Function 4

# Clear planning and controls for access, use and development

Our goal is to deliver clear planning and controls about access, use and development in the marine and coastal environment.

## Background

The coast is naturally dynamic; it is constantly changing and evolving in response to waves, tides and wind. When these coastal processes affect things we value, we call them coastal hazards. Climate change impacts, such as increased sea level rise and more frequent storms, may not produce new coastal hazards but will increase the severity and occurrence of the existing hazards.

When planning for access, use and development, the natural dynamics and potential climate change impacts must be considered. The knowledge that is gained through actions outlined in Function 1, and policy and strategy developed through Function 2, will inform and guide how these issues will be considered in decision-making, planning and management.

Each level of government and the community will need to undertake some form of risk assessment, resilience building and adaptation to future climate change impacts. Adaptation planning gives people a degree of certainty as to what to expect in the future and a greater ability to cope with change.

Planning benchmarks for sea level rise need to be reviewed to provide more resilience in the planning system. Benchmarks or triggers for action can be regularly updated as science and knowledge of what is happening and what is expected to happen improves. A review of the current sea level rise planning benchmarks and the guidelines for how structures are best sited and designed will occur alongside a review of how climate change and adaptation policy can be strengthened through the planning and building systems.

Site-specific planning controls (such as a planning permit or a former Coastal Management Act consent) on coastal public land are important because they give the land owner (the relevant Minister on behalf of the Crown) and coastal

manager the opportunity to assess proposals against coastal policy and strategy, and ensure public values are protected. The *Marine and Coastal Act 2018* maintains the requirement for the Minister to consent to use and development on coastal Crown land. It will also enable the development of regulations to streamline processes, specify exemptions and ensure commensurate controls.

Coastal flooding and erosion<sup>1</sup> are significant coastal hazards affecting Victoria's coast. These are not discrete processes. Coastal flooding may cause erosion and erosion may lead to flooding. There is currently a lack of expertise to provide advice on matters relating to coastal erosion.

CMAs and Melbourne Water have responsibility for integrated river and flood management under the *Water Act 1989*, including coastal flooding. The *Marine and Coastal Act 2018* enables coastal CMAs and Melbourne Water to provide advice on matters relating to coastal erosion. This will complement their role in providing advice on coastal flooding.

There is a knowledge gap in Victoria in relation to coastal erosion advice. Coastal CMAs and Melbourne Water will need to build skills and resources to undertake the role. DELWP will also need to build skills and capacity to support this role through statewide data sets, standards and guidelines.

The *Marine and Coastal Act 2018* provides a clear mandate for these organisations to take on this new obligation. The Act includes a mechanism to match the scope of this advice with available resources, capacity and data. The Transition Plan includes an action for coastal CMAs, Melbourne Water and DELWP to work together to further scope this role. Actions will also establish and maintain statewide objectives, standards, databases and guidance to build capacity and understanding of coastal erosion in all organisations.

<sup>1</sup> Coastal flooding and erosion covers beach erosion, shoreline recession, coastal lake or watercourse entrance instability, coastal inundation, tidal inundation, coastal cliff or slope instability and erosion and inundation of foreshores caused by tidal water and waves including the interaction of those waters with catchment flood waters.





## What success looks like

- Sea level rise benchmarks/ triggers for planning are set and updated through the Marine and Coastal Policy and Marine and Coastal Strategy.
- The design of new buildings and infrastructure integrates with the coastal landscapes and settings while avoiding environmental impacts.
- Marine and coastal Crown land is not used for structures unless they provide significant community benefit and their functionality depends on being near the water.
- Planning and decision-making systems for how we use and develop the marine and coastal environment are appropriate for the location, and respond and adapt to future challenges and opportunities.
- The planning and decision-making processes for the marine and coastal environment are transparent and give the community the opportunity to input to planning decisions.
- Technical expert advice on coastal flooding and erosion is provided to the Minister, local governments and the community.
- There is clear guidance and regulation for the use and development of the marine and coastal environment.





## Actions

### 4.1 Revise sea level rise planning benchmarks/triggers

DELWP will revise the sea level rise planning benchmark considering the latest science and climate change projections and will develop an approach for action for beyond 2100.

Who	When	Scope	Success measures
DELWP	2018-20  Parallel with development of the Marine and Coastal Policy.  A revised benchmark/trigger will be both outlined in the policy and actioned through the associated strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review the existing sea level rise planning benchmark. In doing so, consider emerging science and best practice sea-level rise planning approaches.</li> <li>Consider planning benchmarks or triggers for action for beyond 2100 as sea level continues to rise.</li> <li>Consider how to incorporate trigger/benchmarks into planning, building and emergency management systems.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sea level rise benchmarks or triggers are agreed in the Marine and Coastal Policy and actioned through the strategy.</li> <li>The benchmark or triggers can be clearly incorporated into decision-making processes in land use planning, building and emergency management systems.</li> </ul>

### 4.2 Consider how climate change and adaptation policy can be strengthened through the planning and building systems

DELWP will review the land use planning and building systems and determine ways to improve how these systems deal with natural hazards, including coastal hazards of inundation and erosion.

Who	When	Scope	Success measures
DELWP Local Government	2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review land use planning policies and provisions to improve the way the land use planning and building systems manage natural hazards, climate change and environmental risks. The review is part of implementing the updated Plan Melbourne in parallel with the adaptation plan.</li> <li>Ensure that planning and building systems remain current, are based on the best available climate science and will help growth and settlement patterns to avoid and reduce long-term risk.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A plan to respond to the review is developed and implemented.</li> <li>Land use planning and building systems are improved to better manage natural hazards, climate change and environmental risks.</li> </ul>

#### 4.3 Support strategic planning for coastal settlements and areas that reflects the best available coastal and erosion climate science

DELWP will continue to support local government to undertake strategic planning for coastal settlements and areas that applies the best available coastal and erosion climate science.

Who	When	Scope	Success measures
DELWP Local Government MW	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support local government to apply the best available climate science (from coastal hazard assessments and associated risk analysis) in planning schemes.</li> <li>Ensure that planning schemes remain current and apply the best available coastal and erosion climate data and analysis to:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>inform decision making</li> <li>help coastal settlements and areas avoid and/or manage risk</li> <li>plan for future settlement growth.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local coastal hazard assessment and risk analysis is implemented in planning schemes.</li> <li>Settlement/urban growth plans consider current and future coastal climate change hazards.</li> </ul>

#### 4.4 Revise the *Siting and Design Guidelines* for structures on the Victorian coast

DELWP will revise the *Siting and Design Guidelines* for structures on the Victorian Coast to provide contemporary criteria and improved design guidance for coastal development.

