

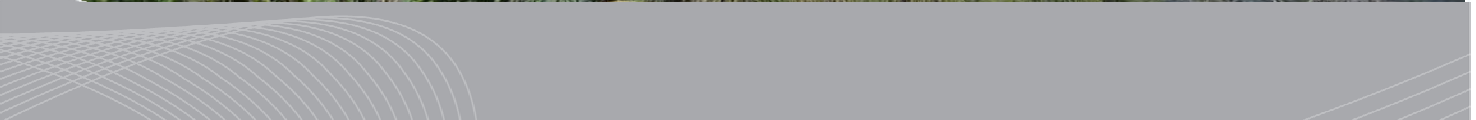


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# Mornington Peninsula Shire Council

## Mt Martha Foreshore Coastal Management Plan

October 2008





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## Acronyms and Abbreviations

CAP	Coastal Action Plan
CMP	Coastal Management Plan
CoM	Committee of Management
DPCD	Department of Planning and Community Development
DSE	Department of Sustainability and Environment
ESD	Ecologically Sustainable Development
EVC	Ecological Vegetation Class
MMFAG	Mt Martha Foreshore Advisory Group
MMLSC	Mt Martha Life Saving Club
MMYC	Mt Martha Yacht Club
MPS	Mornington Peninsula Shire
MW	Melbourne Water
PPWCMA	Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority
PV	Parks Victoria
VCC	Victorian Coastal Council
VCS	Victorian Coastal Strategy



## Executive Summary

This Coastal Management Plan (CMP) provides strategic guidance for the use and management of coastal Crown land along the Mt Martha foreshore. It has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Coastal Management Act 1995* and in consultation with various stakeholders, including the community.

The Mt Martha foreshore has significant natural values, including diverse native flora and fauna across a variety of geological landforms. It includes numerous cultural heritage sites and is a popular destination for a variety of water and beach based activities, including fishing, boating, surf club activities and wildlife watching.

Like most foreshore areas, a number of issues are impacting on the sustainability of the Mt Martha foreshore. In particular, erosion of cliffs and beaches is creating challenges for the management of the foreshore and require significant investment to address them now and into the future.

The stated long term management Vision for the foreshore is:

*“The National Trust recognised landscape of the Mt Martha foreshore will provide safe and appropriate access for the community to continue using and enjoying the area in a sustainable way that protects and enhances its rugged feel, peaceful lifestyle and the range of activities and environmental values it supports.”*

Objectives and recommendations are given to achieve the Vision and provide for the management of the following key issues relating to the foreshore:

- ▶ Coastal Processes and Infrastructure (including climate change and erosion);
- ▶ Access;
- ▶ Recreational Facilities;
- ▶ Natural Environment; and
- ▶ Cultural Heritage.

The full 32 recommendations of the CMP are included within the Implementation Plan, which identifies priorities, timing and performance targets for their implementation. The 12 high priority recommendations that require action within the next three years are included in the Business Plan, along with other details on the income and expenditure of the foreshore.

This CMP provides an opportunity for input regarding the future of the Mt Martha foreshore and members of the community are encouraged to review the CMP and submit feedback on any part of it to the MPS.



# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Background

### 1.1.1 Coastal Management Act 1995

The *Coastal Management Act* 1995 establishes the overall framework for planning and management of coastal Crown land on the Victorian coast. It allows for the establishment of a coastal management structure in Victoria through the Victorian Coastal Council (VCC) and Regional Coastal Boards and development of the Victorian Coastal Strategy (VCS), Coastal Action Plans (CAPs) and CMPs.

### 1.1.2 Victorian Coastal Strategy

The *Coastal Management Act* 1995 directs that the VCS provides for the long term planning of the Victorian coast to:

- ▶ Ensure the protection of significant environmental features of the coast;
- ▶ Provide clear direction for the future use of the coast including the marine environment;
- ▶ Identify suitable development areas and development opportunities on the coast; and
- ▶ Ensure the sustainable use of natural coastal resources.

### 1.1.3 Mt Eliza to Point Nepean Coastal Action Plan

CAPs are developed in accordance with the *Coastal Management Act* 1995 to provide a key mechanism for the implementation of the VCS. CAPs enable the broad principles and priorities identified in the VCS to be further developed and applied at a regional level and provide strategic direction for the ongoing management of a region or issue by identifying priorities, actions and outcomes.

Under the *Mt Eliza to Pt Nepean CAP*, the seven highest priority issues identified for that region are:

- ▶ Recreational planning and development;
- ▶ Invasion of exotic species;
- ▶ Management and protection of ecologically sensitive areas;
- ▶ Inappropriate development;
- ▶ Public attitude and education;
- ▶ Wastewater disposal; and
- ▶ Stormwater runoff.

Erosion along the Mt Martha coastline is also considered a very high threat.



Specific environmental issues of concern highlighted in the CAP along the Mt Martha coast include:

- ▶ Continuing fragmentation of habitat and consequent loss of biodiversity;
- ▶ Alteration of ecological processes along the coast due to human development;
- ▶ Weed and pest animal invasion causing landscape and ecological changes to coastal environments;
- ▶ Deteriorating water quality and quantity due to the impact of development on coastal catchments; and
- ▶ Inadequate or significantly altered water flows leading to damage or destruction of ecological systems in and along streamlines.

The CAP recommends that CMPs be developed for:

- ▶ Mt Eliza;
- ▶ Portsea;
- ▶ Mornington; and
- ▶ Mt Martha.

## **1.2 Setting the Scene**

### **1.2.1 The Need for a Coastal Management Plan for the Mt Martha Foreshore**

CMPs are prepared for an area of coastal Crown land to identify and prioritise land management actions for that area. They must be consistent and give effect to the VCS and any CAP relating to that area.

The CAP recognises the Mt Martha region as having the following values:

- ▶ High visual and landscape amenity;
- ▶ Marine and foreshore habitat;
- ▶ Terrestrial coastal habitat;
- ▶ Recreational amenity;
- ▶ Water quality;
- ▶ Geological and geomorphic significance;
- ▶ Rare and threatened species; and
- ▶ Ecological significance.

As highlighted above, Mt Martha was identified within the CAP as one of four high priority sites requiring a CMP.



### 1.2.2 Study Area

Mornington Peninsula Shire (MPS) is 720 sq km in area, comprises 192 kilometres of coastline and has a growing population of approximately 140 000. Visitation increases significantly over holiday periods and weekends, especially during the summer months, as many people from Melbourne and surrounds make regular visits seeking recreational opportunities involving the beautiful beaches, landscapes and natural environments.

The Mt Martha foreshore, for the purpose of the CMP, is bound by The Esplanade along its entire eastern boundary and extends from Linley Pt, Mornington (Melways reference 145 B1) to the junction of The Esplanade and Bruce Rd, Mt Martha (Melways reference 150 E10). This coastal strip incorporates a small section of the Mornington foreshore and the entire Mt Martha foreshore.

