



**Bellarine  
Bayside**  
Coastal Management

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a coastal landscape at sunset. A wooden boardwalk with a metal railing leads from the bottom left towards the center of the image. To the left of the path is a body of water, and to the right is dense green coastal vegetation. A large, gnarled tree with thick branches dominates the right side of the frame, its leaves catching the warm light of the setting sun. The sky is a clear, deep blue with a hint of orange near the horizon.

# **Draft Coastal and Marine Management Plan 2026-2031**

# Wadawurrung foreword

Wadawurrung people have lived in tandem with the land, water and skies of the Bellarine for thousands of generations.

Our creator spirit, Bunjil, created all of Wadawurrung Country, which expands over 10,000 square kilometres. Bunjil continues to watch over Wadawurrung Country and peoples.

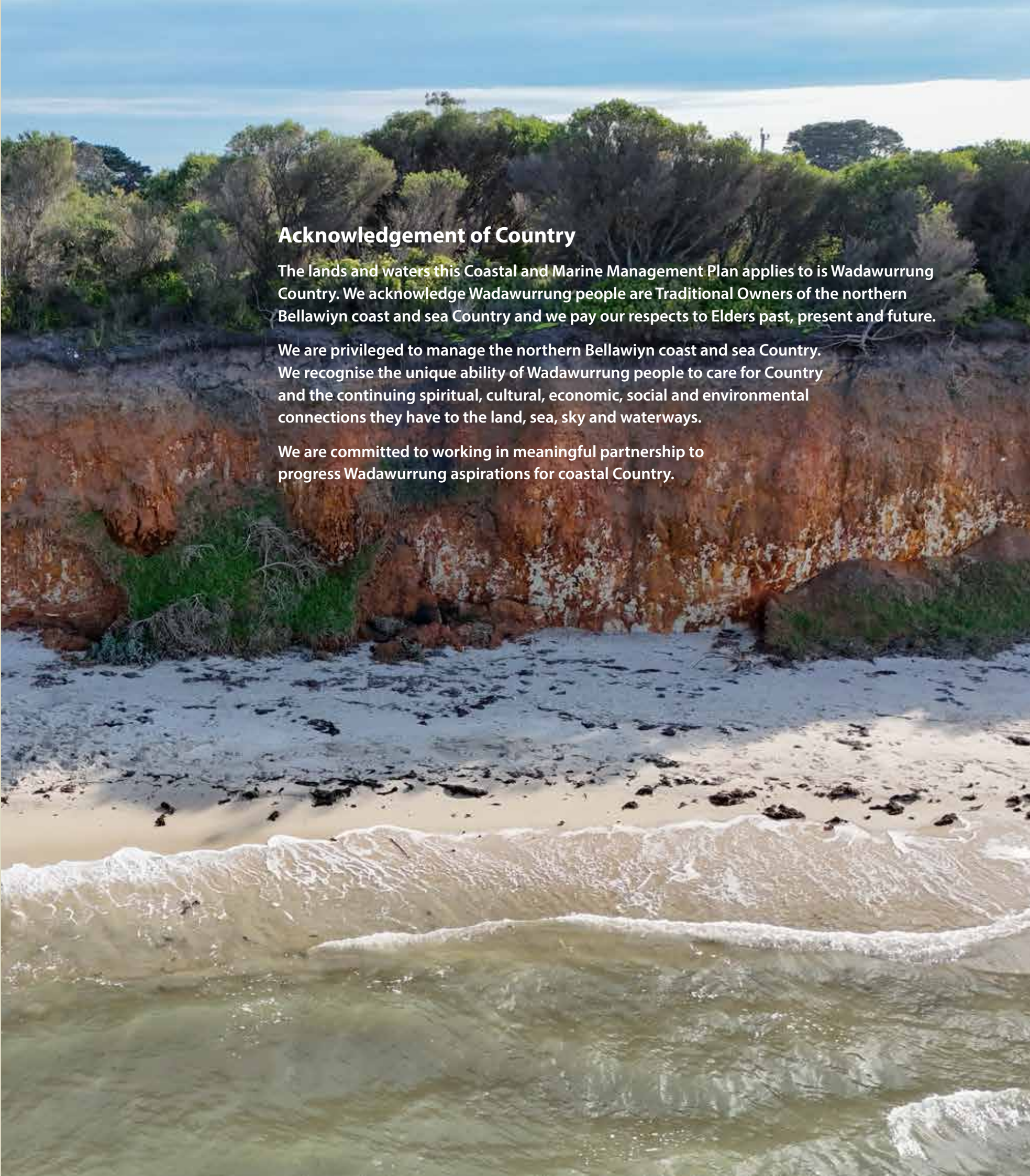
Wadawurrung people still live, dance and care for our land as our Ancestors taught us, and how our Elders continue to teach us.

The Bellarine holds significant tangible and intangible values to the Wadawurrung people. A place of plenty, the Bellarine was a place of ceremony, marriage, resources gathering and trade.

We ask for everyone living on and visiting this cultural landscape to take care and help preserve what makes this area so special.







## Acknowledgement of Country

The lands and waters this Coastal and Marine Management Plan applies to is Wadawurrung Country. We acknowledge Wadawurrung people are Traditional Owners of the northern Bellawiyn coast and sea Country and we pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.

We are privileged to manage the northern Bellawiyn coast and sea Country. We recognise the unique ability of Wadawurrung people to care for Country and the continuing spiritual, cultural, economic, social and environmental connections they have to the land, sea, sky and waterways.

We are committed to working in meaningful partnership to progress Wadawurrung aspirations for coastal Country.

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### How to cite this document

Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee of Management (2026)  
Coastal and Marine Management Plan 2026–2031, Bellarine Bayside  
Foreshore Committee of Management, Portarlington

This management plan has been prepared by Bellarine  
Bayside Foreshore Committee of Management.

### Disclaimer

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# Introduction

## Purpose of this plan

The purpose of this plan is to describe at a local level how the objectives and principles of the Marine and Coastal Act 2018 will be translated into local action along the northern Bellarine coast.

It describes an agreed 15-year vision for the north Bellarine Crown land reserves and demonstrates how the appointed Crown land manager, Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee of Management, will work with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners and key stakeholders to achieve that vision over the next 5 years.

In line with Victorian legislative, strategic and policy requirements, the plan aims to:

- develop management objectives that align with local values and risks
- initiate strategies and on-ground actions supportive of these objectives
- protect the Cultural, environmental, social and economic values of the area
- balance potentially conflicting management objectives and uses in the space
- prioritise allocation of finite resources in an evidence-based and transparent manner
- enhance the benefits of the goods and services provided by the marine and coastal environment and
- support effective collaboration with the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, as well as other land managers and agencies<sup>1</sup>.

The plan replaces the Northern Bellarine Coastal and Marine Management Plan 2020–2025 and will take effect once approved by the Minister for Environment.

Delivery of actions in the plan will be undertaken in accordance with the Guiding Principles of the Marine and Coastal Policy. This will ensure sustainable management of the northern Bellarine coastal reserve for the benefit of the broader Victorian community.



<sup>1</sup>The State of Victoria Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (2023) *Coastal and Marine Management Plan Guidelines*

## Strategic context

The Marine and Coastal Act 2018 requires all Crown land managers to prepare a plan on matters relating to, and affecting, marine and coastal Crown Land.

According to the Act, the plan must provide direction for the future local management of the area and must be consistent with the Marine and Coastal Policy 2020 and the Marine and Coastal Strategy 2022 (see Figure 1)<sup>2</sup>. In this way, coastal and marine management plans translate statewide policy and strategy into local action.

## Planning and Decision Pathway



Figure 1: Planning and Decision Pathway shows how the objectives and guiding principles of the Act should be used in decision making in the marine and coastal environment.

<sup>2</sup> Marine and Coastal Act 2018

While these mechanisms are the key drivers for this plan, the plan also sits as part of broader legislative and strategic context, outlined below in Table 1.

Table 1: International, federal and state context

| Context       | Instrument                            | Detail                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| International | Conventions, agreements and protocols | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ramsar Convention on Wetlands</li><li>• Bilateral migratory bird agreements</li><li>• Convention on Biological Diversity</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Commonwealth  | Legislation                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</li><li>• Native Title Act 1993</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| State         | Legislation                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Marine and Coastal Act 2018</li><li>• Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978</li><li>• Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988</li><li>• Environment Protection Act 1970</li><li>• Planning and Environment Act 1987</li><li>• Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006</li><li>• Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994</li><li>• Climate Change Act 2017</li><li>• Planning and Environment Amendment (Distinctive Areas and Landscapes) Act 2018</li></ul>                                                                      |
|               | Policies and frameworks               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Marine and Coastal Policy 2020</li><li>• Marine Spatial Planning Framework</li><li>• Land Conservation Council, Final Recommendations, (Land Conservation Council, 1977) Melbourne Study Area, 1977</li><li>• Bellarine Peninsula Statement of Planning Policy 2023 (Department of Transport and Planning, 2023)</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                |
|               | Strategy, plans and guidelines        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Marine and Coastal Strategy 2022</li><li>• Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037</li><li>• Coastal and Marine Management Guidelines 2023</li><li>• Siting and design guidelines for structures on the Victorian coast</li><li>• Best Practice Management Guidelines for Committees of Management Managing Caravan and Camping Parks on Crown Land</li><li>• Port Phillip Bay Environmental Management Plan 2017–2027</li></ul>                                                            |
| Local         | Local laws                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Northern Bellarine Dog Orders</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|               | Policies and frameworks               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Consent provisions for use and development on marine and coastal Crown land</li><li>• Bellarine Bayside Boatshed Management Policy 2016</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|               | Strategy, plans and guidelines        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wadawurrung Healthy Country Plan, Paleert Tjaara Dja – Let's make Country good together 2020–2030</li><li>• The Point Richards Flora and Fauna Reserve Management Plan</li><li>• City of Greater Geelong Plan for Nature</li><li>• City of Greater Geelong Stormwater Services Strategy 2020–2030</li><li>• The City of Greater Geelong Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026–2029</li><li>• Bellarine Bayside's Vegetation Management Plan</li><li>• Northern Bellarine Coastal Adaptation Plan</li></ul> |

Details of legislation, directions, guidance documentation and approvals to be obtained against these are detailed in Appendix 3.

# Management context

Bellarine Bayside is responsible for management of the reserves in accordance with the Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978 and the Marine and Coastal Act 2018. It is privileged to manage Wadawurrung Country and does so with great respect for the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners who have lived on Country for over a thousand generations.

Bellarine Bayside is a not-for-profit, Category 1 coastal Committee of Management. It was formed by the Victorian Government in 1994 to manage coastal Crown land in a way that delivers environmental, social and economic benefits to the Victorian community<sup>3</sup>.

The core management responsibilities of Bellarine Bayside in regard to these obligations include:

- Protect the coastal environment and public land values.
- Manage the reserve in accordance with its reservation purpose.
- Obtain required approvals and comply with marine and coastal policy.
- Ensure accountable, financially responsible governance.

Further to this It is recognised that it is essential to manage the reserve in partnership with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners, protect Aboriginal cultural heritage, recognise Wadawurrung cultural values, and ensure that planning, works and strategic decisions are informed by and responsive to Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (WTOAC)’s role as the Registered Aboriginal Party

Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee of Management is responsible for the overall governance of the organisation, setting its strategic direction and monitoring the business of Bellarine Bayside.

The committee delegates a level of authority to the CEO to enable effective management of day-to-day operations and administration. The CEO is, in turn, supported by a senior management team, covering planning and environment, operations, finance and business management, and holiday park management.

## Management area

The Northern Bellarine Coast is located on the Bellarine Peninsula east of Geelong and at the southern end of Port Phillip Bay.

The northern Bellarine Crown land reserves covered by this plan consist of approximately 200 hectares of woodlands, wetlands and coasts stretching 17 kilometres from Portarlington, through Indented Head to St Leonards. The reserve network includes a diverse range of foreshore and inland Crown land parcels managed for conservation, recreation, access and community use. Notable areas within the network include the 62 hectare Point Richards Flora and Fauna Reserve, while Portarlington Harbour is managed separately by Parks Victoria.

The foreshore reserve generally encompasses the area between the low-water mark and the nearest road (e.g. The Esplanade). However, there are some points of difference, including the Portarlington Harbour managed by Parks Victoria, where the management boundary is the high-water mark.

The area is known for its unique look and feel, with expansive sightlines across Port Phillip Bay to the You Yangs and the Melbourne city skyline being recognised as a declared distinctive area landscape in the Bellarine Peninsula Statement of Planning Policy 2022. These qualities, together with the area’s sheltered bay beaches, coastal townships, trails, harbour connections and coastal accommodation, position the northern Bellarine as a premier bay-side destination and an important gateway for visitors seeking to experience the recreation, culture, food, events and natural landscapes of Port Phillip Bay.

The reserves protect a range of unique, sensitive Cultural and natural assets, as well as built assets including Portarlington Holiday Park, seasonal campgrounds, the Bellarine Coastal Trail, a range of community recreation clubs and variety of visitor facilities to support and enable people to access and use the coast.

<sup>3</sup> BBFCOM Annual Report 2024-25

The area of marine and coastal Crown land covered by this plan is shown in Figure 2 and the status and purpose of the Crown land reserve parcels managed by Bellarine Bayside are described in Table 2.

Table 2: Reserve status and gazetted purpose

| Reserves                                  | Gazetted Land Status                                                            | Area       |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Portarlington<br>LEGL./15-235             | Public purposes<br><br>Public park<br><br>Public recreation and public purposes | 151.95 ha  |
| Indented Head/St Leonards<br>LEGL./15-236 | Public purposes                                                                 | 50.3424 ha |
| Total                                     |                                                                                 | 202.287 ha |

The Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation is the Registered Aboriginal Party for the area. It holds statutory authority for management of Wadawurrung cultural heritage, in line with the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006.

This plan sets out a vision, objectives and strategies and actions that apply only to the Crown land reserves managed by Bellarine Bayside. Because many of the values, opportunities and challenges it covers exist in a landscape context beyond the Bellarine Bayside management boundary, the plan’s development is informed by a collaborative approach with the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, adjoining land managers, government agencies and the community.



Figure 2: Northern Bellarine Reserves

Other land managers

Whilst Bellarine Bayside is the primary land manager of the coastal Crown land along the northern Bellarine, there are other agencies with intersecting responsibilities shown in Table 3.

The City of Greater Geelong is responsible for municipal services, including drainage and stormwater infrastructure in the region. The City of Greater Geelong is also the public land manager of some reserve areas along the foreshore, most notably Harvey Park in St Leonards.

Parks Victoria is responsible for the management of the marine environment adjacent to the northern Bellarine foreshore, including the Portarlington and St Leonards local port areas and the boating and swimming zones. Parks Victoria also manages the Edwards Point Nature Conservation Reserve and Salt Lagoon which adjoins Bellarine Bayside’s jurisdiction in St Leonards.

Both the Marine and Coastal Act and strategy state that integrated coastal zone management is a core principle. This is because most management issues cross geographic and functional boundaries and it is optimum they are not managed in isolation.

For this reason, working cooperatively with other land managers and Wadawurrung Traditional Owners will be key to the success of the plan.

Table 3: Land managers on the northern Bellarine

| Land manager            | Areas of responsibility                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| City of Greater Geelong | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Responsible for municipal services, including drainage and stormwater infrastructure with outlets in the reserves</li><li>Public land manager of reserve areas adjacent to the reserves – most notably Harvey Park in St Leonards and the Portarlington Recreation Reserve and part of the Salt Lagoon, St Leonards Wildlife Reserve</li></ul>                 |
| DEECA                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Manages the seabed in Port Phillip Bay</li><li>Regulates all use, development and works on marine and coastal Crown land by Bellarine Bayside</li><li>Leads wildlife policy and protection in Victoria</li></ul>                                                                                                                                               |
| Parks Victoria          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Waterway manager of Port Phillip Bay adjoining the northern Bellarine coastal reserves, from the low water mark in most locations.</li><li>Manages Portarlington and St Leonards piers and harbours, and the boating and swimming zones.</li><li>Manages the Edwards Point Nature Conservation Reserve and Salt Lagoon, St Leonards Wildlife Reserve</li></ul> |

Engagement summary

Developing the plan

This plan has been developed through several stages of work since April 2024. It has been informed by policy and legislation and input from Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation as well as Bellarine Bayside staff, adjoining land managers and the broader community have been central to the development of this plan.

A summary of the engagement process to inform this plan is at Figure 3.



Figure 3: Summarised engagement process

Engaging Traditional Owners

Bellarine Bayside collaborated with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation throughout the development of the CMMP, embedding Traditional Owner voices in the governance framework through active participation in both the Project Control Group and Project Working Group. Cultural heritage workshops and walks on Country provided a deeper understanding of Wadawurrung aspirations for healthy Country and to explore how Bellarine Bayside and Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation can work together to protect and nurture Wadawurrung cultural values. The insights gained from Wadawurrung Traditional Owner throughout engagements have guided the development of this draft plan.

Governance

Bellarine Bayside Committee of Management (CoM)

The Committee of Management has provided ongoing strategic direction and oversight of the plan through workshops, review and monitoring the progress of its development and endorsement at key milestones. The Committee will maintain this governance and oversight role through the development of the final plan, approvals and implementation.

Project Control Group and Project Working Group

The development of this plan was also guided by a Project Control Group (PCG) to provide governance and oversight, with members from Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation and DEECA providing strategic input, overall guidance and feedback at key milestones, endorsing this draft for public consultation.

This has been supported by a Project Working Group (PWG) that, in addition to Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation and DEECA, included Parks Victoria and the City of Greater Geelong.

The PWG provided greater detail and technical input as subject matter experts on key areas of the plan, sharing and aligning the strategies with directions from their respective organisations. The PCG and PWG governance arrangements will remain in place through to final development of the plan.

Community engagement

The CMMP is one of four major projects that was commissioned during 2024-2025 to ensure Bellarine Bayside’s operations and investment reflect community, organisation and government priorities.

- These projects were part of an Integrated Engagement Project
- Beach Access Feasibility Study (BAFS)
  - Point Richards Flora and Fauna Management Plan (PRFFRMP)
  - Northern Bellarine Coastal Adaptation Plan (NBCAP)
  - Coastal and Marine Management Plan (CMMP)

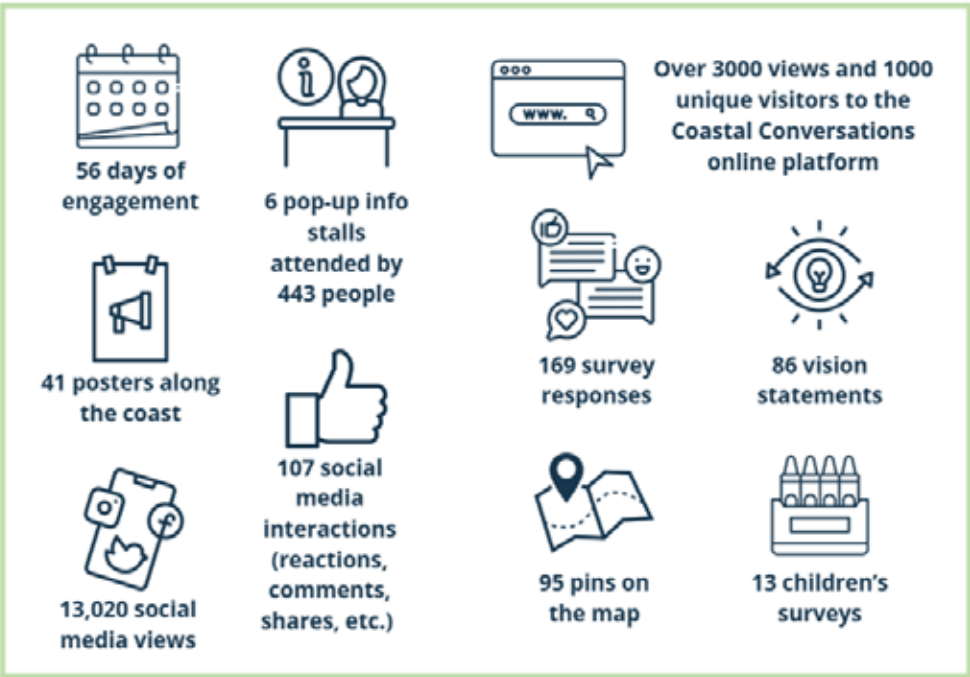
As such, Phase 1 Community Engagement asked the community about all four projects. The development of the CMMP has been informed by all of these projects

Phase 1 engagement

The first round of community engagement occurred from November 2024 to January 2025. It explored community aspirations and values as they relate to the area, as well as issues and opportunities.

In total, 289 people provided 294 online contributions, and 69 in-person contributions were received during Phase 1 of our community engagement process. Feedback was gathered through a range of interactive tools, including community surveys and drop-in sessions along the coast (see Figure 4).

Figure 4: How we engaged



The findings were released in a What We Heard summary document in January 2025. A summary of the feedback is shown in Table 4, with a more detailed account in Appendix 1.

Table 4: Summary of what we heard from the community in Round 1<sup>5</sup>

| What do you want the coast to be in 15 years’ time?                | What coastal values are important to you and activities do you undertake on the coast? | What concerns do you have for the coast? | What ideas and opportunities do you have for the coast? |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Recognises Indigenous Cultural values and knowledge                | Natural beauty and environment                                                         | Erosion                                  | Plant more native vegetation                            |
| Has a protected and healthy environment                            | Passive recreational activities                                                        | Litter and rubbish                       | More weed management                                    |
| Is an accessible and safe coastline                                | Relaxed and peaceful                                                                   | Loss of native vegetation and weeds      | Improved facilities                                     |
| Provides sustainable, inclusive and well-maintained infrastructure | Water activities                                                                       | Visitor conflict                         | Improved rubbish management                             |
| Maintains the existing natural beauty                              | Community and social aspects                                                           | Facilities and maintenance               |                                                         |
| Fosters community connections                                      |                                                                                        |                                          |                                                         |

Throughout 2025, several other engagement activities occurred for the other integrated engagement projects. A second round of feedback was sought on the Beach Access Feasibility study, further engagement was sought to finalise the Point Richards Flora and Fauna Reserve Management Plan and feedback was sought on the draft Coastal Adaptation Plan. The feedback gathered through these processes and the endorsed and approved actions from these plans have now been included in the draft CMMP.

