



THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

SOUTHEAST BELLARINE COAST (4W-COLLENDINA)

COASTAL AND MARINE
MANAGEMENT PLAN – DRAFT

Contents

Acknowledgements	4
Project acknowledgements	4
Ministerial foreword.....	5
Mayor’s message	6
Executive summary	7
Introduction.....	9
Strategic context.....	11
Policy context	12
Our planning framework.....	12
About the area.....	13
Wadawurrung living cultural heritage	14
Present day management.....	14
Landscape	14
Planning overlays	16
Local industry	16
Local community.....	16
How we engaged.....	17
Stakeholder engagement.....	17
Community engagement.....	17
About this plan.....	19
Plan overview	19
Values, issues and opportunities	20
1. Acknowledge Traditional Owners rights, aspirations, and knowledge	20
2. Protect and enhance the marine and coastal environment	23
Natural features and landscapes	23
Cultural values and heritage sites.....	23
Value of marine and coastal Crown land.....	23
3A. Respect natural processes	26
3B. Strengthen resilience to climate change	26
4. Use and develop sustainably	31

Marine and coastal industries	31
Recreation and tourism.....	31
Buildings, structures, and access	32
5. Promote stewardship and collaborative management	34
Outcomes	36
Actions	38
Resource needs	43
Implementation	44
Monitoring and evaluation.....	45
Monitoring five-year outcomes	45
Evaluation.....	45
Further consultation	46
Appendix 1	47
Appendix 2	49
Bibliography.....	51

COVER IMAGE: Buckley Park Foreshore Reserve.

Acknowledgements

We acknowledge the Wadawurrung People as the Traditional Owners of the Lands, Waterways and Skies of Wadawurrung Country. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present, and emerging. We Acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People who are part of our Greater Geelong community today.

The City of Greater Geelong is committed to genuinely partnering and meaningfully engaging with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners to support the protection of their Country, the maintenance of spiritual and cultural practices and the implementation of their Healthy Country Plan: *Paleert Tjaara Dja – Let's make country good together 2020–2030*.

PROJECT ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This plan has been developed in consultation with community groups and stakeholders from across the municipality. We would like to acknowledge the many individuals and organisations whose enthusiasm, commitment and contributions helped shape this plan.

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE GROUP	PROJECT STEERING GROUP
Animal Justice Party	Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation
Bellarine BirdLife Group	Barwon Water
Bellarine Catchment Network	Barwon Coast Committee of Management
Friends of Buckley Park	Borough of Queenscliffe
Friends of Ocean Grove Nature Reserve	Corangamite Catchment Management Authority
Geelong Environment Council	City of Greater Geelong
Geelong Field Naturalist Group	Department of Environment Land Water Planning
Ocean Grove and Barwon Heads Lions Club	Parks Victoria
Ocean Grove Coastcare Group	
Ocean Grove Community Association	
Point Lonsdale Civic Association	
Queenscliff Community Association	
Queenscliff Environment Forum	
Swan Bay Environment Association	
We would also like to thank Barwon Coast Committee of Management, Borough of Queenscliffe and Hobsons Bay City Council for providing their Coastal and Marine Management Plans as guiding documents for this plan.	

Ministerial foreword

A Coastal and Marine Management Plan is a public document, prepared under the *Marine and Coastal Act 2018* and approved by the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change. It establishes an agreement between the Victorian Government, the land manager and the community as to how an area of coastal Victoria will be managed.

The Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP
Minister for Energy, Environment, Climate Change

Mayor's message

On behalf of the City of Greater Geelong and the Project Steering Group, I have great pleasure in presenting the Southeast Bellarine Coast 4W-Collendina (Buckley Park Foreshore Reserve) Coastal and Marine Management Plan.

Since 2021, we have been working towards developing a management plan for the Southeast Bellarine Coast, which includes the foreshore dune running from 4W at Fellows Rd, Point Lonsdale, through Buckley Park Foreshore Reserve Collendina at Bonnyvale Rd.

We also wanted the plan to consider the connectivity of the coastal lakes of the Lonsdale Lake Wildlife Reserve, moonah woodland and adjoining foreshore areas, which all work together to form an important landscape-scale biolink.

During the development phase of the proposed management plan, the context in which we were planning changed. The release of the Marine and Coastal Act 2018, and subsequent strategy and policy, meant there was more emphasis on state-wide protection of marine environment. A marine spatial planning framework was also introduced. To address these changes, we have developed this coastal and marine management plan.

The cornerstone of this plan is an ongoing need to recognise, protect and enhance our natural areas. It has been informed by the views of the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners, a highly engaged community, private landholders, land managers and stakeholders.

To meet the needs of this unique, remote, and environmentally significant coastal environment, the plan focuses on collaborative management of the landscape, as well as objectives for best-practice action.

As well as factoring in the increasing impacts of sea-level rise caused by climate change, it also considers the needs of an ever-growing number of locals and visitors, whose enjoyment of this coastline must be balanced against the need to protect the area for the benefit of future generations.



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Peter Murrihy'.

Cr Peter Murrihy

Mayor
City of Greater Geelong

Executive summary

The Bellarine Peninsula Southern Coast, is proposed as an area of State Significances and spans from Queenscliff in Port Phillip Bay, through Buckley Park Foreshore Reserve, on to the mouth of the Barwon River, and beyond to Breamlea.

There are three foreshore managers along the Bellarine Peninsula coastline:

- the Barwon Coast Committee of Management – oversee the coastal crown land reserve west of Bonnyvale Rd (at Collendina), through to 42W (at the west end of Thirteenth Beach), which includes the lower Barwon River,
- the City of Greater Geelong – manage Collendina east to 4W, and
- the Borough of Queenscliff – manage 4W through to the Point Lonsdale Lighthouse, and into Port Phillip Bay.

Beyond the coastline lies the Lonsdale Lake Wildlife Reserve, comprising four lakes managed by Parks Victoria. These lakes are land locked by private land backing onto the dune system and contain significant environmental values, conservation zones and farming land. These important wetlands are part of a current review by the Victorian Government of Ramsar extensions across the Greater Geelong region. Due to the connectivity of these environs and their inhabitants, the biolink area including the Lonsdale Lake system has been considered as part of this plan.

This Coastal and Marine Management Plan (see page 9) sets the vision, objectives, priority actions and outcomes we aim to achieve in this area over the next ten years. In formulating this plan, we have taken into account:

- legislative and policy directions provided by the Victorian Government
- similar plans developed by the Barwon Coast Committee of Management and Borough of Queenscliff
- the Wadawurrung *Paleert Tjaara Dja: Healthy Country Plan 2020–2030*
- relevant City-led strategies, including the *Environment Strategy 2020–30* and *Settlement Strategy 2020*
- feedback provided by the Project Steering Group and Community Representative Group
- the views expressed by those who participated in a community engagement process.

In line with these inputs, the plan will focus on:

- balancing the demands for greater visitation to the area with environmental protection
- supporting programs to care for, rehabilitate and protect natural habitats and biodiversity
- planning for the increasing effects of climate change
- increasing the level of community, user and stakeholder engagement in setting priorities.

A monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement plan will inform the ongoing development of this plan. All activities will be supported by research, investigations and planning designed to help the City, in conjunction with the Project Steering Group, to prepare for, and respond to, both short-term issues and long-term changes

PLAN OVERVIEW

Vision: Ensuring and replenishing coastal and marine ecosystems to support nature, whilst fostering cultural connection and community stewardship.

OBJECTIVES					
1. Acknowledge Traditional Owners' rights, aspirations & knowledge	2. Protect & enhance the marine & coastal environment	3a. Respect natural processes	3b. Strengthen resilience to climate change	4. Use and develop sustainably	5. Promote stewardship and collaborative management
Understand, acknowledge and act upon rights and aspirations of Wadawurrung People for Country.	Protect and enhance intrinsic values, and goods and benefits, of the marine and coastal environment.	Understand dynamic natural processes in planning for, and managing, risks to people and assets.	Understand current and future stressors and assess how well marine and coastal environments can cope with, and adapt to, change, and how that can be strengthened	Consider impacts and benefits of existing, as well as new, use and development on the environment, other users and prosperity of future generations.	Take a stewardship approach, build understanding and knowledge, engage and collaborate.
VALUES, ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES: How the local context is shaping our response (refer page 20)					
OUTCOMES: What we want coastal and marine management to achieve (refer page 36)					
ACTIONS: How we will achieve the outcomes (refer page 38)					
RESOURCE NEEDS: What we need to support sustainable marine and coastal management (refer page 42)					
IMPLEMENTATION: How we will track progress and identify opportunities for refinement (refer page 43)					

Introduction

The purpose of the *Southeast Bellarine Coast 4W-Collendina Coastal and Marine Management Plan* is to describe how the City of Greater Geelong, working with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners, neighbouring land managers and the community, will manage coastal and marine areas of the Southeast Bellarine.

It has been developed to complement the *Corio Bay Coastal and Marine Management Plan*, which is currently under development. Together, both plans set the strategic direction for the management of all Crown land coastal areas in the Greater Geelong Local Government Area (see Figure 1).

The Southeast Bellarine Coast 4W - Collendina forms part of the Bellarine Peninsula Southern Coast, which is proposed as an area of State Significance. Other neighbouring coastal managers include Barwon Coast Committee of Management (west of Collendina) and the Borough of Queenscliff (east of 4W).

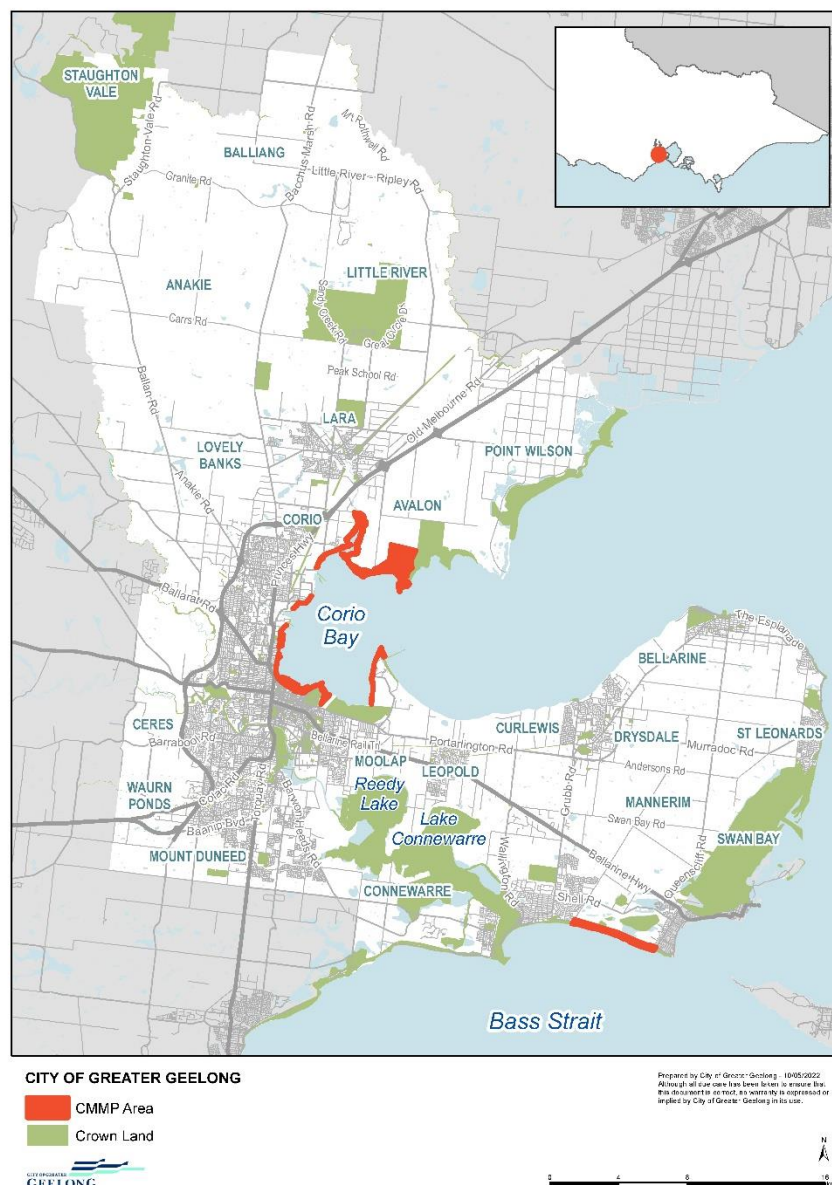


Figure 1: City of Greater Geelong's Crown land coastal areas to be managed under CMMP's

In *Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future*, the thirty-year vision for the Greater Geelong region, the community described the uniqueness and significance of natural bushland, coastlines, wetlands, rivers and beaches as something it highly valued, stating a desire to preserve, enhance and grow these natural areas.

The Victorian Government's *Biodiversity 2037* plan includes ambitious targets to stop the state's declining biodiversity and achieve a net gain in the extent and condition of habitat across the terrestrial, waterway and marine environments. This emulates the values and programs set by the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners as part of the *Paleert Tjaara Dja: Healthy Country Plan 2020–2030*, as well as The City of Greater Geelong *Environmental Strategy 2020–30*, which aims to conserve the environment and achieve a net gain of biodiversity within Greater Geelong.