Who	When	Scope	Success measures
DELWP Local government Committees of Management	2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revise the existing <i>Siting and Design Guidelines</i> for structures on the Victorian coast to incorporate any new information relating to protecting and enhancing coastal values identified in the <i>Victorian Coastal Strategy 2014</i> and the <i>Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2017</i>.</li> </ul>	<p>Delivery of a revised <i>Siting and Design Guidelines</i> document that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>has a clear and readable structure that explains the alignment of the guidelines with current State policy and planning</li> <li>includes clearly articulated principles/objectives and well-illustrated guidelines and examples that provide best practice for the future use and development of buildings and infrastructure on Victoria's coast</li> <li>includes updated content relating to prospective climate change and visitation/population impacts</li> <li>reviews and incorporates stakeholder feedback.</li> </ul>

#### 4.5 Develop regulations for use and development on marine and coastal Crown land

The new *Marine and Coastal Act 2018* enables regulations to be developed for use and development of marine and coastal Crown land. The regulations will streamline the process for obtaining coastal consent, reduce the number of applications requiring approval, remove duplication and improve links with the planning system.

Who	When	Scope	Success measures
DELWP Agencies with applicable Acts, e.g. DEDJTR	Commencement of <i>Marine and Coastal Act 2018</i> to late 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Specify:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>what use and development does NOT require consent</li> <li>a set of standard conditions</li> <li>an ability to set bonds and charges</li> <li>an ability to issue infringements.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Implement a risk-based approach.</li> <li>Develop policy guidance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is a set of regulations for coastal consent.</li> <li>The process for obtaining consent is streamlined and less complicated.</li> <li>The process is less administratively burdensome.</li> </ul>

#### 4.6 Scope the role to provide advice on erosion as enabled in the *Marine and Coastal Act 2018* and how it evolves over time.

DELWP, in partnership with coastal CMAs and Melbourne Water, will scope the role for providing advice on erosion as enabled in the *Marine and Coastal Act 2018* and how it will evolve over time.

Who	When	Scope	Success measures
DELWP CMAs MW	2018-22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Further scope and clarify the role of advising on erosion, as enabled in the <i>Marine and Coastal Act 2018</i>.</li> <li>Consider links to:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>existing and new policy</li> <li>floodplain management strategies and flood studies</li> <li>existing and new coastal hazard studies.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Consider how:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the role will be supported to interpret policy in the provision of advice</li> <li>triggers and tools in the above systems will be used in land use planning.</li> <li>the role will be developed and supported over time.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DELWP, coastal CMAs and Melbourne Water have clearly de-fined roles and responsibilities to support advice on coastal flooding and erosion as required by the Minister under the <i>Marine and Coastal Act 2018</i>.</li> </ul>



#### 4.7 Establish statewide objectives, standards, databases, and guidance to build capability and understanding of coastal erosion and flooding in Victoria

In recognition of the need to fill a key technical skill and knowledge gap, DELWP will work with CMAs and Melbourne Water to establish statewide objectives, standards, databases and guidance to build capability and understanding of coastal erosion and flooding in all organisations. This will enable all organisations to implement their obligations as enabled by the *Marine and Coastal Act 2018*. Guidance will be consistent with the *Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy* and the Victorian Coastal Monitoring Program, and support the coordinated collection of coastal hazard information on flooding and erosion.

Who	When	Scope	Success measures
DELWP CMAs MW	2018-22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborate between coastal Catchment Management Authorities, Melbourne Water and DELWP to build a body of practice with understanding of coastal flooding and erosion processes.</li> <li>Develop objectives, guidance and standards for the provision of advice (informed by the <i>Marine and Coastal Act 2018</i> and Marine and Coastal Policy – Action 2.1).</li> <li>Develop guidance and standards for the collection of relevant data after a storm event:</li> <li>Guidance will be consistent with the <i>Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy</i> and the Victorian Coastal Monitoring Program, and support the coordinated collection of coastal hazard information on flooding and erosion.</li> <li>Closely align with products of the Victorian Coastal Monitoring Program (Action 1.2), the Victorian Flood Database and the scope of advice required on coastal flooding and erosion (Action 4.6).</li> <li>Determine the best delivery model for development of the expertise required to provide advice on coastal erosion.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coastal CMAs and Melbourne Water have clear statewide guidance and are confident in providing advice on coastal flooding and erosion, as required by the Minister.</li> </ul>





# Function 5



# Well-resourced, efficient and effective management

Our goal is to deliver well-resourced, efficient and effective management.

## Background

Coastal and marine management organisations need to be efficient, sustainable and have the capacity and expertise to deal with future challenges. These challenges include the increasing impacts of climate change, pressures from population growth and changing community expectations of how marine and coastal environment is to be managed. There are currently misalignments between the accountabilities and responsibilities of some organisations and their capacity, skills and resourcing.

The *Marine and Coastal Act Consultation Paper* proposed grouping the management of coastal reserves to distribute funds across reserves and enable available resources to be targeted to key priorities. Business models utilising sustainable revenue streams can then be established. The resulting larger income base allows for the employment of skilled staff and development of strategic management plans.

With these concepts in mind, the Transition Plan includes an action to run a pilot process simplifying management arrangements on coastal Crown land and improving the links between capacity, resources and the responsibilities of coastal Crown land managers. The location for the pilot is the Western Port coast of the Mornington Peninsula. This is an area of coast facing the multiple challenges of climate change, population growth, ageing infrastructure and changing community attitudes. The pilot process will include consultation with land managers and local communities. It will consider ways to promote volunteers, encourage the greater use of shared services, and improve integration between marine and coastal managers. The pilot will be evaluated and provide learnings for application in other coastal areas facing similar challenges.

Parks Victoria manages more than 70% of the coast, all of Victoria's marine protected areas and is a significant waterway and local port manager. Parks Victoria will play a strong leadership role in the management of the marine and coastal environment. This will include leading and/or contributing to Regional and Strategic Partnerships, development of the marine spatial planning framework, and coastal and marine management

planning. Parks Victoria's capacity to fulfil this role has been strengthened through the *Parks Victoria Act 2018* and the 2018-19 State Budget allocation of \$70.6 million over four years and \$20 million ongoing to improve management of Victoria's parks estate, including along the coast and in marine areas.

