



Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP

Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
Minister for Solar Homes

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Secretary
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Ref: MIN071711



Dear Ms Hoskin and Mr Hill

PORTSEA BEACH

Thank you for your correspondence of 20 July 2020 about Portsea front beach.

For a number of years now, government and the community have been concerned about significant erosion at Portsea front beach. Most recently the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) has undertaken major repairs to the protective sandbag wall that was first constructed in 2010. This will extend the life of the structure and provide shoreline protection for approximately another 10 years.

DELWP and Mornington Peninsula Shire Council have conducted a wide range of investigations since 2010, looking at the potential for sand renourishment, rock revetments, seawalls, offshore breakwaters and dredging to reduce the effects of erosion on Portsea front beach and foreshore. In 2019 the council, with involvement from DELWP, engaged consulting engineers Advisian to undertake additional modelling investigations and options assessment related to reconfiguration, nearshore and offshore dredging to reduce wave impacts at Portsea Front Beach. Despite many investigations, no long-term option has been found to be cost or technically effective in managing coastal hazards at Portsea front beach, while meeting community expectations of restoring the beach condition.

As part of a recent geotechnical stability and risk assessment of the cliff to the east of the existing sandbag seawall, specialist consultants were tasked with preliminary design of an emergency rock revetment. This is not unusual and is part of good risk management to have emergency options ready in a shorter timeframe should they be required. DELWP does not have plans to install additional protective structures on Portsea front beach.

Erosion is an issue for many beaches across Victoria including at Sandringham, Middle Park, Altona, and Portarlington, and the open coast at Lakes Entrance, Inverloch, Point Lonsdale and Apollo Bay, with sea level rise contributing to erosion, as well as extreme storms and waves. In Victoria, climate change is increasing mean sea levels by three millimetres per annum, and causing more extreme weather events, intensified waves, beach instability, erosion and flooding. For this reason, there are many competing priorities for the funding available to manage the consequences of coastal erosion on public assets, whether this be the land, environment or infrastructure assets.

To understand the implications of climate change for Port Phillip Bay, DELWP is working with CSIRO to carry out a bay-wide coastal hazard assessment. This assessment will look at the likely extent of future inundation (flooding), groundwater, and erosion hazards for the bay. The data generated through the assessment will be shared with land managers and the community, to help them consider climate change in their decision making and planning. It is expected that this work will be available by the middle of next year.

The Victorian Government introduced the *Marine and Coastal Act 2018* to provide a simpler, more integrated and coordinated approach to planning and managing the marine and coastal environment. The subsequent Marine and Coastal Policy released in March 2020 guides decision makers in the planning, management and sustainable use of our coastal and marine environment.

I appreciate your group's continued interest in this important matter, and I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



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