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning's *Marine and Coastal Strategy 2021 (draft)* establishes a state-wide direction for achieving the long-term outcomes of the *Marine and Coastal Policy 2020*. It identifies priority actions to be completed over the next five years, which include:

- supporting Wadawurrung Traditional Owners to embed their rights and obligations into planning and management of the marine and coastal environment
- improving the condition and connectivity of habitats, and respect and care for marine and coastal areas
- supporting sustainable use and development of the marine and coastal environment
- adapting to impacts of climate change
- implementing integrated marine planning
- identifying the resource needs and funding for sustainable marine and coastal management.

We have created this draft plan in consultation with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners, the community, other land managers and stakeholder agencies. It has been structured to align closely with the legislation, guidelines, and government policy, including key objectives and outcomes. The draft plan presents:

- a vision and objectives that reflect community and stakeholder sentiment and align with legislative direction
- outcomes that convey the values and future aspirations for the coastal and marine environments of the Southeast Bellarine Coast and will guide actions.
- current and emerging issues, including those which may potentially threaten values
- objectives for the next 10 years
- priority actions for the short, medium and long term
- an implementation pathway and monitoring framework.

We started developing this plan in 2020 and conducted first-round community engagement and stakeholder consultation in mid-2021. The introduction of the new *Coastal and Marine Management Plan Guidelines 2022* strengthened the plan.

The Project Steering Group and Community Representative Group have helped define the values, threats and opportunities for the Southeast Bellarine Coastal region. Ongoing community and stakeholder consultation and input helped inform the coastal and marine context, potential opportunities, and priority actions.

Both state and local government key strategic goals frame this plan, as well as future strategic planning and decision-making, and support Integrated Coastal Zone Management.

Strategic context

Coastal management reform in Victoria, led by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, has prompted new legislation, policy and guidance material over recent years.

These reforms support coordinated coastal and marine management, providing the tools to identify and adapt to coastal hazards in the future. The *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978* enables local government to manage coastal crown land on behalf of the state government. Current coastal management arrangements are also driven by the *Marine and Coastal Act 2018*.

The planning and decision pathway outlined by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning in the *Coastal and Marine Management Plan Guidelines 2022* is detailed in Figure 2.

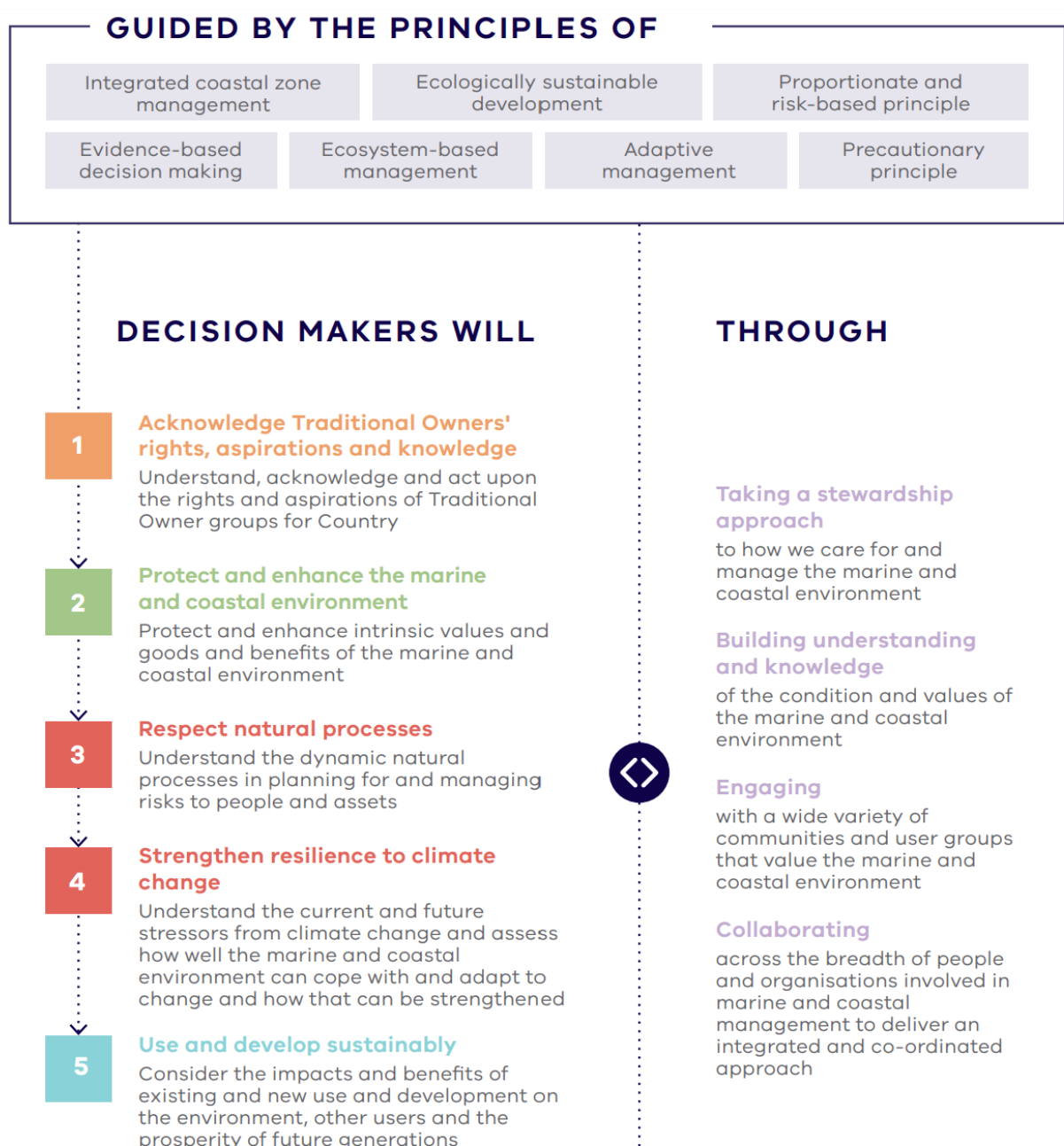


Figure 2: The Planning and Decision Pathway shows how the objectives and guiding principles of the Act should be used in decision making in the marine and coastal environment

POLICY CONTEXT

As Table 1 shows the three levels of institutional arrangements that make up the core of coastal and marine management arrangements in Victoria – state, regional and local.

When factoring in all these institutional arrangements, coastal management becomes very complex. Consequently, there is a large range of relevant legislation, government policies, plans, reports and other documents that have been factored into the formulation of this plan. These are listed in Appendix 1.

Table 1: Coastal and marine planning hierarchy

Level	Document	Purpose
State	<i>Marine & Coastal Act 2018</i>	Sets state-wide direction for coastal planners and managers
	<i>Marine & Coastal Policy 2020</i>	
	<i>Marine and Coastal Strategy 2021 (draft)</i>	
Regional	<i>Corangamite Regional Catchment Strategy to 2027</i>	Identifies regional values, issues and priorities and sets regional vision, guiding principles and strategic directions to guide local management
	<i>Wadawurrung Paleert Tjaara Dja: Healthy Country Plan 2020-2030</i>	
	Regional and Strategic Partnership agreements	
Local	<i>Southeast Bellarine Coast (4W to Collendina) Coastal and Marine Management Plan 2023–2033 (draft)</i>	Sets out the requirements and planning for a coastal area and includes actions and implementation arrangements describing proposed works for the area
	<i>Southeast Bellarine Biolink Master Plan 2023-2033 (draft)</i>	
	Local Strategies	

OUR PLANNING FRAMEWORK

The key City-led strategies that this plan must align with include our *Sustainability Framework 2020*, *Climate Change Response Plan 2021–30* and, in particular, Goal 4 of the *Environment Strategy 2020–30* (see box inset).

Goal: Protect, enhance and restore biodiversity.

Principles:

- Collaborate with the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners to connect culture and biodiversity
- Protect and enhance indigenous biodiversity
- Adaptive management approach to biodiversity conservation.
- Build community knowledge, engagement and partnerships.

Source: *The City of Greater Geelong Environment Strategy 2020–30*

About the area

Located on the southern coastline of Victoria, the Bellarine Peninsula Southern Coast extends from Queenscliff to the tip of Point Lonsdale at the heads of Port Phillip Bay, before following a remote coastline dune system for approximately 15 kilometres to Ocean Grove. It then extends to the Barwon Bluff and Barwon River estuary at Barwon Heads, and through to Breamlea.

This coastline has been proposed as a State Significant landscape as part of the Distinctive Area and Landscape *Statement of Planning Policy (draft)* (see Figure 3). The City is the land manager responsible for the Southeast Bellarine Coast foreshore reserve (part of Buckley Park Foreshore Reserve) from 4W to Collendina (from Fellows Road, Point Lonsdale to Bonnyvale Road, Collendina) – a strip of coastline that is approximately 5 kilometres long.

Given the environmental connection the dune system has with the woodlands and wetlands surrounding the coastline to the north, these areas have been taken into consideration as part of this plan. Consideration has also been given to the adjoining coastal reserves to the east (managed by Borough of Queenscliffe) and to the west (managed by Barwon Coast Committee of Management).

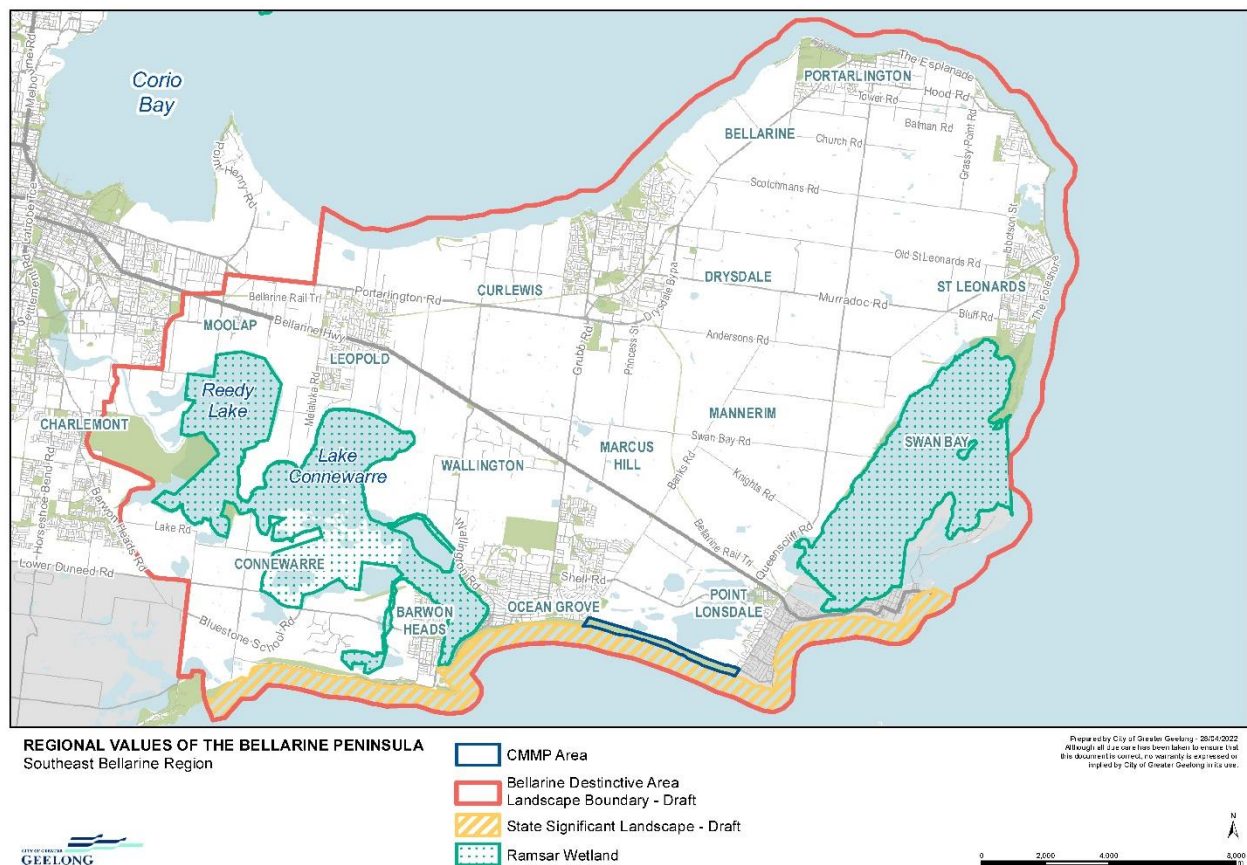


Figure 2: Context map showing the regional values of the Bellarine Peninsula

WADAWURRUNG LIVING CULTURAL HERITAGE

The Wadawurrung Traditional Owners continue to be the first custodians of this coastline, and the bountiful lands, waters and seas of the Bellarine Peninsula this is rich in Wadawurrung living cultural heritage. Wadawurrung People have a strong connection to Country and continue to play an important role in managing the land, water and natural landscape.

The Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation are the Registered Aboriginal Party for the region under the Victorian *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*. Wadawurrung People have continually occupied the Geelong / Djilang area for over 30,000 years. Their Country extends from the Otway Ranges to the Werribee River / Wirribi Yalluk, incorporating the Bellarine Peninsula / Ballawiyin and Geelong / Djilang. The Bengalat Balug clan were the custodians of the Bellarine Peninsula / Ballawiyin area.