This area is Coastal Crown Land Reserve managed by MPS as Committee of Management (CoM) on behalf of the Crown and the wider community.

Its close proximity to Mt Martha Village facilitates a high level of interaction by the community, with the character of the town centre strongly influenced by the coastal reserve and the attractions and facilities of the town contributing to the public utilisation of the foreshore. This area has been identified as the Mt Martha Village Activity Node (see Figure 1).

The Mt Martha foreshore includes a number of important recreational areas and significant geological and environmental features. It is a naturally dynamic coastal landscape with ecologically sensitive areas that requires active management to protect and improve the areas' biodiversity, particularly the sensitive cliff vegetation and habitat.

A significant amount of the Mt Martha foreshore consists of panoramic cliffs, some of which are unstable. A number of recent assessments have been conducted within the study area and have concluded that the cliffs abutting Mt Martha Beach North pose an unacceptable risk to the public (Piper and Associates, 2006). Remedial works to rectify cliff instability and minimise public risk is very costly, but must be considered of the highest importance and potentially prioritised over other foreshore works.

The native vegetation of the study area is dominated by Coastal Headland Scrub (Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC) 161) and to a lesser extent, Coastal Dune Scrub (EVC 160) and endangered Coast Banksia Woodland (EVC 2). Yugovic (1995) found that of the 31 plant species of state or regional significance within the Mt Eliza – Mornington – Mt Martha foreshore, the largest number of native species (14) is established within cliff habitat. The foreshore also has high habitat connectivity of high regional nature conservation significance that provides critical habitat for a range of native fauna.

The study area has a rich Indigenous heritage with the Boon wurrung inhabiting the Mornington Peninsula for thousands of years. There is also a number of European heritage sites within the study area, including the heritage listed Fossil Beach Cement Works. All of these sites and others yet to be assessed require sensitive and appropriate management in consultation with relevant stakeholders.





### **1.2.3 Plan Preparation Process**

#### **Consultation**

A *Consultation Strategy* was developed and used during the preparation of the CMP to inform and engage stakeholders and seek input and responses on a range of issues pertaining to the Mt Martha region.

This consultation process has to date included a Community Visioning workshop, a Focus Group workshop with key stakeholders and a meeting held with the Mt Martha Foreshore Advisory Group (MMFAG).

This version of the CMP has now been released for broad public comment. All members of the community are encouraged to review the CMP and submit feedback on any part of it to the MPS.

#### **Literature review**

A wide range of background documents and reports were considered and utilised in preparing this CMP. In particular, specialist reports covering the study areas' flora and fauna, cultural heritage and geotechnical issues were reviewed. Most of the literature reviewed is listed in Section 8: References.

#### **Site inspections**

Site inspections of the study area were conducted at various times to gain an understanding of current issues and conditions, including geological and geomorphic processes, assets and infrastructure and ecological values.

The efforts and work of the MMFAG in providing background information and comments, particularly in relation to their site inspections and issues report, are acknowledged for the contribution they made to the plan preparation process.



## 2. Issues and Objectives

### 2.1 Issues Underlying the Coastal Management Plan

The CMP aims to achieve a sustainable balance between existing and emerging issues relevant to the Mt Martha foreshore. A range of issues has been identified as being particularly relevant to the study area, including:

#### **Coastal processes and infrastructure**

Current dynamic coastal processes impact natural and built features by inducing beach and cliff erosion, thus impacting public coastal infrastructure, such as seawalls and stormwater outlets. Whilst climate change impacts, such as sea level rise and increased frequency and severity of storm surges, are likely to increase and exacerbate a number of issues on the study area, changes to coastal processes are likely to be one of the first and most noticeable impacts. The Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) is currently undertaking a 'Future Coasts' project that will include mapping the Victorian coastline and result in an improved understanding of the coastline and its associated risks, particularly relating to climate change.

Remedial works recommended within this CMP will potentially impact negatively on ecological values of affected areas. Whilst it is essential that these works are treated and managed as the highest priority, consideration must be given to ecological values, particularly in relation to native vegetation removal and any resultant Net Gain obligation, when completing them.

#### **Access**

There are a number of problematic pedestrian and vehicular access issues that have been previously identified by MPS and the community, including pedestrian access and connectivity along the foreshore, safe linkages between the Mt Martha Village and the foreshore and the need for improved pedestrian tracks including "Access for All" within the Mt Martha Village Activity Node. It must be noted that it is not appropriate for all sections of the study area to provide coastal paths and access points due to safety issues and the potential negative impact on sensitive ecological areas.

Car parks require improvements including safe egress and entry and improved functionality within their current car parking footprints.

#### **Recreational facilities**

The type and condition of public recreational infrastructure within the Mt Martha foreshore varies significantly. The number and siting of facilities, such as public furniture and rubbish bins, need to be addressed along with an assessment of ageing infrastructure, such as the Mt Martha Beach South toilet block.

The Mt Martha Life Saving Club (MMLSC) has indicated a desire to complete a small-scale expansion to its existing storage capacity and the Mt Martha Yacht Club (MMYC) would like to upgrade their current facilities. These proposals have received in-principle support from DSE and MPS, although it is acknowledged that the potential for an expansion to the existing buildings and leased areas of each club is restricted due to the already constrained site and landscape.



Any potential expansion to these, or other foreshore facilities, must ensure appropriate setbacks from the shoreline, low scale design to reduce visual intrusion, integrated and shared multipurpose buildings and the investigation of 'off-site' facilities.

Bathing boxes<sup>1</sup> are privately owned and used structures located on public coastal land and can be found on a number of sites within the study area. The coastal processes and increased likelihood of climate change and associated impacts discussed above are expected to have a dramatic effect on these privately owned structures, and may potentially require their removal at a later date due to safety and environmental concerns.

### **Natural environment**

The Mt Martha foreshore has a number of locally and regionally significant environmental assets and values such as Coast Banksia Woodland EVC and the Balcombe Creek Estuary. Issues such as illegal vegetation removal, weed invasion, feral and domestic animal incursion and water quality have an ongoing impact on the region and active management and protection to ensure the long term survival of these values and assets is required.

The threat of wildfire, especially during ongoing drought conditions, is particularly relevant to the Mt Martha foreshore and raises considerable risks to human life, infrastructure and ecological values. Fire management objectives have been previously identified within the MPS *Municipal Fire Prevention Plan* and are reflected in this CMP.

Fire management and flora and fauna protection should not compete against each other, but rather be part of an integrated approach to managing the foreshore, thus achieving a balance between these two issues.