Phase 2 engagement

Release of this draft plan starts the second round of community engagement. Feedback received during this phase of the engagement will be considered for incorporation into the final plan.



<sup>5</sup> BBFCOM 2025 Planning Our Future Coast: What We Heard Community Engagement Summary

# Values and existing conditions

The Northern Bellarine coastal reserves provide significant cultural, environmental, social and economic value to the community.

The surrounding land use is characterised by a mix of established coastal townships and productive agricultural land. The principal settlements of Portarlington, St Leonards, Indented Head experience substantial seasonal population growth associated with tourism and holiday visitation, while ongoing residential and demographic change continue to increase demand for coastal infrastructure, public access and recreational opportunities.

The geomorphology of the Northern Bellarine coast reflects a long history of marine inundation, sediment deposition and coastal erosion. The coastline is characterised by low-lying sandy beaches, foredune systems, coastal bluffs, limestone-based sediments, extensive intertidal flats and nearshore seagrass meadows.

The Northern Bellarine experiences a temperate coastal climate with relatively low rainfall, moderate temperatures and prevailing south-westerly winds that influence coastal processes and ecosystem dynamics. The coastline is continually shaped by natural processes including longshore sand movement, wave action, erosion, accretion, storm surge and inundation, with climate change and sea-level rise expected to increase pressures on both natural and built assets over time.

Native vegetation communities across the reserves include coastal dune scrub, saltmarsh, wetlands and remnant woodland habitats that provide important ecological connectivity along the northern Bellarine coast. The coastal habitats are thin threads that support larger patches with a rich diversity of wildlife, including migratory shorebirds, resident waterbirds, reptiles, small mammals and a range of marine species associated with Port Phillip Bay.

The ongoing management challenge for the Northern Bellarine is to balance increasing recreational use and visitation with the protection and restoration of these natural systems, ensuring the long-term resilience of the coast and its environmental, cultural and community values.



**Billy-Jay O'Toole, Bellawiyn, 2020**

Bellawiyn – Original Wadawurrung name for the Bellarine, which means place of resting by the fire.

Bunjil is the creator spirit of Wadawurrung Country. We still see him today watching over country. Bellawiyn is a place of freshwater, salt water, which provides many resources, including the abundance of Murnong daisy as a food source collected by Wadawurrung women.

From the waters of the Bellawiyn you will see colours of a beautiful sunrise – looking over the waters you can see our mountain Country. Kunuwarra the Black swan flies over Bellawiyn to nest and feed off the lakes and wetlands.

Bellawiyn was a place of gathering, living and groups travelling across country to come together bringing Eucalypt from Country for peace.

## Wadawurrung cultural values

The northern Bellarine reserves are on Wadawurrung Country. They are part of a culturally important landscape for Wadawurrung people.

Being a place of plenty, the Bellarine area (including the reserves) acts as a supermarket for Wadawurrung people, with everything to thrive located in this biocultural landscape. Wadawurrung stories and songlines are ever present in the area. Wadawurrung people have occupied the reserves and their surrounds for tens of thousands of years. Stories, both before and after the bay flooded, have been passed down from generation to generation of Wadawurrung people. The evidence of cultural significance throughout the reserves is still evident through tangible cultural heritage present, and extends to the intangible cultural heritage of place, verbally communicated through songlines and stories.

Although there have been variations of the landscape throughout time, it was used as required by generations of Wadawurrung people. The sea provided a plethora of saltwater species, including shellfish – muscle, oysters, limpets, turbos – and fish species – snapper and flatheads. All these species have been found in shell middens in the surrounding areas of Portarlington and carbon sampling dates the age of some middens to approximately 8,000 years. Salt Marsh species found in the reserves would be gathered and made into a salad to eat with the protein of the sea. Significant plants, such as murnong, were abundant and would be eaten regularly. Mammals were also ever present within the landscape, allowing the site not to be overfished and hunted when longer stays were required.

The biocultural landscape of the reserves is also a place of manufacture: where eucalyptus, wattle and Moonah tree were used to create tools like coolamons, axe handles, digging sticks and clap sticks. Additionally, fibrous grasses and tussocks were used to make hunting and fishing nets, baskets and rope. Wadawurrung people only took what was needed to allow for the sustainability of the landscape. Wadawurrung people would assist with the management of the land by burning Country, using generations of fire and land knowledge. The reserves allowed for generations of Wadawurrung people to not only survive on the land, but to thrive.

Prior to Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation obtaining Registered Aboriginal Party status in 2009, only tangible cultural heritage was mapped, through a western lens, most of the times by non-Wadawurrung people.. The extent of tangible cultural values across the reserves is likely to be of higher density than what is mapped and known. Visible cultural heritage also doesn't tell the full scale of its density, as sub-surface evidence of occupation is a certainty in the reserves. The reserves hold high intangible cultural values also, being sites of celebration and marriage, and the landscape forms a part of Wadawurrung songlines.

The reserves contain several Wadawurrung places and objects registered under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006, as well as a living body of traditional knowledge and significant intangible heritage to generations of Wadawurrung people.

Bellarine Bayside is privileged to manage Wadawurrung Country and does so with respect for Wadawurrung Traditional Owners who have lived on Country for over a thousand generations. In recognising the unique ability of Wadawurrung people to care for Country, and the continuing connections Wadawurrung Traditional Owners have to the land, sea, sky and waterways, Bellarine Bayside continues to collaborate and work alongside the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation on projects and management of Country across the reserves.

## Natural values

The Northern Bellarine coastal reserves extend along the northern shoreline of the Bellarine Peninsula from Point Richards near Portarlington to Edwards Point and encompass a diverse coastal landscape of beaches, dunes, cliffs, wetlands and nearshore marine environments. Native vegetation communities across the reserves provide important ecological connectivity and habitat along the northern Bellarine coast.

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.veac.vic.gov.au/component/investigations/document/getDownload?fid=MTA2NQ==>

The thin threads of coastal habitats have been significantly modified since European settlement through land clearing and settlement, however still retain large areas of native habitat including coastal dunes and grasslands, woodlands including significant Moonah trees and wetlands encompassing endangered Coastal Saltmarsh. These habitats support a diverse array of wildlife, with over 200 fauna species recorded across the reserves, including threatened species such as the Growling Grass Frog, Orange-bellied Parrot and beach-nesting Red-capped Plover.



Remaining areas of native vegetation provide valuable habitat for indigenous plants and animals. An excellent example of this is the Point Richards Flora and Fauna Reserve, which was gazetted in 1988 for the conservation of coastal flora and fauna, as well as habitat for the Southern Brown Bandicoot (now locally extinct).

### Effects of Habitat Fragmentation

Fragmentation occurs when native vegetation, such as coastal scrub, wetlands and woodlands, is physically divided into disconnected pieces. This process is sometimes referred to as ‘the edge effect’.

During fragmentation, vegetation patches are separated by roads, walking trails, informal tracks, car parks and degraded and cleared areas. Storms and other coastal hazards can also cause fragmentation.

Fragmentation changes connected healthy ecosystems into smaller, weaker habitats of lesser condition. It reduces plant and community diversity, making areas more susceptible to weed invasion, and reduces habitat quality and coastal resilience to storms and erosion.



Wetlands and intertidal areas along the foreshore, including the Indented Head coastal saltmarsh, Point Richards southern wetland and Salt Lagoon areas, serve as critical links to the internationally important Port Phillip Bay Ramsar Site at Edwards Point and Swan Bay.

Coastal processes, including tides, wind, waves and erosion, continue to impact and shape the coastline, exacerbated by climate change. Likewise, human modifications to the environment and increasing demand for space and access for recreational and commercial use threaten the integrity and quality of the coastal and marine environment. The impacts of erosion and inundation include loss of access and amenity, as well as damage to infrastructure, facilities, Cultural values and coastal habitats.

### Remnant native vegetation

Many of the larger patches of native vegetation have high conservation significance and contribute to regional biodiversity values, while also providing ecosystem services such as dune stabilisation, habitat provision and coastal protection.

Approximately 100 hectares of the north Bellarine reserves – equating to approximately 50% of the planning area – is under native vegetation cover. Much of the native vegetation is captured in the 62-hectare Point Richards Flora and Fauna Reserve.

The remaining 40 hectares of native vegetation is dispersed along the 17 kilometres of coastal reserve. Vegetation width can be as little as one metre in some areas, and up to 50 metres near the Indented Head saltmarsh wetlands and Lower Bluff areas.

This remnant vegetation includes important stands of Damp Sands Herbrich Woodland at Point Richards Flora and Fauna Reserve, Coastal Headland Scrub of the Lower Bluff and St Leonards, and Coastal Moonah Woodland of Indented Head.

Coastal Moonah Woodland and Damp Sands Herb-rich Woodland are recognised as threatened communities under the Victorian Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988, and much of the community has been cleared and fragmented across Victoria.

Protecting these areas will help preserve the Bellarine Peninsula’s unique flora, including plant species of State significance such as Austral Crane’s-bill (*Geranium solanderi* var. *solanderi*), Snowy Mint-Bush (*Prostanthera nivea*) and Coast Twin leaf (*Roepera billardierei*), as well as many species of regional significance.

### Why native vegetation is important on the north Bellarine

- It supports the persistence of coastal Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs) that are genetically distinct and protected by legislation.
- It supports rare and threatened ecological communities including Coastal Saltmarsh and Moonah Woodlands
- It provides habitat for wildlife, including beach nesting birds such as the Red-capped Plover, and intertidal feeding Ruddy Turnstone and Pied Oystercatcher, as well as reptiles, insects and frogs.
- It supports pollination through bees, butterflies and other moths, while providing corridors of vegetation that allow wildlife to move between habitat patches.
- It acts as a natural defence mechanism to the threats of coastal hazards by stabilising dunes with deep roots, allowing dunes to function as natural seawalls that absorb wave energy in a more sympathetic way than engineered structures.

Wetlands and shorelines

Wetlands and shorelines of the reserves provide refuge and important feeding and roosting habitat for wetland-dependent wildlife and shorebirds. Pelicans, swans and other seabirds rely on beaches and shorelines. Migratory birds, including the Ruddy Turnstone, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper and Red-necked Stint, also use the coastal habitats of the reserves.

*Kunuwarra (Black Swan) feed and rest on the shores of the reserves and are valued by Wadawurrung.*



The intertidal and soft sediments of the reserve shores provide important habitat for resident and migratory shorebirds. Beach washed organic matter on sandy beaches is an important food source for invertebrates, contributing to the detrital cycle nourishing the beach ecosystem. Beaches and intertidal soft sediments provide important habitat for Red-capped Plover, Australian Pied Oystercatcher, Fairy Tern and other shorebirds and seabirds.

Wetlands within the reserves – particularly at Point Richards Flora and Fauna Reserve – also provide critical habitat for threatened and migratory bird species and support a large population of

the Growling Grass Frog (*Litoria raniformis*), a species listed as Vulnerable under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

The reserves support marine mammals, including the Australian Fur Seal, and occasionally other species. Seals sometimes come ashore to rest on beaches, rocky outcrops and boat ramps. Their presence resting on the shore is a normal part of their life cycle; however, if they are unwell or injured they are monitored by authorities.

Seals contribute to the diversity of the marine environment of Port Phillip Bay and are an important predator in a healthy marine and coastal ecosystem. Seals are protected under Victorian law, and it is illegal to disturb, approach or feed seals.



Trees

Trees along the foreshore are highly regarded for the biodiversity and habitat values they support. Remaining trees in the largely modified north Bellarine environment form critical ‘islands’ of habitat, providing food and allowing species movement across the landscape, as well as resting and nesting areas.

Stands of Cypress trees were historically planted along sections of the reserves at Portarlington, Indented Head and St Leonards. While not native to the Bellarine area, these exotic trees form a component of the reserves’ landscape character and provide valuable shade in summer. Other ecosystem services provided by these trees include water retention, protection from wind and salt spray, soil stability, climate control and air filtration.

Social values

The social and recreational uses are central to the social value of the coastal reserves, offering low-cost opportunities for residents, visitors and holiday makers to connect with the coastal and marine environment of Port Phillip Bay.

Community connections

The reserves are highly valued by the local community for many of the same reasons that they attract visitors. Many people have established and deep connections with the coastal landscape going back generations.

They are important places for events and activities that support community connection, including markets, group activities and environmental awareness programs.



Community Volunteering and Citizen Science.

In 2024–25 volunteer groups contributed more than 2,300 hours to building coastal resilience through citizen science programs and ongoing planting and restoration works across coastal reserves.

One of the most highly used assets on the reserves is the Bellarine Coastal Trail. As the trail follows the shoreline, it offers uninterrupted bay views and flat terrain, making it a popular route for walking and cycling.

The natural values of the reserves mean they are held in high esteem by many individuals and groups who are invested in the area’s protection. This motivates social use of a defined type – that is, a coming together driven by a desire to preserve and maintain the reserves. Collectively, volunteer groups, community groups, schools, external organisations and residents donate thousands of volunteer hours each year to help clean up the coast, and protect and restore native vegetation (see text box).

Emergency services

The reserves provide a base for the Portarlington CFA within W.G Little Reserve providing an important community emergency service.

<sup>7</sup> BCCM Annual Report



### Post-settlement heritage values

The Northern Bellarine reserves contain important post-settlement heritage values associated with maritime activity, coastal town development, recreation, tourism and community life, all of which contribute to the area's distinctive character and sense of place.

Notable historic features include the Ozone wreck at Indented Head, the John Batman monument, associated with Batman's 1835 landing, the Matthew Flinders Memorial at Portarlington, the Indented Head boatsheds, and the St Leonards Pier and related foreshore structures. The area also has links to the stories of Matthew Flinders, Captain George Ward Cole and William Buckley.

The Portarlington Cenotaph is an important commemorative landmark that honours the military service and sacrifice of local residents across a range of conflicts. Established following the First World War, it remains a focal point for community remembrance and contributes significantly to the historical and social heritage of the Portarlington foreshore.

Recognising these heritage values also requires acknowledgement that aspects of post-settlement history are associated with the displacement of Wadawurrung People from Country, and that contemporary heritage management should seek to reflect both settlement history and Traditional Owner perspectives.

### Recreation values

The Northern Bellarine's gently sloping terrain, sheltered bay beaches, expansive coastal landscapes and scenic vistas, combined with its proximity to Melbourne and Geelong, make it a highly valued destination for recreation and tourism. The area supports a diverse range of inclusive recreational and social experiences for local communities, day visitors and holidaymakers, attracting thousands of visitors each year to its beaches, coastal reserves and townships.

Small and large groups of people from across Geelong, Melbourne and the regions come to the reserves, using them as a meeting place to catch up with family and friends and enjoy recreational activities in the bay side surroundings.

### Beachgoing and water-based activities

Bellarine Bayside manage the beaches to the low tide mark providing for beach play, relaxing by the water and access to the water for a wide array of water-based activities.

Parks Victoria are responsible for the water-based recreation activities (e.g. swimming, snorkelling paddle-boarding, jet skiing, boating) and have established a range of water-based zones to manage these uses. Along the North Bellarine coast there are designated swimming only areas, designated wind-sport areas and standard 5 knot boating zones.

### Walking and Cycling

The Bellarine Coastal Trail runs the length of the coastal reserve, connecting Portarlington, Indented Head and St Leonards. Wide and mostly flat, it's a highly valued asset for walkers, dog walkers, runners and cyclists.

### Fishing and boating

Fishing is a highly popular activity with shore-based fishing from beaches, piers and jetties. Fishing and boating is also highly popular and supported by public boat ramps at Point Richards, Portarlington Holiday Park, Fairfax Street (Steeles Rock), Indented Head (Wrathall Reserve) and St Leonards. There are also club-only boat ramps At Indented Head Boat club and St Leonards Yacht Club & Motor Squadron.

Public boat ramps are supported by associated visitor facilities including toilets, fish cleaning tables and car parking.



### Picnicking

There are many grassy foreshore areas with trees, barbeques, picnic tables and playgrounds that support informal social gatherings with family and friends for small to larger groups.

### Community leases and licences

Community organisations such as sailing clubs, bowls clubs and the miniature railway are important contributors to the social fabric of the Northern Bellarine foreshore. They provide opportunities for recreation, volunteering, learning and social connection, supporting the health and wellbeing of residents and visitors alike. Through their activities and volunteer commitment, these organisations help activate public spaces, strengthen community identity, attract visitors and enhance the overall value and enjoyment of the foreshore.

Community clubs and organisations that have a formal lease or licence include:

- Portarlington Miniature Railway
- Portarlington Sailing Club
- Portarlington Bowls Club
- Indented Head Yacht Club
- Indented Head Boat Club
- St Leonards Yacht Club & Motor Squadron.

### Economic values

Outside of the natural and social values that help drive this visitation, there are several uses of the reserves that support a positive economic impact to support the sustainable operation of the organisation and provide benefits to the visitor economy. The core to this is the camping and accommodation offer provided by Bellarine Bayside and also the activations across the foreshore.

Revenue generated from commercial activities is reinvested into maintaining and upgrading the Portarlington Holiday Park and camping reserves, as well as managing the northern Bellarine reserves. This management includes protecting natural and cultural values, maintaining open space landscapes and maintaining visitor services and built assets.

According to Tourism Greater Geelong & The Bellarine, 'the foreshores and commercial cores of each of the towns along the Bellarine North coastline drive the majority of visitation to the sub region.'<sup>8</sup> The organisation's Priority Visitor Market Guide states that average annual visitors to the Bellarine North sub-region – which incorporates Portarlington, St Leonards, Indented Head and Drysdale – include 662,000 visitor nights and 300,000 day trips<sup>9</sup>.

### Camping and accommodation

The holiday park and camping reserves on the northern Bellarine reserves collectively offer a beachfront camping experience that is uniquely safe and accessible, and distinct from the other ocean, surf and river experiences offered at Ocean Grove, Queenscliff and Barwon Heads.

In 2025-26, the campgrounds facilitated more than 231,800 visitor nights and generated an estimated \$41.3 million in direct visitor expenditure. Modelling shows that this visitation activity contributed approximately \$74.7 million in total economic output to the Greater Geelong economy and supported 297 jobs through direct, supply-chain and household consumption effects. The campgrounds therefore deliver a dual public benefit by providing affordable access to the coast while also generating substantial economic activity, employment and value for local businesses and communities across the region.

They include:

- Portarlington Holiday Park
- Andersons Reserve campground
- Taylor Reserve campground
- Batman Park campground
- Bengalat Reserve campground
- Karrong Reserve campground



<sup>8</sup> Priority Visitor Market Guide, page 28

<sup>9</sup> Priority Visitor Market Guide, page 28

Portarlington Holiday Park

The Portarlington Holiday Park is the largest park managed by Bellarine Bayside.

It is ideally situated on the shores of Port Phillip Bay and features 1.2 kilometres of direct beach frontage that is open year-round. The park is also conveniently located within walking distance of the town centre giving guests easy access to the Portarlington Pier, ferry services to Melbourne, pubs, shops and cafes. With several playgrounds and 2 jumping pillows, the holiday park is a popular destination for families with toddlers and primary-school-aged children.

The accommodation includes:

- 484 year-round tourist sites
- 410 twelve-month permit sites
- 20 tourist cabins and
- 3 beach pods.

While the maximum recommended percentage of cabins on Crown land sites is 15%, the 20 cabins and 3 beach pods in the holiday park make up only 2.5% of total sites.

Seasonal campgrounds

Along the coastal reserves there are several seasonal campgrounds within the Indented Head and St Leonards areas, which offer a more intimate experience nestled between the Esplanade and the coast. In total there are:

- 378 seasonal tourist sites

Retail use

The reserves also act as a venue for commercial food and boat hire through formal leases and licences including:

- Pier St Café
- Beachlea Boathire

Festivals and events

A range of major events and festivals are held in the northern Bellarine reserves throughout the year, providing unique opportunities for locals and visitors to connect with the coastal and marine environment. Key major events currently include:

**2025 National Celtic Folk Festival**

Total attendance: 16,212 people

Non-local attendees: 46%

Estimated economic impact: \$3,445,266

Source: Geelong Major Events Annual Report 2024–25



- The National Celtic Folk Festival – held in Portarlington in June, this is a significant winter festival attracting visitors from across Victoria and interstate during the offseason
- Portarlington Mussel Festival – held in January, this major summer event celebrates the local mussel industry, seafood, produce and live music
- The Bellarine Sunset Run – a popular community running event that follows the Bellarine Coastal Trail bringing participants together to enjoy an outdoor recreation activity with views of the bay at sunset
- Portarlington Greek Festival – Is a new event held in November. As a growing event, the Portarlington Greek Festival enriches community life by bringing residents and visitors together to celebrate culture, food and traditions.
- Hooked on Bellarine and other community fishing and seafood events – held in spring, fishing and seafood focused festivals promote sustainable recreational fishing, family participation and local seafood industries
- The Sail Bellarine Regatta – held in May, this regatta aims to increase club participation and accommodation bookings in the shoulder season and is hosted by the Indented Head Yacht Club, with support from Bellarine Bayside and the City of Greater Geelong
- Wreck 2 Reef swim – this popular open water swim is held annually held in February and hosted by the Indented Head Yacht Club

As well as supporting social connections in the local community, these events bring significant benefit to the local area by attracting visitors, boosting economic returns through accommodation bookings, and promoting local food, produce and wine.