Wadawurrung People concentrated occupation in the coastal zone and in particular the Moonah Woodlands and freshwater wetlands, the open woodlands of the Bellarine Peninsula, and along river flats and swamps, where seasonal food availability was plentiful. The beach interface, dune system, woodland and wetland environments of the Bellarine Peninsula Southern Coast area would have provided an abundance of food and resources to Wadawurrung people.

The Peninsula is named after the Wadawurrung word 'Bellawiyin' which means 'bended elbow' and fire – 'a place to rest around the fire'. The Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register (VAHR) indicates that there are hundreds of registered archaeological sites, which reveal a long period of residency and utilisation by Wadawurrung People on the Peninsula. The reserve contains a rich and important heritage of middens, surface scatters, domestic remains and stone artefacts – indicators of past occupation. Figure 4 outlines the boundaries of Wadawurrung Country.

PRESENT DAY MANAGEMENT

While Wadawurrung Traditional Owners continue to play a vital role in managing Country, the designated land manager for the Bellarine Peninsula Southern Coast foreshore rests with the City (4W to Collendina) and adjacent land managers, including Barwon Coast Foreshore Committee of Management (west), Borough of Queenscliffe (east), Parks Victoria (Lonsdale Lakes Wildlife Reserve behind the dunes), private landholders and other stakeholder agencies (see Figure 5 for the management boundaries of the Bellarine Peninsula Southern Coast).

Both Barwon Coast and Borough of Queenscliffe (draft) have Coastal and Marine Management Plan's in place to support adjacent coastlines.

LANDSCAPE

The Southeast Bellarine Coast relates to the coastal dune system located in the City of Greater Geelong Local Government Area. The area is one of great natural beauty featuring unique landscapes and a diversity of coastal ecosystems. It comprises a well-vegetated barrier dune system that defines a low-lying hinterland of moonah woodland. The landscape behind the coastal crown land reserve is intrinsically linked via water flows from Bonnyvale wetlands, through the natural saltmarsh and coastal wetlands of the Lonsdale Lakes Wildlife Reserve, and then on to Swan Bay, an internationally listed Ramsar wetland.

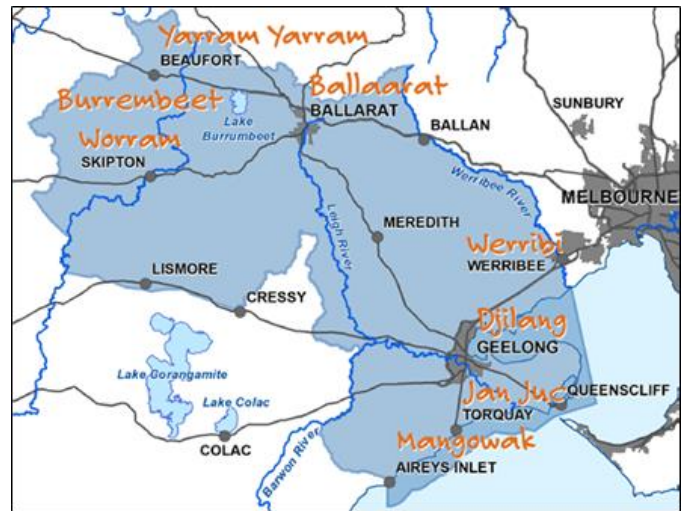


Figure 3: Map of Wadawurrung Country

The 119-hectare coastal reserve forms part of the green-break biolink between the Ocean Grove and Point Lonsdale urban fringes. It has significant cultural heritage and historical sites and plays a vital role in protecting the coast from climate change impacts.

At a landscape scale, the combined terrestrial, wetland, coastal and marine environments make this one of the largest and most important places for biodiversity remaining on the Bellarine Peninsula.

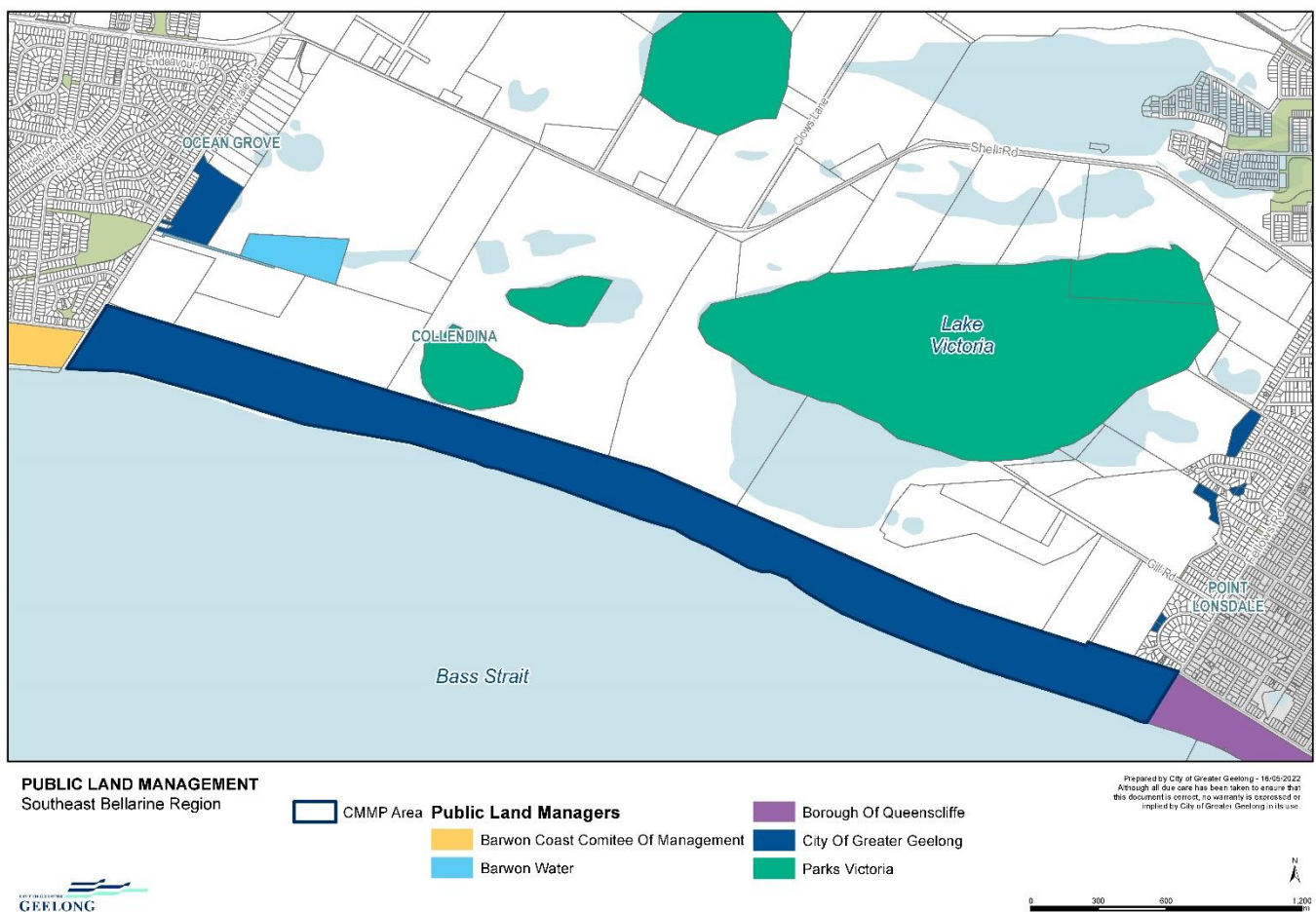


Figure 4: Land managers on the Southeast Bellarine coast

PLANNING OVERLAYS

The completion of the *Southeast Bellarine Coast Coastal and Marine Management Plan* coincides with the delivery by the DELWP Distinctive Area and Landscape legislation. The Victorian Government has legislated to protect and enhance Victoria's distinctive areas and landscapes, so they can be enjoyed by current and future generations. Parts of the City of Greater Geelong and all the Borough of Queenscliffe, which together constitute the Bellarine Peninsula, were declared a distinctive area and landscape under section 46AO of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 (the Act).

The Bellarine Peninsula Distinctive Area and Landscapes *Statement of Planning Policy (draft)* aims to conserve and enhance the significant landscapes, environment, biodiversity and cultural heritage of the region. It sets a 50-year vision that identifies the values, priorities and preferences of the Victorian community in relation to the distinctive attributes of the declared area, including preferences for future land use, protection and development. Importantly, the planning policy also includes protected settlement boundaries to help assure local communities about the direction of future growth of settlements in the declared area. Objective Three is 'To conserve and enhance the significant biodiversity, ecological and environmental values of the declared area.'

The entire Bellarine Peninsula Southern Coast (including 4W-Collendina) has been proposed as a State Significant landscape. In addition, the remaining green-break area is listed as a regionally significant landscape, as well as a biodiversity connection. Ocean Grove, Point Lonsdale and Queenscliff are located adjacent to State Significant landscape, and close to areas of Wadawurrung living cultural heritage and areas of high biodiversity value. As such, they should be protected from urban encroachment. Protected settlement boundaries are now being implemented for both Ocean Grove and Point Lonsdale townships to restrict development and encroachment.

LOCAL INDUSTRY

Historically, the Bellarine Peninsula has been dominated by agricultural and tourism industries, with seaward connections to Melbourne and Sorrento across Port Phillip Bay.

Visitor usage to the reserve can increase by 150 per cent during peak periods, which can negatively impact on biodiversity values. As pressure on the green break between the townships of Ocean Grove and Point Lonsdale continues to increase, high community usage and even greater numbers are expected during peak summer periods.

Despite being designated as a State Significant Landscape, the area is still listed as an extractive industry interest area, which is in direct conflict with the environmental values outlined previously. While this state overlay is an information layer, only indicating where natural resources *could* be extracted, both the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation and the City have requested this overlay be removed as part of the Bellarine Peninsula Distinctive Area and Landscapes Statement of Planning Policy engagement process to avoid conflicting values.

LOCAL COMMUNITY

The City of Greater Geelong Local Government Area has an estimated population of 269,502 people (2021 census) with population growth forecast to increase 43.17% to 2041. This is an estimated 118,569 extra Geelong residents across the region between 2021 and 2041.

With population growth expected, the number of people using the publicly accessible areas and associated threats (such as dogs, increased fire risk, erosion, vegetation destruction, pollution and litter) will increase. In terms of use, this coastal area does not form part of a recreation zone and as such there is no future anticipated requirement to fulfil such a role.

How we engaged

This plan sets the strategic direction for our marine and coastal management arrangements for the next 10 years and has been informed by community and stakeholder input.

The framework, including the vision, has been informed by community and stakeholder perspectives, and aims to reflect their expectations and aspirations for the Southeast Bellarine Coast.

The following is a short summary of key engagement activities with stakeholders and the community. Further feedback has been incorporated into Section 6.

For full details about the engagement process, refer to Supplement A.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

All coastal and marine areas have a wide range of stakeholders. In addition to land managers, there are various public and private agencies, landholders and community groups each with unique values, interests, and concerns.

To meet the needs of this diverse range of users, activities and priorities is complex and required a considered and clear method.

A stakeholder engagement plan was developed to inform the engagement throughout the development of the plan. Key to the stakeholder engagement were:

1. The Project Steering Group
2. The Community Reference Group.

For a full list of stakeholders who contributed, please refer to the Acknowledgements on page 4.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

During the community engagement process, we received 385 online contributions from community members about usage of the space and many more through open house and formal meetings. The top three uses identified were:

1. access to ocean/beach
2. nature walks
3. walking/running.

The Bellarine Peninsula community and visitors value the remoteness and environmental significance of the Southeast Bellarine Coast, along with accessibility for passive recreation, cultural heritage and diversity of its coastal and marine areas.

These areas are used and enjoyed in a variety of ways, including:

- recreational opportunities, which can be improved with better facilities for access and enjoyment
- community benefits, such as open space, clean air and water, natural beauty and views, peace and serenity
- a healthy environment that supports unique and diverse ecosystems, and is enhanced by conservation initiatives
- a connection with cultural heritage, history, character, and identity
- environmental engagement activities.

As the coastal zone plays an important role in the lifestyle of Bellarine Peninsula residents, the increasing pressures from development and growth, as well as a changing climate, need to be carefully managed. Cohesive and coordinated strategic coastal management is essential for the City to retain a balance between protecting natural values, and the community's desire for increased use and access.

Visitors use the public areas via formalised access points, with the majority engaging in passive recreation such as running, nature walking, dog walking or birdwatching. This aligns with the community responses to the values and threats of the area, with a high level of appreciation for conserving and protecting this region for its natural values.

Some threats identified by the community included illegal uses of the reserve such as mountain bike riding, horse-riding, fires and destruction of vegetation. While all these threats have been observed and reported, continued efforts from land managers, private land holders and police have mitigated these activities.

One other significant threat identified was people walking dogs off-leash during restricted periods. This activity poses an ongoing threat to beach nesting birds.

About this plan

The Southeast Bellarine Coast Coastal Management Plan has been deliberately designed to strongly align with the Victorian Government's *Marine and Coastal Policy*.

In aligning with the policy, it ensures the plan meets the legislative requirements set under the *Marine and Coastal Act 2018* and supports integrated marine planning along all areas of coastline. To highlight this alignment, the objectives have been colour coded in a manner that is similar to the state policy.

The plan is also designed to align with Goal 4 of *The City of Greater Geelong Environment Strategy 2020–30* (see Our Planning Framework on page 11).