### **Cultural heritage**

The study area includes numerous identified and unidentified Indigenous and European cultural heritage sites. Currently there is a lack of sufficient knowledge and information available regarding the study areas' cultural heritage and this requires a more detailed assessment and management in consultation with relevant stakeholders.

## **2.2 Overall Objectives of the Coastal Management Plan**

The CMP is a long term plan for the Mt Martha foreshore that aims to achieve the following key objectives for the study area:

- ▶ Identify environmental, heritage and recreation values;
- ▶ Provide a long term vision for its management;
- ▶ Set objectives for the protection and enhancement of these values;
- ▶ Provide a prioritised list of practical actions and timeframes in which to achieve the objectives;
- ▶ Increase the community's awareness of the study area and commitment to its long term sustainability; and
- ▶ Be consistent with key government policies and strategic directions, in particular the *Mt Eliza to Pt Nepean CAP*.

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<sup>1</sup> Includes boat sheds



## 3. The Way Forward

### 3.1 Introduction

This section of the CMP incorporates existing plans and reports for the Mt Martha foreshore and outlines future plans and specific targets for this section of coastline.

There have been numerous reports relating to specific aspects of the Mt Martha area including, but not limited to, geotechnical, heritage and ecological issues. Within these reports are recommendations that are still highly relevant and require commitment by DSE, MPS and other responsible authorities to implement them. These reports, along with the results and findings of stakeholder engagement activities and site visits, have been used to develop objectives and recommendations for the management of the Mt Martha foreshore into the future.

These objectives and recommendations have been grouped together into key issues identified for their relevance to the study area as follows:

- ▶ Coastal Processes and Infrastructure;
- ▶ Access;
- ▶ Recreational Facilities;
- ▶ Natural Environment; and
- ▶ Cultural Heritage.

At present, there are still a number of information gaps that inhibit MPS and other stakeholders from effectively prioritising actions and targeting appropriate funding sources. A number of recommendations, therefore, include completing further investigations and reporting.

### 3.2 Vision

The following vision has been identified for the long term management of the Mt Martha foreshore and provides direction to this CMP:

*“The National Trust<sup>2</sup> recognised landscape of the Mt Martha foreshore will provide safe and appropriate access for the community to continue using and enjoying the area in a sustainable way that protects and enhances its rugged feel, peaceful lifestyle and the range of activities and environmental values it supports.”*

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<sup>2</sup> The Mornington and Mt Martha coastline is described by the National Trust as ‘A coastline dominated by cliffs, particularly the southern section between Martha Point and Balcombe Creek where steep, rugged granodiorite cliffs drop to a few small shingle beaches at the base. To the north of Balcombe Creek the cliffs are less rugged, cut into clays and sand stone with broad beaches extending between rocky headlands. The area is generally well vegetated by indigenous plant species. The coastal strip of Mornington to Mt Martha is of regional significance (Port Phillip Bay) for its high scenic quality and its geological, cultural and ecological interest’.



### 3.3 Issues and Recommendations

#### 3.3.1 Coastal Processes and Infrastructure

##### Issues

- ▶ Increasing beach erosion, undercutting of cliffs and storm surges, resulting in impacts on the natural environment and a range of public infrastructure, particularly seawalls;
- ▶ Potential for increased impacts on coastal processes and infrastructure due to predicted climate change (eg; rising sea levels, storm surge); and
- ▶ Inappropriate design and siting of stormwater outlets causing gully erosion and other environmental impacts.

##### Objectives

- ▶ To ensure the long term integrity of natural coastal processes and control beach erosion and cliff stability;
- ▶ To review all marine engineering structures, such as seawalls, to ensure their structural integrity and design life is maintained; and
- ▶ To protect and improve existing public coastal infrastructure, such as seawalls.

##### Recommendations

1. Undertake remedial works outlined in existing engineering reports (Vantree (1996 & 2001), Coastal Engineering Solutions (CES) (2001 & 2007) and Piper and Associates (2006) including:
  - a) Stabilisation of the cliff face behind bathing boxes at Mt Martha Beach North;
  - b) Stabilisation of the slope failure at Mt Martha Beach North (near the access steps);
  - c) Beach reshaping by removing sand from Mt Martha Beach South and place at Mt Martha Beach North; and
  - d) Construction of a 25 m long groyne at the northern end of Mt Martha Beach North.
2. Incorporate initiatives to improve the environmental impacts of existing stormwater drains in to the revised MPS *Stormwater Management Plan*, such as installing gross pollutant traps and soft engineering solutions such as swales;
3. Complete a geotechnical review of the remaining cliff escarpment (ie those areas that are not covered by existing reports) to identify priority sites for detailed investigation. This review should be consistent with the Australian Geomechanics Society's *Landslide Risk Management and Guidelines* (Vol 35 No. 1, 2000);
4. Prepare a detailed design specification for the repair or replacement of the bluestone wall along Hawker Beach and Craigie Beach, including the beach access ramps as appropriate; and
5. Initiate and maintain contact with the DSE 'Future Coasts' Project Officer to remain updated on current climate change predictions, and pending the outcomes of the vulnerability assessment, develop a local risk response.



### 3.3.2 Access

#### Issues

- ▶ Inappropriate and unauthorised coastal paths along the foreshore that are currently utilised by a range of recreational users;
  - ▶ Inappropriate and unauthorised access points to Port Phillip Bay from the Village, roadside, car parks, etc;
  - ▶ Limited car parking available on the roadside and uncontrolled car parking within existing car park areas;
  - ▶ Limited “Access for All” opportunities within the study area; and
- \* Limited access from Mt Martha Village to Safety Beach.

#### Objectives

- ▶ Provide and maintain authorised and more formalised coastal paths, access points and car parking facilities for all recreational users without compromising foreshore values; and
  - ▶ Limit public access in sensitive coastal environments and areas subject to cliff erosion.
- \* Investigate long term access opportunities to Safety Beach.