Transferring knowledge and supporting the implementation of best practice management techniques will improve coastal and marine management. DELWP will lead actions to provide this support by: delivering education and capacity building programs; assisting identification and management of risks and tackling the impacts of coastal hazards on beaches and dune systems; assisting with the maintenance of coastal protection infrastructure; and delivering targeted actions to protect biodiversity in the marine environment.

To adequately address challenges posed by an ageing asset base, increasing demands from population growth and the impacts of climate change, we need to improve how activities and actions in the marine and coastal environment are resourced. This plan will kick start a reform agenda towards more sustainable funding of the marine and coastal environment. The first step will be to investigate mechanisms to clearly describe and report on where money is raised and spent in the marine and coastal environment.

Once we have clarity on current resourcing, there is an opportunity to explore other ways of generating revenue and reducing costs. Fees should reflect the value and benefit provided by the private asset on coastal Crown land. A comprehensive review of all fees charged by coastal Crown land managers will be undertaken. The focus will be on where greater consistency, cost recovery or additional revenue could be achieved while maintaining fairness and equity for the use, enjoyment of the marine and coastal environment, and exploring opportunities to implement the principle of beneficiary pays.

Management of the marine and coastal environment requires the participation of all levels of government, industry and the community. Agreed co-investment arrangements will be articulated for coastal and marine issues, for example, coastal protection works.



Developing co-investment arrangements will need to consider how ongoing management, maintenance and auditing costs will be met, as well as articulating principles that need to be considered, for example, beneficiary pays and providing public benefit.

Informed by these actions, DELWP will explore sustainable funding models to guide the effective resourcing of coastal managers.

The *Marine and Coastal Act 2018* strengthens coastal and marine management plans, allowing them to cover multiple reserves and ensure that coastal compartments are considered in determining the extent and area. A clear action will be to revise and update guidelines for the preparation of coastal and marine management plans to ensure consistency with the *Marine and Coastal Act 2018*.



## What success looks like

- Marine and coastal managers have the capability, capacity and resources to deal with current and future challenges.
- Funding and resource allocation is resilient to medium- to longer-term challenges and changes.
- Coastal planning and management will be well resourced and effective in managing the key issues of climate change, population growth and ageing infrastructure, and issues of habitat loss and fragmentation.
- Coastal and marine managers are supported to undertake best practice management of the marine and coastal environment.
- There is a clear understanding of where revenue is generated and spent for the management of the marine and coastal environment and of fees charged by coastal Crown land managers.
- Revised fees charged by coastal Crown land managers maintain fairness and equity for the use and enjoyment of the marine and coastal environment.
- Co-investment arrangements for coastal infrastructure are established in the Marine and Coastal Policy, Marine and Coastal Strategy and Regional and Strategic Partnerships.
- Coastal and marine management plans covering multiple reserves and geomorphological units will be the primary management tool to guide coastal management.

## Actions

### 5.1 Simplify management arrangements for coastal Crown land

DELWP and relevant coastal managers will implement a pilot process to simplify management arrangements for coastal Crown land on the Western Port coastline of the Mornington Peninsula. The aim will be to establish well-resourced land managers that manage marine and coastal Crown land on the scale of a coastal compartment.

A co-design approach will be taken to the pilot to help facilitate capacity building, information sharing and a positive outcome.

Who	When	Scope	Success measures
DELWP  Relevant coastal and marine managers	2018-19	<p>Pilot the simplification of management arrangement along the Western Port coast of the Mornington Peninsula. This area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>currently has a complex arrangement of coastal and marine managers, with a large variation of resources and skills</li> <li>is experiencing increased permanent population growth as well as seasonal population growth</li> <li>is experiencing impacts of coastal hazards (a coastal hazard assessment has been completed)</li> <li>provides an opportunity to plan coastal management at the scale of a coastal compartment.</li> </ul> <p>Steps in a process:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Determine management area</b> (Use natural geomorphic features – coastal compartments to define the area).</li> <li><b>Engage</b> with existing coastal managers and establish governance arrangements.</li> <li><b>Develop and analyse management options.</b> Include economic analysis, e.g. cost /benefit, options to maintain volunteer involvement and options to better integrate and share services with local government, Parks Victoria and any other managers.</li> <li><b>Determine and implement the agreed management option.</b></li> <li>Once preferred management option is established, <b>support the new manager to engage the community</b> to determine the agreed vision and goals for the management area. Develop a coastal and marine management plan, outlining the management actions required to achieve the agreed vision and goals for the management.</li> <li>Support the new manager to implement the management plan.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clear process is developed.</li> <li>Simpler and more effective management arrangements are implemented.</li> <li>Management plan is completed.</li> <li>Management actions and works are implemented.</li> <li>Process is used to simplify management in other priority locations along the coast.</li> </ul>

## 5.2 Build the skills and capacity of marine and coastal managers

DELWP in partnership with coastal and marine managers will continue to identify needs and deliver support to build the skills, capacity and knowledge of marine and coastal managers.

Who	When	Scope	Success measures
Lead Partners			
DELWP  Marine and coastal managers  Traditional Owner groups	2018-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to identify needs and gaps in the skills and knowledge of marine and coastal managers and work with managers to identify mechanisms to address these gaps.</li> <li>Continue the ongoing service role to provide advice and develop guidance particularly on implementation of the <i>Marine and Coastal Act 2018</i>. Guidance on issues such as for coastal erosion, siting and design and preparing coastal and marine management plans will be provided. Identification of risks through risk management workshops.</li> <li>Where possible, link needs with capacity-building and education programs such as Coastcare and Landcare.</li> <li>Link marine and coastal managers with best practice methods and decision-making, e.g. through ensuring access to the outputs of Function 1.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marine and coastal managers confidently use best practice methods and decision-making to manage the coast.</li> </ul>

## 5.3 Strengthen the role of Parks Victoria in marine and coastal management.

DELWP will continue to assist Parks Victoria to demonstrate strong leadership in marine and coastal management.

