

# HOBSONS BAY COASTAL AND MARINE MANAGEMENT PLAN



In recent months, we have been working to finalise our Coastal and Marine Management Plan (CMMP) for Hobsons Bay.

An important part of developing our CMMP has been hearing feedback and thoughts from the community and stakeholders.

## Engagement for the draft plan



Our Draft Coastal and Marine Management Plan was open for public comment earlier this year. Community and stakeholder perspectives helped us develop the Draft CMMP.

This draft plan included:

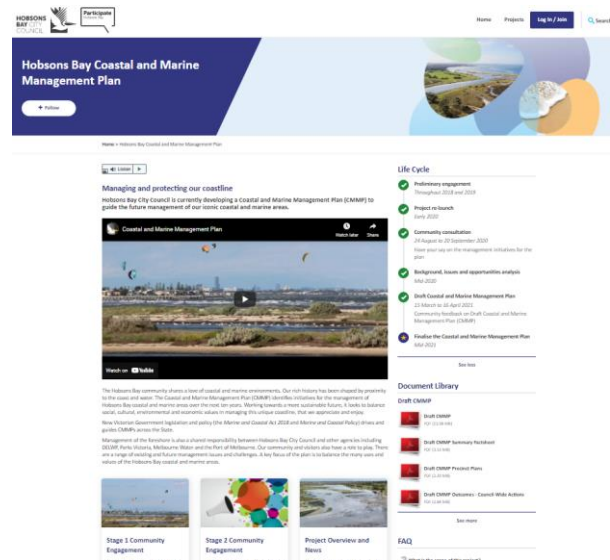
- a vision shaped by community and stakeholder reflections, expectations and aspirations for the coastline
- an overview of the values, challenges and opportunities for managing our coastal and marine areas, informed by community and stakeholder contributions
- objectives that align with State legislation
- priority actions over the next 10 years, both Council-wide and for individual precincts
- a pathway to implement and track actions

The Draft Plan was available for comment earlier in the year from March to April 2021. We would like to thank everyone who shared their feedback throughout the recent consultation period.

## Who got involved

People could read the draft CMMP and contribute their feedback via Council's Participate website:

[participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/cmmp](https://participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/cmmp).



As part of our community consultation, we hosted three pop-up engagement events during March, at:

- 100 Steps (Altona Meadows)
- Weaver Reserve (Altona)
- Hatt Reserve (Williamstown)

We also created a project video and conducted various polls via Council's social media feeds.

Over 320 people contributed their perspectives on coastal management, some completing polls on Instagram and Facebook and online survey questions, and others providing written emails and letters to Council.



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## What we heard from our community

We asked the community to provide feedback on the plan, the vision and management approach. We also asked for perspectives on council wide and location specific (precinct) actions, including their priorities and any aspects we may have missed.

We were pleased to hear that people felt the CMMP mostly captured how they wanted the Hobsons Bay coastline to look in the future.

Key themes of what the community felt was important are listed below:



### Strengthening protection of coastal and marine environments

- Balancing access/use of the coast with environmental values
- Management of catchment/LGA-wide issues and integrated management (e.g. litter, stormwater)



### Managing conflicts with different users

- Strategic zoning to balance uses and values
- Stronger education, collaboration and community stewardship
- Clarification of management responsibilities (between agencies, public vs. private, etc)



### Managing impacts of climate change

- Ecosystem responses to climate change
- Planting of native tree species for shade, heat reduction, habitat and aesthetic appeal
- Improving understanding of climate change impacts, sea level rise and planning accordingly

Many of the comments reinforced the direction and intent of the CMMP and will inform implementation of the actions.

A majority of community respondents showed support for increasing trees, native vegetation and coastal open space areas.

Feedback also showed that many members of our community are interested in being involved in the implementation of some of our actions where possible.



## Hearing from management agencies, Traditional Owners, and interest groups

Through targeted discussions, workshops and individual submissions, we also heard from management partners and other stakeholders, who may have interests and/or possible involvement in many actions in the plan.

This included neighbouring Councils, Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, Port of Melbourne, Surf lifesaving clubs, the Victorian Marine and Coastal Council (VMaCC), the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), Parks Victoria and Better Boating Victoria.

Key feedback themes related to roles and responsibilities, linkages to plans and projects of other agencies, and action and wording refinement and details.



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## Finalising the plan

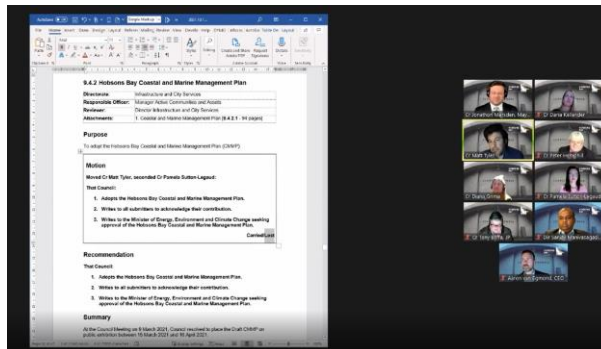
Guided by the range of feedback from our community and our stakeholders, the project team have been finalising the CMMP over recent months.

Some key changes include:

- **Action refinement** – Some wording and details were updated to better align with and address known community and stakeholder values and issues.
- **Strengthen policy context** - Refined wording to further increase alignment of the CMMP with the Victoria's Marine and Coastal Policy, emphasising consideration of marine environments, the integrated nature of the coastline, including potential for human-induced threats, and importance of adaptation planning and increasing climate resilience.
- **Formal recognition of the Traditional Owners of this coastline** - Since the draft was released, Bunurong Land Council have been recognised as the Registered Aboriginal Party for the Hobsons Bay marine and coastal areas. This has seen us adjust some of this cultural context and language to align with this announcement.
- **Importance of public safety** - We've further emphasised the importance of safety and emergency services, in particular swimmer safety and the role of lifesaving clubs, patrols, as well shared trails, and hazard management for our facilities and services.

## Councillor support

The updated plan has recently been unanimously endorsed by Hobsons Bay's Councillors in the October Council meeting.



Our Councillors recognise the value of the local marine and coastal areas to the Hobsons Bay community and its visitors.

They agreed on the importance of this plan in helping to manage some of the current and future pressures, as well as opportunities for the community to be part of behavioural change in protecting and enhancing these appreciated and unique environments.

## What happens next

The plan will now be submitted to the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change for Ministerial Approval.

We're also developing further detail in an implementation action plan to guide how actions in the CMMP will be executed over the next 5 years.

It was great to hear how many people were keen to be involved in some of the actions, so stay tuned for further opportunities to get involved in coastal and marine management.

The final CMMP will be available at Council's website once endorsed and approved.