#### Recommendations

6. Recognise and promote Mt Martha Beach Village as the Activity Node along the foreshore and key access point for recreational pursuits within the study area (see Figure 1);
7. Improve and maintain authorised coastal paths, including Nunn’s Walk, Mt Martha Beach South to Balcombe Point and Pebble Beach to Martha Cove, to a standard similar to the recent Nunn’s Walk upgrade and promote as MPS preferred pathways for passive recreational use and enjoyment of the foreshore;
8. Conduct a safety and environmental impact review of existing access points to the beach with the view to rationalising their number so that fewer, but more established access points are provided. Areas identified as providing greatest community benefit for access to the beach include:
  - a) Mt Martha Village;
  - b) On-street car park opposite Hearn Road;
  - c) Mt Martha Beach North;
  - d) Hawker Beach; and
  - e) Fossil Beach.
9. Where appropriate, authorised coastal paths and access points resulting from Recommendation 7 and 8 should be fenced, including attaching ‘farm mesh’ (eg; 100 mm x 100 mm) to a minimum height of 1.2 m along their entire length. This will help to ensure that pedestrians, and particularly dogs, are kept to the formed track, minimising impact on the foreshore environment, while allowing movement of fauna



10. Close and rehabilitate all remaining unauthorised coastal paths and access points within the foreshore;
11. Improve existing beach car parks
  - a) minimise their impact on the environment by designating car parking spaces (including disabled parking spaces), providing rubbish bins and by utilising Water Sensitive Urban Design techniques; and
  - b) Investigate overflow carparking opportunities at Mt Martha House.
12. Review sight-lines and safety of entry / exit points at current beach car parks, particularly for drivers exiting onto The Esplanade;
13. Investigate options (eg; pedestrian refuges) to improve safety for pedestrians crossing The Esplanade, particularly at Mt Martha Village Activity Node (see Figure 1);
14. Provide 'Access for All' (consistent with the MPS *Access (disability) Plan*) to coastal recreational pursuits within the Mt Martha Activity Node through the provision of appropriate facilities including toilets, car parking and access points from the Village to the beach; and
15. Continue 'dog friendly' (ie; leash free) status for designated areas between Hawker Beach and Linley Point and encourage high compliance through a combination of community education, signage and use of MPS supplied POOch Pouches and the existing rubbish bin network.

### **3.3.3 Recreational Facilities**

#### **Issues**

- ▶ Degraded and insufficient visitor facilities including toilet blocks, tables, seats, BBQ's and rubbish bins;
- ▶ Lack of signage denoting access points, visitor facilities, unstable cliffs, sensitive environment areas and cultural heritage sites;
- ▶ Privately owned and used facilities (ie; bathing boxes) on public land that is subject to increasing erosion and other impacts of climate change, creating safety and environmental concerns;
- ▶ While municipal rates are paid, MMLSC and MMYC have no formal lease agreement in place and rent is not currently charged; and
- ▶ MMLSC are seeking to expand and MMYC are seeking to upgrade their facilities respectively.



### Objectives

- ▶ To provide high standard and appropriate visitor facilities that cater for the basic need and enjoyment of the general public;
- ▶ To provide adequate signage for educational and safety information;
- ▶ To ensure recreation facilities (private and public) are responsive to climate change predictions and protect the environment and safety of beach users as key priorities; and
- ▶ To ensure MMLSC and MMYC facilities are adequate for their requirements while not detrimentally impacting the natural environment and the wider community's use and enjoyment of the area.

### Recommendations

16. Ensure all bathing boxes comply with the MPS *Boatshed and Bathing Box Policy 2000*, DSE's *Boatsheds and Bathing Box Factfile* and *Design Guidelines for Bathing Boxes* (CES, 2001) and that a Registered Building Practitioner or Structural Engineer examines all bathing boxes as per the *Construction Standards Summary* detailed by DSE (2003);
17. Undertake a safety and environmental review of the siting of all bathing boxes following the completion of the DSE 'Future Coasts' project;
18. Ensure all new visitor facilities conform with the *Siting and Design Guidelines for Structures on the Victorian Coast* (VCC, 1998);
19. Establish and implement a priority program to appropriately construct, upgrade and maintain visitor facilities including:
  - a) Construction of a viewing platform at Balcombe Point;
  - b) Relocating Fossil Beach toilet block to near the car park on The Esplanade;
  - c) Upgrading Mt Martha Beach South toilet block;
  - d) Restoration of seating at Tassel's Beach and Balcombe Point; and
  - e) Provision of additional seating at strategic public viewing points.
20. Undertake a comprehensive review and provide recommendations for improved signage and interpretation tools across the foreshore to improve community awareness of a range of issues, including recognised values of the foreshore, access points and visitor facilities. Any new signage should be co-located with existing structures wherever possible;
21. MPS to enter into binding lease agreements with both the MMLSC and MMYC to formalise tenancy arrangements that will give a level of financial certainty to MPS in relation to projected income for the Mt Martha foreshore; and
22. Investigate opportunities for MMLSC to expand and MMYC to upgrade their current facilities. Priority should be given to improving capacity of current buildings and site footprints, protection of native vegetation and providing a net benefit to the wider community.





### 3.3.4 Natural Environment

#### Issues

- ▶ Negative impacts of human activities on biodiversity values, such as illegal removal of native vegetation to create a coastal view, trampling of vegetation, introduction of weeds, etc;
- ▶ Potential impacts of Balcombe Creek mouth openings, including likely water quality issues;
- ▶ Predation and conflict caused by domestic and feral cats, dogs, foxes and rabbits on the biodiversity values of the foreshore;
- ▶ Potential water quality issues due to discharges from creeks; and
- ▶ Potential for uncontrolled fires to impact on the values of the foreshore.

#### Objectives

- ▶ To balance the potentially competing demands of human activities and biodiversity conservation;
- ▶ To eradicate and prevent the further introduction and spread of pest plants and animals;
- ▶ To minimise the negative effects of Balcombe Creek Estuary openings;
- ▶ To maintain appropriate water quality standards;
- ▶ To prevent uncontrolled fires from impacting on the values of the foreshore and surrounding residential areas; and
- ▶ To recognise, increase and support community participation (including friends groups) as an integral component in the management of the foreshore.

#### Recommendations

23. Implement recommendations within existing ecological reports relevant to the study area including the Yugovic (1995), Practical Ecology et al (2002), Practical Ecology (2004), Local Habitat (2007), Nature Links (2007) and Mal's Environmental and Ecological Services (2007) reports. Key recommendations include:
- a) Continue implementing the MPS *Weed Management Strategy*, focusing on areas of high quality vegetation and include targeting specific weed species such as Bridal Creeper (*Asparagus asparagoides*) and Radiata Pine (*Pinus radiata*);
  - b) Prepare and implement a *Pest Animal Management Strategy* for the study area;
  - c) Implement the recommendations from the *Balcombe Creek Waterway Management Report* for "The Estuary Region" (Management Block MB1);
  - d) Protect native vegetation cover on cliff tops to minimise cliff erosion and protect natural cliff habitats; and
  - e) Ensure orchid colonies are managed as recommended by Yugovic (1995) and that colony locations are kept confidential for security reasons.



24. Following illegal native vegetation removal, investigate adjoining landholders for non-compliance, fence and revegetate affected areas in accordance with the Native Vegetation Framework and install signage indicating a site of 'illegal native vegetation removal'. Any new signage should be co-located with existing structures wherever possible;
25. Use the *Estuary Entrance Management Support System* (EEMSS) developed by DSE to manage artificial openings of the Balcombe Creek Estuary;
26. Expand the Waterwatch water quality monitoring program for all major creeks including:
  - a) Hearn Creek;
  - b) Sunshine Creek;
  - c) Seaside Creek; and
  - d) Sheoak Creek.
27. Work cooperatively with Coast Action / CoastCare (eg; the 'Summer by the Sea Activities Program') to increase community and visitor understanding of the foreshores' natural values; and
28. Manage fire risk through the implementation of the *MPS Fire Prevention Plan*.