PLAN OVERVIEW

Vision: Healthy and resilient coastal and marine ecosystems where nature thrives, whilst fostering cultural connection and community stewardship.

OBJECTIVES					
1. Acknowledge Traditional Owners' rights, aspirations & knowledge	2. Protect & enhance the marine & coastal environment	3a. Respect natural processes	3b. Strengthen resilience to climate change	4. Use and develop sustainably	5. Promote stewardship and collaborative management
Understand, acknowledge and act upon rights and aspirations of Wadawurrung People for Country.	Protect and enhance intrinsic values, and goods and benefits, of the marine and coastal environment.	Understand dynamic natural processes in planning for, and managing, risks to people and assets.	Understand current and future stressors and assess how well marine and coastal environments can cope with, and adapt to, change, and how that can be strengthened	Consider impacts and benefits of existing, as well as new, use and development on the environment, other users and prosperity of future generations.	Take a stewardship approach, build understanding and knowledge, engage and collaborate.
VALUES, ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES: How the local context is shaping our response (refer page 20)					
OUTCOMES: What we want coastal and marine management to achieve (refer page 36)					
ACTIONS: How we will achieve the outcomes (refer page 38)					
RESOURCE NEEDS: What we need to support sustainable marine and coastal management (refer page 42)					
IMPLEMENTATION: How we will track progress and identify opportunities for refinement (refer page 43)					

Values, issues and opportunities

Through consultation with community and stakeholders, perspectives and experiences have been used to establish values, issues, and opportunities for the marine and coastal areas of the Southeast Bellarine.

1. ACKNOWLEDGE TRADITIONAL OWNERS RIGHTS, ASPIRATIONS, AND KNOWLEDGE

Understand, acknowledge, and act upon the rights and aspirations of Wadawurrung People for Country

The Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation are the Registered Aboriginal Party for this region. Wadawurrung People have and continue to maintain a strong connection with their lands, waters and seas.

Wadawurrung People hold many important stories and experiences to be shared from living with this ‘Bellawiyin’ landscape. Wadawurrung storytelling explains changes in their lands and seascapes, their interactions with flora and fauna, and their relationships with significant sites – from places of ritual and ceremony to activities of everyday life.

We respect the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners’ rights to self-determination, so that their aspirations for lands, waters and culture are realised through transfer of relevant decision-making powers. Wadawurrung traditional ecological knowledge and practices inform planning, land and water-management decisions, and help protect the environment and biodiversity. The Southeast Bellarine Coast is respected as a place of significance to the Wadawurrung People.

There is an opportunity to learn marine and coastal knowledge and practices of Wadawurrung People because of this long custodianship. Through appreciating and acknowledging this history, there is the opportunity to draw from these experiences in our management approaches, protecting and enhancing what has come before, and enabling its continuation in the future. There are many sites of cultural significance throughout the Bellarine Peninsula Southeast Coast, many of which remain undocumented. Figure 6 shows the existing ‘Area of Cultural Heritage Sensitivity’ overlay.

Support for Traditional Owners is essential in the integration of their *Paleert Tjaara Dja: Healthy Country Plan 2020–2030* principles and programs in this plan. Figure 5 outlines the Values, issues and opportunities for Acknowledging Traditional Owners rights, aspirations and knowledge. As the Caring for Country team is established, opportunities for increased guidance, on-site representation and delivery by the Wadawurrung will ensure greater understanding and knowledge sharing to enable their *Paleert Tjaara Dja* - Let’s ‘make Country good together’ approach.

Table 2: Values, issues, and opportunities for acknowledging Wadawurrung Traditional Owners rights, aspirations and knowledge

Values	Issues	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respect and acknowledgement for Wadawurrung Traditional Owners and their cultural, ancestral, spiritual and historical connections to Country. • Wadawurrung People's right to access and care for Country • Wadawurrung cultural sites and places • Bush tucker, medicines and resources • Protection of native animals including birds • Connectivity with Country, including Coastal and Sea Country 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genuine engagement from the beginning of decision-making processes that support cultural governance • Lack of coordination between land managers • Disconnection between Traditional Owners and Country • Lack of recognition, acknowledgement and understanding of the Wadawurrung • Sea-level rise (protection) • Lack of capacity • Inappropriate visitation • Pest plants and animals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen partnerships with Traditional Owners and develop understanding of self-determination and expectations under the guidance of the <i>Paleert Tjaara Dja: Healthy Country Plan 2020-30</i> • Protect and retain culturally significant sites and connections to Country • Provide opportunities for re-connection with Country • Promote Wadawurrung Language through naming of Country and connection along the entire Bellarine Peninsula Southern Coast • Promote connection to Country, share stories through walking tours, interpretative signage and so on • Investigate management and leadership practises under co-custodianship • Develop integrated and inclusive cultural heritage management with the Caring for Country Team

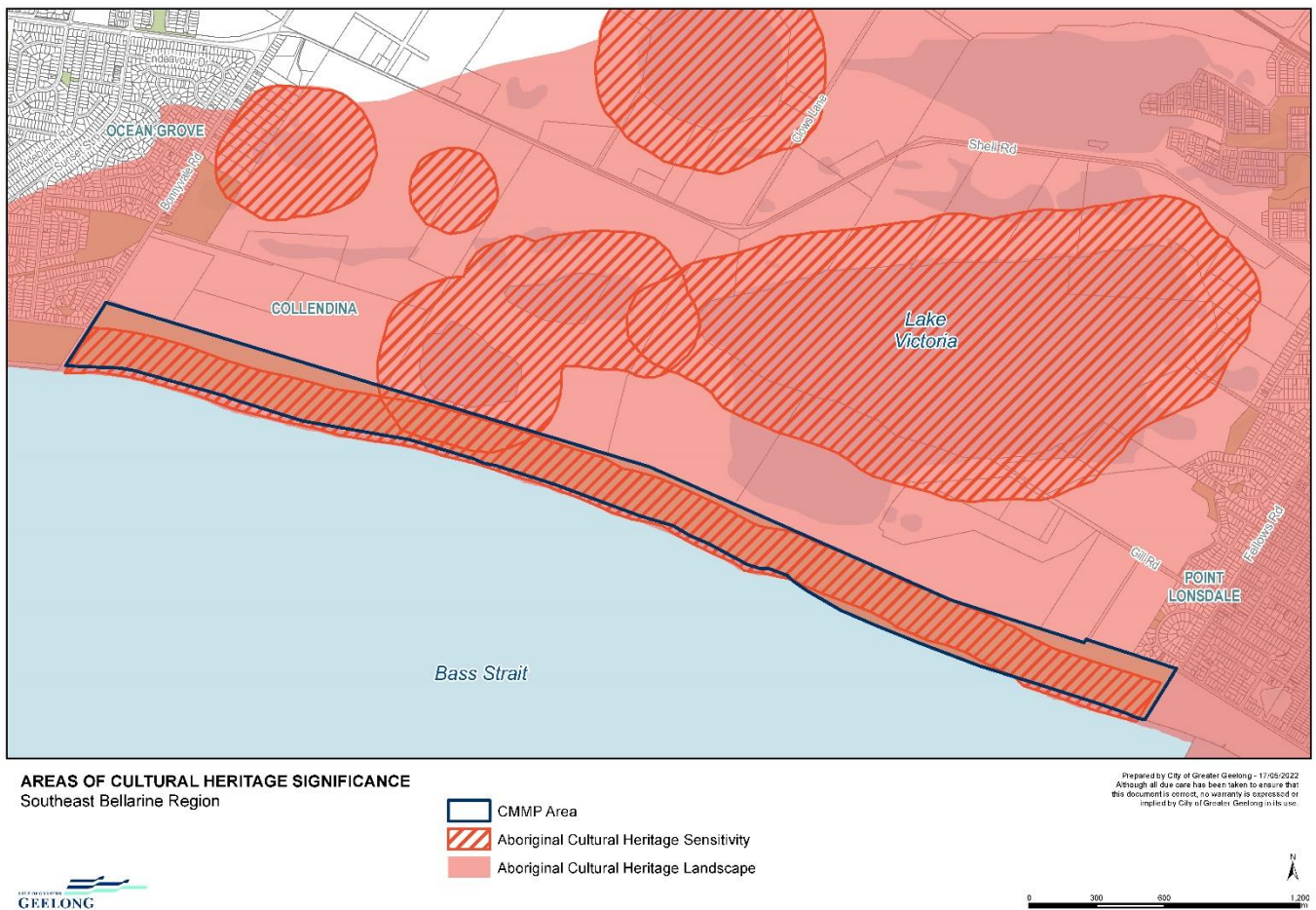


Figure 6: Areas of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage significance in Southeast Bellarine Coast region



2. PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE MARINE AND COASTAL ENVIRONMENT

Protect and enhance intrinsic values, goods and benefits of the marine and coastal environment

The Southeast Bellarine Coastal area brings together coastal wetlands, woodlands and a foreshore of sandy beaches, and an endemic marine environment. These diverse ecosystems help to sustain unique and important flora and fauna communities, including rare and threatened species, such as the Hooded Plover and Orange-bellied Parrot (Figure 7).

The City developed their *Hooded Plover Conservation Action Plan 2019* to manage the preservation of this threatened species. This stretch of remote coastline supports breeding and foraging grounds, with increased population and climate change identified as the major threatening factors. Figure 7 outlines Hooded Plover use.

The coastal and marine zone supports resident and migratory shorebird species, saltmarsh, Moonah woodland and wetland communities, and other marine life. Management requires a holistic approach, from catchment to coast, to ensure the health of the entire Bellarine Peninsula Southern Coast, and broader Swan Bay catchment, is maintained.

The Southeast Bellarine wetlands system (Lake Victoria and surrounds) is 300 hectare sub-coastal lagoon forming part of the Swan Bay systems of wetlands, south-east of Geelong. It is directly adjacent to the Southeast Bellarine Coast and Port Phillip Bay (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar sites. It is an important biolink and refuge site for bird biodiversity across the region. The Lonsdale Lakes have been identified in the current review of Ramsar wetlands across the region, due to its important role in supporting migratory bird populations.

There are opportunities to find integrated and innovative ways to protect and enhance these vulnerable communities and ecosystems, and to bring broader recognition of their importance.

Natural features and landscapes

Valued natural features of the coastal land and seascape include Buckley Park Foreshore Reserve, surf beach and the Lonsdale Reef, with biolinks to the adjacent Moonah woodlands, Lake Lonsdale Wildlife Reserve, Swan Bay and Port Phillip Heads Marine National Park.

A rich and diverse environment in close proximity to urban living is quite unique. Community and visitors are able to enjoy open space, natural beauty, and views across the bay and Southern Ocean. These areas are dynamic and constantly changing, and this must be recognised and reflected in how we manage and enjoy these areas into the future.

Cultural values and heritage sites

In addition to the extensive Wadawurrung history (Section 3.1), more recent history has seen military use, shipwreck and salvage, as well as growth and evolution of the region through urban development and tourism sectors. The legacy of these cultural relics remain as heritage sites, along with historical stories and experiences. This history is valued by local residents and visitors to the Bellarine Peninsula, and it is important to find opportunities to share this knowledge with current and future generations. As a maritime area, these heritage sites can include shipwrecks and archaeological remains of early coastal settlements.

Areas listed on the Victorian Heritage Register are mapped in Figure 10.

Value of marine and coastal Crown land

Marine and coastal areas are valued in a variety of ways. As well as enjoyment and recreation, these areas support carbon and nitrogen sequestration, and a healthy ecosystem supports coastal resilience and acts as a buffer from hazards. Some values are tangible, others more intangible.

Victoria's crown land areas, including the marine environment, are intended for the benefit of all. Management requires coordination and balance to ensure use and enjoyment is sustainable, natural processes are respected, and broader impacts and connections to activities and networks in surrounding areas are considered.

Table 3: Values, issues and opportunities to protect and enhance the marine and coastal environment

Values	Issues	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecosystems and habitats including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bellarine Peninsula South Coast, proposed area of State Significance • Native vegetation • Coastal dune system • Cliff habitat • Sand beach • Intertidal surf zone • Off-shore marine reef • Threatened fauna: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – one nationally endangered (Hooded Plover) – 11 state-listed – several internationally significant migratory and local shorebirds • Threatened flora: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 3 rare, 1 vulnerable species – 17 of regional significance – bush bird habit – one EVC Community vulnerable – one Flora-and-Fauna-Guarantee-listed community • Natural features and landscapes including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Green space, scenery, aesthetic value, sandy beach, surf, vegetation, and wildlife. – Remote and 'wild' – Fresh, clean air – Landscape views and features – Views to Port Phillip heads • Non-polluted environments • European heritage including Maritime history and Military heritage • Living heritage cultural sites and values 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased visitation and climate change pressure on beach nesting bird breeding and foraging areas • Conflict with recreational use (for example, on-leash dog areas, illegal tracks) • Weeds and pest species • Illegal vegetation clearance • Development, changing the character of the area • Noise pollution from motors (boats) • Waste management, litter, fishing waste, wildlife entanglements • Coastal Acid Sulfate Soils (CASS) or Potential Acid Sulfate Soils (PASS). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and enhance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Native coastal vegetation • Monitoring of shorebirds and their habitat and identify further actions to support conservation • Marine habitat • Dune systems and buffers • Promote, communicate, and enforce regulations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – illegal vegetation clearing – zoning, such as conservation areas, fishing, dog walking and so on. • Promote and enhance interaction with, and education about, the natural environment • Protect and celebrate living cultural heritage and historic heritage values • Engage with other stakeholders (land managers, landholders, community groups, residents, tourists) for cross-jurisdiction collaboration and management • Consistent naming, messaging and signage across the entire Bellarine Peninsula South Coast • Lonsdale Lake Wildlife Reserve be recognised as a Ramsar site for increased biolink and environmental protection.