Boatsheds

The management of boatshed licences is guided by Bellarine Bayside’s Boatshed Management Policy 2016. The purpose of the policy is to ensure fair, equitable and consistent management of boatsheds along the reserve. In accordance with the policy, the boatshed licenses are renewed every 10 years – most recently in 2026. There are currently 22 boat sheds located at Indented Head that are managed under this arrangement.

Foreshore permits

In addition to the more significant events, the northern Bellarine also hosts a range of smaller markets, music events, social and sporting activities that support community connection, foreshore activation and a vibrant local visitor economy.

The majority of smaller permits are provided across activity and recreation nodes and the Coastal Trail. Another important and valued community facility is the Indented Head Community Hall, which is used by local groups, service providers and small businesses. The hall hosts a range of community activities and events, including meetings, workshops, forums and weddings.

All permits and occupancies are conditional, time-bound and subject to review to ensure use of the coastal reserve is sustainable, equitable, appropriate, safe and preserves our coastal environment. There are close to 30 permits granted for vendor and activity services on the reserves each year and every permit supports use and enjoyment of the coastal Reserves.

# Management challenges

The Northern Bellarine reserves are highly valued for their environmental, cultural, recreational and community benefits. However, increasing visitation, population growth, ageing infrastructure and the cumulative impacts of historical land use continue to place pressure on coastal and marine ecosystems. Climate change is expected to further exacerbate these pressures through sea-level rise, coastal erosion, inundation, storm surge and changes to ecosystem health and resilience. At the same time, land managers face ongoing challenges associated with limited financial and operational resources, the management of environmental threats such as habitat loss, invasive species and coastal degradation, ensuring visitor safety across a dynamic coastal environment, and building meaningful partnerships with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners to support the protection of cultural values and shared stewardship of Country. Balancing these competing demands will require proactive, informed and adaptive management to ensure the long-term sustainability and resilience of the reserves for future generations.

## Climate change

The coastal reserves on the northern Bellarine are naturally shaped by coastal processes such as tides, wind and waves. However, the impacts of these processes are being exacerbated by climate change.

Coastal hazards, including erosion, storm surge and permanent inundation, present significant risks to the Cultural, natural and recreational values of the reserves. Understanding and managing coastal hazards is complex and requires a strategic, evidence-based, collaborative and adaptive approach.

The recently completed Northern Bellarine Coastal Adaptation Plan informs how Bellarine Bayside responds to coastal hazards to protect popular beaches, the Bellarine Coastal Trail and other important recreational, natural and Cultural assets.



## Visitor management challenges

### Population and visitation growth

The population of the northern Bellarine towns is projected to increase by just over 3,100 people by 2046<sup>12</sup>. While this growth is relatively modest, the populations living within the catchment areas that generate the most visitors to the area – Ballarat, Greater Geelong and suburban areas west of Melbourne – are expected to grow at a significantly faster rate.

The estimated residential population of Greater Geelong alone is expected to increase by over 135,000 people over the next 20 years – from 306,814 in 2026 to 441,984 in 2046<sup>13</sup>.

This population growth and the visitation it drives will increase pressure on the reserves and present a significant challenge to Bellarine Bayside. While the organisation has a strong desire to support an enjoyable and safe recreational experience for visitors on the reserves, maintaining the quality of these experiences, while protecting natural and Cultural values, will become more difficult.

### Dogs

Coastal locations are highly valued by dog owners as they offer opportunities to exercise and socialise pets in both on- and off-leash areas<sup>14</sup>. The Northern Bellarine Dog Orders and corresponding guide, Take the Lead on the Northern Bellarine, outline the regulations in place for walking dogs on the reserves managed by Bellarine Bayside. The orders, brought into effect in 2018 in partnership with the City of Greater Geelong, aim to balance the social and health benefits of dog walking with the protection of wildlife and sensitive areas

Unfortunately issues exist around dog owners not complying with dog rules or dogs that are not well behaved creating impacts for other users of the reserve. Dogs using beach areas that wildlife rely on can also cause disturbance and impact breeding or direct dog attacks.



### Demographics of the northern Bellarine

Estimated combined population of Portarlington, Indented Head and St Leonards

2021: 9,260 people  
2026: 11,359 people

<sup>12</sup> <https://profile.id.com.au/> – accessed on 12 May 2026

<sup>13</sup> <https://profile.id.com.au/> – accessed on 12 May 2026

<sup>14</sup> The City of Greater Geelong Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026–2029, accessed 13 May 2026

Experience and attraction limitations

Tourism Greater Geelong & The Bellarine Priority Visitor Market Guide states that overnight visitation to the Bellarine North sub-region is “predominantly from intrastate visitors” who have their own private accommodation and typically have lower spending output.

This means that the reserves are absorbing the impacts associated with high visitor numbers; however, the local economy is not realising the full economic benefit of that visitation.

With the wide variety of activities offered in the region, the guide argues the region should be able to attract higher spending short-term visitors. However, “issues of infrastructure, seasonality, and accommodation supply” are hindering this growth.

The guide points to the lack of transport and 3- and 4-star hotel rooms as problematic and notes several “experience gaps” including accommodation diversity (such as beach pods, cabins and experiential accommodation), health and wellness and touring opportunities<sup>15</sup>.

There is also a recognised lack of recreational amenity for young people staying at the holiday park and reserves. While the recreational activities in the park cater well for toddlers and primary aged children, there are less options for older children and young people visiting the area with their families. This increases the potential for anti-social behaviour in the area.

The attractions on the North Bellarine Coast are also more subtle and not widely recognised drawcards like the National Parks and more rugged and spectacular coastlines nearby. The range of activities are different and highly linked to climate and summer water-based activities.

Ageing infrastructure

While the reserves continue to provide valued recreational opportunities, some infrastructure, landscape elements and facilities are reaching a stage where renewal and enhancement would improve functionality and user experience. This includes visitor facilities and the operational facilities that support day-to-day reserve management.

Bellarine Bayside’s current Built Asset Capital Investment Plan utilises a range of asset data to guide asset maintenance and renewal. The asset plan identifies nearly \$23 million of capital investment needed to maintain and renew assets over the next 10 years, with priority assigned based on use and condition<sup>16</sup>.

Car parking

Over the peak summer season, the demand for car parking along the north Bellarine exceeds existing capacity.

Informal car parking – that is, parking outside of designated car parks – frequently occurs on the reserves at these times. Informal car parking can accelerate loss of vegetation cover and erosion, while also impacting visitor safety and amenity.

Tree risks

The reserves contain many older trees including the Cypress trees which are a familiar feature on some areas on the coastal reserves. Some of these trees are moving beyond their typical life expectancy. When trees are near their end-of-life stage, their condition declines and the likelihood of them dropping limbs or falling increases. This poses a risk to visitors, particularly during storms and high wind and rainfall events.

Cultural recognition

The coastal and sea Country of the reserves was a highly productive place for Wadawurrung people providing important food, shelter and other resources, as well as a place for ceremony, law and other practices. However, there is currently limited visibility of Wadawurrung culture and values in existing landmarks and interpretative storytelling. This may be impacting public awareness of the Cultural values within the reserves.

Unauthorised use and illegal activities

At times, unauthorised and illegal activities occur on the north Bellarine reserves that conflict with appropriate social and recreational use, and impact on their overall condition.

These include:

- Illegal camping
- Littering and rubbish dumping
- Anti-social behaviour
- Non-compliance with permits
- Unauthorised horse-riding
- Unauthorised drone flying
- Lighting of campfires outside designated times and locations

<sup>15</sup> Priority Visitor Market Guide, page 21  
<sup>16</sup> Bellarine Bayside Built Asset Capital Investment Plan, Bellarine Bayside Coastal Management 2023.

# Environment challenges

## Fragmentation and beach access

Past land use has resulted in only a narrow strip of fringing vegetation remaining along the northern Bellarine coast. The reserves offer protection for this important native vegetation and the biodiversity it supports. The overabundance and use of beach access points along the coastal reserves is impacting natural and Cultural values.

The open coastal landscape of the reserves leaves them vulnerable to the development of informal beach access tracks across sensitive dunes. These tracks cause fragmentation of an already linear and depleted native vegetation patch. They can also damage Cultural values, reduce habitat quality for wildlife, reduce the resilience of dunes to storm surge and erosion hazards and increase maintenance costs.

The Northern Bellarine Beach Access Feasibility Study (Water Technology 2025), conducted in 2025, included a comprehensive assessment of the beach access points along the 17-kilometre coastal reserves.

The study identified 307 existing beach access points on the reserves. These access points – both formal and informal – were being used by varying degrees to access the beach.

The study recommended improved management of beach access across the reserves to provide a better balance of high-quality and safe visitor access to the beach, protection of Cultural and environmental values, and improved coastal resilience.

### Key findings of the Northern Bellarine Beach Access Feasibility Study

34% of existing (2025) beach access points are likely to be affected by coastal hazards by 2040

58% occur in areas with sensitive native vegetation

Over half of the access points have other access within 50 metres

Only two access points provide universal access



## Pest animals and plants

Native wildlife, such as birds, frogs and reptile populations, can be predated upon by foxes and cats, contributing to population decline and disrupting ecosystem balance. In addition, pest animals, such as rabbits and hares, impact native vegetation, altering habitat conditions and reducing biodiversity.

Environmental weeds, including invasive species and overabundant native species, can outcompete native flora needed to maintain the environmental condition of the reserves. Garden escapes from nearby residential properties can also become a problem if garden waste is dumped, or seed is allowed to disperse into adjoining reserves.

## Damage to coastal vegetation

In most areas, the coastal reserves along the northern Bellarine are separated from residential and farming zones by only the road reserve. This gives many properties along The Esplanade and Bluff Road highly valued views across the coastal reserves and the bay.

There have been instances of trees within the reserves being poisoned, pruned and felled without permission. These acts of vandalism are illegal and threaten species like the endangered Bellarine Yellow Gum, as well as the deep-rooted Moonah and Sheoak trees, which help bind soil and protect against environmental threats like erosion.

## Stormwater and waste

Contaminated stormwater run-off from urban areas poses a risk to the health of Port Phillip Bay and can exacerbate coastal erosion in the reserves and pollution in our wetland areas.

Another significant challenge is to reduce waste and litter. Peak beach days, events and holiday park uses of the reserves generate significant waste, which poses a risk to the reserves if not adequately managed.

## Sustainable financial management

As a largely self-funded organisation, Bellarine Bayside relies heavily on revenue generated from its own operations, camping fees, leases, permits and commercial activities to fund the management of the reserves and community assets. Grant funding has been and will continue to be an essential additional resource to deliver key initiatives.

In this context, Bellarine Bayside faces increasing financial pressures driven by rising compliance requirements, growing operational costs and increasing expectations for service delivery and asset management. While revenue opportunities remain relatively limited, the costs of maintaining public infrastructure, protecting environmental values and ensuring visitor safety continue to grow.

Climate change is expected to place further demands on resources through the need for coastal adaptation, risk management and the protection of vulnerable assets. Ensuring the long-term sustainability of the reserves will require careful financial stewardship, strategic investment and a focus on sustainable funding models.

# Draft Coastal and Marine Management Plan

This plan has been formulated to meet the legal and strategic requirements underpinning marine and coastal management on the northern Bellarine reserves, while also addressing the local environmental, Cultural and community context.

While the vision guiding the plan is long term – based on a fifteen-year timeframe – the Strategic Framework is designed around the five-year life of the plan (see Figure 5).

At the end of that period, the plan will be reviewed and updated in accordance with the Marine and Coastal Act.



**Vision**

The northern Bellarine coastal reserve and holiday parks are popular destinations, celebrated for their resilient natural environments, healthy Wadawurrung Country and culture, and distinctive, family-friendly bayside character.

These valued places offer a variety of rewarding experiences that benefit the local community and visitors.

## Strategic framework

Figure 5 shows the four strategic pillars that are intended to help Bellarine Bayside deliver the vision for the northern Bellarine reserves.

**Strategic Pillars:**

The strategic pillars are intended as a framework for organising priorities rather than discrete areas of management. Many values, opportunities and challenges span multiple pillars, requiring an integrated management approach. Actions undertaken within one pillar will often contribute to outcomes in others, such as protecting native vegetation, which can simultaneously support cultural values, coastal resilience and visitor experiences.

Beneath each pillar are objectives and strategic actions that translate the long-term vision into five-year priorities for Bellarine Bayside’s management of the northern Bellarine reserves.

**Precincts:**

The whole-of-area strategic actions will be further supplemented by precinct actions. These provide more specific location based actions that are aligned to each pillar expressing how the overall objectives are achieved. Broader strategic actions may apply but are not replicated in the precinct.

| Vision                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Strategic pillars                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Protecting Wadawurrung Cultural values                                                                                                                                  | Protecting natural values                                                                                                                  | Enhancing visitor experience and social connections                                                                                                              | Supporting the Community and Economy                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Objectives                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Wadawurrung Cultural values and landscapes are protected and nurtured.                                                                                                  | The condition of natural and biocultural values is protected and improved.                                                                 | Enable safe, sustainable and enjoyable coastal experiences through contemporary facilities, services and access that meet the needs of a diverse range of users. | Drive the performance of Bellarine Bayside's holiday park and campground operations to deliver exceptional visitor experiences that create sustainable revenue and deliver lasting benefits to the management of the coastal crown land and the regional visitor economy. |
| The Wadawurrung Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation collaborates with Bellarine Bayside on decisions about Wadawurrung Sea and Coast managed by Bellarine Bayside. | Natural values are resilient to coastal hazards.                                                                                           | Guide the future management of the coast through collaborative planning that balances environmental, cultural, recreational and community outcomes.              | Activate Bellarine Bayside's coastal areas through experiences, events and partnerships that increase visitation, diversify revenue, support local economic activity and deliver community benefit.                                                                       |
| Wadawurrung people are working on and actively caring for Country.                                                                                                      | Community and visitors are aware of the benefits of nature conservation and support protecting nature and healing Country in the Reserves. |                                                                                                                                                                  | Relationships with the community and stakeholders are strengthened so their aspirations help shape our decisions.                                                                                                                                                         |
| Visitors and community have an improved understanding of Wadawurrung Cultural values.                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Strategic actions<br>Aligned to the objectives                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Precinct actions<br>Location-based actions aligned to the pillar                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

Spatial planning model

A spatial planning model is being adopted in this plan in line with the Marine Coastal Policy that supports better decision-making and establishes the core management intent to achieve the visitor experience and social connection, community and economy objectives with the protection of natural and Cultural values in the marine and coastal environment.

The model adopts Cultural Heritage sensitivity as a core and overriding spatial dataset to guide other zoning. The model further identifies different management use areas for different management intents. Two layers of spatial mapping have been developed at a strategic and operational level. Strategic maps (in each precinct) indicate the desired outcomes and operational maps provided in appendix 2 detail specific changes to open space and revegetation areas.

Cultural heritage sensitivity

This is a whole of landscape overlay (ochre) managed to protect Wadawurrung cultural values in partnership with the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation. This overlay identifies areas of cultural heritage sensitivity and known cultural values. The overlay provides guidance to depict recorded cultural values but should not be interpreted to mean cultural values do not exist outside the illustrated overlay.

Any proposed works require early cultural heritage consultation with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners and assessment as part of planning. Ground disturbance and new development will be avoided where possible or designed to avoid harm. All proposed works will be subject to relevant cultural heritage approvals and processes.

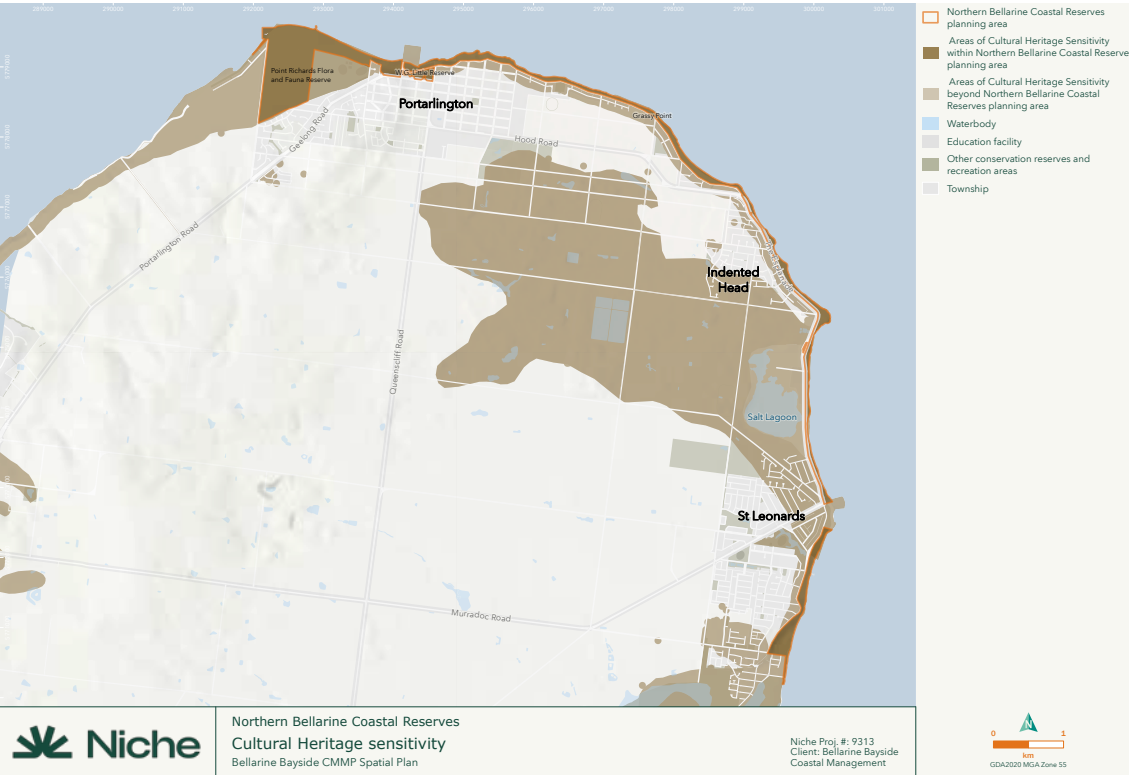


Figure 7: The northern Bellarine reserves are on Wadawurrung Country. They form a culturally significant landscape with recognised places, objects, and intangible heritage. The Cultural Heritage sensitivity overlay does not depict the entire extent of Wadawurrung cultural significance. Wadawurrung cultural values may, and likely do, exist outside the overlay area depicted.

Management and use areas

The categories below describe proposed management intent to be applied spatially across the reserves. The proposed management and use areas have been developed with reference to existing natural, Cultural, recreational and social values, legislation, existing infrastructure and the draft strategic objectives described in this plan.

The management and use areas include:

- Recreation area
- Biodiversity conservation and restoration
- Coastal conservation and open space
- Camping and accommodation
- Management and administration
- Bellarine Coastal Trail

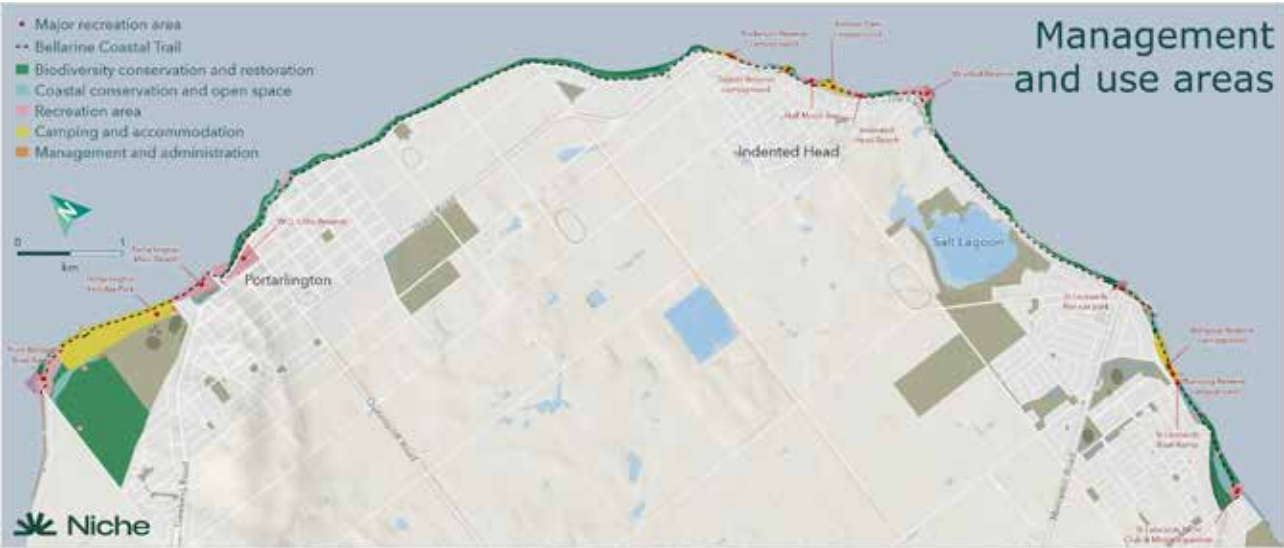


Figure 6 Strategic management and use areas

**Recreation area (red):** By identifying and mapping priority activity and recreation nodes, Bellarine Bayside can more feasibly manage safe, high quality and contemporary visitor facilities and services in the reserves and can focus management and investment to the most important and highly used sites, resulting in more strategic and sustainable resourcing. A Level of Service (LOS) approach will be further developed to evaluate the infrastructure development, maintenance, and servicing requirements.