### **3.3.5 Cultural Heritage**

#### **Issues**

- ▶ Negative impacts of human activities on cultural heritage values, such as disturbance of known significant sites; and
- ▶ Lack of awareness and recognition of currently unidentified sites and other cultural heritage values.

#### **Objectives**

- ▶ Increase awareness, understanding and protection of cultural heritage values of the foreshore.

#### **Recommendations**

29. Complete a comprehensive assessment of Indigenous and European cultural heritage sites and values of the foreshore in consultation with relevant stakeholders;
30. Prepare a *Conservation Management Plan* for Fossil Beach Cement Works site (this site is listed on the Victorian Heritage Register);
31. Conserve and protect all other significant sites of cultural heritage value identified by Recommendation 29 through the development and implementation of a *Cultural Heritage Management Plan*. It is recommended that the plan be staged to address the following priority areas:
  - a) Mt Martha Beach South to Safety Beach.
  - b) Mt Martha Activity Node; and
  - c) Mt Martha Beach North to Mornington.
32. Improve consideration of Indigenous cultural heritage issues in the management of the Mt Martha foreshore by increasing the involvement of local Indigenous communities;
33. As part of the statutory planning process, retain the architectural elements of the significant individual and group bathing boxes as identified in the *Heritage Report, bathing boxes and boat sheds, Mornington Peninsula Shire beach reserves: Stage 2*.



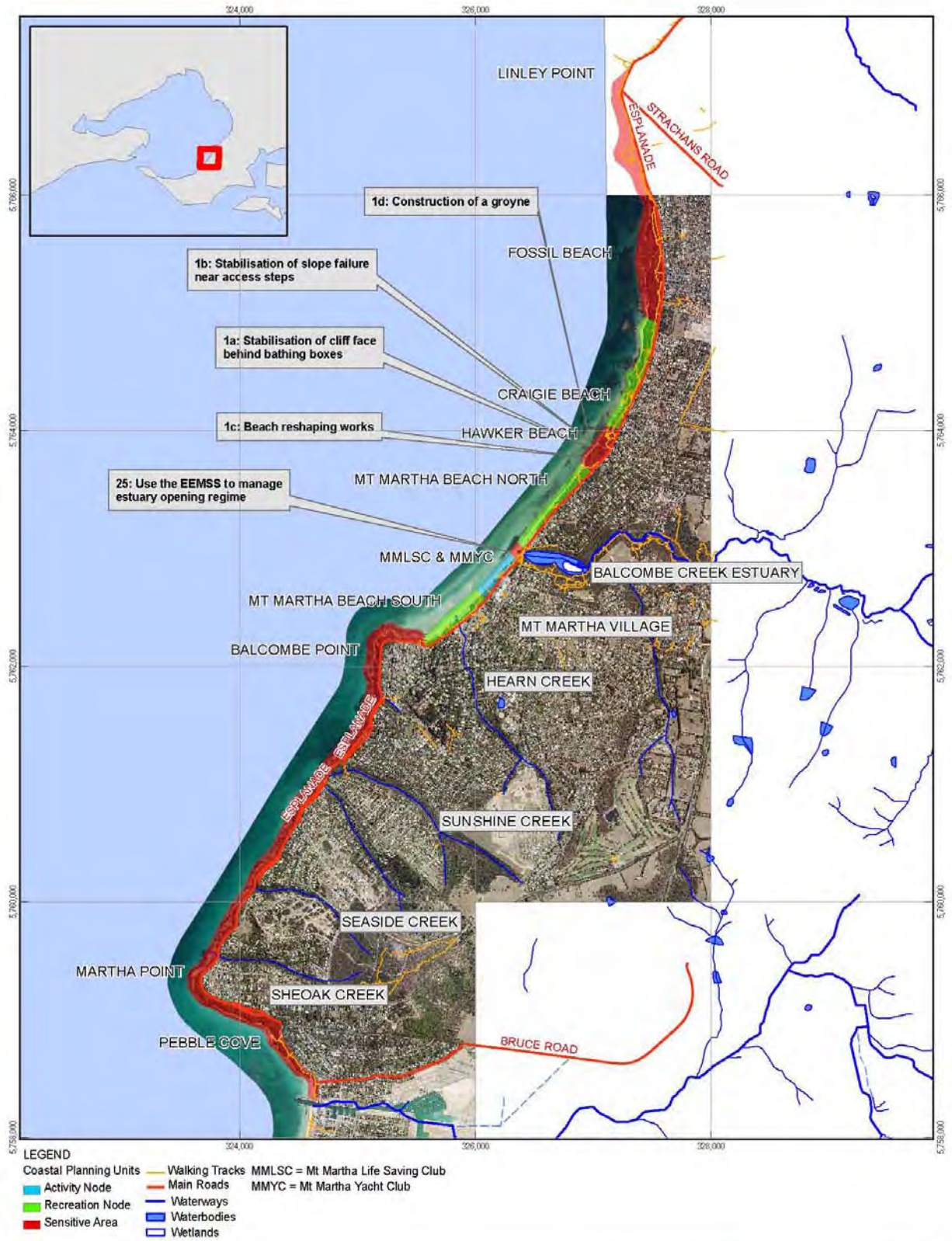
## 4. Map

Figure 1 shows the entire study area including major geographic points and should be used as a reference to direct the reader to various aspects of the CMP.

Figure 1 also identifies a number of 'planning units' within the study area. These have been identified based on the main uses and management objectives of particular areas and directions provided by the CAP and are defined as follows:

- ▶ Activity node (Mt Martha Village): Contains less coastal dependent uses, where major car parking opportunities are encouraged off the coastal strip, public transport is integrated with car parking and visitor attractions, visitor expenditure is enhanced and the development of recreational and community facilities is consistent with Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) principles.
- ▶ Recreational areas (mainly Mt Martha South Beach, Mt Martha North Beach, Birdrock Beach and Safety Beach): Includes both active and passive recreation and may occasionally involve non-coastal dependent activities, however these integrate with coastal activities and add to the community's value of the coast.
- ▶ Sensitive areas (around and southwards of Balcombe Point, Hawker Beach, northwards of Birdrock Beach and Balcombe Estuary): Includes areas of environmental sensitivity, cultural and heritage significance and identify high value areas.