Values	Issues	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to enjoy and learn about the natural environment • Marine and coastal Crown land, including public access and use as a shared community resource 		

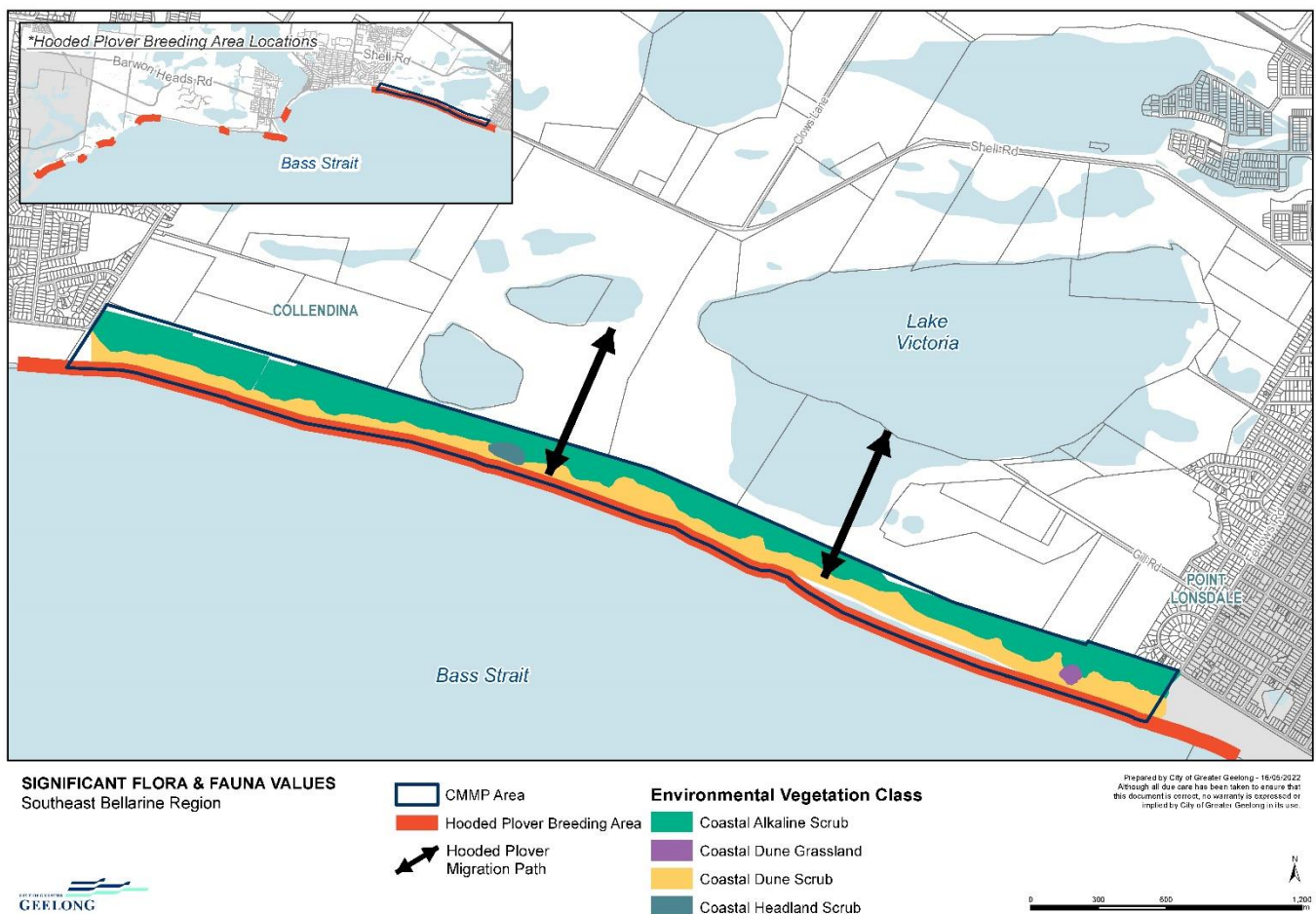


Figure 7: Significant fauna and flora values in Southeast Bellarine coast



3A. RESPECT NATURAL PROCESSES

Understand the dynamic natural processes in planning for and managing risks to people and assets.

3B. STRENGTHEN RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Understand the current and future stressors from climate change and assess how well the marine and coastal environment can cope with and adapt to change and how that can be strengthened.

Proximity to the coast is one of the benefits of living in Greater Geelong and the Bellarine Peninsula. However, this means there is only a small buffer between land and sea. Southeast Bellarine Coast 4W–Collendina forms the central to eastern sector of the Bellarine Peninsula Southern Coast. It is a gently curving embayment that is bounded by the headlands of The Barwon Bluff in the west and Point Lonsdale in the east. The continuous dune limestone ridge (20 metres high) from Point Lonsdale to Ocean Grove, which underlies the reserve, has the profile of a coastal barrier with a broad crest (200-metres wide). The integrity of this barrier system is essential in protecting low-lying areas from coastal flooding in high tide and during storm tide events. These coastal hazards are likely to increase with rising sea levels and increasing storms.

The current coastal processes along the Victorian southern coast show very few sandy sections have been stable, or shown sustained accretion or advancement, in recent decades. The predominant condition is for beaches to be receding. The Southeast Bellarine Coast accumulated through blown sand dunes, which were piled up against and in front of the former sea cliff assisted by vegetation (including pioneer species that establish on new sand deposits and can withstand burial). In addition, there are 18 substantial blow-outs along the backshore, ranging from less than 50 metres to over 200 metres in width, making up 12 per cent of the dune system surface area. Changes to vegetation retention, due to increased wave and wind action, erosional processes and increased anthropogenic impacts, can greatly influence the integrity of the dune face. Figures 12 and 13 indicate blowout eroded areas.

This is an ocean coast, subject to deflected ocean swell arriving predominantly from a southerly to south-westerly direction. Swell waves are amplified by local winds and the dominance of westerly winds, particularly during storms, results in a movement of water both eastwards and towards the coast. There are sectors of rocky shore platforms exposed at low tide outlined in Figure 10. This combination of swell and storm waves generates a long-term northeast sand drift towards the eastern Bellarine Peninsula coast and the entrance to Port Phillip Bay.

Climate change influences may see increased denudation of dunes. Sand shift exacerbation may gradually exhaust the beach, with the intertidal zone cut away will expose more rocky shore platforms. Figure 11 shows current intertidal reef habitat. Rising sea levels, storm surges and coastal erosion also threaten Wadawurrung living cultural heritage and historic heritage sites, many of which are within, or near, coastal reserves. Scouring of the dune toe also has implications for Hooded Plover nesting sites and juvenile feeding potential.

Urbanisation sees the coastal zone intersecting with a assets and infrastructure – access points and other coastal structures. (Figure 9 showcases foot traffic erosion). The legacy of past coastal management and use also present a challenge. The landscape has been modified by European activities, including quarrying many of the shell beds and calcarenite ridges, draining and diverting of coastal wetlands behind the coastline, shoreline landscaping and other engineering works, with deliberate and accidental removal and/or introduction of plant species that impact on coastal landform processes.

Current management includes works to retain the expected coastal experience, and to maintain and modify existing structures and landforms to withstand increased coastal impacts. We want to improve and enhance the foreshore areas and maintain the coastal barrier integrity to protect low-lying areas of the Bellarine Peninsula, including private land and Point Lonsdale and Queenscliff townships (Figure 8).

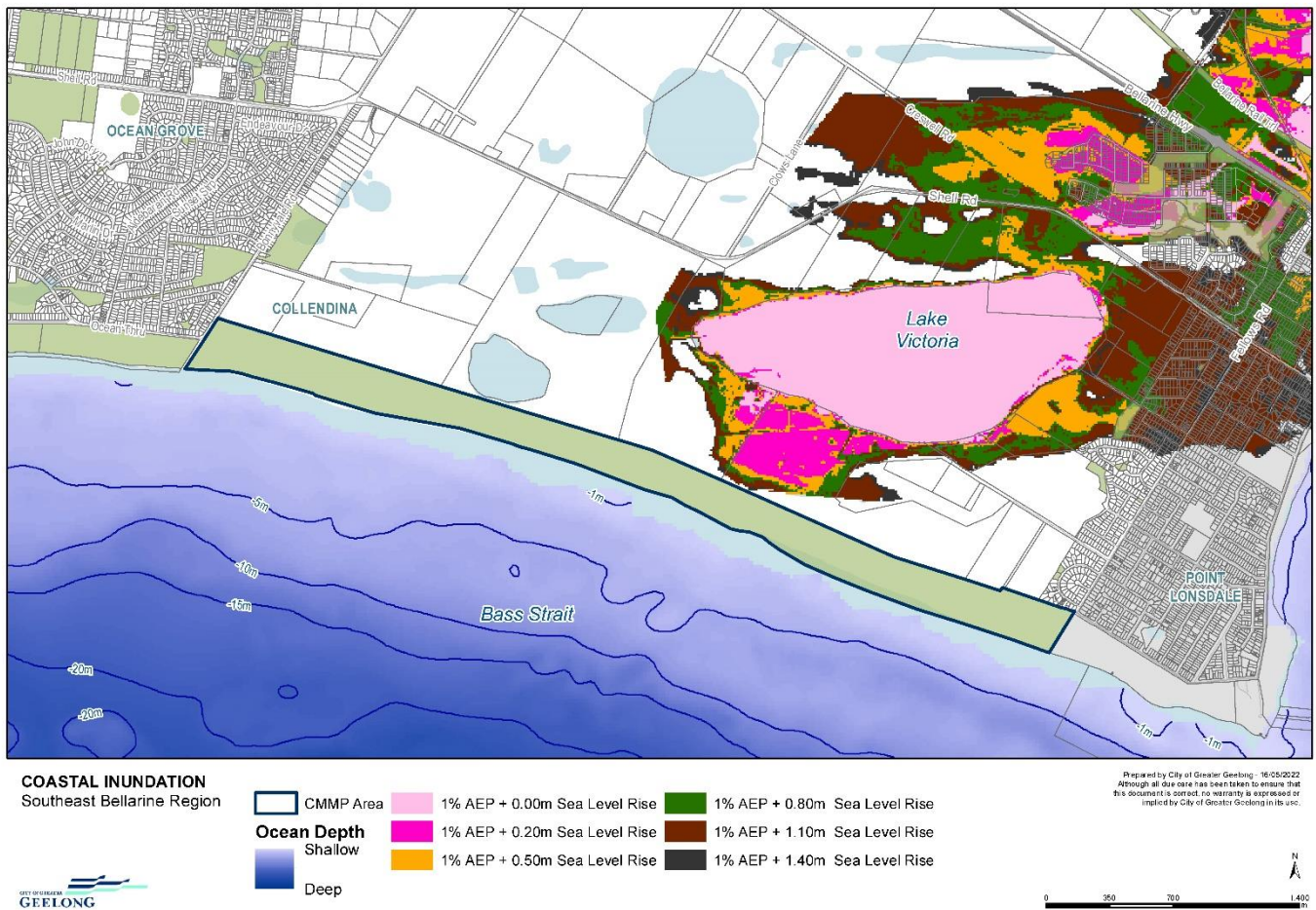
The *Greater Geelong Planning Scheme 2020* has been amended to ensure land subject to coastal hazards has been identified to help reduce risks to public safety and damage to properties. Improved understanding of potential coastal

hazard risk, opportunities for adaptation, and future planning and decision-making, will improve preparedness to respond and recover following hazard events (such as flooding, erosion).

In addition, our *Sustainability Framework 2020*, *Climate Change Response Plan 2021–30* and *Environment Strategy 2020–30* detail the actions we'll take to support coordinated and collective action to achieve net zero community emissions and increase the resilience of our region to the impacts of climate change.