Primarily managed for visitor use, including social and recreational activities. Recreation areas are defined as either an activity or recreation node (table 6) and may range from basic to very high levels of service with basic infrastructure to highly developed hubs for public use and access to the marine and coastal environment including parking, beach access, boat ramps, highly managed parkland and open space and associated visitor facilities.

**Biodiversity conservation and restoration (green):** Primarily managed for biodiversity conservation. These areas provide existing or have strong potential to protect and enhance native vegetation and habitat. They will remain accessible for passive recreation; visitor use and enjoyment. Specific areas planned for conversion from open space to restoration areas are further detailed in the operational maps in appendix 2.

**Camping and accommodation (yellow):** Primarily managed for camping, accommodation and visitor use. These areas contain infrastructure and services that support public use and amenity for holidaying, as well as access to the marine and coastal environment. Activation and development supporting these uses will be supported, subject to relevant approvals including cultural heritage and Marine and Coastal Act consent. Seasonal campgrounds will also provide public open space for recreational and social activity outside of the peak season and may include other low key commercial activity.

**Coastal public open space (blue):** Primarily managed to provide public open space for passive recreation and social activity within the marine and coastal environment. A range of basic infrastructure and services may be provided to support visitor use and enjoyment. Biodiversity values that contribute to conservation outcomes in adjacent areas will be protected, balancing recreation and conservation objectives without unnecessarily restricting appropriate public access and use. Levels of Service may range from low-to-mid.

**Management and administration (orange):** Primarily managed to support the operational management and administration of the reserves. This includes offices, parking areas, depots and the storage of machinery and equipment.

**The Bellarine Coastal Trail (black dashed):** A linear recreational trail extending along approximately 17 kilometres of the reserves’ foreshore. The trail intersects multiple zones and is managed as a single recreation trail area.

Plan enablers

Taking a stewardship approach

Bellarine Bayside management decisions will consider all uses and seek to facilitate diverse and equitable use of coastal Crown land assets, ensuring environmental protection for a sustainable coastal environment that can be enjoyed by all.

The environmental management program will seek to protect and restore biodiversity of the reserves through strategic and planned invasive species control, wildlife protection and landscape restoration programs.

This program of work will take an asset and risk-based approach to protect highest value conservation areas from the greatest risks and where outcomes can be maximised.

Evidence-based decision making

A range of data sources will inform planning, investment, operational and management decisions across Bellarine Bayside. The organisation will continue to strengthen the systems, tools and processes that support evidence-based decision-making, including an asset management system, coastal monitoring framework, and the regular collection and analysis of community feedback. Together, these initiatives will provide a robust evidence base to guide priorities, allocate resources, monitor outcomes, respond to emerging challenges and opportunities, and ensure decisions are transparent, effective and aligned with community needs and expectations.

Place-based planning

Bellarine Bayside will undertake a place-based planning program comprising management plans, masterplans, precinct plans and site plans for key activity, recreation and smaller visitor nodes. The plans will identify opportunities to enhance recreational experiences, facilities and accessibility while considering cultural and natural values, vulnerability to coastal hazards, community values and aspirations, outcomes of community engagement, and integration with adjoining land managers and agency partners.

Community engagement

Community engagement will remain integral to the work of Bellarine Bayside.

By continuing to consult with the community on proposed works, it will enable key stakeholders, including residents, an opportunity to better understand the purpose of works, while also allowing Bellarine Bayside to better consider and meet community needs.

The Bellarine Bayside Community Engagement Charter will guide consultation processes, as will regular community surveys and engagement on major projects.

Keeping the community informed and building understanding

Bellarine Bayside will keep the community informed about key projects and events through a range of communication channels including the Bellarine Bayside website, social media, local newspaper articles, enewsletters, information boards and signs, as well as volunteer programs.

Furthermore, Bellarine Bayside will continue to host environmental and cultural activities to deepen community understanding and appreciation of the values of the reserves.

Collaboration with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners

The shared vision articulated in the Wadawurrung Healthy Country Plan is:

“All people working together to make Wadawurrung Country and culture strong.”

Bellarine Bayside will continue to engage with the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (WTOAC) by collaborating and working together to manage Country across the reserves. It will also seek to further understand, in collaboration with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners, how to balance the protection of the culturally sensitive landscape with public use of the reserves.

Collaboration with land managers

Collaborative and integrated management programs between land managers will improve effectiveness when protecting environmental, biocultural values and providing visitor amenity and services. As such, Bellarine Bayside will collaborate closely with Parks Victoria, DEECA and the City of Greater Geelong to ensure programs are holistically considered.

Collaboration with volunteer and community groups

Bellarine Bayside greatly values the work of volunteer groups and recognises volunteers play a pivotal role in protecting and restoring the reserves. As well as contributing significantly to environment, educational and coastal management programs, volunteering helps build stronger communities, enriching liveability on the Bellarine.

As important stakeholders that support coastal recreation and serve as coastal hubs, clubs and groups on the reserves will also continue to be involved throughout the planning, engagement and maintenance of any facilities.

The ongoing stewardship of the northern Bellarine reserves will continue to depend on the contributions of the many volunteer and community groups listed in Table 5.

Where appropriate, programs of work will be integrated with other non-government organisations, such as university research partners, Bellarine Catchment Network and Birdlife Australia.

| Volunteer and community groups                                                                             | Contribution and involvement                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Friends of Point Richards Flora and Fauna Reserve</b>                                                   | Active for nearly 25 years, this group dedicated approximately 1,200 volunteer hours in 2025 to help protect and enhance environmental values in the flora and fauna reserve and surrounding areas.                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Waterwatch</b>                                                                                          | A citizen science program coordinated by CCMA. Volunteers undertake monthly water quality monitoring of the southern wetlands within the Point Richards Flora and Fauna Reserve, providing valuable environmental data to support wetland management.                                                                                      |
| <b>Bellarine Catchment Network</b>                                                                         | A not-for-profit environmental organisation based on the Bellarine Peninsula. Bellarine Catchment Network partners with Bellarine Bayside on revegetation projects and conservation education programs and facilitates a regional network of environmental organisations and stakeholders, of which Bellarine Bayside is an active member. |
| <b>Friends of the Red-capped Plover Bellarine</b>                                                          | A citizen science community group, supported by BirdLife Australia, that monitors and protects beach-nesting shorebirds and promotes community awareness of their conservation.                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>St Leonards Community Care</b>                                                                          | Local community group that partners with Bellarine Bayside to undertake monthly weeding/planting sessions along the foreshore in St Leonards.                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>BeachWatch – Portarlington, Indented Head and St Leonards groups</b>                                    | A Bellarine Bayside citizen science program that engages volunteers in monitoring coastal change by measuring sand loss and accumulation at established sites along the coast.                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Bellarine North Rotary</b>                                                                              | A community service organisation that has secured grant funding and contributed volunteer labour to restore coastal foredune vegetation near Dossetor Road, St Leonards.                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Victorian Coastal Monitoring Program</b>                                                                | Ongoing citizen science program supported by Deakin University. Volunteers conduct 6-weekly drone surveys along the northern Bellarine coast, which contribute to Victorian Coastal Monitoring data.                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Bellarine Landcare Group</b>                                                                            | A community-based environmental organisation that supports habitat restoration, revegetation and environmental stewardship across the Bellarine Peninsula. The group is an important partner, supplying locally indigenous plants and supporting community-led conservation initiatives.                                                   |
| <b>Geelong Field Naturalists Club</b>                                                                      | A volunteer-based natural history and conservation organisation with extensive expertise in local biodiversity. The club has undertaken ecological surveys in the Point Richards Flora and Fauna Reserve, providing valuable data and advocacy that has informed management of the reserve.                                                |
| <b>Local schools, including Portarlington and St Leonards Primary Schools</b>                              | Participate in annual planting and environmental education programs facilitated by Bellarine Catchment Network and Bellarine Bayside.                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Local secondary colleges including Saint Ignatius Secondary College and Bellarine Secondary College</b> | Senior students from environmental and outdoor education classes attend weeding and planting sessions supported by Bellarine Bayside.                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Portarlington Business Development Association</b>                                                      | A local business organisation that supports and advocates for businesses in Portarlington through networking, collaboration and business development initiatives.                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Portarlington Community Association / St Leonards Progress Association</b>                              | Community network groups that provide forums for Bellarine Bayside to present information on projects and programs of interest to the community.                                                                                                                                                                                           |

## New use and development

Changes to the use and development of the foreshore are reflected in the strategic pillars that incorporate area wide actions and within the precincts reflecting the more localised use and development changes for that location (summarised in Appendix 4).

The actions have been colour coded to ensure the purpose is clearly captured. Changes to visitor use and facility development is predominantly captured across the Visitor Experience and Social Connection Pillar (yellow) and Supporting the Community and Economy pillar (blue). Outside of these pillars, there are a small number of changed uses or development relating largely to signage within the Protecting Wadawurrung Cultural Values pillar (ochre).

There are several strategies that outline additional place-based plans to be developed. These plans will provide more specific detail of the proposed developments, locations and type of work that will form a basis for future marine and coastal act consents to be sought.

Strategic pillar 1: Protecting Wadawurrung Cultural values

The Bellawiyn coast is Wadawurrung Country and an area of great Cultural heritage sensitivity.

As the Registered Aboriginal Party appointed under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006, the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (WTOAC) has the role and responsibility to protect tangible and intangible Aboriginal Cultural Heritage across Wadawurrung Country, including the coast and sea Country of the reserves. The Act prohibits any actions that harm, or are likely to harm Aboriginal Cultural heritage, empowering Traditional Owners to protect Cultural heritage for the benefit of all Victorians.

While many Cultural values have been registered in the reserves, and the area is recognised and zoned to reflect the significance and sensitivity of these Cultural values, the full extent of Wadawurrung Cultural values are understood to be far greater than what has been registered.

As the appointed land manager, Bellarine Bayside will follow the intent, principles, vision and values set out in the Wadawurrung Healthy Country Plan<sup>18</sup>, collaborating closely with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners on individual projects and works impacting the reserves. In doing so, Bellarine Bayside will be able to continue to build awareness about Wadawurrung Cultural values and act in line with the priorities and assertions of Wadawurrung Traditional Owners for the benefit of Country on the northern Bellarine.

Bellarine Bayside will also collaborate with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners to understand how to conduct business-as-usual reserve management programs in ways that protect and build knowledge and appreciation of Wadawurrung Cultural values.

The following objectives and strategic actions outline how Bellarine Bayside will work with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation to address the various challenges and heal country together.

Objective 1: Wadawurrung Cultural values and landscapes are protected and nurtured.

| Ref.  | Strategic Action                                                                                                                                                                                           | Timeframe | Indicative cost | Supporting partners |
|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|---------------------|
| CV1-1 | Be guided by, and act upon, Wadawurrung Traditional Owners’ aspirations and knowledge in protecting tangible and intangible cultural values.                                                               | Ongoing   | \$              | WTOAC               |
| CV1-2 | Ensure existing use and new use and development complies with the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 and other relevant legislation.                                                                             | Ongoing   | \$              | WTOAC               |
| CV1-3 | Consider developing an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Land Management Agreement to protect and manage Wadawurrung cultural heritage during land management activities.                                       | 3-5       | \$              | WTOAC               |
| CV1-4 | Source natural materials responsibly, where possible, and ideally from Wadawurrung Country.                                                                                                                | Ongoing   | \$              | WTOAC               |
| CV1-5 | Collaborate with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners to deliver Cultural conservation programs and support Wadawurrung Traditional Owners to undertake further cultural values assessments across the reserves. | Ongoing   | \$\$            | WTOAC               |
| CV1-6 | Reduce the impact of exotic trees on Cultural sightlines and songlines in line with broader tree risk management.                                                                                          | Ongoing   | \$              | WTOAC               |

<sup>18</sup> WTOAC 2020 Paleert Tjaara Dja - Let’s Make Country good together 2020-2030 - Wadawurrung Country Plan

Objective 2: The Wadawurrung Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation collaborates with Bellarine Bayside on decisions about Wadawurrung sea and coast managed by Bellarine Bayside.

| Ref.  | Strategic Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Timeframe | Indicative cost | Supporting partners |
|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|---------------------|
| CV2-1 | Continue to build the Bellarine Bayside and Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation relationship, meeting regularly to ensure cultural knowledge and practices inform management decisions, in line with the goals of the Wadawurrung Healthy Country Plan. | Ongoing   | \$              | WTOAC               |
| CV2-2 | Continue to engage Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation to deliver cultural awareness training and induction to Bellarine Bayside staff, volunteers and contractors.                                                                                     | Ongoing   | \$              | WTOAC               |
| CV2-3 | Consult early with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation when planning for new facilities and alterations of existing facilities and structures.                                                                                                          | Ongoing   | \$              | WTOAC               |
| CV2-4 | Work with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation to plan cultural and ecological burns and seek guidance on other Cultural practices in the reserves to heal Country.                                                                                      | Ongoing   | \$              | WTOAC               |

Objective 3: Wadawurrung people are working on and actively caring for Country.

| Ref.  | Strategic Action                                                                                                                                                                     | Timeframe | Indicative cost | Supporting partners |
|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|---------------------|
| CV3-1 | Support and provide opportunities for Wadawurrung people to access, conduct cultural practices, stay and connect with Country                                                        | Ongoing   | \$              | WTOAC               |
| CV3-2 | Provide opportunities for Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation to work on Country, delivering biocultural works and services and codesign programs in the reserves. | Ongoing   | \$              | WTOAC               |
| CV3-3 | In conjunction with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation and other partners, seek to engage Wadawurrung artists to express and showcase culture on country.         | Ongoing   | \$              | WTOAC               |

### Objective 4: Visitors and community have an improved understanding of Wadawurrung Cultural values.

| Ref.  | Strategic Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Timeframe | Indicative cost | Supporting partners |
|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|---------------------|
| CV4-1 | In partnership with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, strengthen acknowledgement and recognition of the reserves as Wadawurrung Country through a variety of digital, visual and oral communication.                  | Ongoing   | \$              | WTOAC               |
| CV4-2 | Work with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation to deliver education programs in the reserves about Wadawurrung culture and people and their connection to coastal country.                                                | Ongoing   | \$              | WTOAC               |
| CV4-3 | In partnership with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, identify opportunities to return language to Country.                                                                                                           | Ongoing   | \$              | WTOAC               |
| CV4-3 | Deepen community and visitor understanding of Wadawurrung Country and culture across the reserves through increased information and interpretation to highlight and interpret significant landmarks and sightlines on Wadawurrung Country. | Ongoing   | \$\$            | WTOAC               |

### Strategic pillar 2: Protecting natural values

The northern Bellarine reserves, as part of an interconnected coastal and marine system that incorporates Edwards Point and Swan Bay conservation reserves, protect some of the most significant remaining remnants of coastal native vegetation, wetlands and intertidal habitats on the Bellarine Peninsula. These areas support many significant plant and animal species. Protecting the natural environment along the reserves is challenging due to the modified condition of many areas along the reserves, the semi-urban linear landscape context and the diverse uses impacting the area. Protecting and improving natural values requires significant ongoing management intervention.

Bellarine Bayside will continue to deliver its significant environmental management program along the northern Bellarine reserves. This work will keep protecting and restoring the biodiversity of the reserves, and will involve strategic and planned invasive species control, wildlife protection and management, and landscape restoration programs.

Consistent with the Wadawurrung Healthy Country Plan goal for Coastal Country<sup>19</sup>, Bellarine Bayside also proposes to incrementally increase the quality and extent of native vegetation along the reserves. It will do this through targeted protection, restoration and revegetation of the reserves, which will prioritise areas of highest ecological, biocultural and coastal resilience value.

Tree management to conserve trees will continue, where possible, and will be an ongoing priority for Bellarine Bayside. Consistent with the Marine and Coastal Strategy, Bellarine Bayside proposes to transition the tree population in the reserve from exotic to native trees over time. This will only be done as required, to maintaining public safety and to improve the condition and connectivity of coastal habitats and with community engagement.

These actions will be strategically and spatially planned and implemented to reduce fragmentation, improve biodiversity, and enhance the capacity of the reserves to adapt to coastal hazards and climate change (see the ‘Spatial planning operational maps’ in Appendix 2).

Bellarine Bayside will also continue to implement coastal adaptation strategies identified in the Northern Bellarine Coastal Adaptation Plan, in collaboration with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners, DEECA and the community, and continue to support community initiatives that will enhance natural values along the northern Bellarine reserves.

To ensure that community remains a vital ally in protecting the natural and Cultural values of the reserves, Bellarine Bayside will also continue to deliver activities and programs that deliver accessible, positive, nature-based experiences. This will include face-to-face education programs and events, as well as volunteer and friends’ group activities.

<sup>19</sup> Wadawurrung Healthy Country Plan, page 41

Objective 1: The condition of natural and biocultural values is protected and improved.

| Ref.   | Strategic Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Timeframe | Indicative cost | Supporting partners                    |
|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|----------------------------------------|
| NV1-1  | Update and refresh the vegetation management plan and action plan to guide biodiversity restoration priorities.                                                                                                                                                                            | 2-3       | \$              |                                        |
| NV1-2  | Implement targeted and risk-based pest plant (weed) control programs to improve the condition of biodiversity areas.                                                                                                                                                                       | Ongoing   | \$\$            |                                        |
| NV1-3  | Increase the extent of native vegetation in the reserves through revegetation and coastal restoration to expand existing biodiversity areas and reduce fragmentation.                                                                                                                      | Ongoing   | \$\$            |                                        |
| NV1-4  | Continue to implement a comprehensive rabbit management program to reduce impacts on vegetation communities and habitat.                                                                                                                                                                   | Ongoing   | \$              |                                        |
| NV1-5  | Investigate and, as appropriate, implement other pest animal programs as part of an integrated approach to managing pest animals (fox/cat/other) at priority locations that will support persistence and viability of key fauna populations.                                               | Ongoing   | \$              | COGG                                   |
| NV1-6  | Enhance the resilience of native animal populations by diversifying habitat features that provide nesting, shelter, breeding and foraging opportunities.                                                                                                                                   | Ongoing   | \$              |                                        |
| NV1-7  | Undertake regular native vegetation assessments across the reserves to benchmark vegetation condition and evaluate management effectiveness.                                                                                                                                               | Ongoing   | \$              | DEECA                                  |
| NV1-8  | Undertake fauna surveys in the reserves to monitor the presence and distribution of species and evaluate and inform management programs.                                                                                                                                                   | Ongoing   | \$              | Field Naturalists                      |
| NV1-9  | Liaise with the City of Greater Geelong and Corangamite Catchment Management Authority to advocate for, and support improvement of, stormwater management (and hydrological regimes) that mitigate the impacts of sedimentation, pollutants and nutrients on wetlands and marine habitats. | Ongoing   | \$              | COGG<br>CCMA                           |
| NV1-10 | Work with community and partners to monitor water quality and wetland flora and fauna to inform required management responses.                                                                                                                                                             | Ongoing   | \$              | CCMA                                   |
| NV1-11 | Protect wildlife from disturbance impacts through appropriate temporary exclusion areas and supporting information.                                                                                                                                                                        | Ongoing   | \$              | DEECA                                  |
| NV1-12 | Seek to integrate conservation programs across land tenures featuring high-priority biodiversity areas in collaboration with Parks Victoria and the City of Greater Geelong.                                                                                                               | Ongoing   | \$\$            | COGG<br>Parks Vic                      |
| NV1-13 | Support DEECA and other agencies to manage wildlife incidents on the reserves with a focus on new and emerging issues, such as H5N1 Avian Influenza.                                                                                                                                       | Ongoing   | \$              | DEECA,<br>AgVic,<br>COGG,<br>Parks Vic |

Objective 2: Natural assets are resilient to coastal hazards.

| Ref.  | Strategic Action                                                                                         | Timeframe | Indicative cost | Supporting partners |
|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|---------------------|
| NV2-1 | Implement the North Bellarine Coastal Adaptation Plan to improve the resilience of the coastal reserves. | Ongoing   | \$\$            | DEECA               |

Objective 3: Community and visitors are aware of the benefits of nature conservation and support protecting nature and healing Country in the Reserves.

| Ref.  | Strategic Action                                                                                                                                                                                      | Timeframe | Indicative cost | Supporting partners    |
|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|------------------------|
| NV3-1 | Foster and strengthen community connections and environmental stewardship through volunteering and citizen science programs that build awareness, participation and advocacy for nature conservation. | Ongoing   | \$\$            | BCN,<br>Friends Groups |
| NV3-2 | Build community awareness, understanding and appreciation of nature through environmental education and interpretation                                                                                | Ongoing   | \$\$            | BCN,<br>WTOAC          |

Strategic pillar 3: Enhancing visitor experience and social connections

To support the many recreational and social benefits provided by the northern Bellarine reserves, Bellarine Bayside will focus on maintaining and improving natural and built visitor assets as a significant core resourcing priority. This resourcing of visitor infrastructure and services will be prioritised into activity and recreation nodes to support an improved visitor experience (see Table 13). Consolidating visitor facilities and access at designated nodes will enable other areas in the reserves to be managed more effectively.

The Bellarine Coastal Trail will remain a priority for Bellarine Bayside to ensure the trail continues to provide an inclusive, high-quality recreational experience that is resilient to climate change impacts.

Place-based plans will guide the future use, development and management of activity and recreation nodes, including facilities, accessibility, services and recreational opportunities, while addressing key challenges and considering cultural and natural values, coastal hazard vulnerability, and community and stakeholder values.