Details of the high priority recommendations from the Implementation Plan (Section 5) and the Business Plan (Section 7) are also included in Figure 1. Of the 12 high priority recommendations, five have been included within the map as they relate to specific sites, whilst the remaining seven recommendations are not shown on the map as they relate to the entire study area.



0 0.15 0.3 0.6 0.9 1.2 Kilometres (31:44)  
 Map Projection: Transverse Mercator  
 Horizontal Datum: Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994  
 Grid: Map Grid of Australia, Zone 55

**Mornington Peninsula Shire**  
**Mt Martha Coastal Management Plan**  
 Study Area, Key Features & Summary of High Priority Recommendations **Figure 1**

Job Number: 31-21550  
 Revision: D  
 Date: June 2008

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## 5. Implementation Plan

The *Coastal Management Act 1995* states that in carrying out functions involving land management on behalf of the Crown or under an act of Parliament, a Minister, public authority, CoM of reserved Crown land or Municipal Council must take all reasonable steps to give effect to a CMP applying to that land.

The Implementation Plan seeks to improve coordination and capital expenditure on recommendations and cooperation between DSE, MPS and other stakeholders to achieve realisation of this CMP.

The Implementation Plan lists the recommendations of the CMP and identifies priorities and guides activity, effort and resources for achieving its full implementation. The priority allocated to each recommended action was heavily influenced by the results of the 'issues and prioritisation' activities undertaken during the community and stakeholder consultation workshops.

All high priority recommendations that are to be implemented within the next three years form the basis of the Business Plan in Section 7.

In practical terms, MPS, as the appointed CoM for the study area, has responsibility for the 'day to day' management of the foreshore and undertakes a range of works not included as specific actions within this CMP or Implementation Plan (eg beach cleaning, rubbish bin removal). Responsibility for implementing significant capital works (eg beach renourishment, seawalls) rests mainly with DSE.



**Table 1 Implementation Plan**

No.	Recommendation Summary	Lead Agent/s	Priority	Potential funding source/s	Timeline (years)	Performance target (ie; what will be the result when action is implemented)
1a	Undertake remedial works: stabilisation of the cliff face behind bathing boxes at Mt Martha Beach North	MPS	High	DSE Coastal Risk Mitigation Program	< 3	Remedial works completed
1b	Undertake remedial works: stabilisation of the slope failure at Mt Martha Beach North (near the access steps)	MPS	High	DSE Coastal Risk Mitigation Program	< 3	Remedial works completed
1c	Undertake remedial works: beach reshaping by removing sand from Mt Martha South Beach and place at Mt Martha North Beach	DSE	High	DSE Coastal Risk Mitigation Program	< 3	Remedial works completed
1d	Undertake remedial works: construction of a 25 m long groyne at the northern end of Mt Martha Beach North	DSE	High	DSE Coastal Risk Mitigation Program	< 3	Remedial works completed
2	Incorporate initiatives to improve the environmental impacts of existing stormwater drains in to the revised MPS <i>Stormwater Management Plan</i>	MPS	High	MPS General Revenue	< 3	Appropriate actions included in Plan
3	Complete geotechnical review of remaining cliff escarpment	MPS	High	MPS General Revenue DSE Coastal Risk Mitigation Program	< 3	Review complete
4	Prepare a detailed design specification for the repair or replacement of the bluestone wall along Hawker Beach and Craigie Beach, including the beach access ramps as appropriate	MPS	Medium	MPS General Revenue DSE Coastal Risk Mitigation Program	3-5	Design specification complete
5	Initiate and maintain contact with the DSEs 'Future Coasts' Project Officer	MPS	Medium	MPS General Revenue	3-5	Ongoing and effective contact established
6	Recognise and promote Mt Martha Village as the key Activity Node along the foreshore	MPS	Low	MPS General Revenue	> 5	Activity Node recognised and adopted by wider community
7	Improve, maintain and promote authorised coastal paths to a standard similar to the recent Nunn's Walk upgrade	MPS	Medium	PPWCMA / MW Community Grants Program DPCD Community Support - Strengthening Communities Program	3-5	Paths improved and maintained to standard of Nunn's Walk upgrade



No.	Recommendation Summary	Lead Agent/s	Priority	Potential funding source/s	Timeline (years)	Performance target (ie; what will be the result when action is implemented)
8	Conduct safety and environmental impact review of existing access points to the beach	MPS	Medium	DSE Coastal Risk Mitigation Program	3-5	Review complete
9	Fence authorised coastal paths and access points where appropriate	MPS	Medium	PPWCMA / MW Community Grants Program DSE Coastal Risk Mitigation Program	3-5	Fencing complete
10	Close and rehabilitate all remaining unauthorised paths and access points within the foreshore	MPS	High	PPWCMA / MW Community Grants Program DSE Coastal Risk Mitigation Program	< 3	All unauthorised paths closed and rehabilitated
11	Improve existing beach car parks	MPS	Medium	MPS General Revenue	3-5	Upgrade complete
12	Review sight-lines and safety of entry / exit points at current beach car parks	MPS	High	MPS General Revenue	< 3	Review complete
13	Investigate options to improve safety for pedestrians crossing The Esplanade	MPS	High	MPS General Revenue VicRoads	< 3	Investigation complete
14	Provide 'Access for All' to coastal recreational pursuits within the Mt Martha Activity Node	MPS	Medium	MPS General Revenue	3-5	Facilities within Activity Node upgraded to accommodate people of all abilities
15	Continue "dog friendly" (ie; leash free) status for designated areas between Hawker Beach and Linley Point	MPS	Low	MPS General Revenue	> 5	Beaches maintained as dog friendly and high compliance achieved
16	Ensure all bathing boxes comply with relevant guidelines and that a Registered Building Practitioner or Structural Engineer examines all bathing boxes as per the <i>Construction Standards Summary</i> detailed by DSE	MPS	Medium	MPS General Revenue	3-5	All bathing boxes comply with the Guidelines and are appropriately examined
17	Undertake a safety and environmental review of the siting of all bathing boxes and coastal structures following completion of the DSE 'Future Coasts' project	MPS	Medium	MPS General Revenue	3-5	Review complete and recommendations implemented
18	Ensure all new visitor facilities conform with the <i>Siting and Design Guidelines for Structures on the Victorian Coast</i>	MPS	Medium	MPS General Revenue	3-5	All new facilities comply with the Guidelines