Table 4: Values, issues and opportunities to respect natural processes and strengthen resilience to climate change

Values	Issues	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural coastal processes including the creation/ maintenance of natural areas – wetlands, sediment transport, beaches and so on • Natural protection from coastal hazards, such as dunes, saltmarsh and rock outcrops • Coastal green breaks providing cool areas and reducing urban heat • Disaster management to ensure human health and safety • Public and private property asset protection • Engineering and coastal management initiatives to strengthen resilience of foreshore • Integration of coastal hazard and climate change planning into City processes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persistent sea level rise • Coastal flooding impacting on environmental and infrastructure values • Erosion impacting on values • Changes in the nearshore sea floor profile leading to a changed wave regime that persistently removes sand from beaches, transferring it alongshore and offshore, leading to recession of foredunes • Limited monitoring and local data on sand movement and wave climate • Increasing in severity, frequency and magnitude of future coastal hazards • Management processes – keeping up to date with coastal hazard predictions and other updates to science 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen understanding of local coastal processes, and emerging coastal hazards • Increase community awareness and understanding of changing climate and the dynamic coastal and marine environment • Assess impacts of climate change and beach profile on Hooded Plover breeding success and undertake research into methods for mitigating scouring impacts on nesting sites and juvenile feeding potential • Increase adaptation measures, including to embed consideration of coastal hazards into decision making and design, integrate the latest hazard mapping into disaster management planning, upgrade infrastructure to accommodate or withstand changing conditions, promote and integrate innovative management such as nature-based adaptation, bioengineering, living seawalls • Identify adjacent areas for suitable environmental offset and refuge to mitigate the impacts of climate change • Respect, understand and work with sediment shift and natural coastal processes



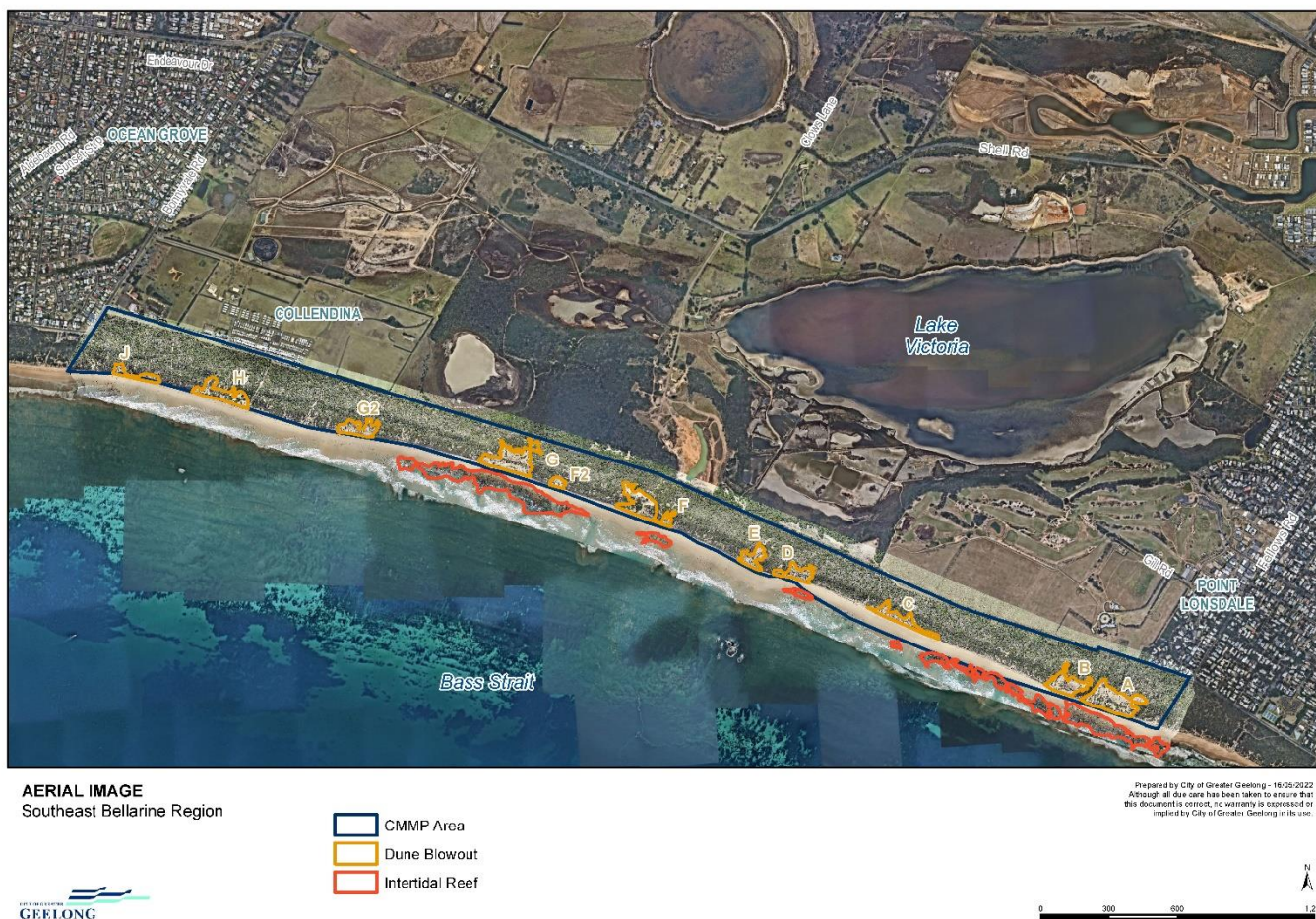


Figure 10: Southeast Bellarine coast with blowout erosion and intertidal reef mapping



Figure 11: Southeast Bellarine coast intertidal reef habitat



Figure 12: Trough Blowout E



Figure 13: A - Wall Blowout G 1990's showing exposed ridgeline, B&C - 2022 showing recovery



4. USE AND DEVELOP SUSTAINABLY

Consider the impacts and benefits of existing and new use and development on the environment, other users, and the prosperity of future generations.

As one of the first colonisation settlement sites in Victoria, our region has a long history of development in the coastal zone. Residential and commercial buildings have been constructed along the foreshore overlooking the Southern Ocean. The two settlements adjacent to the Southeast Bellarine, include Ocean Grove and Point Lonsdale, have vibrant built areas, strong retail and industry, along with strong community and tourism values. The Southeast Bellarine Coast refers to the natural non-urban break between these two townships.

Neighbourhood character and community feel is considered very important to residents and visitors, as is the green break which is highly valued for its ecosystem services, recreational, tourism and ecological benefits. Continued population growth, housing demands, and limited available space potentially threaten these natural values. Planning and other controls need to ensure growth is carefully managed in a sustainable way.

The Southeast Bellarine Coast Coastal and Marine Management Plan coincides with the delivery by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning's Distinctive Area and Landscapes project. In 2019, the Bellarine Peninsula was declared a Distinctive Area and Landscape due to the distinctive nature of the landscape and the threat of over-development. The Statement of Planning Policy's aim is to conserve and enhance the significant landscapes, environment, biodiversity and cultural heritage of the region. The Bellarine Peninsula Southern Coast been proposed as a State Significant landscape, with the remaining area also recognised as regionally significant landscape and an important biodiversity connection. In addition, township boundaries are being put in place to mitigate urban expansion into green breaks, preserving natural coastline areas.

Our *Settlement Strategy 2020* and *Sustainability Framework 2020* will continue to shape our thinking about how to create the best outcomes for people, environment and the economy. Our *Social Infrastructure Plan – Generation One 2020–2023* will also influence the way we assess the needs of our community and invest in community places, spaces and services. Table 6 outlines the values, issues and opportunities to use and develop sustainably.

Marine and coastal industries

The *Greater Geelong Planning Scheme* and *Settlement Strategy 2020* recognises the green break, landscape and environmental significance of the area. Much of this land – both the coastal crown land reserve and adjoining private land – is well recognised for conservation importance and has been protected through appropriate zoning and overlays. (see Figure 14). There is limited capacity for industry development without significantly impacting on the natural and recreational values of this landscape. Historical extractive industries still remain, with a working quarry and shell grit merchant on the private land behind this coastal dune system. However, these have a limited lifespan. While there is a historical state extractive overlay over this land, recognising the natural resources, the conservation and cultural values of this landscape will mean future extractive industries will not be permitted.

Recreation and tourism

In addition to the foreshore's environmental values, people enjoy interacting with nature during recreational activities. These include walking, running, cycling, dog walking, swimming, fishing, birdwatching, water sports and boating. The coastline is a place for people to relax, connect with nature and enjoy the environment.

The City currently own, manage and maintain over 1,700 hectares of open space and \$85 million worth of sport and recreation facilities and assets, that are utilised by approximately 300 clubs and community groups. The Lonsdale Links Golf Course and Club House provides formal recreation opportunities and event facilities at this location. Our *Open Space: Social Infrastructure Plan Generation One 2020–2023* will guide us in our work to protect and provide one of the communities most valued assets: an open space network that is fit-for-purpose, sustainable, accessible and safe for all residents and visitors to enjoy.

Greater Geelong and Bellarine Tourism Development Plan 2019–22 report found the Greater Geelong and the Bellarine region attracted 5.8 million visitors in 2018, generating \$2.2 billion and 11,264 jobs. The Bellarine Peninsula is a very popular destination for tourists and locals with the water-based assets of the region acting as a key motivator for visitation, particularly in the peak summer season. The region also has primary strengths in food and beverage, as well as arts and culture. Geelong is also the only city in Australia that has been designated as a City of Design by the UNESCO Creative Cities Network. As such, there is an opportunity to increase off-peak events and activities to promote visitation year-round.

South Bellarine's key strengths lend themselves well to nature-based tourism, including the ocean beaches to the south, the Barwon River and Lake Connemara. Investment into these natural assets, including master planning and infrastructure development, are a significant tourism growth opportunity for the region.

There is very limited commercial guestroom accommodation in Bellarine North and Bellarine South. Reinvestment in contemporary accommodation for visitors is a key opportunity, as is the development of eco-accommodation. The private land inland of the Southeast Bellarine Coast contains the Collendina Caravan Park, which offers semi-permanent accommodation and The Lon offers high-end accommodation options. This area is well positioned for eco-accommodation opportunities, with passive recreation and low-density eco-tourism prospects.

Buildings, structures, and access

With a long maritime history, there are many structures located throughout the City of Greater Geelong's coastal and marine zone. This includes wharfs, piers, jetties and boat ramps, along with cafes, recreation clubs and other facilities. There are also various coastal structures – seawalls, rock revetments and groynes that influence how people and the environment interact with the coast.

The Southeast Bellarine Coast structures only include two formalised beach access points for visitor use that are managed by the City – 5W and 6W. There is also a formal access point at 4W in the Borough of Queenscliffe (at the Point Lonsdale end of the reserve) and a less-formal access point branching off this track, which is mainly utilised by residents living adjacent to the reserve. These community access points feature fenced pathways and wooden staircases to provide safe access down the steep dune foreshore, protecting vegetated areas and reducing erosion from foot traffic on the dunes.

Table 5: Values, issues and opportunities to use and develop sustainability

Values	Issues	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance and pristine environment of beaches/public access • Accessible - close to urban fringes • Atmosphere and character – peaceful, family friendly, safe, 'village' feel • Diverse and multicultural including strong Aboriginal heritage • Balance of 'passive' and 'active' areas for recreation across the region • Areas adjacent that provide economic input and jobs for the region • Current zoning recognises environmental and conservation significance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growing resident population and increased tourist numbers • Barriers to access including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – limited access points – physical barriers and limitations – insufficient car parking or other transport provisions – social vulnerability impacting on access for all community members • Conflict with beach users – dog walkers and hooded plover conservation volunteers – safety issue • Limited toilets facilities • Limited structures to provide shade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen planning and controls, including to review and update overlays, improve communication and consistent signage along coast to help enforce controls, identify and coordinate improvement works • Promote fair use of coastal and marine areas, including to review existing dog controls, communication, and enforcement • Enhance the user experience including to maintain and improve coastal access facilities, increase educational and interpretive signage, promoting connectivity to the environment and culture

Values	Issues	Opportunities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree vandalism concentrated around urban fringes • Litter and other waste management (such as dog poo) • Historical development and use • Decisions regarding use and development don't adequately consider not using, or developing, as an option 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply the new siting and design guidelines for structures on the Victorian coast to ensure integration into the coastal landscape and strengthen resilience to climate change • Consider business, accommodation and tourism opportunities in adjacent areas, while retaining green break landscape character

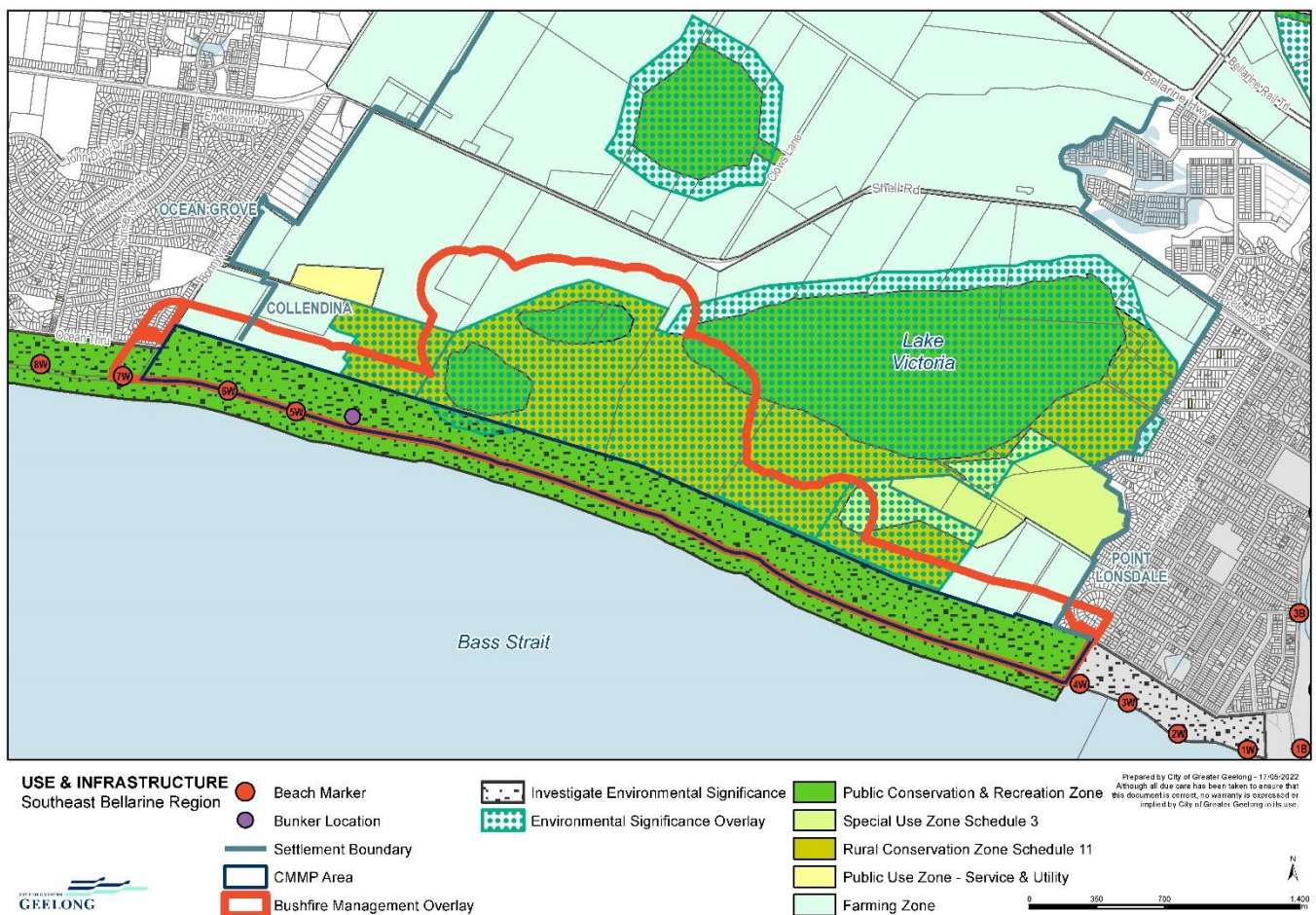


Figure 14: Planning zones and land use for the Southeast Bellarine coast region

5. PROMOTE STEWARDSHIP AND COLLABORATIVE MANAGEMENT

Empower the community to play a part in the care of natural marine and coastal places, to help to enhance their resilience.