Priority locations for planning will include:

- St Leonards pier (foreshore area adjacent to the Parks Victoria managed pier)
- WG Little Reserve
- Portarlington Main Beach
- Wrathall Reserve
- Steeles Rock
- other erosion affected areas.

In collaboration with community and Better Boating Victoria, maintenance and improvement of recreational boating and fishing access will also be an ongoing focus for Bellarine Bayside.

Supplementary resourcing to support new asset creation and asset renewal, including coastal protection structures, will also be sought through grants and other initiatives, as available.

Finally, Bellarine Bayside will continue to build systems to enable evidence-based management, including an asset management system, coastal monitoring framework and regular capture and analysis of community feedback. This will help ensure asset and infrastructure management is effective and meets community expectations wherever possible.

To meet the social and visitor challenges across the reserves, Bellarine Bayside will also adopt a level of service approach (table 6) to inform sustainable servicing and maintenance along the reserves.



| Number | Recreation and Activity node name       | Category        | Level of service |
|--------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1      | Point Richards Road picnic area         | Recreation node | Med              |
| 1b     | Boat Road picnic area (proposed)        | Recreation node | Med              |
| 2      | Point Richards Boat Ramp                | Recreation node | High             |
| 3      | Portarlington Holiday Park              | Recreation node | High             |
| 4      | Portarlington Main Beach                | Activity node   | High             |
| 5      | W.G. Little Reserve                     | Activity node   | High             |
| 6      | Fisher Street                           | Recreation node | Low              |
| 7      | Steeles Rock Boat Ramp                  | Recreation node | Med              |
| 8      | Grassy Point                            | Recreation node | Low              |
| 9      | David Street                            | Recreation node | Low              |
| 10     | Anderson Reserve campground             | Recreation node | High             |
| 11     | Aylmers Reserve                         | Recreation node | Med              |
| 12     | Taylors Reserve campground              | Recreation node | High             |
| 13     | Half Moon Bay                           | Recreation node | High             |
| 14     | Batman Park campground                  | Recreation node | High             |
| 15     | Indented Head Beach                     | Recreation node | High             |
| 16     | Wrathall Reserve                        | Recreation node | High             |
| 17     | Indented Head south car park            | Recreation node | Low              |
| 18     | North Red Bluff                         | Recreation node | Low              |
| 19     | Second Avenue                           | Recreation node | Low              |
| 20     | St Leonards Pier car park               | Activity node   | High             |
| 21     | Bengalat Reserve campground             | Recreation node | High             |
| 22     | Karrong Reserve campground              | Recreation node | High             |
| 23     | St Leonards Boat Ramp                   | Recreation node | High             |
| 24     | Area 5 – St Leonards                    | Recreation node | Med              |
| 25     | Red Bluff lookout                       | Recreation node | Low              |
| 26     | Lower Bluff picnic area                 | Recreation node | Mid              |
| 27     | St Leonards Yacht Club & Motor Squadron | Recreation node | High             |

**Objective 1: Enable safe, sustainable and enjoyable coastal experiences through contemporary facilities, services and access that meet the needs of a diverse range of users.**

| Ref.          | Strategic Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Timeframe | Indicative cost | Supporting partners |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|---------------------|
| <b>SV1-1</b>  | Develop an asset management strategy and priority asset management plans to support strategic management of assets.                                                                                                                                                              | 1-2       | \$              |                     |
| <b>SV1-2</b>  | Maintain appropriate asset management systems to drive effective and efficient asset management outcomes.                                                                                                                                                                        | Ongoing   | \$              |                     |
| <b>SV1-3</b>  | Implement asset condition audits and ongoing monitoring to inform asset management systems, prioritising high-priority assets.                                                                                                                                                   | Ongoing   | \$              |                     |
| <b>SV1-4</b>  | Manage and maintain coastal assets, infrastructure, and visitor facilities in line with the Northern Bellarine Coastal Adaptation Plan to improve resilience to coastal hazards while maintaining safe, accessible and high-quality visitor experiences.                         | Ongoing   | \$\$\$          | DEECA               |
| <b>SV1-5</b>  | Maintain and enhance the Bellarine Coastal Trail as a key regional attraction by improving trail quality, accessibility, signage and visitor information, while adapting its alignment and design over time to respond to changing coastal conditions and adaptation priorities. | Ongoing   | \$\$            |                     |
| <b>SV1-6</b>  | Deliver a long-term program of asset renewal and infrastructure investment that aligns with strategic asset management and place-based planning to enhance coastal experiences, asset performance and resilience.                                                                | Ongoing   | \$\$\$          |                     |
| <b>SV1-7</b>  | Continue to implement a comprehensive tree management program to reduce the risk to visitors and users of the reserves while considering social amenity, environmental, habitat and heritage values.                                                                             | Ongoing   | \$              |                     |
| <b>SV1-8</b>  | Protect and maintain significant post settlement historic heritage places within the reserves using contemporary management and maintenance approaches                                                                                                                           | Ongoing   | \$              | Heritage Victoria   |
| <b>SV1-9</b>  | Enhance visitor information about attractions across the reserves and adjoining areas.                                                                                                                                                                                           | 2-3       | \$              |                     |
| <b>SV1-10</b> | Ensure new and renewed facilities and services are developed to align with Environmentally Sustainable Design principles, universal design principles and the Siting and design guidelines for structures on the Victorian coast                                                 | Ongoing   | \$              |                     |
| <b>SV1-11</b> | Implement temporary restrictions to informal parking during peak times across open space areas to manage visitor safety and reduce impacts to coastal vegetation.                                                                                                                | Ongoing   | \$              |                     |

**Objective 2: Guide the future management of the coast through collaborative planning that balances environmental, cultural, recreational and community outcomes.**

| Ref.         | Strategic Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Timeframe | Indicative cost | Supporting partners    |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|------------------------|
| <b>SV2-1</b> | Develop and implement a Northern Bellarine Beach Renourishment Plan to improve the resilience, condition, amenity and ongoing management of priority beaches across the northern Bellarine through evidence-based planning and targeted stakeholder and community engagement.                                                                      | 1-5       | \$\$            | DEECA<br>WTOAC         |
| <b>SV2-2</b> | Develop and implement a Beach Access Implementation Plan informed by community and stakeholder engagement to provide equitable, safe, and sustainable access to the coast while strengthening coastal resilience and protecting environmental and cultural values.                                                                                 | 1-5       | \$              | DEECA<br>WTOAC         |
| <b>SV2-3</b> | Develop place-based plans including site, precinct, master plans and local coastal adaptation plans for priority activity and recreation nodes across the coastal reserve informed by community and stakeholder engagement to guide investment, enhance visitor experiences, support community use, and protect environmental and cultural values. | 1-5       | \$              | DEECA<br>COGG<br>WTOAC |
| <b>SV2-4</b> | Implement a prioritised program of initiatives resulting from place-based plans.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 1-5       | \$\$\$          | DEECA<br>COGG<br>WTOAC |
| <b>SV2-5</b> | Work with partner agencies to minimise the impact of illegal activities to visitor experience and coastal values through education, awareness and compliance programs.                                                                                                                                                                             | Ongoing   | \$              | DEECA<br>COGG          |
| <b>SV2-6</b> | Review and renew the Northern Bellarine Dog Orders and visitor guide in consultation with the City of Greater Geelong and the broader community.                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 1-2       | \$              | COGG                   |

Strategic pillar 4: Supporting the community and economy

Bellarine Bayside operates six holiday parks and campgrounds on the northern Bellarine: at Portarlington, Indented Head and St Leonards. The camping offer across Bellarine Bayside’s coastal reserves delivers a uniquely safe, affordable and accessible holiday experience that attracts tens of thousands of visitors each year, facilitating more than 231,800 visitor nights. In addition to providing affordable and equitable access to the coast, the holiday park network is a significant driver of the regional visitor economy, generating an estimated \$41.3 million in annual direct visitor expenditure and \$74.7 million in annual economic output across the Greater Geelong region.

Revenue generated from holiday parks is reinvested into maintaining and upgrading the Portarlington Holiday Park and camping reserves, as well as managing both coastal reserves and the Point Richards Flora and Fauna Reserve.

The current availability of roofed accommodation across the Holiday Park and campgrounds is well below the 15% maximum recommendation for Crown land (currently 2.5%).



To make holidays on coastal Crown land more equitable, and to improve occupancy and revenue during the off and shoulder seasons, Bellarine Bayside will explore opportunities to increase the availability of roofed accommodation within existing areas of the Portarlington Holiday Park in line with key policies, guidelines and outcomes of the Coastal Adaptation Plan.

Bellarine Bayside will also continue to collaborate with guests and the community to improve and evolve the camping experience to make sure it continues to meet the needs of visitors as a safe and enjoyable coastal holiday experience.

To support community involvement with the reserves and generate income for the local economy, Bellarine Bayside will continue to work with event organisers, partner agencies and community groups to facilitate events that are wellmanaged, sustainable and compatible with the environmental and Cultural values of the reserves.

Bellarine Bayside will continue to monitor all third-party activities and uses and associated impacts on the reserves to ensure the use remains environmentally sustainable and compatible with the values of the reserves – in particular, permitted horse-riding activities.

To further minimise impacts from human use of the reserves, Bellarine Bayside will continue to work on sustainability, addressing environmental impacts and increasing the efficiency of its operations. This effort will seek to reduce energy and water consumption and minimise waste generation from all aspects of Bellarine Bayside’s operations.

Objective 1: Drive the performance of Bellarine Bayside’s holiday park and campground operations to deliver exceptional visitor experiences that create sustainable revenue and deliver lasting benefits to the management of the coastal crown land and the regional visitor economy.

| Ref.  | Strategic Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Timeframe | Indicative cost | Supporting partners          |
|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|------------------------------|
| CE1-1 | Strengthen the appeal and performance of Bellarine Bayside’s accommodation portfolio by diversifying accommodation offerings and exploring new roofed accommodation opportunities to attract new visitor markets and support year-round visitation. | 2-5       | \$\$\$          |                              |
| CE1-2 | Enhance the visitor journey across Bellarine Bayside’s holiday parks and campgrounds by ensuring every interaction is simple, relevant, and engaging, leading to higher satisfaction, stronger loyalty and improved conversion outcomes.            | 2-3       | \$              |                              |
| CE1-3 | Deliver high-quality, consistent and customer-focused services to provide welcoming experiences.                                                                                                                                                    | Ongoing   | \$              |                              |
| CE1-4 | Provide well-maintained, contemporary facilities and spaces across Bellarine Bayside’s holiday parks and campgrounds through a program of maintenance, renewal and strategic improvement that supports outstanding visitor experiences.             | Ongoing   | \$\$\$          |                              |
| CE1-5 | Seek and review post-stay feedback from holiday park guests on an ongoing basis to understand their needs, preferences and experiences, and support continuous improvement.                                                                         | Ongoing   | \$              |                              |
| CE1-6 | Explore opportunities to improve equitable access to high-demand campsites and occupancy locations, including beachfront sites, through the review of allocation, booking and occupancy management practices.                                       | 2-3       | \$              |                              |
| CE1-7 | Strengthen safety, security, and visitor wellbeing across Bellarine Bayside holiday parks and campgrounds through targeted security measures and the deployment of additional security resources, where required.                                   | Ongoing   | \$              | Victoria Police N/hood house |
| CE1-8 | Lead the transition to more environmentally and operationally sustainable holiday park and campground operations through resource-efficient infrastructure, renewable energy adoption and waste minimisation.                                       | Ongoing   | \$\$\$          | DEECA Barwon Water           |
| CE1-9 | Implement annual education and awareness programs across holiday parks and campgrounds that encourage sustainable visitor behaviours around water use, electricity consumption and minimising waste.                                                | Ongoing   | \$              | Barwon Water BCN CDS Vic     |

Objective 2: Activate Bellarine Bayside’s coastal areas through experiences, events and partnerships that increase visitation, diversify revenue, support local economic activity and deliver community benefit.

| Ref.  | Strategic Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Timeframe | Indicative cost | Supporting partners                                       |
|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| CE2-1 | Grow the value and impact of established major events on the coast through strong partnerships and targeted support, while prioritising opportunities that extend visitation, encourage overnight stays and benefit the regional economy. | Ongoing   | \$              | COGG<br>Event organisers<br>Geelong and Bellarine Tourism |
| CE2-2 | Promote vibrant, year-round use of the coast through community, wellbeing, recreation and small-scale activities that enhance public value.                                                                                               | Ongoing   | \$              | Information Booth's<br>Geelong and Bellarine Tourism      |
| CE2-3 | Undertake a strategic review of coastal permit fees and charges to establish a consistent, equitable, and commercially sustainable framework that supports activation, service delivery and responsible management of coastal Crown land. | 1-2       | \$              |                                                           |
| CE2-4 | Support sustainable use of the reserves by monitoring compliance with commercial lease, licence and permit conditions, and managing impacts on reserve values through ongoing oversight, intervention and renewal, as required.           | Ongoing   | \$              |                                                           |
| CE2-5 | Increase the utilisation and financial sustainability of the Indented Head Community Hall by promoting community, cultural, recreational and venue hire opportunities.                                                                    | Ongoing   | \$              |                                                           |

Objective 3: Relationships with the community and stakeholders are strengthened so their aspirations help shape our decisions.

| Ref.  | Strategic Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Timeframe | Indicative cost | Supporting partners       |
|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| CE3-1 | Develop and maintain strong, collaborative partnerships with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, government agencies, community organisations and stakeholder groups to achieve shared outcomes for culture, community, environment and place. | Ongoing   | \$              | WTOAC,<br>DEECA,<br>Other |
| CE3-2 | Seek to establish clear and effective agreements with adjoining land managers that support integrated planning, management and stewardship of the coastal environment.                                                                                            | 2-3       | \$              | Parks Vic,<br>CoGG        |
| CE3-3 | Undertake proactive, inclusive and accessible engagement, in line with the Community Engagement Charter, to ensure community aspirations and feedback help shape Bellarine Bayside’s planning and decision-making.                                                | Ongoing   | \$              |                           |
| CE3-4 | Deliver transparent, respectful and responsive communication that builds trust and strengthens confidence in Bellarine Bayside.                                                                                                                                   | Ongoing   | \$              |                           |

Precinct Plans - local-scale priorities and actions

Previous sections of this plan describe strategies and actions to be applied across the reserves to protect values and deliver objectives. To support planning for and management of coastal hazards, as well as specific place-based values and risks, the reserves have been divided into eleven precincts (or management units) as described in Table 20.

The delineation of precincts is based on geomorphic settings, environmental values and patterns of recreational and community use. Planning at a smaller land management unit, or precinct scale allows for more detailed consideration and focus on specific values and challenges within each unit.

Table 7: Precincts for unit scale planning

| Precinct | Area                                                                                 |
|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1        | Point Richards Flora and Fauna Reserve                                               |
| 2        | Point Richards Boat Ramp and Portarlington Holiday Park                              |
| 3        | Sproat Street to Fisher Street*                                                      |
| 4 (a)    | Fisher Street to 50 metres to the left of Mercer Street/The Esplanade                |
| 4 (b)    | 50 metres to the left of Mercer Street/The Esplanade to Point George                 |
| 5        | Point George to Batman Memorial                                                      |
| 6 (a)    | Batman Memorial to St Leonards Foreshore Reserve (North of the Bluff)                |
| 6 (b)    | St Leonards Foreshore Reserve (North the Bluff) to 130 metres north of Second Avenue |
| 7        | North of Second Avenue to William Buckley Labyrinth                                  |
| 8        | William Buckley Labyrinth to The Bluff                                               |
| 9        | The Bluff to Beach Road                                                              |

\*These boundaries are described using street names that intersect with The Esplanade, as the road follows the foreshore reserves.

The following precinct plans describe significant values, challenges and actions to be undertaken over the next five years. These actions are generally site specific, whereas those actions detailed in strategic pillar chapters (above) are relevant to the planning area, or often multiple precincts.

The relevant actions from the Northern Bellarine Coastal Adaptation Plan 2026 have been incorporated into the precinct actions and embed the recommended adaptation pathways up to the 2040-time horizon, which is estimated currently to correlate to a 0.2 metre level sea rise.

Incorporating coastal adaptation pathways that respond to coastal hazards as business-as-usual management for the reserves is critical to protecting values (where possible), and to ensuring future decisions for use and development are evidence-based, adaptive and sustainable.

Precinct 1

Point Richards Flora and Flora Reserve

Point Richards Flora and Fauna Reserve (62-hectares) is one of the largest areas of native vegetation and wetlands remaining on the Bellarine Peninsula. It was originally designated for the conservation of the Southern Brown Bandicoot and has significant woodlands, wetlands and grasslands that are home to an array of birds, other wildlife and rare plants. Wadawurrung cultural values include bush tucker, medicines, resources and native animals. The flora and fauna reserve also offers natural amenity and opportunities for passive recreation for local community and visitors.

The area is bordered by Point Richards Road to the west, Boat Road to the north and Portarlington Conservation and Recreation Reserve (managed by the City of Greater Geelong) to the east.

| Significant Values                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Management Challenges                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wadawurrung cultural values</li><li>• Southern Wetland</li><li>• Growling Grass Frog population</li><li>• Native vegetation and biodiversity</li><li>• Infrastructure and opportunity for passive recreation</li><li>• Engaged local community and Friends of Point Richards volunteers</li><li>• Bushland setting and views</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Potential damage to Wadawurrung cultural values from ground disturbance</li><li>• Wadawurrung connection with Country</li><li>• Impacts to wetlands from stormwater and climate change</li><li>• Loss of biodiversity from invasive plants</li><li>• Impacts on wildlife from pest animals</li><li>• Inappropriate use and development</li><li>• Low public awareness and support</li></ul> |

Point Richards Flora and Fauna Reserve Management Plan

In 2025, Bellarine Bayside published a Management Plan to guide future management of the Point Richards Flora Reserve.

The plan outlines a 20-year vision for the Flora and Fauna Reserve, as well as long-term objectives, strategies and actions designed to inform operational decision-making and activities. The plan will be implemented in partnership with the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, the community and other stakeholders.



“Point Richards Flora and Fauna Reserve is a significant coastal haven of woodlands and wetlands, where biodiversity thrives, cultural knowledge is celebrated and an engaged community come together to care for and connect with nature.”

Precinct 1 map



Figure 8. Precinct 1 map

Precinct 1 actions

Actions are summarised but are all in accordance with the approved Point Richards Flora and Fauna Reserve management Plan. For a full list of those specific actions please refer to the Management Plan. Actions have also been developed in alignment with the North Bellarine Coastal Adaptation Plan and are referenced accordingly.

| Ref.  | Precinct Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Timeframe | Indicative cost | Supporting partners               |
|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| P1-1  | In collaboration with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners, consider returning language to Country by renaming Point Richards Flora and Fauna Reserve and creating experiences dedicated to celebrating and creating awareness of cultural heritage.                                     | 3-5       | \$              | WTOAC<br>GNV                      |
| P1-2  | Provide opportunities for Wadawurrung Traditional Owners to undertake cultural practices, contribute to on-ground management and collaborate in planning and decision making for Point Richards Flora and Fauna Reserve.                                                           | Ongoing   | \$              | WTOAC                             |
| P1-3  | Work with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation to implement a program of staged cultural burns that will preserve and strengthen biocultural values and heal country, in accordance with the Wadawurrung Wiyin Cultural Fire Strategy (Corporation, 2023).        | 2-3       | \$              | WTOAC<br>DEECA<br>CFA             |
| P1-4  | Support the Friends of Point Richards to deliver a range of volunteer activities that improve the condition, access and awareness of Point Richards Flora and Fauna Reserve.                                                                                                       | Ongoing   | \$              | Volunteer groups                  |
| P1-5  | Work with neighbours, partners and the community to monitor wetland values and health ensuring habitat is maintained and impacts are mitigated. (CAP-P1.001)                                                                                                                       | Ongoing   | \$              | CCMA<br>Volunteer groups          |
| P1-6  | Enhance the resilience of native animal populations by diversifying habitat features, such as nesting boxes and habitat logs, to provide nesting, shelter, breeding and foraging opportunities.                                                                                    | Ongoing   | \$              | Volunteer groups                  |
| P1-7  | Develop and implement an integrated pest plant and vegetation restoration program that combines monitoring, control, early detection and collaborative action with neighbours and stakeholders to reduce the impacts of weeds and improve habitat quality.                         | Ongoing   | \$\$            | COGG<br>WTOAC<br>Volunteer groups |
| P1-8  | Develop and implement an integrated pest animal management plan and program that combines monitoring, control, early detection and collaborative action with neighbours and stakeholders to reduce the impacts of pest animals on Point Richards Flora and Fauna Reserve’s values. | Ongoing   | \$              | COGG                              |
| P1-9  | Develop interpretation, education and storytelling opportunities that promote awareness of Point Richards Flora and Fauna Reserve’s environmental and cultural values.                                                                                                             | 2-3       | \$              | WTOAC<br>Volunteer groups         |
| P1-10 | Improve access, parking, trail connections and signage to support safe, accessible and well-connected visitor experiences within Point Richards Flora and Fauna Reserve (CAP-P1.002).                                                                                              | 2-3       | \$\$\$          |                                   |
| P1-11 | Invest in visitor infrastructure, amenities and low-impact recreational opportunities that encourage appreciation and enjoyment of the Point Richards Flora and Fauna Reserve.                                                                                                     | 2-3       | \$\$            |                                   |

Precinct 2

Portarlington Holiday Park and Point Richards Boat Ramp

Precinct 2 is one of the highest use recreation areas in the planning area, comprising Portarlington Holiday Park and foreshore, Point Richards Boat Ramp and foreshore, Portarlington Sailing Club, the Portarlington miniature railway site and wetland open space adjoining Boat Road.