No.	Recommendation Summary	Lead Agent/s	Priority	Potential funding source/s	Timeline (years)	Performance target (ie; what will be the result when action is implemented)
19	Establish and implement a priority program to appropriately construct, maintain and upgrade visitor facilities	MPS	Medium	MPS General Revenue	3-5	Priority program established and implemented
20	Undertake a comprehensive review and provide recommendations for improved signage and interpretation tools across the foreshore	MPS	Low	MPS General Revenue	> 5	Review complete and recommendations implemented
21	MPS to enter into binding lease agreements with MMLSC and MMYC	MPS	Medium	MPS General Revenue	3-5	Lease agreements in place
22	Investigate opportunities for MMLSC to expand and MMYC to upgrade their current facilities	MPS	Medium	MPS General Revenue	3-5	Investigation complete
23a	Implement ecological recommendations: continue implementing the <i>MPS Weed Management Strategy</i>	MPS	High	PPWCMA / MW Community Grants Program DPCD Community Support - Strengthening Communities Program	< 3	Ongoing
23b	Implement ecological recommendations: prepare and implement a <i>Pest Animal Management Strategy</i>	MPS	High	PPWCMA / MW Community Grants Program DPCD Community Support - Strengthening Communities Program	< 3	Strategy complete and recommendations implemented
23c	Implement ecological recommendations: implement the recommendations from the <i>Balcombe Creek Waterway Management Report</i>	MPS	Medium	PPWCMA / MW Community Grants Program DPCD Community Support - Strengthening Communities Program	3 -5	Recommendations implemented
23d	Implement ecological recommendations: protect native vegetation cover on cliff tops to minimise cliff erosion and protect natural cliff habitats	MPS	High	PPWCMA / MW Community Grants Program DPCD Community Support - Strengthening Communities Program	< 3	Ongoing
23e	Implement ecological recommendations: ensure orchid colonies are managed as recommended by Yugovic (1995)	MPS	High	PPWCMA / MW Community Grants Program DPCD Community Support - Strengthening Communities Program	< 3	Ongoing
24	Implement illegal native vegetation removal strategies as required	MPS	High	MPS General Revenue	< 3	Decrease in incidence of illegal native vegetation removal





No.	Recommendation Summary	Lead Agent/s	Priority	Potential funding source/s	Timeline (years)	Performance target (ie; what will be the result when action is implemented)
25	Use the <i>Estuary Entrance Management Support System</i> (EEMSS) for Balcombe Creek Estuary	DSE / MPS	High	MPS General Revenue	< 3	EEMSS established and implemented
26	Expand the Waterwatch water quality monitoring program for major creeks	MPS	Low	Waterwatch Victoria MW Young Watercare Grants Program	> 5	Program expanded
27	Work cooperatively with Coast Action / CoastCare	MPS	Medium	MPS General Revenue	3-5	Community and visitor awareness increased
28	Manage fire risk through the implementation of the MPS <i>Fire Prevention Plan</i>	MPS	High	MPS General Revenue	< 3	Ongoing
29	Complete a comprehensive assessment of Indigenous and European cultural heritage sites and values of the foreshore	MPS / DPCD	High	National Indigenous Heritage Program, Heritage Grants	< 3	Assessment complete
30	Prepare a <i>Conservation Management Plan</i> for Fossil Beach Cement Works site	MPS / DPCD	High	Heritage Grants	< 3	Conservation Management Plan complete
31	Conserve and protect all other significant sites of cultural heritage value identified by Recommendation 29 through the development and implementation of a <i>Cultural Heritage Management Plan</i>	MPS / DPCD	Medium	National Indigenous Heritage Program, Heritage Grants	3-5	Cultural Heritage Management Plan developed and implemented
32	Improve consideration of Indigenous cultural heritage issues in the management of the Mt Martha foreshore by increasing the involvement of local Indigenous communities	MPS	Medium	N/A	3-5	Involvement of Indigenous stakeholders established and maintained
33	Retain architectural elements of significant bathing boxes identified in Heritage Report	MPS	Medium	N/A	> 5	Architectural elements of significant bathing boxes retained

Key: DPCD = Department of Planning and Community Development, DSE = Department of Sustainability and Environment, MPS = Mornington Peninsula Shire, MW = Melbourne Water, PPWCMA = Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority, PV = Parks Victoria.



## 6. Assessing the Effectiveness of this Coastal Management Plan

Performance reporting and evaluation, review and improvement are important characteristics that broadly underlie this CMP. Regular information collection and reporting will therefore contribute to program coordination by maintaining an overview of progress across all tasks in the context of the Implementation Plans recommendations. This will also provide a basis for review and improvement.

The objective is to ensure continual learning is incorporated through developing a monitoring, evaluation and reporting (MER) framework capable of informing natural resource managers and the community of the effectiveness and appropriateness of their actions.

### **6.1 Monitoring**

Monitoring the performance targets shown in the Implementation Plan in Section 5 provides important feedback to achieve the CMPs vision and goals. All monitoring results and feedback will be included in an Annual Report prepared by MPS to communicate progress of the CMP's Implementation Plan to stakeholders.

### **6.2 Evaluation**

Evaluating the achievements of the Implementation Plan indicates the success of management actions against their stated goals and recommendations.

Assessment of the Implementation Plan against the CMPs recommendations will be included in the Annual Report.

The effectiveness of the Implementation Plan will be measured by whether actions have had the desired impact set out in the CMP.

### **6.3 Reporting**

Reporting of results and future management directions informs all stakeholders of ongoing processes and allows for accountability of all management actions.

A simple reporting style will be used by including an additional column to the Implementation Plan that indicates the level of progress towards achieving the recommendations to date.

An Annual Report will be generated and distributed to stakeholders.



## 7. Business Plan

### 7.1 Introduction

The Mt Martha foreshore is a Coastal Crown Land Reserve that is managed by the MPS on behalf of the Crown. It is primarily managed for conservation and utilised for recreational purposes by the local community and visitors. Currently there is limited income generated from rental of bathing boxes and clubs, as set out below.

This Business Plan addresses the high priority recommendations of the CMP that are to be implemented over the next three years.

### 7.2 Income Generated from the Foreshore

#### Bathing Boxes

All bathing boxes have a standard licence fee that is currently set at \$290.00 per annum (GST included). In addition, there is a Municipal Charge of \$115.00 per annum for each. This does not include individual MPS rates.

Table 2 shows the income generated by boatsheds and bathing boxes within the Mt Martha Foreshore Reserve.

**Table 2 Income Generated from Bathing Box Licence Fees and Charges**

Location	Number of bathing boxes	Estimated Income (Excluding MPS rates)
Hawker Beach	6	\$2 430
Craigie Beach	3	\$1 215
Mt Martha Beach North	89	\$36 045
Mt Martha Beach South	133	\$53 865
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>\$93 555</b>

#### Clubs

In addition to the above income, there is also potential for lease fees from the MMLSC and MMYC.

The lease for the MMLSC expired on 31 December 2002. The MPS is in the process of negotiating a new Crown Land Lease with the Club on a 5+5+5 year basis with rental charged for the first 5 years at \$520 per annum. It is likely that the commencement date will be 1 January 2009.