Who	When	Scope	Success measures
PV  DELWP	2018–22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide opportunities for Parks Victoria to inform and contribute to policy and strategy development and condition reporting.</li> <li>Lead and/or contribute to Regional and Strategic Partnerships, Coastal and Marine Management Plans and other mechanisms under the <i>Marine and Coastal Act 2018</i>.</li> <li>Further integrate and align the planning and management of areas primarily managed for conservation with broader marine and coastal policy and planning.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parks Victoria is an active leader in marine and coastal management and works collaboratively with other marine and coastal managers.</li> <li>Parks Victoria is actively involved in the development of marine and coastal policy and strategy and condition reporting.</li> </ul>



#### 5.4 Support coastal Crown land managers to address risks to public safety on coastal land

DELWP will continue the highly successful Coastal Public Access and Risk grants program to provide financial assistance to coastal Crown land managers to address risks to public safety on coastal land and align with Victoria's Asset Management Accountability Framework

Who	When	Scope	Success measures
DELWP	2018-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide financial assistance to coastal Crown land managers to address risks to public safety on coastal land. Grants will partially fund projects with co-investment that reduce coastal risk through identification, mitigation and monitoring.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public safety risks on coastal land are identified and managed proactively.</li> </ul>

#### 5.5 Protect and renourish priority Victorian beaches and dune systems in the bays and along the outer coast

DELWP will partner with coastal land managers providing financial and technical assistance to tackle priority maintenance and improvement to beaches and foreshores.

Who	When	Scope	Success measures
DELWP	2018-2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect Port Phillip Bay beaches and foreshores from erosion through renourishment.</li> <li>Establish a program on the open coast for sand and dune management to protect priority beaches and foreshores from erosion and flooding.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Priority beaches in Port Phillip Bay are renourished.</li> <li>Sand and dune management builds resilience of priority beaches and foreshores on the open coast.</li> </ul>



## 5.6 Maintain and upgrade critical coastal protection infrastructure

DELWP will partner with coastal land managers to provide financial and technical assistance for maintenance and replacement of critical coastal protection structures. These works will contribute to climate change adaptation and increase resilience against storms, flooding and erosion.

Who	When	Scope	Success measures
DELWP	2018-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a program of major capital and maintenance works to replace critical dilapidated coastal protection structures, such as sea walls, retaining walls, groynes and revetments.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Highest public safety risks identified and managed.</li> <li>The lifespan of the most useful protection assets is extended.</li> </ul>

## 5.7 Deliver targeted actions in the marine environment

DELWP will deliver actions to protect marine biodiversity in partnership with marine managers and environmental organisations.

Who	When	Scope	Success measures
DELWP The Nature Conservancy	2018-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deliver a program of actions that target protection of marine biodiversity. This includes restoring shell fish reefs in Port Phillip Bay in partnership with the Nature Conservancy.</li> <li>Develop further partnerships to restore near-shore habitats at priority locations across the State.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marine biodiversity (species and habitats) are restored or enhanced due to targeted actions.</li> </ul>

## 5.8 Investigate measures for greater transparency, better reporting and awareness of revenue generated and spent on the coast

DELWP will complete the Financing the Coast project investigating measures to provide greater transparency, better reporting and awareness of revenue generated and spent on the coast.

Who	When	Scope	Success measures
DELWP	2018-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and test options for an agreed methodology to collect coastal income and expenditure data that may then adapted for future use across the state.</li> <li>Seek the insights and experience of a targeted group of representative coastal land managers on how we might collect and report on coastal income and expenditure more efficiently in the future. The recommendations of the pilot project will include further project work to progress outcomes and findings.</li> <li>Encompass marine and coastal Crown land including the nearshore marine environment, the seabed and water out to the State limit of three nautical miles; include both natural and built elements of the marine and coastal environment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The methodology is well understood by marine and coastal managers.</li> <li>The methodology is flexible and fit for purpose for the use of coastal land managers</li> <li>Project recommendations identify clear options for commencing a consistent process for collecting and reporting coastal accounting information and progressing the level and detail of data collection over time.</li> </ul>

### 5.9 Improve benchmark data and reporting on coastal revenue and expenditure over time.

Building on the community of practice developed through the Financing the Coast 1, DELWP will expand the number of coastal managers that are improving the collection and reporting of revenue and expenditure generated on the coast.

Who	When	Scope	Success measures
DELWP (Land Management)  Local Government	2019 onwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Building on the good will generated through Financing the Coast, expand the number of coastal managers that are involved in improving the collection and reporting of revenue and expenditure generated on the coast.</li> <li>Support coastal managers with a flexible range of projects addressing coastal asset and resourcing accounting and reporting issues.</li> <li>Collect further data, undertake gap analysis, and estimate of difficult to capture data using indicators generated in the Financing the Coast project.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved understanding of expenditure and revenue collection along the coast.</li> <li>Improved understanding of gaps in information and pathways for land managers to address the gaps.</li> <li>Base information to help inform actions 5.10, 5.11, and 5.12.</li> </ul>

### 5.10 Review fees and charges applying to coastal Crown land

DELWP will review fees and charges applying to coastal Crown land with a view to alignment with market values and to achieving greater consistency of fees and charges across the State.

Who	When	Scope	Success measures
DELWP	2019-21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake a comprehensive review of fees and charges applying to coastal Crown land.</li> <li>Consider market values, consistency, cost recovery and opportunities for additional revenue.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fees and charges applying to coastal Crown land are captured in a comprehensive inventory.</li> <li>Fees and charges are reviewed in the context of 'public benefit' and a hierarchy of need based on the policies outlined in the VCS.</li> <li>Fees and charges are reviewed to achieve greater consistency across the State and where appropriate better reflect the market value of the asset/site to which they apply.</li> </ul>

### 5.11 Develop co-investment arrangements for coastal infrastructure

Investigate a co-investment policy framework for a more strategic approach to management of, and investment in, protective structures along the Victorian coastline and ensure greatest public benefit is derived from coastal Crown land.

Who	When	Scope	Success measures
DELWP	2019-21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate coastal co-investment policy principles, such as beneficiary contributions and providing positive public benefit, in preparation for consultation on the next marine and coastal strategy.</li> <li>Determine mechanisms available to facilitate coastal co-investment arrangements.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coastal co-investment principles are prepared for consultation and inclusion in the next marine and coastal strategy.</li> </ul>

### 5.12 Explore sustainable funding models for resourcing coastal management.

DELWP will explore sustainable funding models for resourcing coastal management.