The precinct provides a range of visitor, social and leisure opportunities. The safe north-facing swimming beach is a key attraction and drawcard for Portarlington Holiday Park guests. Enjoying the beach, swimming, paddle boarding, wind sports and social gatherings are also popular. The beach west of Portarlington pier includes a designated swimming only zone (where boating is prohibited).

Point Richards Boat ramp is one of the most important boating access points on the northern Bellarine, supporting recreational boating and fishing in Port Phillip Bay. The Point Richards Boat Ramp was upgraded between 2020 and 2023 to provide more parking, improved navigation and dredging access. Works to the ramp surface were also carried out to support safer, more reliable boating access.

A smaller boat ramp and jetty is provided in front of the Portarlington Holiday Park and is predominantly used by holiday park guests and the Portarlington Yacht Club.

The Portarlington Miniature Railway is a volunteer-run attraction offering miniature train rides on the reserve. It is a valued local community facility that adds to the recreational appeal of the precinct, particularly for families and visitors.

The Portarlington Sailing Club is also located in the precinct and offers a community-based family friendly program of social and sailing events.

The small wetland provides habitat for the Growling Grass Frog and other wildlife, such as birds and turtles.

The Precinct is bordered by Point Richards Road to the west, Boat Road to the south and Sproat Street to the east.

| Significant Values                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Management Challenges                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Portarlington Holiday Park</b></li><li>• <b>Safe beach</b></li><li>• <b>Wadawurrung cultural values</b></li><li>• <b>Bellarine Coastal Trail</b></li><li>• <b>Natural environment, coastal vegetation, intertidal habitat, wetland</b></li><li>• <b>Opportunities for water-based recreation (including snorkelling, swimming, boating, fishing and two boat ramps, kayaking/ paddle boarding, windsports)</b></li><li>• <b>Open space</b></li><li>• <b>Portarlington Miniature railway</b></li><li>• <b>Bay views across to You Yangs and Melbourne</b></li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Risk of coastal hazards to infrastructure (erosion and inundation)</b></li><li>• <b>Compliance issues (including antisocial behaviours, e-scooters, dogs and personal watercraft)</b></li><li>• <b>Impacts on vegetation from visitor use</b></li><li>• <b>Energy and water use impacts of holiday park and camping operations</b></li><li>• <b>Accommodating changing holiday park use trends and service expectations</b></li><li>• <b>Balancing natural processes with amenity provision (including beach amenity and presence of seagrass wrack)</b></li><li>• <b>Lack of accessible facilities</b></li><li>• <b>Limited roofed accommodation</b></li></ul> |

Precinct 2 map



Figure 9. Management and use zones in Precinct 2.

Precinct 2 actions

Actions have been developed in alignment with the North Bellarine Coastal Adaptation Plan.

| Ref.  | Precinct Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Timeframe | Indicative cost | Supporting partners    |
|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|------------------------|
| P2-1  | Develop a precinct-scale coastal adaptation options assessment – including a ground feature survey to establish heights across the holiday park, dunes and the Bellarine Coastal Trail – to inform future coastal protection and asset and planning. (CAP - P2.002) | 2-3       | \$\$            | DEECA<br>WTOAC         |
| P2-2  | Implement beach scraping and renourishment program to mitigate impacts of erosion and storm tide inundation. (CAP – P2.006)                                                                                                                                         | Ongoing   | \$\$            | DEECA                  |
| P2-3  | Enhance trail linkages between the holiday park and adjoining reserves including the Point Richards Flora and Fauna Reserve and Portarlington Recreation Reserve.                                                                                                   | 2-3       | \$              | WTOAC<br>DEECA<br>CFA  |
| P2-4  | Investigate opportunities for new beachside roofed accommodation in Portarlington Holiday Park taking into account future hazard risks and adaption strategies. (CAP – P2.008)                                                                                      | 1-2       | \$\$\$\$        |                        |
| P2-5  | Continue to provide opportunities for holiday park guests to have dogs and campfires in the Portarlington Holiday Park during off-peak and shoulder periods                                                                                                         | Ongoing   | \$              | COGG<br>CFA            |
| P2-6  | Enhance the appeal of Portarlington Holiday Park through a diverse program of food, entertainment, nature-based, and family-friendly experiences that create memorable stays and encourage repeat visitation.                                                       | Ongoing   | \$              |                        |
| P2-7  | Investigate options for secure storage of valuables and recreation equipment at Portarlington Holiday Park.                                                                                                                                                         | Ongoing   | \$\$            |                        |
| P2-8  | Investigate options for solar power installation and associated energy infrastructure upgrades within the holiday park to meet changing electricity demands, including electric vehicle charging and the increasing use of electric recreational devices.           | 1-2       | \$\$\$          | DEECA                  |
| P2-9  | Implement annual environmental education and resource management initiatives in Portarlington Holiday Park to reduce waste, improve recycling outcomes, minimise water and energy consumption and encourage environmentally responsible visitor behaviour.          | Ongoing   | \$              | BCN<br>Barwon<br>Water |
| P2-10 | Develop and implement a master plan for Portarlington Holiday Park outlining new accommodation options, building renewal, enhanced recreation opportunities for children and youth and other upgrades, in line with coastal adaptation plans.                       | 1-2       | \$\$\$          |                        |
| P2-11 | Renew at least 1 priority amenity block within the life of the plan                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 2-3       | \$\$            |                        |
| P2-12 | Upgrade play infrastructure in Portarlington Holiday Park                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 3-5       | \$\$            |                        |
| P2-13 | Assess options for the future of the Bellarine Bayside offices and depot through a feasibility study.                                                                                                                                                               | 1-2       | 1               |                        |
| P2-14 | Renew and upgrade Portarlington Holiday Park boat ramp and jetty.                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 1-2       | 1               |                        |

| Ref.  | Precinct Action                                                                                                                                                          | Timeframe | Indicative cost | Supporting partners |
|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|---------------------|
| P2-15 | Continue to support the operation of the Portarlington Bayside Miniature Railway Inc. (PBMRI) and Portarlington Sailing Club (PSC) through existing leases and licences. | Ongoing   | \$              | PBMRI<br>PSC        |
| P2-16 | Manage pest plants and animals and restore vegetation with a focus on the Boat Road wetland area and stabilising coastal dunes. (CAP - P2.003)                           | Ongoing   | \$              |                     |
| P2-17 | Continue with the rabbit control program in the holiday park to work towards complete eradication.                                                                       | 1-3       | \$              |                     |

## Precinct 3

### Sproat Street to Fisher Street

Precinct 3 is one of the most highly used and valued precincts by visitors and community, supporting a range recreation and social activities. It features the Portarlington Main Beach Activity node (beginning at Sproat Street to the west, incorporating the Portarlington Main Beach and the Portarlington Bowls Club) and extends to Pier St carpark and café and adjoining foreshore areas to the east. It also includes the WG Little Reserve adjoining the township and main street.

This area is one of the most popular recreational and tourist destinations on the northern Bellarine. Many events, festivals and markets occur throughout the year in Precinct 3, including the National Celtic Festival, the Portarlington Mussel Festival, summer carnival and the Lions Club markets. The WG Little Reserve is also home to the Portarlington CFA, a variety of recreational facilities and adjoining council managed facilities and halls.

| Significant Values                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Management Challenges                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Safe accessible beach</b></li> <li>• <b>Designated swimming area with calm shallow water</b></li> <li>• <b>Bellarine Coastal Trail</b></li> <li>• <b>Coastal vegetation including canopy trees and intertidal habitat</b></li> <li>• <b>Open space beach front recreation area with shade, parking and picnic facilities</b></li> <li>• <b>Adjacent to Portarlington Safe Harbour, Pier and Port Phillip ferry</b></li> <li>• <b>Event space at WG Little Reserve, and community facilities including: skate park, playground, CFA facility and Cenotaph War Memorial</b></li> <li>• <b>Pier Street café</b></li> <li>• <b>Portarlington Bowls Club</b></li> <li>• <b>Bay views across to You Yangs and Melbourne</b></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Crowding at peak visitation times</b></li> <li>• <b>Limited parking</b></li> <li>• <b>Universal accessibility</b></li> <li>• <b>Coastal hazards, including storm tide erosion</b></li> <li>• <b>Ageing Cypress trees and succession of canopy and shade</b></li> <li>• <b>Limited shelter</b></li> <li>• <b>Outdated visitor facilities and design at WG Little Reserve and Portarlington foreshore</b></li> <li>• <b>Competing uses of public open space</b></li> <li>• <b>Limited visible representation of Wadawurrung cultural values</b></li> <li>• <b>Invasive weeds on coastal cliffs</b></li> </ul> |

Precinct 3 map



Figure 10: Management and use zones in Precinct 3.

Precinct 3 actions

Actions have been developed in alignment with the North Bellarine Coastal Adaptation Plan.

| Ref.  | Precinct Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Timeframe | Indicative cost | Supporting partners        |
|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| P3-1  | Subject to consultation outcomes, increase visual representation and storytelling about Wadawurrung culture by incorporating signage and artwork at WG Little Reserve and the Portarlington Foreshore that shares Wadawurrung coastal and sea Country values and stories. | 2-3       | \$\$            | WTOAC                      |
| P3-2  | Revegetate sections of dune areas to stabilise the beach and provide protection from coastal hazard events. (CAP - P3.002)                                                                                                                                                | 2-3       | \$              | WTOAC, Volunteer groups    |
| P3-3  | Develop precinct plans for priority areas of Portarlington Main Beach – including Pier Street, Henderson Reserve and adjacent foreshore corridors – to address parking, coastal resilience, accessibility and guide future investment and implementation priorities.      | 1-2       | \$\$            | WTOAC<br>COGG<br>Parks Vic |
| P3-4  | In collaboration with DEECA and Wadawurrung Traditional Owners, maintain and enhance as required the existing rock erosion protection assets. (CAP - P3.005)                                                                                                              | 3-5       | \$\$            | DEECA<br>WTOAC             |
| P3-5  | Undertake beach nourishment to mitigate impacts of short- and long-term erosion and storm tide inundation. (CAP - P3.003)                                                                                                                                                 | Ongoing   | \$\$\$          | DEECA                      |
| P3-6  | Develop a precinct plan for WG Little Reserve to guide the future use, activation and enhancement of the reserve that balances recreation, community use, access and amenity outcomes.                                                                                    | 1-2       | \$              | WTOAC<br>COGG              |
| P3-7  | Implement priority actions from precinct plans to renew major ageing visitor assets, implement accessibility initiatives and enhance key experiences.                                                                                                                     | 3-5       | \$\$\$\$        | COGG                       |
| P3-8  | Work collaboratively with the City of Greater Geelong to support renewal of the central roundabout at the end of Harding St and ensure its design and delivery align with the long-term vision and future development of the precinct.                                    | 1-2       | \$              | COGG                       |
| P3-9  | Design a universal access route from the lower Portarlington Main Beach area up to WG Little Reserve.                                                                                                                                                                     | 3-5       | \$\$\$\$        | COGG                       |
| P3-10 | Enhance amenity and shade across the foreshore and reserves through proactive tree replacement and new plantings.                                                                                                                                                         | Ongoing   | \$              |                            |
| P3-11 | Continue to support the operation of foreshore cafe, Portarlington Bowls Club (PBC) and the CFA through existing leases and licences.                                                                                                                                     | Ongoing   | \$              | Café Lessee<br>PBC<br>CFA  |
| P3-12 | Support the successful delivery of major events and festivals, including the Portarlington Mussel Festival, National Celtic Folk Festival, Portarlington Greek Festival, Bellarine Sunset Run and Portarlington Charity Carnival.                                         | Ongoing   | \$              | Event organisers<br>COGG   |
| P3-13 | Support and facilitate smaller community events, markets, commemorations and other activations within WG Little Reserve and the foreshore to enhance community wellbeing, strengthen local connections and contribute to the local economy.                               | Ongoing   | \$              | Event organisers<br>COGG   |

Precinct 4

Fisher Street to Point George

Precinct 4 features a long section of coastal reserve that contains significant Wadawurrung cultural values, geological features and natural values. Significant habitats include coastal scrub and saltmarsh, seagrass and intertidal soft sediment, intertidal reefs and sandy beaches.

Precinct 4 provides important habitat for shorebirds, including Red-capped Plovers that nest and feed there. Other birds that are regularly observed in the intertidal habitat and wetlands in the precinct include Black-winged Stilts, Ruddy Turnstones, Black Swans and ducks.

Coastal Saltmarsh is an endangered vegetation class in Victoria and Precinct 4 protects the largest patch of saltmarsh in the reserves. The Coastal Saltmarsh also provides significant habitat for the critically endangered Orange-bellied Parrot, known to migrate and feed on the Bellarine Peninsula during winter months.

Visitor and recreation facilities and use in the precinct is less developed. It supports walking and cycling along the Bellarine Coastal Trail, smaller less formal picnicking areas and access to the coast.

The Steeles Rock boat ramp recreation node is a popular site for boating and swimming, and seals are often observed on the rocky headland.

| Significant Values                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Management Challenges                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wadawurrung cultural values</li><li>• Bellarine Coastal Trail</li><li>• Sites of geomorphological significance</li><li>• Saltmarsh and intertidal habitats</li><li>• Indented Head wetlands</li><li>• Wildlife including shorebirds and beach-nesting Red-capped Plovers</li><li>• Coastal foredune vegetation</li><li>• Boardwalk access</li><li>• Access for water-based activities</li><li>• Bay views across to You Yangs and Melbourne</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Crowding at peak visitation times and associated impacts, including illegal parking</li><li>• Lack of compliance with dog orders</li><li>• Significant coastal hazard risks from storm tide erosion and permanent inundation</li><li>• Limited Wadawurrung cultural values protection and representation</li><li>• Informal access, vegetation vandalism and fragmentation</li><li>• Invasive weeds on coastal cliffs and Kikuyu (grass) management</li></ul> |

Because the precinct covers a long section of coastal reserve, maps are presented in two parts, sections 4a and 4b.

Precinct 4 Maps (4a & 4b)



Figure 11: Management and use zones in Precinct 4a



Figure 12: Management and use zones in Precinct 4b

Precinct 4 actions

Actions have been developed in alignment with the North Bellarine Coastal Adaptation Plan.

| Ref. | Precinct Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Timeframe | Indicative cost | Supporting partners     |
|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| P4-1 | Collaborate with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation to deliver the Cultural Conservation project at the Steeles Rock site.                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 1-2       | \$\$            | WTOAC                   |
| P4-2 | Continue to collaborate with Birdlife Australia and volunteers to monitor and protect populations of Red-capped Plovers.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Ongoing   | \$              | Birdlife Australia      |
| P4-3 | Implement staged revegetation activities at specific locations in line with operational maps (appendix 2) to consolidate and strengthen the resilience of existing strips of native vegetation.                                                                                                                                                              | Ongoing   | \$\$            | WTOAC, Volunteer groups |
| P4-4 | Prepare the Steeles Rock Site plan to integrate planning across the recreation node and adjoining area to guide appropriate ongoing use, and protect environmental and cultural values. Incorporating the Cultural Conservation Project (CAP – P4A.007), Beach Renourishment Program (CAP – P4A.005) and the Beach Access Implementation Plan (CAP – AP.004) | 1-2       | \$              | WTOAC<br>COGG<br>DEECA  |
| P4-5 | Deliver priority actions from the Steeles Rock site plan including the Coastal restoration actions CAP (P4A.005), Foreshore restoration and revegetation CAP (P4A.007), CAP (P4A.003), Parking upgrades and changes to beach access.                                                                                                                         | 2-3       | \$\$\$          | WTOAC<br>COGG<br>DEECA  |
| P4-6 | Identify and implement Bellarine Coastal Trail realignments and upgrades to build greater long-term resilience to coastal hazards.                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 3-5       | \$\$\$\$        |                         |
| P4-7 | Continue to implement seasonal parking restrictions across open space areas during peak period to manage visitor safety and reduce impacts to coastal vegetation.                                                                                                                                                                                            | Ongoing   | \$              |                         |
| P4-8 | Plant further canopy and amenity trees minimising the impacts to sightlines and viewsheds adjacent to other public land.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Ongoing   | \$              |                         |

Precinct 5

Anderson Reserve to Batman Memorial

Precinct 5 is one of the most popular and developed recreational areas used for a variety of coastal and marine activities. It comprises seasonal campgrounds at Anderson Reserve, Taylor Reserve and Batman Park, the Indented Head Boat and Yacht Clubs and the Indented Head Community Hall.

There is a favoured swimming beach at Half Moon Bay and the historic Indented Head boat sheds are part of the social fabric of the area. Wrathall Reserve is the major recreation node that includes the Indented Head Boat Ramp which is a major drawcard for boating and fishing activities.

The Batman Memorial is located in the precinct along with other picnicking facilities, a bbq shelter, tennis court, Basketball ring and playground.

The precinct features significant Wadawurrung Cultural values, including patches of remnant Moonah Woodlands.

| Significant Values                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Management Challenges                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Wadawurrung Cultural values</b></li><li>• <b>Reserve campgrounds</b></li><li>• <b>Coastal Headland Scrub and Moonah Woodlands</b></li><li>• <b>Bellarine Coastal Trail</b></li><li>• <b>Designated swimming beach</b></li><li>• <b>Boat Hire services</b></li><li>• <b>Indented Head Yacht Club, Boat Club and Community Hall</b></li><li>• <b>Ozone Wreck</b></li><li>• <b>Water-based activities (snorkelling, boating, fishing, kayaking and paddle boarding)</b></li><li>• <b>Wrathall Reserve including Indented Head boat ramp</b></li><li>• <b>Tennis / basketball court</b></li><li>• <b>Bay views across to Melbourne and Arthurs Seat</b></li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Coastal hazard risk to infrastructure and beach condition / amenity</b></li><li>• <b>Limited Wadawurrung cultural values representation</b></li><li>• <b>Crowding at peak visitation times, including limited parking and congestion.</b></li><li>• <b>Ageing cypress trees</b></li><li>• <b>Ageing infrastructure</b></li><li>• <b>New weeds including garden escapes that are encroaching on established vegetation areas</b></li><li>• <b>Vegetation vandalism due to impeding views</b></li></ul> |

Precinct 5 map



Figure 14: Management and use zones in Precinct 5

Precinct 5 actions

Actions have been developed in alignment with the North Bellarine Coastal Adaptation Plan.

| Ref.  | Precinct Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Timeframe | Indicative cost | Supporting partners     |
|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| P5-1  | Collaborate with Wadawurrung Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation to deepen community and visitor understanding of Wadawurrung Country and culture in seasonal campgrounds, Wrathall Reserve and the Indented Head Community Hall by returning language and other mediums. | 2-3       | \$              | WTOAC                   |
| P5-2  | Increase the extent of native vegetation through revegetation and weed management with a focus on restoring coastal dunes. (CAP - P5.002)                                                                                                                                      | Ongoing   | \$              | WTOAC, Volunteer groups |
| P5-3  | Develop a precinct plan for Wrathall Reserve to enhance visitor experience, support community use, and protect environmental and cultural values.                                                                                                                              | 2-3       | \$              |                         |
| P5-4  | Deliver on priority initiatives from Wrathall Reserve Precinct Plan. (CAP - P5.006)                                                                                                                                                                                            | 3-5       | \$\$\$          | WTOAC                   |
| P5-5  | Promote recreational opportunities, including the Ozone Wreck and swimming zones around Indented Head, through improved digital content                                                                                                                                        | Ongoing   | \$              | Parks Vic/ COGG         |
| P5-6  | Support the upgrade of the clubrooms and accessible public toilets at the Indented Head Yacht Club, in accordance with approved plans. (CAP - P5.006)                                                                                                                          | 1-2       | \$\$\$          | IHYC/ DEECA             |
| P5-7  | Maintain and enhance amenity plantings and indigenous tree canopy in Anderson, Taylor and Batman campgrounds and open space areas.                                                                                                                                             | Ongoing   | \$              |                         |
| P5-8  | Investigate feasibility of trail realignment for the Bellarine Coastal Trail through Batman Park to enhance user experience and increase views of the bay, in accordance with approved plans.                                                                                  | 3-5       | \$\$\$          | DEECA                   |
| P5-9  | Rationalise low-value beach access points in accordance with approved plans.                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 1-2       | \$              | DEECA                   |
| P5-10 | Design and implement a beach nourishment program to mitigate impacts of short- and long-term erosion and storm tide inundation. (CAP - P5.005)                                                                                                                                 | 1-2       | \$\$\$          | DEECA WTOAC             |
| P5-11 | Review and renew the Bellarine Bayside Boatshed Management Policy 2016 by 2028 to incorporate marine and coastal legislation and policy, as well as findings from the Northern Bellarine Coastal Adaptation Plan.                                                              | 2-3       | \$              | DEECA                   |
| P5-12 | Investigate options for solar power installation and associated energy infrastructure upgrades within Anderson and Taylor campgrounds so as to offset increasing power demands.                                                                                                | 1-2       | \$\$\$          |                         |
| P5-13 | Investigate options for electric vehicle and electric recreational vehicle charging at Batman Park campground utilising current solar power facilities.                                                                                                                        | 2-3       | \$\$            | DEECA                   |
| P5-14 | Continue to support community use of the Indented Head Yacht Club and Indented Head Boat Club through existing leases and licences.                                                                                                                                            | Ongoing   | \$              | Community clubs         |

| Ref.  | Precinct Action                                                                                                                          | Timeframe | Indicative cost | Supporting partners |
|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|---------------------|
| P5-15 | Continue to support retail boat-hire facilities through the current lease and licence.                                                   | Ongoing   | \$              | Lessee              |
| P5-16 | Plan and design priority toilet block renewal within the holiday parks in line with built asset capital investment plans. (CAP - P5.006) | 2-3       | \$\$            |                     |

## Precinct 6

### South of Batman Memorial to South of Second Avenue

Precinct 6 is divided into 2 sub-precincts that align with the coastal compartments of the Coastal Adaptation Plan. The precinct is characterised by narrow sandy beaches and vegetated dunes that form a thin barrier in front of Salt Lagoon (Parks Victoria managed) featuring significant Wadawurrung cultural values and natural values that provide amenity for passive recreation for visitors and the community. This is flanked by a narrow strips of open space and the key road (The esplanade) connecting St Leonards with Indented Head. Due to the low profile and narrowness, the precinct is vulnerable to inundation during storm tide events.