Currently the MMYC has no formal lease agreement in place and no rent is being charged. Leases for all sailing (yacht) clubs are to be the subject of a full review by MPS, which should commence in late 2008 (pers. comm., Alan Hawkins).

It is estimated that the rental charged would be comparable to the life saving club (ie; \$520 per annum).



### **7.3 MPS General Revenue**

Income generated from the foreshore is directed to MPS's General Revenue. All current maintenance and capital works for the study area are funded from General Revenue, with spending on foreshore works exceeding current income.

### **7.4 External Revenue**

Funding for various recommendations of the CMP will be available from a number of existing funding and grants programs currently enabling works in coastal areas. Options available for each recommendation have been identified in the Implementation Plan above and it is expected that specific funding will be targeted through State and Commonwealth grants for major works detailed in the CMP. Communication will need to be maintained with funding providers as often grants programs change and/or new ones are established.

### **7.5 Expenditure**

Currently, MPS funds maintenance works for the study area through General Revenue and, from information provided, Council outlays significant resources to maintain the foreshore to its current standards. Hence, expenses incurred to manage the study area surpass the income it generates, showing that MPS is running 'at a loss' to maintain the foreshore to its current standards.

Table 3 gives an indication of estimated income for the next three years compared to projected costs of implementing the Business Plan (Table 4).



**Table 3 Comparison of Estimated Income and Estimated Costs of Implementing the Business Plan**

N.B. Figures relate to total funds over the three years of the Business Plan

<b>Item</b>	<b>Estimated Income (000's)</b>	<b>Estimated Expenditure (000's)</b>	<b>Difference (000's)</b>
Bathing Boxes	\$281		
MMLSC	\$1.5		
MMYC	\$1.5		
Coastal Processes and Infrastructure (Rec 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 2, 3)		\$792 – \$1 377	
Access (Rec 12, 13)		\$25	
Natural Environment (Rec 23a, 23b, 23d, 25)		\$144 - \$192	
Cultural Heritage (Rec 29)		\$25 - \$30	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>(a) \$284</b>	<b>(b) \$986 – \$1 624</b>	<b>(a-b) (\$702) – (\$1 340)</b>



**Table 4 Business Plan**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Recommended Action</b>	<b>Lead Agent/s</b>	<b>Potential Funding Sources</b>	<b>Performance target (ie; what will be the result when action is implemented)</b>	<b>Estimated Cost (000's)</b>
1a	Undertake remedial works: stabilisation of the cliff face behind bathing boxes at Mt Martha Beach North	MPS	DSE Coastal Risk Mitigation Program	Remedial works completed	\$390 - 580
1b	Undertake remedial works: stabilisation of the slope failure at Mt Martha Beach North (near the access steps)	MPS	DSE Coastal Risk Mitigation Program	Remedial works completed	\$210 - 600
1c	Undertake remedial works: beach reshaping by removing sand from Mt Martha Beach South and place at Mt Martha Beach North	DSE	DSE Coastal Risk Mitigation Program	Remedial works completed	\$90
1d	Undertake remedial works: construction of a 25m groyne at the northern end of Mt Martha Beach North	DSE	DSE Coastal Risk Mitigation Program	Remedial works completed	\$85
2	Incorporate initiatives to improve the environmental impacts of existing stormwater drains in to the revised <i>MPS Stormwater Management Plan</i>	MPS	MPS General Revenue	Appropriate actions included in the Plan	\$2
3	Complete geotechnical review of remaining cliff escarpment	MPS	MPS General Revenue DSE Coastal Risk Mitigation Program	Review Complete	\$15 - 20
10	Close and rehabilitate all remaining unauthorised paths and access points within the foreshore		PPWCMA / MW Community Grants Program DSE Coastal Risk Mitigation Program	All unauthorised paths closed and rehabilitated	\$15
12	Review sight-lines and safety of entry / exit points at current beach car parks	MPS	MPS General Revenue	Review complete	\$5



No.	Recommended Action	Lead Agent/s	Potential Funding Sources	Performance target (ie; what will be the result when action is implemented)	Estimated Cost (000's)
13	Investigate options to improve safety for pedestrians crossing The Esplanade	MPS	MPS General Revenue VicRoads	Investigation complete	\$5
23a	Implement ecological recommendations: continue implementing the MPS <i>Weed Management Strategy</i>	MPS	PPWCMA / MW Community Grants Program DPCD Community Support - Strengthening Communities Program	Ongoing	\$15 – 20 / year
23b	Implement ecological recommendations: prepare and implement a <i>Pest Animal Management Strategy</i>	MPS	PPWCMA / MW Community Grants Program DPCD Community Support - Strengthening Communities Program	Strategy complete and recommendations implemented	\$10 – 15 / year
23d	Implement ecological recommendations: protect native vegetation cover on cliff tops to minimise cliff erosion and protect natural cliff habitats	MPS	PPWCMA / MW Community Grants Program DPCD Community Support - Strengthening Communities Program	Ongoing	\$10 – 15 / year
23e	Implement ecological recommendations: ensure orchid colonies are managed as recommended by Yugovic (1995)	MPS	PPWCMA / MW Community Grants Program DPCD Community Support - Strengthening Communities Program	Ongoing	\$2
24	Implement illegal native vegetation removal strategies as required	MPS	MPS General Revenue	Decrease in incidence of illegal native vegetation removal	\$5
25	Use the <i>Estuary Entrance Management Support System (EEMSS)</i> for Balcombe Creek Estuary	DSE / MPS	MPS General Revenue	EEMSS established and implemented	Establishment: \$10 - 15 Implementation: \$12
28	Manage fire risk through the implementation of the MPS <i>Fire Prevention Plan</i>	MPS	MPS General Revenue	Ongoing	\$10



No.	Recommended Action	Lead Agent/s	Potential Funding Sources	Performance target (ie; what will be the result when action is implemented)	Estimated Cost (000's)
29	Complete a comprehensive assessment of Indigenous and European cultural heritage sites and values of the foreshore	MPS / DPCD	National Indigenous Heritage Program, Heritage Grants	Assessment complete	\$10-15
30	Prepare a <i>Conservation Management Plan</i> for Fossil Beach Cement Works site	MPS / DPCD	Heritage Grants	Conservation Management Plan complete	\$15

Key: DPCD = Department of Planning and Community Development, DSE = Department of Sustainability and Environment, MPS = Mornington Peninsula Shire, MW = Melbourne Water, PPWCMA = Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority, PV = Parks Victoria.





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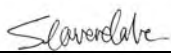

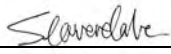

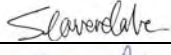
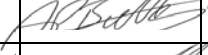
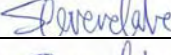
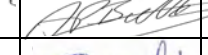


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2	J.Briffa	S.Coverdale		A.Butler		28/04/08
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