Who	When	Scope	Success measures
DELWP	2019-21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore sustainable funding models for resourcing coastal management.</li> <li>Informed by:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>outputs of actions 5.1, 5.8, 5.9, 5.10 and 5.11</li> <li>an analysis models of funding coastal management nationally and internationally.</li> <li>appropriate stakeholder consultation.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A report outlines alternative funding models and costs and benefits of their application in Victoria.</li> <li>Recommendations of alternative funding models are trialled.</li> </ul>

### 5.13 Introduce guidelines for the preparation of coastal and marine management plans

DELWP will prepare guidelines for the preparation of coastal and marine management plans. The guidelines will help marine and coastal managers prepare management plans in accordance with the *Marine and Coastal Act 2018*.

Who	When	Scope	Success measures
DELWP	2020-21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Build on the Guidelines for <i>Developing Coastal Management Plans 2017</i>.</li> <li>Update with guidance necessary to deliver marine and coastal management plans as defined in the <i>Marine and Coastal Act 2018</i>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guidelines prepared and endorsed by the DELWP Secretary.</li> <li>The guidelines are used by managers in the development of marine and coastal management plans.</li> </ul>





## Function 6



## Community and user groups that are aware of, and involved in, decision-making across the system

Our goal is to have informed and involved community and user groups.

### Background

Community participation and involvement is critical to the successful delivery of all the functions of improved marine and coastal management and the actions in this Transition Plan. This builds on Victoria's strong and lengthy history of community involvement in coastal and marine management and decision-making. Communities and user groups are involved in a range of ways to enhance and protect the marine and coastal environment. The groups include:

- volunteer Committees of Management and advisory bodies
- marine education
- citizen sciences, such as community monitoring programs
- Coastcare
- volunteer marine search and rescue
- other community and volunteer programs.

Many individuals participate in these programs, which hold and share valuable local knowledge and deliver on-ground projects that address local and state priorities for marine and coastal management.

The diversity of activities means that different levels of support are required to maintain the volunteers'

motivation and interest, and achieve positive marine and coastal outcomes. As outlined in *Biodiversity 2037*, empowering more Victorians to act in ways that benefit the marine and coastal environment requires understanding and overcoming barriers that prevent action. This includes: gaining knowledge about when, what, where, why and how Victorians value in the marine and coastal environment; and providing ongoing support for marine and coastal community groups and networks that educate and engage the community about the values of the marine and coastal environment and encourage their protection.

The improved marine and coastal management system will build on the existing strengths of community involvement in marine and coastal management in Victoria. Formal and informal opportunities for the community to be involved in coastal and marine management will be maintained and enhanced.

Of note, the Coastcare program is being boosted to support and educate volunteer groups and Committees of Management to protect and enhance the marine and coastal environment. The Port Phillip Bay Fund is supporting community groups and organisations to protect and preserve the environmental health of the bay.

## The Port Phillip Bay Fund

Recognising Port Phillip Bay as one of Victoria's most precious natural assets, the Victorian Government is partnering with community organisations to address key issues affecting the Bay.

The Port Phillip Bay Fund supports projects that address local and regional priorities to protect the health of the Bay and Bay catchment area, including:

- reducing and addressing threats to the health of the Bay, including nutrients, pollutants and litter
- encouraging partnerships across a range of interested groups and organisations that support the environmental health of the Bay

- enhancing the amenity and environmental values in the Bay and on the foreshore.

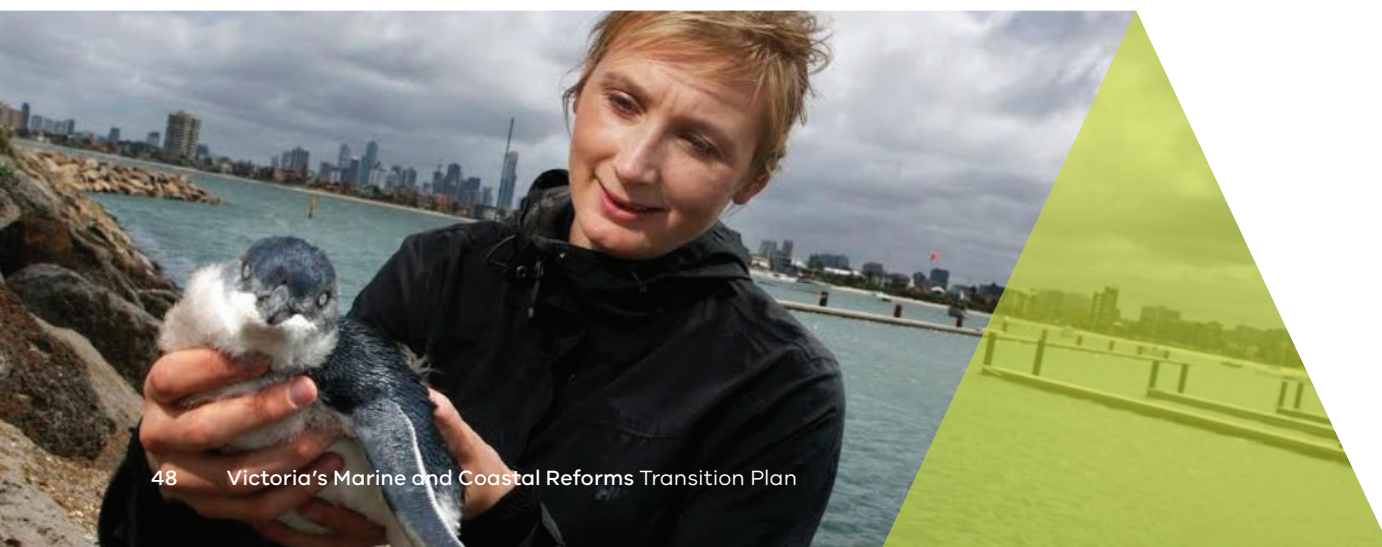
With grants totalling \$7.63 million (Round 1 in 2016 and Round 2 in 2017), community groups and organisations are delivering: revegetation works; education to farmers, school children and the community about how their activities can improve bay health; improving water quality; reducing plastics and litter; protecting endangered species; creating habitat linkages; managing nutrient loads, reducing pollution; enhancing aquatic habitats; and boosting citizen science programs like Reef Watch.

The importance of citizen science in building our understanding and knowledge of changes in the marine and coastal environment is growing. Citizen science activities are not only about data collection, but are also a means for engagement, knowledge sharing, participation and most importantly stewardship of the environment. This Transition Plan includes action to support and expand opportunities for citizen science programs.