The precinct is one of the lesser used areas along the coast, due in part to lower densities of adjoining residential land and narrower beaches. The southern end closer to St Leonards becomes more popular for beach use and the Bellarine Coastal Trail is well used.

| Significant Values                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Management Challenges                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Wadawurrung cultural values</b></li><li>• <b>Natural values – Coastal Headland Scrub Moonah Woodlands, saltmarsh, intertidal habitat and wetlands</b></li><li>• <b>Bellarine Coastal Trail</b></li><li>• <b>Access for horse riding (existing permitted only)</b></li><li>• <b>Open space and beach access</b></li><li>• <b>Sandy beaches</b></li><li>• <b>Bay views across to Melbourne and Arthurs Seat</b></li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Significant coastal hazards</b></li><li>• <b>Managing permitted uses</b></li><li>• <b>Fragile landscape context (linear, low-lying land)</b></li><li>• <b>Informal access points and coastal foredune fragmentation</b></li><li>• <b>Steep section of Bellarine Coastal Trail</b></li></ul> |

Precinct 6 maps (6a and 6b)



Figure 15: Management and use zones in Precinct 6a



Figure 16: Management and use zones in Precinct 6b

Precinct 6 actions

Actions have been developed in alignment with the North Bellarine Coastal Adaptation Plan.

| Ref. | Precinct Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Timeframe | Indicative cost | Supporting partners     |
|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| P6-1 | Collaborate with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation to restore and expand native coastal vegetation at North Red Bluff. (CAP – P6B.008)                                                                                             | 1-2       | \$              | WTOAC                   |
| P6-2 | Increase the extent of native vegetation through revegetation and coastal restoration, including weed management, with a focus on restoring Moonah Woodland south of Wrathall Reserve and foredunes to strengthen links to Salt Lagoon. CAP - P6A.002) | 1-2       | \$              | WTOAC, Volunteer groups |
| P6-3 | Work with Parks Victoria to integrate conservation programs with programs undertaken at Salt Lagoon, where possible.                                                                                                                                   | Ongoing   | \$              | Parks Vic               |
| P6-4 | Maintain and if required upgrade and/or realign the Bellarine Coastal Trail to ensure the trail remains open, safe and resilient to inundation with temporary access controls implemented if required during inundation events. (CAP - P6A.001)        | 5+        | \$\$\$          | WTOAC, DEECA            |
| P6-5 | Develop a site plan for the North Red Bluff recreation node and adjoining section of the Bellarine Coastal Trail to improve accessibility for trail users.                                                                                             | 1-2       | \$              | WTOAC                   |
| P6-6 | Implement priority actions from North red Bluff site plan (subject to resourcing).                                                                                                                                                                     | 2-3       | \$\$            | WTOAC                   |
| P6-7 | Continue to undertake beach and dune nourishment to mitigate impacts of short- and long-term erosion and storm tide inundation. (CAP - P6A.005)                                                                                                        | Ongoing   | \$\$\$          | DEECA                   |
| P6-8 | Permit existing licensed horse-riding access and monitor to ensure the use is sustainable and does not excessively impact reserve values.                                                                                                              | Ongoing   | \$              | Licensee                |
| P6-9 | Continue to provide a licence for Jade Tiger infrastructure across coastal Crown land.                                                                                                                                                                 | Ongoing   | \$              | Licensee                |

Precinct 7

North of First Avenue to William Buckley labyrinth

Precinct 7 is a smaller precinct that supports high visitor use adjacent to the St Leonards township. Bellarine Bayside manages the coastal Crown land adjoining St Leonards Pier (managed by Parks Victoria) and Harvey Park (managed by the City of Greater Geelong). The Parks Victoria and City of Greater Geelong areas are not part of the scope of this plan.

The Bellarine Bayside managed areas being the St Leonards Pier carpark and coastal crown land to the North are highly used including the beaches adjoining the designated swimming only area north of the Pier. It is also a key trailhead for people accessing and using the Bellarine Coastal Trail.

| Significant Values                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Management Challenges                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Wadawurrung cultural values</b></li><li>• <b>Coastal foredune scrub and intertidal habitat</b></li><li>• <b>Beach access and infrastructure</b></li><li>• <b>St Leonards Pier car park and recreation area</b></li><li>• <b>Bay views across to Melbourne and Arthurs Seat</b></li></ul></div> <div>Adjoining values</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Designated swimming only area north of the pier (Parks Victoria)</b></li><li>• <b>St Leonards Pier and harbour (Parks Victoria)</b></li><li>• <b>Harvey Park, including playground, toilet block, tennis court, carpark, Buckley labyrinth (the City of Greater Geelong)</b></li></ul></div> | <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Ageing Cypress Trees</b></li><li>• <b>Native vegetation and habitat loss</b></li><li>• <b>Beach and cliff erosion north of the pier</b></li><li>• <b>Crowding during peak periods</b></li><li>• <b>Bellarine Coastal Trail network gaps and safety issues</b></li><li>• <b>Litter</b></li><li>• <b>Integrated land management</b></li></ul></div> <div>Adjoining issues</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Non-compliance with swimming-only zones by jet skis and other powered watercraft</b></li></ul></div> |

Precinct 7 map



Figure 17: Management and use zones in Precinct 7

Precinct 7 actions

Actions have been developed in alignment with the North Bellarine Coastal Adaptation Plan.

| Ref. | Precinct Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Timeframe | Indicative cost | Supporting partners        |
|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| P7-1 | Develop a site plan for Bellarine Bayside managed areas of the St Leonards Pier activity node to guide use and improvements that complement Parks Victoria's redevelopment of the pier while integrating with adjoining City of Greater Geelong managed areas. | 1-2       | \$\$            | Parks Vic<br>COGG          |
| P7-2 | Deliver on priority initiatives from the St Leonards Site Plan to create an integrated and seamless experience across the precinct.                                                                                                                            | 2-3       | \$\$\$\$        |                            |
| P7-3 | Modify or upgrade the Bellarine Coastal Trail as required to mitigate impacts of coastal hazards. (CAP – P7.011)                                                                                                                                               | 3-5       | \$\$            |                            |
| P7-4 | Implement beach nourishment actions to mitigate impacts of short- and long-term erosion of the St Leonards coastal cliffs. (CAP – P7.004)                                                                                                                      | 3-5       | \$\$\$\$        | DEECA                      |
| P7-5 | Review existing sand fencing adjacent to the cliffs north of St Leonards and adapt, repair or redesign if required. (CAP P7.003)                                                                                                                               | 2-3       | \$\$\$          | DEECA                      |
| P7-6 | Increase the extent of native vegetation through revegetation and coastal restoration, including weed management. (CAP P7.009)                                                                                                                                 | Ongoing   | \$              | WTOAC,<br>Volunteer groups |

Precinct 8

William Buckley labyrinth to The Bluff

Precinct 8 is an area of high and diverse values and use. It provides opportunity for a range of recreational activities including walking, picnicking, fishing and camping. The precinct features two seasonal campgrounds – at Bengalat Reserve and Karrong Reserve – as well as the popular St Leonards Boat Ramp. The northern extent of the precinct is adjacent to the City of Greater Geelong managed Harvey Park, which features a popular playground, tennis court and public toilet.

| Significant Values                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Management Challenges                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wadawurrung cultural values</li><li>• Seasonal campgrounds</li><li>• Bellarine Coastal Trail</li><li>• Coastal foredune vegetation and canopy tree cover</li><li>• Open space for recreation and picnicking</li><li>• Swimming beach</li><li>• St Leonard’s Jetty and boat ramp</li><li>• Boating and fishing</li><li>• Bay views across to Melbourne and Arthurs Seat</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increasing visitor demand and crowding</li><li>• Peak season boatramp parking</li><li>• Boatramp siltation</li><li>• Balancing management of diverse uses</li><li>• Coastal erosion south of boatramp</li><li>• Senescing Cypress trees and loss of tree canopy</li><li>• Managing wildlife, including pelicans and seals</li><li>• Fragmentation and weed invasion of restoration areas and informal access tracks</li><li>• Managing expectations around private viewsheds</li><li>• Trail connectivity with City of Greater Geelong land</li></ul> |

Precinct 8 map



Figure 18: Management and use zones in Precinct 8

Precinct 8 actions

Actions have been developed in alignment with the North Bellarine Coastal Adaptation Plan.

| Ref. | Precinct Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Timeframe | Indicative cost | Supporting partners    |
|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|------------------------|
| P8-1 | Increase the extent of native vegetation through revegetation and coastal restoration, including weed management, with a focus on expanding foredune vegetation at area 5 (CAP - P8.002)                                                   | Ongoing   | \$\$            | WTOAC Volunteer groups |
| P8-2 | Maintain and enhance amenity plantings and indigenous tree canopy in Bengalat and Karrong Reserve campgrounds and open space areas.                                                                                                        | Ongoing   | \$              |                        |
| P8-3 | Work in partnership with Better Boating Victoria to successfully design and implement Stage 2 of the St Leonards boat ramp precinct upgrade, improving boater access and minimising coastal hazard risks as much as possible. (CAP P8.014) | 2-3       | \$              | VFA BBV                |
| P8-4 | Plan, design and renew the Bengalat Reserve toilet and amenity block.                                                                                                                                                                      | 1-2       | \$\$\$\$        |                        |
| P8-5 | Monitor the condition and performance of existing coastal protection assets and adapt, repair and redesign if required. (CAP - P8.005)                                                                                                     | Ongoing   | \$\$            | DEECA                  |
| P8-6 | Explore feasibility of roofed accommodation for either Bengalat or Karrong Reserve campgrounds.                                                                                                                                            | 3-5       | \$\$\$\$        |                        |
| P8-7 | Investigate options for solar power installation and associated energy infrastructure upgrades at Bengalat Reserve campground to meet changing electricity demands (including electric vehicle and recreational device charging).          | 2-3       | \$\$            |                        |

Precinct 9

The Bluff to Beach Road

Precinct 9 features the Lower Bluff biodiversity conservation area and the second largest patch of remnant native vegetation in the Reserves (outside Point Richards Flora and Fauna Reserve). The precinct offers a unique opportunity for natural amenity and passive recreation experience for community and visitors.

The precinct comprises the St Leonards Yacht Club & Motor Squadron and the Lower Bluff biodiversity Conservation area.

| Significant Values                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Management Challenges                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wadawurrung cultural values</li><li>• Biodiversity values, including established bushland reserve with significant plants and wildlife, as well as foredune scrub</li><li>• Nature-based passive recreation, including Lower Bluff coastal and woodland trails and picnic areas</li><li>• St Leonards Yacht Club &amp; Motor Squadron</li><li>• Beach access and swimming beach</li><li>• Bay views across to Melbourne and Arthurs Seat</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Weeds</li><li>• Storm tide erosion</li><li>• Multiple informal beach access points exacerbating coastal erosion, threatening cultural and biodiversity values</li><li>• Tree vandalism</li><li>• Rubbish dumping</li><li>• Through road access</li><li>• Ageing and possibly inappropriate location of public toilet</li></ul> |

Precinct 9 map



Figure 19: Management and use zones in Precinct 9

Precinct 9 actions

Actions have been developed in alignment with the North Bellarine Coastal Adaptation Plan.

| Ref.  | Precinct Action                                                                                                                                                                                         | Timeframe | Indicative cost | Supporting partners     |
|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| P9-1  | Collaborate with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation to restore and expand native coastal vegetation at Lower Bluff. (CAP- P9.013)                                                    | Ongoing   | \$              | WTOAC                   |
| P9-2  | Revegetate in-fill areas along the coast side of Lower Bluff Rd to enhance biodiversity and coastal resilience. (CAP P9.003)                                                                            | Ongoing   | \$              | WTOAC, Volunteer groups |
| P9-3  | Increase the extent of native vegetation through revegetation of inland grassed areas to expand existing biodiversity areas.                                                                            | 3-5       | \$              | WTOAC, Volunteer groups |
| P9-4  | Continue to provide nesting boxes that support nesting, shelter, breeding and foraging to enhance the resilience of native bird and animal populations.                                                 | Ongoing   | \$              |                         |
| P9-5  | Liaise with the City of Greater Geelong about the management of Lower Bluff Road.                                                                                                                       | Ongoing   | \$              | COGG                    |
| P9-6  | Monitor and manage tree risk of the Mahogany gum stand around path access to Bluff Road to maximise visitor safety and minimise impacts to habitat.                                                     | Ongoing   | \$              |                         |
| P9-7  | Continue to support the operation of the St Leonards Yacht Club & Motor Squadron (SLYCMS), consistent with the current community lease and licence.                                                     | Ongoing   | \$              | SLYCMS                  |
| P9-8  | Maintain and enhance the coastal access track between St Leonards Yacht Club & Motor Squadron and Edwards Point Wildlife reserve.                                                                       | 2-3       | \$\$            |                         |
| P9-9  | Maintain and improve the inland woodland walk and associated trail connections and loops.                                                                                                               | 3-5       | \$\$            |                         |
| P9-10 | Maintain Red (Lower) Bluff lookout as a low-key viewing opportunity across the bay.                                                                                                                     | Ongoing   | \$              |                         |
| P9-11 | Develop a precinct plan for Lower Bluff covering key conservation and recreation areas, including key visitor nodes, and integrate beach access planning and potential relocation of toilet facilities. | 2-3       | \$\$            |                         |
| P9-12 | Implement priority actions from the Lower Bluff precinct plan                                                                                                                                           | 3-5       | \$\$\$\$        |                         |
| P9-13 | Carry out education, surveillance and compliance with partner agencies to minimise the impact of illegal activities including rubbish dumping, off-road access and damage to coastal vegetation.        | Ongoing   | \$              | COGG<br>OCR             |
| P9-14 | Implement nature-based beach renourishment actions, in line with the Beach Renourishment Action Plan, to enhance the resilience of the coast. (CAP P9.005)                                              | Ongoing   | \$\$            | DEECA                   |

# Implementation

The CMMP will be implemented through a structured and adaptive management approach that considers the available resources and integrates monitoring, evaluation, reporting, and continuous improvement. Actions will be delivered in accordance with the priorities, timeframes, and responsibilities identified within the plan, supported by regular monitoring to track progress and performance. Monitoring data and stakeholder feedback will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of management actions, inform reporting, and identify opportunities to refine strategies where required. This approach ensures that the CMMP remains responsive to emerging issues, incorporates lessons learned, and continues to achieve its intended environmental, social, and operational outcomes over time.

The Implementation Plan will be finalised following consultation on the draft CMMP to ensure relevant community and stakeholder feedback is incorporated into implementation priorities and supports delivery of the final CMMP vision and strategic directions.

## Resourcing:

Bellarine Bayside is a self-funded organisation with strong financial management and oversight securing a strong financial position. Bellarine Bayside generated close to \$9m in revenue in 2024/25 through its holiday park operations and other leases, licence and permits with a surplus of over \$1.8m adding to a robust cash reserve. These funds along with grant funding are reinvested to deliver the objectives of this plan. The implementation of the plan will be subject to the financial capacity of the organisation over the next 5 years and any changes in circumstances that impact either revenue or costs and will be addressed through the MERI framework.

To support implementation, Bellarine Bayside has developed an Implementation framework captured within the pillar strategic actions and precinct actions that identifies:

- timeframes,
- indicative costs,
- supporting delivery partners.

## Timeframes:

An indication of the timeframe for delivery has been provided which considers the relatively priority and urgency of the action, its complexity, the involvement of partners and sequencing of the action with other actions. Timeframes may shift throughout the life of the plan depending on factors such as funding, new research, collaboration opportunities, safety, risks and changing conditions.

The timeframes are established as:

- Ongoing – Actions to deliver day to day core activities
- 1-2 years – immediate priorities for delivery
- 2-3 years – scheduled for delivery early in the plan cycle
- 3-5 – Mid to late term priorities that may require other actions to be delivered
- 5+ - Late term requirement that may commence in this plan period but is more likely to be delivered in subsequent plans
- 1-5 years – represents actions that involve planning and development in early years and delivery in later years

Indicative costs

The resources and relative costs to deliver have been estimated considering Bellarine Baysides financial capacity, the potential for grant funding and support from partners. A large portion of the strategic actions represent the substantial ongoing, core business priorities that may be a continuation of what is currently being delivered or an improvement on the way those functions and services are being delivered. These are absorbed largely from core operational recurrent funding. Cost estimates have also been made for other initiatives that will be funded through a combination of core OPEX and CAPEX internal funding and grant funding noting they will be subject to market forces and costs at the time of delivering. The resourcing and cost estimates have been grouped as:

- \$ - Relatively low cost (<\$20k)
- \$\$ - Moderate cost (\$20k – 100k)
- \$\$\$ - High cost (\$100k - \$500k)
- \$\$\$\$ - Very high cost (>\$500k)

Governance and supporting partners

Bellarine Bayside has primary responsibility for coordinating implementation of the CMMP and is the default lead agency for all strategic actions. The Commitee of Management will provide ongoing oversight of the implementation of the plan through regular updates and annual reports.

Bellarine Bayside will work closely with key partners, including Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (WTOAC), Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action (DEECA), City of Greater Geelong (CoGG), other stakeholder groups and the community to support delivery of the plan’s actions and outcomes. Further detail on the partners Bellarine Bayside works with is identified in the plan enablers section. The mechanisms for engaging, collaborating and partnering with those stakeholders will vary and adapt throughout the life of the plan in line with the timeframes, needs and capacity of those organisations at the time.

The community will be further involved throughout the life of the plan as active participants and stewards delivering specific actions in direct partnership with Bellarine Bayside and other stakeholders. Where actions require further detail and community input, that will be sought in line with Bellarine Bayside’s community engagement charter.

Monitoring and evaluation

Implementation of the CMMP will be guided by a Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) framework adapted from the CMMP resource kit. The MERI framework will provide a structured approach to tracking the delivery of actions, assessing their effectiveness in achieving the CMMP’s objectives, and supporting evidence-based decision making. The framework will enable Bellarine Bayside to measure progress, identify emerging issues and opportunities, and adapt management actions where necessary.

An adaptive management approach will be applied throughout the life of the CMMP, recognising that coastal environments, community needs, financial capacity and external factors may change over time.

The implementation plan and MERI framework will be reviewed, evaluated and updated annually and will include:

Monitoring:

Regular monitoring will be undertaken to track progress against agreed objectives, performance measures, and expected outcomes. Monitoring will involve the collection, analysis, and review of relevant data and stakeholder feedback to assess performance, identify emerging risks and issues, and measure the effectiveness of management actions. The information gathered through monitoring will provide the evidence base for evaluation and reporting.

The following monitoring criteria will be considered:

- Alignment with policy
- Implementation responsibility
- Key criteria for success
- Cost estimate and funding source
- Timeframe and priority
- Status
- Delivery risk

Evaluation:

Evaluation of the relevant monitoring results for each management action, and outcomes will be undertaken to assess the effectiveness of the plan in achieving its objectives.

The following evaluation criteria will be considered:

- How success has or hasn’t been achieved
- Stakeholder feedback
- Resourcing
- Lessons learned, gaps or opportunity to improve

Reporting and improvement:

Bellarine Bayside has a range of internal governance reporting mechanisms and external reporting through its annual report. The annual report will provide an update on key initiatives delivered through that period.

Regular internal reporting to the Committee and organisation will provide the necessary oversight on the progress of the CMMP, enabling adaptive management, informed decision-making, and continuous improvement to ensure the CMMP achieves its intended outcomes.

A formal review of the plan as a whole will occur at the end of the five-year period.

# Appendix 1 – Community engagement summary

In acknowledging that four major pieces of work were being commissioned during 2024–2025, Bellarine Bayside prepared an Integrated Communications and Engagement Plan 2024, to take advantage of an opportunity to combine engagement activities, thereby ensuring that consultation was efficient, streamlined and respectful of community members’ and visitors’ time and capacity to be involved. In this Plan, ‘community members’ were people who lived in, visited or were otherwise interested in the locations along Bellarine Bayside’s management area. In addition to the CMMP, the other pieces of work were the Northern Bellarine Coastal Adaptation Plan, the Point Richards Flora and Fauna Management Plan and the Northern Bellarine Beach Access Feasibility Study.