The Southeast Bellarine Coast area between 4W and the Collendina foreshore, as well as its facilities, are the responsibility of the City on behalf of the Victorian Government. Aligned to the *Paleert Tjaara Dja: Healthy Country Plan*, Wadawurrung People's needs, aspirations and experiences should be embedded into the day-to-day management of our coastal and marine areas.

Managing the crown land coastal landscape discretely and separately to the adjacent landscapes does not allow for a holistic management approach. The development of the Project Steering Group, which includes eight land managers (see Acknowledgements on page 4) will address this both for the purposes of this plan, as well as future precinct master plans. Table 7 outlines the values, issues and opportunities to promote stewardship and collaborative management.

The Greater Geelong community is already taking an active role in environmental stewardship and caring for the marine and coastal environment. Fourteen community groups have been involved in developing this plan through the Community Reference Group (see Acknowledgements on page 4). These include 'friends of' and environment groups, Coastcare and Landcare, as well as community and civic associations. There is an opportunity for greater inclusion of our community and visitors in the way we approach coastal and marine management.

Expanding the reach and fostering further interest in the care of marine and coastal zones could be achieved through improved awareness and engagement opportunities for different interest groups. Building knowledge of our marine and coastal environment across the region is currently supported by research and citizen science monitoring programs such as: BirdLife (Hooded Plover), Backyard Bird Count, annual bird surveys, the Geelong Field Naturalists (flora and fauna surveys), Orange-bellied Parrot Recovery Group Bellarine (OBP surveys) and state agencies (SeaSearch, Waterwatch, Estuarywatch and Litterwatch).

The nearby Queenscliff Marine Freshwater Discovery Centre provides environmental education to residents, Victorian and international students, and fisheries research. The proposed Sparrovale Nubiti yooree Wetlands Interpretation Centre, located at the gateway to the Bellarine Peninsula, will aim to increase environmental stewardship, support education, and participation, and foster respect for the natural environment. Partnership projects with the Wadawurrung People, tourism operators and other stakeholders could also encourage increased interest, knowledge sharing and help to build capacity in coastal and marine management.

Table 6: Values, issues and opportunities to promote stewardship and collaborative management

Values	Issues	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An active and engaged community already taking a stewardship role • Numerous enthusiastic community groups with Community Representative Group • Established Project Steering Group collaboration on CMMP development • Integration of the <i>Paleert Tjaara Dja: Owners Healthy Country Plan 2020-30</i> • Support for natural environmental education and engagement activities (noted in Biodiversity and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numerous agency stakeholders in adjoining landscapes – management disconnection • Insufficient or ineffective stakeholder collaboration • Public perception and information gaps around asset ownership, usage, and responsibilities • Uncertainty around beginning and end of Council's jurisdiction and role, particularly in the marine environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate Wadawurrung knowledge into marine and coastal management, including knowledge sharing and partnership projects • Collaborate and coordinate with relevant management agencies, stakeholders in holistic landscape management • Promote and support community groups and on-ground action • Increase education and awareness of coastal and marine management and cultural connections

Values	Issues	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environment Strategies) – for planting, weeding days and educational tours • Collaboration with universities – research and citizen science programs • Environmental education centres close-by, such as the Queenscliff Marine Freshwater Discovery Centre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certain demographics lacking in community connection and stewardship • Limited community understanding about processes, permits and approvals for works in foreshore area • Conflicts between user groups • Disconnect Wadawurrung People's engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop targeted, cross-jurisdiction signage to promote, sustainable use of coastal and marine areas • Provide alternative engagement methods such as technology-based approaches – for example, enviro videos, live streams and workshops

Outcomes

Outcomes describe what we want coastal and marine management to achieve. These outcomes have been developed in line with the *Marine and Coastal Act 2018*, policy objectives and are based on feedback from the community, land management and stakeholder. They also aim to reflect the values, issues and opportunities.

The outcomes have guided the development of suitable actions, ensuring that any initiatives or proposed works are in keeping with our broader coastal and marine management vision.

The outcomes are to act as overarching principles that should be considered for any works, initiatives, decision making or planning for the management of coastal and marine areas. They should be used to determine the appropriateness of future works or management actions.

OBJECTIVES				
1. Acknowledge Traditional Owners' rights, aspirations & knowledge	2. Protect & enhance the marine & coastal environment	3a. Respect natural processes 3b. Strengthen resilience to climate change	4. Use and develop sustainably	5. Promote stewardship and collaborative management
OUTCOMES				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wadawurrung People supported to connect with their land and Sea Country Wadawurrung aspirations and <i>Paleert Tjaara Dja: Healthy Country Plan</i> embedded into collaborative decision making, planning and management Two-way knowledge and capacity building is promoted, with effective working relationships and a shared understanding of Wadawurrung People, and other marine and coastal land managers The coastal experience is enriched for all through shared 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coastal and marine ecosystems and habitats are protected and enhanced Biodiversity and habitat links are improved, providing migration and movement across the landscape Water quality and regime is improved through integrated water management, including urban runoff People feel increased connection to the environment Views, seascapes and natural aesthetics are protected Significant cultural and heritage values 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding of the local coastal process and emerging coastal hazards is improved Consideration of coastal hazard is embedded into decision making and design. Innovative and adaptive management of coastal hazard is promoted. Internal and external capacity is built to improve people's ability to manage dynamic coastal and marine processes. Updated knowledge is integrated into disaster plan management to ensure increased resilience Resilience is built through upgrades, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Growth, development and use of marine and coastal environment is environmentally, socially and economically sustainable Planning and development controls are utilised to maintain non-urban breaks, preserving the character of the coastlines a desirable place to live, work, stay and play Can cope with and adapt to change Recreational zoning is updated, enforced and communicated to ensure a balance between users and environmental values The recreational and tourism experience is 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roles and responsibilities relevant stakeholders are defined with accountability and empowerment for action. Coastal and marine management is inclusive, transparent and holistic, with increased stewardship and collaboration between stakeholders The City, other agencies and the community have greater capacity to care for, protect and enhance the health of the coastal and marine environment The most current technical

OBJECTIVES				
cultural heritage through naming of place and signage	<p>are protected and celebrated</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment of the natural environment occurs in a sustainable manner with respected zoning, increased education and engagement 	<p>modifications or relocation that appropriately adapt to increasing coastal hazards and character conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural buffers, including dune systems, coastal wetlands are protected and enhanced to address increasing coastal impacts 	<p>enhanced through strategically located and designated infrastructure and attractions outside of sensitive environment areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimise impacts on marine and coastal environments in development of business and commercial area • Access to the marine and coastal zone occurs in a safe and accessible manner, with regards to the natural environment and cultural values 	<p>assessment, Traditional Owner knowledge are incorporated into evidence-based planning and management of the marine and coastal zone</p>

Actions

A suite of actions has been developed to guide investment and priorities over the next ten years and are to be reviewed and revised after five years. Actions are how we will achieve the outcomes.

Each action is ranked by priority:

- **Short-term actions** – should commence immediately (within two years or are already underway) and are important to implement as soon as possible.
- **Medium-term actions** – should be initiated within three to five years during implementation of the plan.
- **Long-term actions** – should be commenced in six to ten years, however preliminary work and consultation may occur sooner if opportunities arise.
- **Ongoing actions** – part of the City’s ongoing work in a ‘business as usual’ capacity. Priorities may shift throughout the life of the plan, depending on factors such as funding, new research, collaboration opportunities with other projects and changing conditions (for example, an extreme weather event).

Actions have been developed to achieve the outcomes and objectives of the Coastal and Marine Management Plan. These actions are presented below, coloured under the objective themes, with key deliverables identified.

These actions will be integrated into the precinct plan (Southeast Bellarine Biolink Master Plan) along with additional actions in order to support the broader environment in this region. Appendix 2 provides a summary of the precinct plan.

Objective	Actions		Priority
Acknowledge Traditional Owners' rights, aspirations & knowledge	A	Investigate opportunities to develop partnership projects with the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation and their Caring for Country team, and undertake Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Land Management Agreements or similar	Short-term by 2026 Ongoing
	B	Examine and implement ways to manage and protect cultural values within the coastal and marine zone in accordance with the <i>Paleert Tjaara Dja: Healthy Country Plan</i> and state legislation (inc. <i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006</i> , <i>Heritage Act 2017</i> , <i>Underwater Cultural Heritage Act 2018</i>)	Short-term by 2026
	C	Promote Wadawurrung Language and stories through naming of Country and connection along the entire Bellarine Peninsula Southern Coast.	Short-term by 2026 Ongoing
	D	Design and install a suite of signage focused on increased community awareness of the cultural, natural and heritage values of the coastal and marine zones in collaboration with Wadawurrung People, Land Management Groups and the Community Reference Group	Short-term by 2026
Protect and enhance the marine and coastal environment	A	Engage with stakeholders (land managers, landholders, community groups, residents, tourists) for cross-jurisdiction collaboration and management through the creation of a master plan	Short-term by 2026 Ongoing
	B	Contain and reduce cover of priority invasive plant species. Continue to use bushland regeneration techniques to encourage natural recruitment of local endemic species and where applicable revegetate rare flora.	Ongoing Annually
	C	Develop a cross-boundary approach for pest plant and pest animal control. Implement seasonally and monitor effectiveness of programs.	Short-term by 2026 Ongoing
	D	Continue to undertake seasonal fauna and flora surveys to ascertain baseline values and effectiveness of pest plant and animal controls.	Ongoing Annual program
	E	Support actions in the state and local biodiversity strategies to improve the coastal and marine environment, including using planning controls to retain and/or create biodiversity links and space for saltmarsh retreat resulting from rising sea level.	As updated

Objective	Actions	Priority
	<p>F Deliver the Hooded Plover protection program, including fencing nesting sites, monitoring and awareness activities.</p> <p>Review our <i>Hooded Plover Action Plan</i>.</p> <p>Re-asses usage zoning to ensure the protection of Hooded Plover and other beach dwelling fauna.</p> <p>Deliver Responsible Pet Ownership awareness and education activities.</p> <p>Promote, communicate and enforce regulations.</p> <p>Monitor impacts of climate change and increased storm activity on success of breeding.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Annual program</p>
	<p>G Support management of marine wildlife on beaches by reporting wildlife sightings to responsible authorities, providing first responder services (including signage), temporary fencing and exclusion zones.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>As required</p>
	<p>H Investigate and implement ways to maintain and enhance the marine and coastal hydrology, including water quality and urban run-off mitigation.</p>	<p>Short-term by 2026</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
	<p>J Support the recognition of adjacent Lonsdale Lake Wildlife Reserve as a Ramsar site in the current boundary review.</p>	<p>Short-term by 2026</p>
	<p>K Promote and enhance community interaction with, and education about, the natural environment.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Respect natural process</p> <p>Strengthen resilience to climate change</p>	<p>A Review and incorporate coastal hazard adaptation and climate objectives/outcomes from current state projects in asset and land use management, planning scheme/zoning and City decision making (includes Marine and Coastal Strategy and Our Coast).</p>	<p>As updated</p>
	<p>B In-line with the Victorian approach to coastal adaptation, undertake planning to assess future coastal vulnerability and associated risks.</p> <p>Provide economic risk assessment, rationale for action and specify adaptation responses/pathways.</p>	<p>Medium-term by 2029</p>
	<p>C Ensuring ageing infrastructure is effectively maintained, upgraded or removed according to economic cost-benefit, risk assessment, and its role in increasing the resilience of the area/region.</p>	<p>Long-term by 2034</p>
	<p>D Increase community awareness and understanding of changing climate and the dynamic coastal and marine environment through knowledge-building activities.</p> <p>Improve communication and consistent signage along coast to help enforce controls.</p>	<p>Medium-term by 2029</p>