CMAs have a strong connection with regional communities. The 'Our Catchments Our Communities' Strategy aims to strengthen community engagement in regional planning and implementation. This includes maintaining the multiple approaches to community engagement and partnership. There are opportunities to expand the networks that include coastal and marine communities.

Traditional Owner groups and DELWP will work in partnership to determine and implement the best ways for Traditional Owner involvement in marine and coastal planning and management. There are also opportunities to further strengthen engagement with Traditional Owner and Aboriginal community groups by building on actions in 'Our Catchments Our Communities', such as implementation of the Aboriginal Participation Guidelines for Victorian CMAs.

Community organisations will be informed on the latest climate change science and improved understanding of coastal processes. A key action of this plan is to build increased awareness of the contribution of Government and DELWP to improved marine and coastal management.





## What success looks like

- Local communities value marine and coastal landscapes, flora and fauna.
- Community and user groups are supported and recognised for their involvement in caring for and managing the marine and coastal environment.
- Community and user groups are engaged, informed and encouraged to actively participate in coastal and marine planning, management and citizen science.
- Communities are informed and aware of opportunities for involvement in coastal and marine management.
- There is increased Traditional Owner and Aboriginal community participation, with stronger links to cultural values in the planning and management of the marine and coastal environment.
- Communities and user groups are informed and aware of the improved marine and coastal management.

## Actions

### 6.1 Ensure a greater role for Traditional Owners in formal management and planning for marine and coastal areas

In partnership with coastal Traditional Owner groups, DELWP and the Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations will support pilot programs with coastal Traditional Owner groups to increase their engagement in marine and coastal management.

Who	When	Scope	Success measures
Traditional Owners DELWP FVTOC CMAs	2018-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage Traditional Owner groups to develop and conduct pilot project(s) to examine how traditional ecological knowledge and understanding of the land and sea can be integrated to deliver better outcomes in Victoria's marine and coastal planning and management.</li> <li>• Promote Traditional Owner cultural understandings to inform marine and coastal planning and management practice.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traditional Owners are engaged, informed, and encouraged to participate in coastal and marine management.</li> <li>• There is better coordination of traditional knowledge in planning and decision making.</li> <li>• Traditional Owner corporations have greater capacity to be involved in marine and coastal planning and management.</li> </ul>



## 6.2 Boost the Coastcare Victoria Program

DELWP will boost the Coastcare Victoria Program to support and educate volunteer groups and volunteer Committees of Management to protect and enhance the marine and coastal environment.

Who	When	Scope	Success measures
DELWP  Coast care groups	2018-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support and build Coastcare to engage the community and enhance the condition of priority natural assets.</li> <li>Deliver the Coastcare program including: Summer by the Sea, community action grants, a network of regional facilitators with a statewide program coordinator, capacity building and support for managers and volunteers on the marine and coastal environment.</li> <li>Revise the Coastcare Strategy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participation in coastal and marine management is encouraged.</li> <li>There is coordinated investment, alignment and resourcing for community capacity building and volunteer programs.</li> <li>A stronger network of volunteers is involved in marine and coastal management.</li> </ul>

## 6.3 Provide ongoing support and expansion of opportunities for citizen science programs

Local communities will be involved in monitoring, evaluation and reporting through citizen science opportunities. These activities create valuable opportunities for engagement, data collection, knowledge sharing, participation and ownership.

Who	When	Scope	Success measures
DELWP CMAs EPA DEDJTR PV	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incorporate volunteer effort in monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the health and condition of the marine and coastal environment.</li> <li>Support citizen science programs such as Fishcare, Waterwatch, EstuaryWatch and Coastcare, EPA (Microplastics), BirdLife Australia and support to community groups such as Port Fairy Coastal Group and others.</li> <li>Explore opportunities to expand the number of groups and individuals involved in citizen science.</li> <li>Workshop with the community use of the Coastal Monitoring Guide, to monitor sandy shorelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local communities and individuals are actively engaged in improving the health of the marine and coastal environment.</li> <li>At least eight citizen science groups are actively involved in coastal monitoring at priority shoreline areas across Victoria by 2021.</li> <li>Community has increased knowledge of local marine and coastal issues.</li> </ul>



#### 6.4 Focus engagement with marine and coastal communities and networks in regional catchment planning and implementation

Building on actions within 'Our Catchments Our Communities', coastal Catchment Management Authorities will expand approaches to community engagement and partnerships to include marine and coastal community and user group networks.

Who	When	Scope	Success measures
CMAs DELWP	2018 onwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expand approaches to community engagement and partnerships for regional catchment planning to include marine and coastal community and user group networks.</li> <li>Better link catchment management authority's engagement programs with marine and coastal related community and volunteer programs. eg. Coastcare, Friends Groups and associated grants programs.</li> <li>Use these connections to effectively engage with communities in regional planning and implementation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coastal and marine community and user group are engaged and involved in regional catchment planning and implementation.</li> </ul>

# Glossary

## Adaptation

Adaptation is the process of adjusting to new conditions in a way that makes an individual, community or system better suited or more resilient to its environment.

## Adaptation planning

A means to look ahead to the future, giving people a degree of certainty as to what they can expect in the future and a greater ability to cope with change.

## Asset (Coastal)

A thing of value in the coastal and marine environment

- *Built*: amenities including public toilets, boat ramps, jetties, piers, staircases
- *Protection*: groynes and seawalls that provide protection from coastal erosion and storm events.
- *Natural*: resources of the natural environment – biological assets, land and water areas with their ecosystems.

## Biodiversity

The variability among living organisms from all sources, including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems, and the ecological complexes of which they are part. This includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems.

## (Community) Capacity building

The process of local communities developing and strengthening the skills needed to address problems in a way that helps them shape and exercise control over their physical, social, economic and cultural environments.

## Catchment

An area that, through run-off or percolation, contributes to the water in a stream or stream system.

## Catchment Management Authority (CMA)

Established under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* to achieve integrated and sustainable catchment management.

## Coastal Catchment Management Authority (CCMA)

A Catchment Management Authority whose catchment and land protection region, in whole or in part, abuts the marine and coastal environment. There are five coastal CMAs in Victoria. – Glenelg Hopkins, Corangamite, Port Phillip and Western Port, West Gippsland and East Gippsland.

## Citizen science

Participation by members of the public in scientific research.

## Climate Change

A change of climate attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere in addition to natural climate vulnerability over comparable time periods.

## Committee of Management (CoM)

Established under the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978*. The role of a CoM is to “manage, maintain and control” an allocated Crown land reserve on behalf of the Minister.