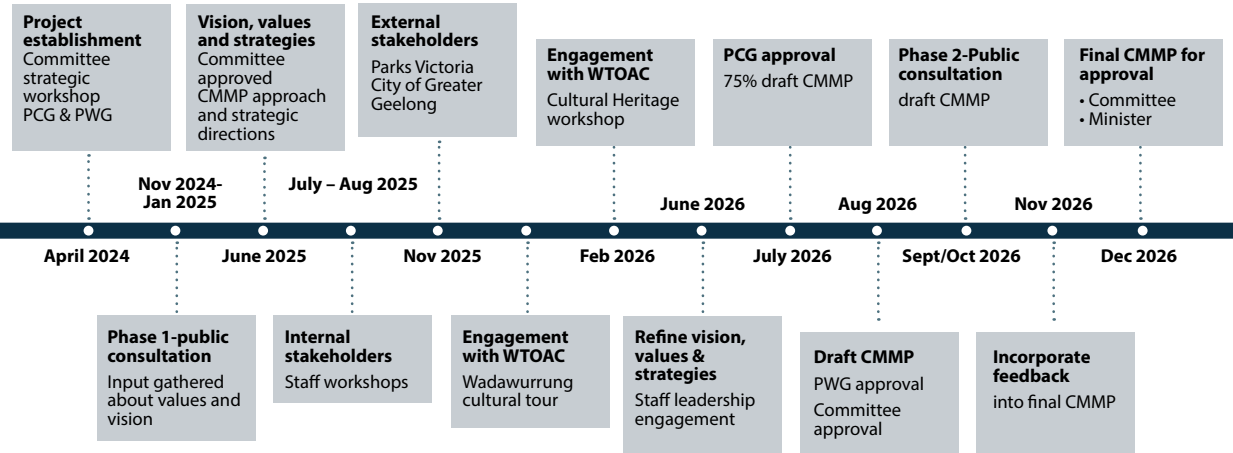
A Project Working Group (PWG), comprising representatives from Bellarine Bayside, WTOAC, DEECA, CoGG and PV, provided key internal staff and external stakeholders with an opportunity to work closely with the project team and consultants to advise and comment on key stages of all four projects.

The specific engagement objectives for the CMMP, as outlined in the Integrated Communications and Engagement Plan, were to:

1. Capture Local Insights: Gather detailed feedback from the community to ensure the CMMP addresses and balances the unique (and sometimes, conflicting) environmental, social, and cultural values of the Northern Bellarine coast.
2. Build Consensus: Foster a sense of shared responsibility and support by involving community members in the decision-making process, ensuring the CMMP acknowledges and responds to their priorities and concerns.
3. Enhance Collaboration: Leverage the expertise and knowledge of local stakeholders and visitors to identify innovative solutions and strategies for managing coastal and marine resources.
4. Promote Transparency and Trust: Maintain open communication channels to build trust and keep the community (residents and campers) informed about Bellarine Bayside’s role in managing the coast, as well as the project’s progress and outcomes.
5. Educate and Build Awareness: Raise awareness about the importance of coastal and marine conservation and Bellarine Bayside’s obligations and excite the community to participate actively in protecting these valuable resources through volunteer opportunities.

In accordance with the Plan and Bellarine Bayside’s Community Engagement Charter 2022, two rounds of community engagement were undertaken on the development of the draft CMMP (Figure 3).

## Development of the CMMP



There has been participation across various engagement activities throughout 2024-26. These are reflected in the table below.

| Date                                                                                | Activities                                                  | Purpose                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Key Outcomes                                                                                                                                               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| April 2024                                                                          | Committee of Management strategic workshop                  | Discuss and agree on strategic directions for CMMP -2026-2031                                                                                                                                                | Defined northern Bellarine CMMP strategy into the four pillars concept                                                                                     |
| Nov 2024- Jan 2025                                                                  | Phase 1 –integrated projects                                | Information gathering via online survey popup info stalls                                                                                                                                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 169 survey responses</li><li>• 443 people</li></ul>                                                                |
| Internal – Operations, Holiday parks & commercial, Planning & Environment & Finance |                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                            |
| 29 July 2025                                                                        | CMMP Strategy Workshop Social and Visitor Pillar (BB Staff) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Understand known information about visitors using the coast</li><li>• Initial gathering of values, issues and opportunities from an internal perspective</li></ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Workshop summaries and minutes</li><li>• BB’s initial perspectives on managing for social and visitors</li></ul>   |
| 7 Aug 2025                                                                          | CMMP Strategy Workshop Environment Pillar                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Understand known information about the community and economy.</li><li>• Initial gathering of values, issues and opportunities from an internal perspective</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Workshop summaries and minutes</li><li>• BB’s initial perspectives on managing the environment</li></ul>           |
| 12 Aug 2025                                                                         | CMMP Strategy Workshop Community & Economy Pillar           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Understand known information about the community and economy.</li><li>• Initial gathering of values, issues and opportunities from an internal perspective</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Workshop summaries and minutes</li><li>• BB’s initial perspectives on managing for community and economy</li></ul> |
| 10 Nov 2025                                                                         | CMMP Action planning for Visitor & Social Pillar            | Action planning with BB operations team and other relevant staff                                                                                                                                             | Developed SMART actions for Visitor & Social Pillar                                                                                                        |
| 20 Nov 2025                                                                         | CMMP Action Planning Community & Economy Pillar             | Action planning with BB holiday parks team and other relevant staff                                                                                                                                          | Developed SMART actions for Community & Economy Pillar                                                                                                     |
| 27 Nov 2025                                                                         | CMMP Action Planning - Environment pillar                   | Action planning with BB environment team and other relevant staff                                                                                                                                            | Developed SMART actions for Environment pillar                                                                                                             |

<sup>21</sup> BBFCOM 2024 Integrated Communications and Engagement Plan  
<sup>22</sup> BBFCOM 2024 Integrated Communications and Engagement Plan  
<sup>23</sup> BBFCOM 2024 Integrated Communications and Engagement Plan  
<sup>24</sup> BBFCOM 2022 Community Engagement Charter

| Date                    | Activities                                            | Purpose                                                                                          | Key Outcomes                                                                                                                                    |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>External</b>         |                                                       |                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                 |
| 12 Nov 2025             | Wadawurrung Cultural Tour                             | BB staff to learn more about Wadawurrung values and aspirations                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BB became more culturally aware</li> <li>Trust and relationship building between WTOAC and BB</li> </ul> |
| 17 Nov 2025             | City of Greater Geelong                               | Targeted meeting                                                                                 | Discussed opportunities for improved integrated management                                                                                      |
| 15 Dec 2025             | Parks Victoria                                        | Targeted meeting                                                                                 | Discussed opportunities for improved integrated management                                                                                      |
| 10 Feb 2026             | Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation | To develop key inclusions relating to the Cultural Heritage Pillar strategic directions for CMMP | Heard from traditional owners about priorities and aspirations for northern Bellarine Coast                                                     |
| <b>Presentations</b>    |                                                       |                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                 |
| 13 Aug 2025             | Portarlington Community Association (PCA)             | Presented to PCA on CMMP and CAP alongside CoGG                                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Informed PCA about CMMP and CAP</li> </ul>                                                               |
| 25 Aug 2025             | Coastal wonders                                       | To inform the community about local marine projects and update on BAFS, CAP and CMMP             | 64 participants heard about 3 local marine projects and updates on BAFS, CAP and CMMP                                                           |
| 5 Mar 2026              | Online coastal update (recorded webinar)              | Presented CMMP update alongside CAP update                                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 participants were updated on CAP and CMMP</li> <li>60 downloads of recording</li> </ul>                |
| <b>Community stalls</b> |                                                       |                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                 |
| 7 June 2025             | Celtic Festival                                       | Engagement with community about integrated projects                                              | Engaged with 74 visitors to Celtic Festival on integrated projects                                                                              |
| 10 Jan 2026             | Mussel Festival                                       | Engagement with community about integrated projects                                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engagement with visitors to Mussel Festival on integrated projects</li> </ul>                            |
| 10 Jan 2026             | Mussel Festival                                       | Engagement with community about integrated projects                                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engagement with visitors to Mussel Festival on integrated projects</li> </ul>                            |

| Engagement process                                                 | Timing            | Reach                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Methods                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Phase 1: Integrated projects<br>-CMMP<br>-CAP<br>-BAFS<br>-PRFFRMP | Nov24 – Jan25     | 443 people<br>3000 views<br>1000 unique visitors<br>169 survey responses<br>13 childrens surveys<br>86 vision statements<br>95 pins on map<br>13,020 social media views<br>107 social media interactions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 6 pop-up info stalls</li> <li>- Have your say page</li> <li>- Online survey</li> <li>- social map</li> <li>- 41 posters along coast</li> <li>- Social media posts</li> <li>- Print media</li> </ul> |
| Phase 2 – Draft PRFFRMP                                            | 30May-27June 2025 | 142 visitors to page<br>84 responses to online survey<br>84 downloads of draft plan<br>74 visitors to Celtic Festival                                                                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have your say page</li> <li>• Online survey</li> <li>• 2 Targeted info sessions</li> <li>• Celtic Festival stall</li> <li>• Social media</li> <li>• Print media</li> </ul>                          |
| Phase 2-BAFS Framework                                             | 2-30 Oct 2025     | 4 survey responses                                                                                                                                                                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have your Say page</li> <li>• Online survey on BAFS Framework</li> </ul>                                                                                                                            |
| Phase 2 Draft CAP open for feedback                                | 13Feb-15Mar 2026  | 1105 unique visitors<br>39 survey responses<br>427 face-to-face                                                                                                                                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have your page with video</li> <li>• Online survey</li> <li>• Pop-up info stalls</li> <li>• Presentations</li> <li>• Webinar</li> </ul>                                                             |
| Phase 2 Draft CMMP open for feedback                               | 21Sep-25 Oct TBC  |                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

# Appendix 2

The following maps show which areas are proposed to incorporate changes to open space and biodiversity restoration areas through additional revegetation activities. They are indicated by the green hashed lines over blue coastal public open space.

The operational maps split biodiversity conservation and restoration into separate categories which are grouped in the strategic maps.

Other operational maps absent from the sequence do not have further revegetation proposed in new areas in the life of this plan and the overall management intent is covered by the strategic maps within each precinct.

## Precinct 1



## Precinct 1 (cont)



Precinct 2



Precinct 3



Precinct 4a



Precinct 4b



Precinct 4b (cont)



Precinct 4 (cont)



Precinct 5



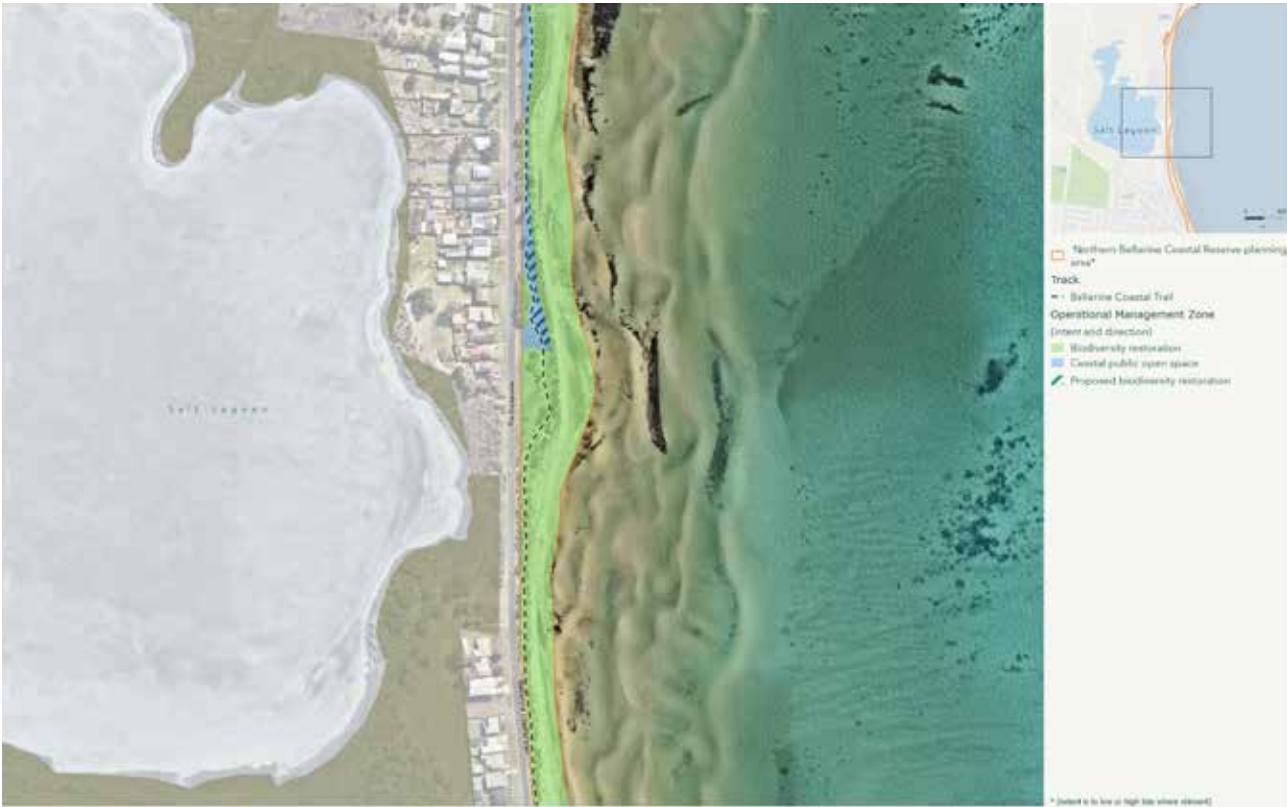
Precinct 5 (cont)



Precinct 6a and 6b



Precinct 6a and 6b (cont)



Precinct 7



Precinct 8



Precinct 8 (cont)



Precinct 9



# Appendix 3 - Legislation Details

## 1.1.1 Marine and Coastal Act 2018

The Marine and Coastal Act 2018 (MACA) provides the legislative framework for marine and coastal management in Victoria.

The MACA outlines how to protect and manage the marine and coastal environment and sets objectives and principles to integrate and coordinate planning and management. Implementation of the objectives and principles of the MACA is supported by the Marine and Coastal Policy (MCP) and Marine and Coastal Strategy (MCS). At a local level it is articulated through Coastal and Marine Management Plans (CMMP).

## 1.1.2 Marine and Coastal Policy 2020

The MCP was released in March 2020 and establishes a 15-year vision for: 'a healthy, dynamic and biodiverse marine and coastal environment that is valued in its own right, and that benefits the Victorian community, now and in the future' and provides statewide policy direction for planning, management and decision making. The MCP includes a 'Planning and Decision Pathway' that sets out how the objectives and guiding principles of the Act are to be used in decision making for the marine and coastal environment. It also provides for the development of a statewide Marine Spatial Planning Framework (MSP Framework) to achieve integrated and coordinated planning and management of the marine environment.

## 1.1.3 Marine and Coastal Strategy 2022

The MCS identifies actions to achieve the MCP's vision. It outlines 6 priority action areas for the five-year life of the MCS:

- Action 1: Supporting Traditional Owners to embed their rights and obligations into planning and management of the marine and coastal environment.
- Action 2: Improving the condition and ecological connectivity of habitats and respecting and caring for marine and coastal areas.
- Action 3: Adapting to impacts of climate change.
- Action 4: Supporting sustainable use and development of the marine and coastal environment.
- Action 5: Implementing the Marine Spatial Planning Framework to integrate long-term planning for different uses in the marine environment.
- Action 6: Identifying the resource needs and funding for sustainable marine and coastal management.

# Appendix 4 - Summary of proposed new use and development

| Ref.  | Precinct Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Timeframe | Indicative cost | Supporting partners    |
|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|------------------------|
| P1-10 | Improve access, parking, trail connections and signage to support safe, accessible and well-connected visitor experiences within Point Richards Flora and Fauna Reserve (CAP-P1.002).                                                                     | 1-5       | \$\$\$          |                        |
| P1-11 | Invest in visitor infrastructure, amenities and low-impact recreational opportunities that encourage appreciation and enjoyment of the Point Richards Flora and Fauna Reserve.                                                                            | 1-5       | \$\$            |                        |
| P2-4  | Investigate opportunities for new beachside roofed accommodation in Portarlington Holiday Park taking into account future hazard risks and adaptation strategies. (CAP – P2.008)                                                                          | 1-3       | \$\$\$\$        |                        |
| P2-7  | Investigate options for secure storage of valuables and recreation equipment at Portarlington Holiday Park.                                                                                                                                               | 3-5       | \$              |                        |
| P2-8  | Investigate options for solar power installation and associated energy infrastructure upgrades within the holiday park to meet changing electricity demands, including electric vehicle charging and the increasing use of electric recreational devices. | 1-2       | \$\$\$          | DEECA                  |
| P2-10 | Develop and implement a master plan for Portarlington Holiday Park outlining new accommodation options, building renewal, enhanced recreation opportunities for children and youth and other upgrades, in line with coastal adaptation plans.             | 1-2       | \$\$\$          |                        |
| P2-11 | Renew at least 1 priority amenity block within the life of the plan                                                                                                                                                                                       | 2-3       | \$\$            |                        |
| P2-12 | Upgrade play infrastructure in Portarlington Holiday Park                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 3-5       | \$\$            |                        |
| P2-13 | Assess options for the future of the Bellarine Bayside offices and depot through a feasibility study.                                                                                                                                                     | 1-2       | \$              |                        |
| P3-7  | Implement priority actions from precinct plans to renew major ageing visitor assets, implement accessibility initiatives and enhance key experiences.                                                                                                     | 2-5       | \$\$\$\$        |                        |
| P3-9  | Design a universal access route from the lower Portarlington Main Beach area up to WG Little Reserve.                                                                                                                                                     | 3-5       | \$\$\$\$        | COGG                   |
| P4-5  | Deliver priority actions from the Steeles Rock site plan including the Coastal restoration actions CAP (P4A.005), Foreshore restoration and revegetation CAP (P4A.007), CAP (P4A.003), Parking upgrades and changes to beach access.                      | 2-3       | \$\$\$          | WTOAC<br>COGG<br>DEECA |
| P4-6  | Identify and implement Bellarine Coastal Trail realignments and upgrades to build greater long-term resilience to coastal hazards.                                                                                                                        | 3-5       | \$\$\$\$        |                        |

| Ref.  | Precinct Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Timeframe | Indicative cost | Supporting partners |
|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|---------------------|
| P5-4  | Deliver on priority initiatives from Wrathall Reserve Precinct Plan. (CAP - P5.006)                                                                                                                                                                            | 3-5       | \$\$\$          | WTOAC               |
| P5-6  | Support the upgrade of the clubrooms and accessible public toilets at the Indented Head Yacht Club, in accordance with approved plans. (CAP - P5.006)                                                                                                          | 1-5       | \$\$            |                     |
| P5-8  | Investigate feasibility of trail realignment for the Bellarine Coastal Trail through Batman Park to enhance user experience and increase views of the bay, in accordance with approved plans.                                                                  | 2-3       | \$\$\$          | DEECA               |
| P5-13 | Investigate options for solar power installation and associated energy infrastructure upgrades within Anderson and Taylor campgrounds so as to offset increasing power demands.                                                                                | 1-2       | \$\$\$          |                     |
| P5-14 | Investigate options for electric vehicle and electric recreational vehicle charging at Batman Park campground utilising current solar power facilities.                                                                                                        | 2-3       | \$\$            | DEECA               |
| P5-17 | Plan and design priority toilet block renewal within the holiday parks in line with built asset capital investment plans. (CAP - P5.006)                                                                                                                       | 1-3       | \$\$            |                     |
| P6-4  | Maintain and if required upgrade and/or realign the Bellarine Coastal Trail to ensure the trail remains open, safe and resilient to inundation with temporary access controls implemented if required during inundation events. (CAP - P6A.001)                | 4-5       | \$\$\$          | WTOAC, DEECA        |
| P6-5  | Develop a site plan for the North Red Bluff recreation node and adjoining section of the Bellarine Coastal Trail to improve accessibility for trail users.                                                                                                     | 1-2       | \$              | WTOAC               |
| P6-6  | Implement priority actions from North red Bluff site plan (subject to resourcing).                                                                                                                                                                             | 2-3       | \$\$            | WTOAC               |
| P7-1  | Develop a site plan for Bellarine Bayside managed areas of the St Leonards Pier activity node to guide use and improvements that complement Parks Victoria's redevelopment of the pier while integrating with adjoining City of Greater Geelong managed areas. | 1-2       | \$\$            | Parks Vic COGG      |
| P7-2  | Deliver on priority initiatives from the St Leonards Site Plan to create an integrated and seamless experience across the precinct.                                                                                                                            | 2-3       | \$\$\$\$        |                     |
| P7-3  | Modify or upgrade the Bellarine Coastal Trail as required to mitigate impacts of coastal hazards. (CAP – P7.011)                                                                                                                                               | 4-5       | \$\$            |                     |

| Ref.  | Precinct Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Timeframe | Indicative cost | Supporting partners |
|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|---------------------|
| P8-3  | Work in partnership with Better Boating Victoria to successfully design and implement Stage 2 of the St Leonards boat ramp precinct upgrade, improving boater access and minimising coastal hazard risks as much as possible. (CAP P8.014) | 2-3       | \$              | VFA BBV             |
| P8-4  | Plan, design and renew the Bengalat Reserve toilet and amenity block.                                                                                                                                                                      | 1-2       | \$\$\$\$        |                     |
| P8-5  | Monitor the condition and performance of existing coastal protection assets and adapt, repair and redesign if required. (CAP - P8.005)                                                                                                     | Ongoing   | \$\$            | DEECA               |
| P9-8  | Maintain and enhance the coastal access track between St Leonards Yacht Club & Motor Squadron and Edwards Point Wildlife reserve.                                                                                                          | 2-3       | \$\$            |                     |
| P9-9  | Maintain and improve the inland woodland walk and associated trail connections and loops.                                                                                                                                                  | 3-5       | \$\$            |                     |
|       | Maintain Red (Lower) Bluff lookout as a low-key viewing opportunity across the bay.                                                                                                                                                        | Ongoing   | \$              |                     |
| P9-11 | Develop a precinct plan for Lower Bluff covering key conservation and recreation areas, including key visitor nodes, and integrate beach access planning and potential relocation of toilet facilities.                                    | 2-3       | \$\$            |                     |
| P9-12 | Implement priority actions from the Lower Bluff precinct plan                                                                                                                                                                              | 3-5       | \$\$\$\$        |                     |