

Port Phillip Bay
Environmental Management Plan
2017–2027

Summary Brochure



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

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

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

Understanding this Plan

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

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

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

Priority actions will be implemented over ten years, and will follow an adaptive management approach. Specific interventions and activities will be aligned to, and in some cases delivered by, broader state or regional plans and strategies (such as whole-of-catchment planning or integrated water cycle management).

Annual reporting and 5-yearly evaluations will ensure that the Plan's actions remain focused and aligned. The Environmental Management Plan and its accompanying Delivery Plan provide detail on specific activities, program partners and expected outcomes.

VISION

A healthy Port Phillip Bay that is

GOALS

Stewardship of the Bay is fostered across community, industry and government

PRIORITY AREAS

Connect and inspire Empower action (work together)

STRATEGIES

Improve appreciation and understanding of Bay values and connections to catchment

Improve collaboration and partnerships across community, industry and government



PRIORITY ACTIONS

1.1 Work with Aboriginal groups to improve understanding of Aboriginal cultural values and interests in the Bay and support connections to Country

2.1 Build capacity and knowledge within community and industry networks

1.2 Develop and deliver programs to inspire greater appreciation of the Bay's values

2.2 Empower the broader community to get more actively involved in caring for the Bay

1.3 Build understanding of management responsibilities and programs for the Bay and its catchment

2.3 Support stronger partnerships across community, industry and government to ensure aims and outcomes are aligned





valued and cared for by all Victorians

Water quality is improved to ensure environmental health and community enjoyment of the Bay

The Bay's habitats and marine life are thriving

Nutrients and pollutants

Ensure nutrient and sediment loads do not exceed current levels and pollutant loads are reduced where practicable

Litter

Reduce litter loads to the Bay

Pathogens (human health)

Minimise risks to human health from pathogens

Habitat and marine life

Conserve and restore habitats and marine life

Marine biosecurity

Manage risks from marine pests



3.1 Effectively maintain existing stormwater infrastructure and programs to mitigate loads to the Bay, or secure via equivalent means



4.1 Establish a baseline estimate of the volume of litter entering the Bay and support clean up activities



5.1 Improve understanding of links between pathogen concentrations and human health for swimming and consumption of shellfish



6.1 Monitor indicator species and key habitats at priority locations



7.1 Prevent introduction and dispersal of marine pests

3.2 Prevent increases in nutrient loads from wastewater systems and where practicable reduce loads of other pollutants

4.2 Support capability and capacity building programs that target litter prevention, including reduction of microplastics

5.2 Adopt a risk-based approach to mitigate sources of pathogens found in the Bay

6.2 Improve understanding of ecological processes, threats and pressures

7.2 Monitor priority locations for early detection of marine pest introductions

3.3 Ensure all urban and rural land use effectively controls impacts from stormwater and runoff, and that controls are in place to manage increases in loads

4.3 Identify and prioritise litter sources and pathways, and take actions to prevent litter entering the Bay

5.3 Improve monitoring and reporting to better detect and communicate human health risks from pathogens

6.3 Improve overall extent and condition of the Bay's natural ecosystems

7.3 Respond rapidly to new introductions of marine pests



DELWP would like to acknowledge and thank all groups and individuals who have given time to review and provide comment during development of the Port Phillip Bay Environmental Management Plan.

To obtain a copy of the Port Phillip Bay Environmental Management Plan

- Download documents from DELWP's website:
<https://www.coastsandmarine.vic.gov.au/coastal-programs/port-phillip-bay>
- Call DELWP on **136 186** and ask for a copy to be posted
- For queries, email **Bay.Plan@delwp.vic.gov.au**

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