## Community engagement

A two-way process of dialogue by which the aspirations, concerns, needs and values of the community are incorporated into policy development, planning, decision making, service delivery and assessment.

## Coastal compartment

A section of coastline that is defined by its landform and sediment transportation processes. Primary secondary and tertiary compartments are identified for different planning and management purposes.

## Coastal erosion and flooding

Coastal flooding and erosion covers beach erosion, shoreline recession, coastal lake or watercourse entrance instability, coastal inundation, tidal inundation, coastal cliff or slope instability and erosion and inundation of foreshores caused by tidal water and waves, including the interaction of those waters with catchment flood waters.

## Coastal hazards

The interaction of coastal processes with human use, property or infrastructure that may adversely affect human life, property or assets.

## Coastal processes

Marine, physical, meteorological and biological activities that interact with the geology and sediments to produce a particular coastal system.

## Coastal protection works

Engineering works to prevent erosion or recession. These include hard protection works that armour the beach – such as concrete and rock, seawalls, groynes and artificial reefs – to encourage the accumulation of sand on the coast, and sand nourishment to artificially replenish sand lost from the shore.

## Coastal zone

Includes the foreshore and near-shore zone, and the coastal region that is likely to be affected by sea-level rise and marine-related climate change (storm surge and exposure to storms tracking inland from the sea).

## Crown land

Public land not vested in a public authority, including land temporarily or permanently reserved under the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978*.

## Ecosystem

A system that includes all living organisms and their physical environment interacting as a unit.

## Estuaries

The region near a river mouth where fresh water of the river mixes with the salt water of the sea.

## Foreshore

The coastal fringe – generally, the land between the coastal road and the low water mark.

## Geomorphological unit

See coastal compartment.

## Groyne

A shore protection structure built (usually perpendicular to the shoreline) to trap littoral drift or retard erosion of the shore.

## Infrastructure

Physical structures that facilitate use of the coast, such as roads, paths, piers and toilet blocks.

## Jurisdictional boundaries

The legal boundaries of organisations that administer the law within a defined field of responsibility.

## Marine Spatial Planning Framework

A framework that establishes a process for achieving coordinated strategic planning of the marine environment.

## Natural resource management

The protection and improvement of environmental assets such as soils, water, vegetation and biodiversity.

## Planning scheme

A legal document prepared by the local council or the Minister for Planning and approved by the Minister under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. A planning scheme sets out policy and requirements for use, development and protection of land. It consists of a written document and any maps and plans it refers to.

## Public land

Unalienated land of the Crown (see Crown land) or land vested in a public authority.

## Regional and Strategic Partnerships

A partnership established to respond to an identified regional issue relating to, or affecting, the marine and coastal environment.

## Renourishment

The deliberate addition of sand to beaches where erosion is a major problem in order to stabilise losses and restore badly eroded (and sometimes unsightly) beaches. Also known as replenishment.

## Regional Catchment Strategies (RCSs)

RCSs are the primary integrated strategic planning mechanism for the management of land, water and biodiversity resources in each region.

## Resilience (of ecosystems)

The ability of an ecosystem to recover from disturbances or withstand ongoing pressures and to continue functioning.



### **Risk assessment**

A systematic process of evaluating the potential risks that may be involved in a projected activity or undertaking.

### **Sea level rise**

An increase in the mean level of the ocean.

### **Stakeholders**

Individuals or groups with a vested interest in, or who are affected by, a project or process.

### **Stewardship**

The responsible overseeing and protection of something, for example, natural resources.

### **Storm surge**

A temporary increase in the height of the sea at a particular location because of extreme meteorological conditions (low atmospheric pressure, strong winds or both). The storm surge is the height of water above the level expected from tidal variation alone at that time and place.

### **Traditional owners**

People who, through membership in a descent group or clan, have responsibility for caring for particular Country. A Traditional Owner is authorised to speak for Country and its heritage as a senior Traditional Owner, an Elder or, in more recent times, as a registered native title claimant.

### **Vulnerability to climate change**

The degree to which a system, sector or social group is susceptible to the adverse effects of climate change; vulnerability depends on the nature of the climate changes to which the system is exposed, its sensitivity to those changes and its adaptive capacity.



## Acronyms

<b>ABM</b>	Association of Bayside Municipalities
<b>CALP Act</b>	<i>Catchment and Land Protection Act 1904</i>
<b>CMAs</b>	Catchment Management Authorities
<b>CoMs</b>	Committees of Management
<b>DELWP</b>	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
<b>DEDJTR</b>	Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources
<b>DJR</b>	Department of Justice and Regulation
<b>DPC</b>	Department of Premier and Cabinet
<b>DTF</b>	Department of Treasury and Finance
<b>EMP</b>	Environmental Management Plan
<b>EPA</b>	Environment Protection Authority
<b>FVTOC</b>	Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations
<b>MAV</b>	Municipal Association of Victoria
<b>MCC</b>	Marine and Coastal Council
<b>MW</b>	Melbourne Water
<b>NGOs</b>	Non-government organisations
<b>OCES</b>	Office for the Commissioner of Environmental Sustainability
<b>PPWPCMA</b>	Port Phillip and Western Port Catchment Management Authority
<b>PV</b>	Parks Victoria
<b>RASP</b>	Regional and Strategic Partnership
<b>RCBs</b>	Regional Coastal Boards
<b>VAGO</b>	Victorian Auditor General's Office
<b>VCC</b>	Victorian Coastal Council
<b>VCMC</b>	Victorian Catchment Management Council
<b>VCS</b>	Victorian Coastal Strategy
<b>VEAC</b>	Victorian Environmental Assessment Council

