

Minutes

Port Phillip Bay Central Coastal Advisory Group



Location	Rosebud Shire Office, meeting room 2
Date and time	Thursday 19 March 2025 meeting commenced 4:00 pm - closed 5:45PM
Attendees	<p>Members: Caitlin Clements, Peter Clark, Peter Kon, Tony White, John Manders, Charlie McEncroe</p> <p>Councillors: Cr. Max Patton, Cr. Micheal Stephens, Cr. Patrick Binyon, Cr. Cam Williams</p> <p>Council: Lachy Chapman, Gerard Cook</p>
Apologies	Margaret Campbell, Andrew Robertson

Item	Responsible	Due
1. Introduction and Welcome by GC: Acknowledgement of Country. Reintroduction around the table and new members Caitlin and John.	All to Note	
2. Priority Actions -Coastal Erosion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Study covering both, shire and MW stormwater outlets. Sand erosion around yacht club. Groynes and seawalls? Managed by DEECA, only shire on Shire owned land- Safety Beach. Monash uni doing a long-term study on McCrae groins to monitor sand movement. DEECA not looking to implement any groins. Sand renourishment has been put on hold by DEECA. Lack of mature vegetation in Safety beach Dromana and McCrae began planting in the 80's which is a good example of developing indigenous coastal bushland in a narrow stretch. Marram grass/spinifex article on swellnet attached below. 	All to Note	
3. Our Coast Our Future <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GC updated on stages 5-7 of OCOF strategy and referenced website. 	All to Note	
4. Rock wall Safety Beach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 sets of stairs have been replaced since the last Storm/high tide event. 	All to note	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The wall is being fixed in response to high tide events. Current wall wasn't built to specifications. 		
5. Sand Movement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shade cloth walls build sand dunes over time. Boat sheds sand build up. Indig Spinifex planted at Sheepwash creek to create gradual dune which is more resilient to erosion. 	All to note	
6. Accessibility to beach for elderly and wheelchair <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Propose more access, more picnic tables? Extension of boardwalk for disability access No consistent approach for DDA across the foreshore. Potential for mapping of gaps. 	All to note	
7. Beach Box <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Maintenance request' to resolve hazardous debris from campers 	CAG members to put in own requests directly,	
8. General Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Caitlyn? Raised possibility consistent themes for all groups. GC provided update on safety beach sea wall. GC provided update on change in predicted sea level rise from 0.8 - 1.1m Campground fencing adjacent to dune in Rosebud to be better re-defined delivered as a joint project by Camping, Natural Systems and Coastal Planning teams within Shire. General discussion around paths and changes over time. Councillor Michael Stephens asked question about foreshore planting, GCaitlyn raised possibility consistent themes for all groupC advised they have undertaken various plantings and supported Coastcare groups 	All to note	
9. Priority Actions Agreed Upon <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Bay trail Safety Beach Coastal Management plan 2016 Access to coastal areas from adjoining residential and commercial areas 	CAG members to discuss and elaborate for next meeting	
10. As discussed, here is some additional resources if members are interested. provided by Max Patton Spinifex vs Marram Grass - importance of native vegetation in mitigating erosion. Excerpt below:		

Spinifex vs marram grass

On an exposed west coast site of the North Island Esler (1970) pointed out that spinifex on the foredune is a superior dune stabiliser than the introduced marram grass (*Ammophila arenaria*) because it has a greater tolerance of sea-water and provides an even cover of vegetation. Spinifex spreads freely downslope in all directions, and rapidly invades fresh sand deposits leading to the development of smaller, more regular dunes because of its fast-growing sprawling stolons. The seaward face of a spinifex foredune slopes very evenly at 14-16° up to a height of 6 m where it is frequently topped off with marram grass. Blow-outs do not occur within spinifex-dominated foredunes. There is a tendency for spinifex stolons to find concavities in the dunes and to gather sand thus filling incipient channels and moulding a more regular dune.

In contrast, marram grass occurs on the seaward side of the foredune to a small extent but does not thrive in the vulnerable gap just above the strand line that is colonised by spinifex and pingao. In the few places where marram grass occurs alone it often builds a dune that is higher (8 m or more) and steeper (24-28 °) than the spinifex dune. The clumped habit of marram grass causes irregular deposition of sand, forming high, hummocky, steep dunes that are vulnerable to severe erosion and blow outs.

GC to update to Sharepoint

Victorian Coastal Monitoring Program Coastkit

Finally, a good presenter for the forum at the end of the year would be:

<https://www.greatoceanroadauthority.vic.gov.au/About-Us/Our-Board/Dr-Daniel-Ierodiasanou>

He has worked on the VCMP since its inception and could provide great insight into erosion trends across Victoria.

Another alternative is Blake Allan:

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/blakemallan/?originalSubdomain=au>

He worked with Dr. Lerodiasanou on the VCMP while at Deakin and has taken over as the program manager of Coastal Monitoring for DEECA.

11 Next Meeting

June 18th 2025