



WESTERN PORT COASTAL VILLAGES AND SURROUNDING SETTLEMENTS STRATEGY PROGRESS REPORT (JULY 2024)

The Western Port Coastal Villages & Surrounding Settlements Strategy aims to address potential climate change impacts on the Western Port Bay coastline while protecting and enhancing township character. The Strategy delivers on Council's commitment to ensuring our community is resilient and adaptable to climate change.

The Strategy, adopted by Council in 2019, seeks to respond to the findings and recommendations of the Western Port Local Coastal Hazard Assessment (2014), and to prepare Design and Character Frameworks that seek to improve the design quality of each township. The Strategy applies to urban and foreshore land within settlements along the Western Port Bay and nearby areas including Balnarring, Balnarring Beach, Bittern, Crib Point, Flinders, Hastings, Merricks, Merricks Beach, Point Leo, Red Hill and Red Hill South, Shoreham, Somers and Tyabb.

VISION

The design and character of towns and villages will continue to make a crucial contribution to the sense of place for Western Port communities. The townships will retain and reflect their unique landscape and environmental setting.

The varied and special characteristics of all commercial, industrial, foreshore and residential areas will be retained and enhanced through the

scale and siting of built form, landscaping and vegetation, harnessing existing views and exemplar design practices in both the public and private realm.

OBJECTIVES

The strategy outlines four design objectives:

1. Character and Built Form

Protect the role and character of the Mornington Peninsula's settlements, towns and villages

2. Coastal Hazard

Respond appropriately to the threat of erosion and slope failures

3. Natural Environment

Respect and enhance the natural landscapes, foreshore and abundant open space

4. Access/Public Realm

Encourage a public realm that enhances each townships' unique identity and supports local village life



IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS STATUS UPDATE

ACTION		LEAD AGENCY	STATUS	COMMENT
SUGGESTED ACTIONS:				
A1	Prepare the planning scheme amendment to implement the recommendations.	Council Strategic Planning	Underway	Amendment C271morn proposes to implement the recommendations from the Western Port Coastal Villages and Surrounding Settlements Strategy. The amendment was exhibited from 24 February 2022 until 6 May 2022. A total of 15 submissions were received. A planning Panel was held on 17-19 October 2022. The amendment was adopted with changes at a Council meeting on 4 April 2023 and has been referred to the Minister for Planning for approval.
A2	Advocate to State government for funding or to undertake more detailed flood mapping due to sea level rise.	Council Strategic Planning Water and Coasts	Ongoing	<p>The recent release of the Port Phillip Bay Coastal Hazard Assessment has emphasised the need for updated mapping in Western Port to meet the current best practice standards.</p> <p>Council has written to the Minister for Planning seeking clear planning guidance in the form of a State Government led coastal hazard planning zone and/or overlay that is specifically designed to address risks to land use and development around Port Phillip and Western Port Bay from predicted sea level rise and ensure that the control is applied and updated by State Government in response to the most up to date scientific evidence regarding sea level rise.</p>



ACTION		LEAD AGENCY	STATUS	COMMENT
A3	Closely monitor the progress and outcomes of State Government initiatives regarding the refinement of coastal climate change adaptation policy and strategy, and respond accordingly, including making improvements to this Strategy as necessary.	Council Strategic Planning	Ongoing	Council closely monitors the progress of State Government initiatives relating to climate change adaptation policy and strategy.
A4	Continue to advocate and seek support from State Government to further refine and implement adaptation strategies arising from State Government initiatives.	Council Strategic Planning	Ongoing	As indicated above, Council has written to the Minister for Planning seeking a State Government led approach in relation to coastal hazard planning.
A5	Advocate for funding to make improvements to the foreshore areas to manage the impact of sea level rise.	Council Strategic Planning	Ongoing	The Shire have been successful with recent efforts in gaining funding through DEECA's Victoria's Resilient Coast funding program as well as Coastal and Marine Management Plan and Coastal Public and Risk Grant programs.
A6	Provide information to the community about the impact of sea level rise and the investigations and actions that are underway to manage these impacts.	Council Water and Coasts	Underway	This action is underway as part of the community consultation process for Council's <i>Our Coast Our Future</i> which is currently under preparation. This project will enhance knowledge building within the community through the consultation process.
A7	Ensure that the planning requirements and guidelines in this report for the public realm are adopted throughout the organisation as a reference and for	Council Water and Coasts	Ongoing	This is an ongoing action which will be addressed in further detail as part of Council's <i>Our Coast Our Future</i> which is currently under preparation.



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	implementation through departmental business plans and budget allocations.			
A8	Work with local real estate agents to convey appropriate information to future land buyers about Council requirements.	Council Strategic Planning	Underway	Council requirements have been translated into planning provisions via Amendment C271morn. The amendment is currently with the Minister for Planning for approval. Once approved and gazetted, the planning provisions will be available on section 32 document indicating relevant planning controls to individual sites. Landowners will then be made aware of appropriate information and Council requirements.
NEXT STEPS				
IN ADDITION TO IMPLEMENTING THE AFOREMENTIONED DETAILED PLANNING CONTROLS, THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF THE RECOMMENDED FURTHER WORK THAT COUNCIL SHOULD CONSIDER UNDERTAKING, TO ENSURE ALL PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENTS ARE ADDRESSED AND PRIORITISED, INCLUDING THE PREPARATION OF:				
A9	Undertake detailed studies of each foreshore area to determine the appropriate adaptation measures (identified in Sections 1.7 and 1.8) for the specific topographical, environmental and hazards conditions, including prioritisation of locations and measures.	Council Water and Coasts	Underway	This action will be undertaken as part of Council's <i>Our Coast Our Future</i> which is currently under preparation.
A10	Council Public Realm Manual - develop a consistent series of details addressing the landscape materials and elements likely to occur per typology.	Council Natural Systems	Yet to be commenced	Subject to budget and staff resourcing.



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A11	<p>Way-finding Strategy - the way-finding strategy should address the full public realm as a context for specific typology way-finding signage to be addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prepare precinct specific signage in accordance with signage guidelines applicable to all precincts, but with specific elements (colour, graphic logos etc.) reflective of local character and setting.	<p>Council Natural Systems</p>	<p>Yet to be commenced</p>	<p>Subject to budget and staff resourcing.</p>
A12	<p>Vegetation and Planting Schedule and Guidelines for the differing areas and typologies.</p>	<p>Council Natural Systems</p>	<p>Yet to be commenced</p>	<p>Subject to budget and staff resourcing.</p>
A13	<p>Council Manual outlining a standard range of facilities for all Western Port foreshore areas.</p>	<p>Council Infrastructure Services</p>	<p>Redundant</p>	<p>A Council manual outlining a standard range of facilities for foreshore areas is not appropriate as each location is subject to individual provisions and requirements and a detailed assessment is required on a case by case basis.</p>
A14	<p>Prepare master plans for Foreshore typologies and undertake works in accordance with the approved plan.</p>	<p>Council Water and Coasts</p>	<p>Complete</p>	<p>Council has recently developed the Hastings Foreshore Masterplan and Flinders Coastal and Marine Management Plan that outlines management of the foreshore reserves. These are the two main coastal areas under Council management.</p>



ACTION		LEAD AGENCY	STATUS	COMMENT
A15	Maintenance Schedules - also consisting of review periods and capital works priorities per typology.	Council Infrastructure Services	Ongoing	<p>The Shire's maintenance level was set in 2012 by the agreed Service Level Agreements set out in the different maintenance contracts including what is planted and where.</p> <p>This is an ongoing action that is subject to case by case projects and applications.</p>