## Appendix 1 Summary of actions

Transition Plan Function	Actions	When	DELWP lead	External Partners	Implements VAGO rec. no.
Knowledge of the condition of the marine and coastal environments over time	1.1 Assess the values of Victoria's marine environment	2018-19	Land Management	VEAC	1
	1.2 Assess Victoria's coastal reserves	2018-19	Land Management	VEAC	1
	1.3 Develop and implement a marine and coastal biodiversity information program	2018-22	Biodiversity		1
	1.4 Develop and implement a Victorian Coastal Monitoring Program and establish a database for coastal hazard information	By mid 2021	Biodiversity	Universities.	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
	1.5 Develop and implement a coastal asset database	2018-19	Regions		1, 4
	1.6 Develop a coastal protection structures visual condition assessment manual	Late 2018	Regions		1, 4, 5
	1.7 Develop improved climate change impact projections for the Victorian coast	2018-19	Biodiversity		1, 2
	1.8 Develop a marine knowledge framework	2018-19	Biodiversity	MCC	1
	1.9 Scope the development of a marine and coastal 'hub' or 'centre'.	2018	Land Management		1
	1.10 Develop a Sustainable Coastal Visitation Framework	2018-19	Regions		1
	1.11 Undertake next wave of longitudinal social research on community attitudes to the Victorian marine and coastal environment	2018	Land Management	MCC, PV, OCES	1
	1.12 Develop a coastal infrastructure decision-making framework	2018-19	Regions		1,4,5
	1.13 Prepare a State of the Marine and Coastal Environment Report	2021-22	DELWP various	OCES, EPA	1, 5
Statewide Policy and Strategic advice	2.1 Prepare a statewide policy for the marine and coastal environment.	Dec 2019	Land Management	MCC, DEDJTR and other agencies administering applicable Acts.	2
	2.2. Develop a marine spatial planning framework (as a component of the statewide policy.	Dec 2019	Land Management		2
	2.3 Prepare a statewide strategy for the marine and coastal environment	Dec 2020	Land Management	MCC, DEDJTR and other agencies administering applicable Acts.	2
	2.4 Transition to new advisory structures under the <i>Marine and Coastal Act</i> .	2018	Land Management		2

Transition Plan Function	Actions	When	DELWP lead	External Partners	Implements VAGO rec. no.
Deliver strong integrated regional and issues based planning	3.1 Strengthen the coverage of marine and coastal issues in Regional Catchment Strategies	2019	Water & Catchments	VCMC, CMAs	
	3.2 Complete a Coastal Hazard Assessment and subsequent adaptation planning outcomes for Port Phillip Bay	2018-20	Regions	MW, ABM, LGs	1, 2
	3.3 Pilot a Regional and Strategic Partnership	2018-22	DELWP various	Partners, MCC	2
	3.4 Implement the Port Phillip Bay Environmental Management Plan 2017- 2027	To 2027	Biodiversity	EPA, MW, PPWP CMA	
Clear planning and controls about access, use and development	4.1 Revise sea level rise planning benchmarks/ triggers	2018-20	Land Management		2, 5
	4.2 Consider how climate change and adaptation policy can be strengthened through the planning and building systems	2017-18	Climate Change/ Planning	LG	2
	4.3 Support strategic planning for coastal settlements and areas that reflects best available coastal and erosion climate science	Ongoing	Planning/ Water & Catchments	LG, MW	2, 5
	4.4 Revise the <i>Siting and Design Guidelines</i> for structures on the Victorian coast	2018	Land Management	LG, CoMs	2
	4.5 Develop regulations for use and development on marine and coastal Crown land	2018-19	Land Management		
	4.6 Scope the role to provide advice on erosion as enabled in the <i>Marine and Coastal Act 2018</i> and how it evolves over time	2018-22	Regions, Land Management	CMAs, MW,	1, 2, 5, 6
	4.7. Establish statewide objectives, standards, databases and guidance to build capability and understanding of coastal erosion and flooding in Victoria.	2018-22	Regions, Land Management	CMAs, MW,	1, 2, 5, 6



Transition Plan Function	Actions	When	DELWP lead	External Partners	Implements VAGO rec. no.
Well resourced, efficient and effective management	5.1 Simplify management arrangements for coastal Crown land	2018-20	Regions	Relevant coastal and marine managers	2, 3
	5.2 Build the skills and capacity of marine and coastal managers	2018-20	Regions	Marine and coastal managers, TOs	1,3
	5.3 Strengthen the role of Parks Victoria in marine and coastal management	2018-22	Land Management	PV	2
	5.4 Support coastal Crown land managers to address risks to public safety on coastal land	2018-19	Regions		1, 6
	5.5 Protect and renourish priority Victorian beaches and dune systems in the bays and along the outer coast	2018-22	Regions		4, 5
	5.6 Maintain and upgrade critical coastal protection infrastructure	2018-20	Regions		4, 5
	5.7 Deliver targeted actions in the marine environment	2018-20	Biodiversity	NGOs	
	5.8 Investigate measures for greater transparency, better reporting and awareness of revenue generated and spent on the coast	2018-19	Land Management		3
	5.9 Improve benchmark data on coastal revenue and expenditure over time.	2019-20	Land Management	LG	3
	5.10 Review fees and charges applying to coastal Crown land	2019-21	Land Management		3
	5.11 Develop co-investment arrangements for coastal infrastructure	2019-21	Land Management		2, 3
	5.12 Explore sustainable funding models for resourcing coastal management	2019 -21	Land Management		3
	5.13 Introduce guidelines for preparation of coastal and marine management plans	2020-21	Land Management		2
Community and user groups who are aware of and involved in decision making across the system	6.1 Ensure a greater role for Traditional Owners in formal management and planning for marine and coastal areas	2018-19	Land Management	TOs, CMAs	
	6.2 Boost the Coastcare Victoria Program	2018-19	Regions	Coastcare groups	
	6.3 Provide ongoing support and expand opportunities for citizen science programs	Ongoing	Regions	DEDJTR, CMA, PV, EPA	1
	6.4 Focus engagement with marine and coastal communities and networks in regional catchment planning and implementation	2018 onwards	Regions	CMAs	

No.	VAGO Recommendations
1.	We recommend that the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning improve its knowledge of coastal hazards and oversight of coastal asset management across the state
2.	Strengthen its oversight of Victoria's coastal managers, including by extending and adequately resourcing its oversight role to cover the management of all public coastal areas
3.	Develop a sustainable funding model to guide the effective resourcing of coastal managers
4.	We recommend that the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, East Gippsland Shire Council, Gippsland Ports, Great Ocean Road Coast Committee, Mornington Peninsula Shire Council, Parks Victoria and VicRoads: Address the gaps in their asset management practices against Victoria's Asset Management Accountability Framework requirements and guidance and strategically target their asset funding.
5.	Assess the risks that coastal inundation and erosion hazards pose to coastal assets, using robust risk assessment practices that they consistently apply AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009
6.	We recommend that the East Gippsland Shire Council, Gippsland Ports and Mornington Peninsula Shire Council assess climate change risks from coastal inundation and erosion hazards across their coastal asset portfolios