Objective	Actions		Priority
	E	Integrate innovative management of coastal areas using nature-based adaptation to work with sediment supply and natural coastal processes.	Long-term by 2034
	F	Identify adjacent areas for suitable environmental offset and refuge to mitigate the impacts of climate change	Short-term by 2026 Ongoing
Use and develop sustainably	A	Review and update zoning, mapping, signage and in information in collaboration with stakeholder agencies and Wadawurrung People.	Short-term by 2026 Ongoing
	B	Investigate opportunities for increased access and connectivity on adjacent land between the coastal townships, while recognising and protecting the environmentally sensitive areas (for example, pathways and cycling trails).	Short-term by 2026
	C	Expand monitoring to understand and quantify usage, visitation and demand, using this to inform strategic management of marine and coastal areas.	Medium-term by 2029
	D	Implement effective usage of structures in accordance with <i>Siting and Design Guidelines for Structures on the Victorian Coast 2020</i> .	Long-term by 2034
	E	Deliver sand dune protection activities such as erosion protection and management of human impacts (for example, fencing, signage, brush-matting and education).	Ongoing As required
	F	Monitor and refine the sustainable practices used in the organisation, in accordance with the City's Climate Change Response Plan.	Short-term by 2026 Ongoing
Promote stewardship and collaboration management	A	Develop a communication and engagement plan for community and agency involvement in the marine and coastal management.	Short-term by 2026
	B	Strategically invest in resources for community stewardship programs and partnerships in response to increasing demand. Invest in knowledge sharing and education programs to generate interest and awareness of marine and coastal environments, hazards, and adaptation.	Ongoing
	C	Strengthen partnerships and advocacy with stakeholders to raise awareness, promoting and supporting shared care of coastal and marine areas. Identify opportunities for collaboration, funding streams and efficiencies in management.	Ongoing
	D	Partner with neighbouring land managers and landholders to implement broader scale climate changes	Short-term by 2026 Ongoing

Objective	Actions	Priority	
		response and cross-jurisdiction management through a Southeast Bellarine Biolink Master Plan (see Appendix 2).	
	E	Undertake an audit of signage across the Bellarine Peninsula Southern Coast (messaging, compliance with standards, style, location, condition). Develop and implement a signage style guide and signage plan in collaboration with agency partners.	Short-term by 2026
	F	Develop a marine and coastal citizen science program/s, which includes monitoring and reporting on coastal hazards and environmental changes (Snap Send Solve). This may be in partnership with community groups, universities and so on.	Medium-term by 2029
	G	Undertake Marine Spatial Planning, in accordance with the state framework, to provide an overarching structure and guide integrated management and decision-making.	Short-term by 2026

Resource needs

To support the objectives, we've set for this plan, we will be relying on funding provided by the City, as well as collaborative project funding attracted by the Project Steering Group.

However, further financial support from State or other will be required to fully realise the vision. For sustainable marine and coastal management, additional resources will be needed to:

- support quality Wadawurrung engagement to increase resourcing for marine and coastal management and partnerships
- support research partnerships and modelling in order provide gaps in knowledge for marine and coastal management
- acquire land for increased habitat connections, biodiversity outcomes and refuge areas in response to climate change
- incentivise private landowners to protect habitats – for example, fencing for stock exclusion, blue/teal carbon (carbon/nitrogen credits), and conservation habitats in coastal areas
- provide access for all abilities infrastructure
- assess coastal hazards and erosion and implement corrective actions
- assess impacts of climate change and beach profile on Hooded Plover breeding success and undertake research into methods for mitigating scouring impacts on nesting sites and juvenile feeding potential
- carry out marine spatial planning and modelling for asset management.

Implementation

This plan sets the strategic direction and actions for implementation over the period 2023–33, with many of the recommendations to take place in the first five years of the plan.

The action plan will be adaptive, allowing responses to changing conditions, new opportunities or updated technical information. This section provides an overview of implementation arrangements.

Implementation includes aspects of monitoring, evaluation, review, and improvement. An overview of the next steps in implementation and the adaptative management framework is provided in Figure 11 and Table 8.

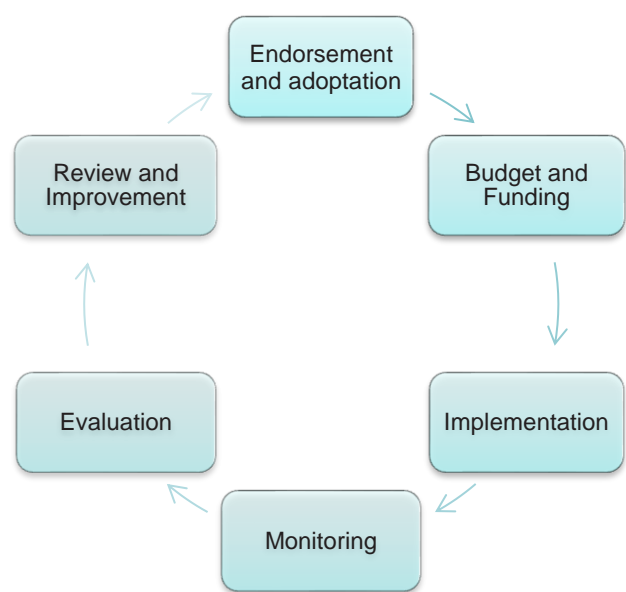


Figure 11: CMMP implementation and adaptive management framework

This plan has been developed using the available knowledge and expertise of staff, community members and agency partners. Five-year outcomes were developed using a monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement process to link the objectives and actions, and provide measures of success that can be tracked over the life of the plan. Research and investigation activities have been identified to address critical knowledge gaps. Further prioritisation of knowledge gaps and investigations will be required throughout the review process.

Table 7: CMMP implementation and adaptive management framework

Endorsement and adoption	Endorsement of plan by Council, DELWP and Minister
Budget and Funding	Budget priority actions as part of City’s ongoing work in a ‘business as usual’ capacity. Seek and advocate for external collaborative funding, State and Federal pertaining to marine and coastal management
Implementation	Implementation of actions by embedding into existing City processes and activities such as: Local laws, Planning schemes and overlays, Strategies, Master Plans
Monitoring	Regular systemic and operational monitoring which includes action progress, risk assessments, community perception surveys and participation, triggers to review and update (changes in policy, legislation, scientific advancement)
Evaluation	Evaluate the outcome success against planned outcomes

Endorsement and adoption	Endorsement of plan by Council, DELWP and Minister
Review and Improvement	Formal review every five years or if triggered sooner through the monitoring and evaluation process. Outcomes from the review are embedded through improvement of the existing Plan or the development of a new CMMP.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Monitoring and the collection of data and evidence will be undertaken to inform progress towards the five-year (short-term and medium-term actions) outcomes and assess the effectiveness of management activities. Routine monitoring techniques are described below and a list of potential measures, indicators and evidence to support evaluation is provided in Appendix 2. Monitoring resources and funds will be implemented based on priority actions.

Monitoring five-year outcomes

We will develop an initial monitoring and data collection plan for five-year outcomes within the precinct master plan, in collaboration with the Project Steering Group. The data collected through existing monitoring programs will be used where possible. However, for some outcomes, there is a need to establish a baseline status in Year 1 of the plan.

The Coastal and Marine Management Plan will be reviewed and updated every five years (due 2028). Implementation will be monitored by tracking progress and success of actions and outcomes, then reassessing and identifying improvement measures for future programs. This will be collected annually and linked to more frequent reporting measures. During the period of this plan, we will investigate and establish data management and reporting systems to support improved monitoring of plan actions and deliverables.

Evaluation

Evaluation questions drive the evaluation and reporting process and will provide the basis for assessing the success of this plan. The questions are also used to frame monitoring requirements and identify existing and potential sources of data.

Six categories are used to frame the evaluation questions:

- Impact: the measurable effect of implementation in achieving the objectives of the plan.
- Effectiveness: the success of implementation in producing the intended results.
- Appropriateness: the suitability and alignment of actions to achieve the desired results.
- Governance and management: the appropriateness of organisational structures and processes to support implementation.
- Efficiency: the extent to which implementation has made the best use of available resources.
- Legacy: the extent to which the impacts of the plan will continue after action is implemented.

Successful implementation of this plan requires commitment from the City and Victorian Government to prioritise coastal and marine management, integrate with our other plans and strategies, and deliver outcomes using existing mechanisms (see Table 2 in Appendix 1). The main drivers of this plan are the *Marine and Coastal Act 2018*, *Marine and Coastal Policy 2020*, *Marine and Coastal Strategy 2020 (draft)* and *Distinctive Area Landscape – Bellarine Peninsula Statement of Planning Policies 2020 (draft)*.

We will integrate actions in this plan in our existing plans and strategies, with several actions being primarily delivered through other programs of work that are being directed by the *Climate Change Response Plan 2020–2030*, *Biodiversity Strategy* (being updated), *Environment Strategy 2020–30*, *Settlement Strategy 2020*, and the *Open Space: Social infrastructure plan Generation one: 2020-23*.

Existing mechanisms will be used to deliver actions, including the annual capital works program, planning schemes, local laws, and asset management plans. Actions will also be integrated into our internal management and reporting systems for project tracking and review.

Formal reporting to the Minister and Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning will occur through existing processes defined in the Statement of Expectations.

FURTHER CONSULTATION

Further consultation will be undertaken for this draft *Coastal and Marine Management Plan* and will include:

- Project Steering Group and Community Reference Group stakeholder meetings
- community input (symposium, open house, written submissions)
- online feedback

For more information and to receive updates visit <https://yoursay.geelongaustralia.com.au/CMMP>

Appendix 1

Legislation and policy framework

Management arrangements for marine and coastal areas is complex. All use, development and works on marine and coastal Crown land, requires consent under the Marine and Coastal Act 2018. Applications are made to DELWP as the landowner and delegate for the Minister under the Marine and Coastal Act 2018. The proposal is assessed under the Act and must be consistent with relevant coastal and environmental plans or strategies that apply under the Act. This includes the Marine and Coastal Policy and Coastal and Marine Management Plans. Council is required to obtain consent for any activity undertaken in managing its marine and coastal areas.

Guidance used to inform CMMP development.

The development of this CMMP has been guided by:

- *Marine and Coastal Act 2018*
- *Marine and Coastal Strategy 2021 (draft)*
- *Marine and Coastal Policy 2020*
- *Guidelines for the Preparation of Coastal Management Plans 2022*
- *Paleert Tjaara Dja: Wadawurrung Healthy Country Plan 2020-2030*
- Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning advice on the development of new Coastal and Marine Management Plans.

Table 1. Victoria's marine and coastal policy context

Title	What it does
Marine and Coastal Act 2018	The Marine and Coastal Act 2018 is the new State legislation replaces the previous Coastal Management Act 1995. The new Act aims to provides a more holistic and integrated approach to planning and managing the marine and coastal environment. The Act provides the overarching framework for the development of Coastal and Marine Management Plans.
Victorian Marine and Coastal Council	The Act established the Victorian Marine and Coastal Council to provide independent advice on marine and coastal issues.
Marine and Coastal Strategy (draft 2020)	The Marine and Coastal Strategy details the implementation actions for the Victorian Government, as well as outlining the tools for implementation. It will also be accompanied by an implementation and evaluation plan. The Marine and Coastal Strategy is due to be released in 2022.
Marine and Coastal Policy 2020	The Marine and Coastal Policy, endorsed in early 2020, has been developed by Victorian Marine and Coastal Council, in line with the <i>Marine and Coastal Act 2018</i> . The long-term vision is for a 'healthy, dynamic and biodiverse marine and coastal environment that is valued in its own right, and that benefits the Victorian community, now and in the future'. The <i>Coastal and Marine Management Plan Guidelines 2022</i> stem from this policy and provide the planning and framework for foreshore managers in the development of Coastal and Marine Management Plans.

Table 2: Government legislation, policy and strategic resources of relevance for the City of Greater Geelong

Level	Resource
State	Marine and Coastal Act 2018
	Marine and Coastal Policy 2020 / Guidelines for development of Coastal Management Plans 2022
	Marine and Coastal Strategy 2021 (draft)
	Bellarine Peninsula Distinctive Area and Landscape Statement of Planning Policy (draft)
	Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978
	Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994
	Climate Change Act 2017
	Wildlife Act 1975
	Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988
	Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006
	Heritage Act 2017
	Underwater Cultural Heritage Act 2018
	Siting and Design Guidelines on the Victorian Coast 2020
	Victoria's Coast – Preparing for the future 2018
	Public Participation in Government Decision-making 2015
	Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037
	Victorian Water Safety Strategy 2016 – 2020
	Wave 5 Marine and Coastal Community Attitudes & Behaviours 2019
	CoastKit 2020
Regional	Paleert Tjaara Dja – Let's make country good together 2020-2030 (Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation)
	Central Regional Coastal Plan 2015-2020 (Central Coastal Council)
	Corangamite Regional Catchment Strategy to 2027 (Corangamite Catchment Management Authority)
	Corangamite Regional Floodplain Strategy 2018-2028 (Corangamite Catchment Management Authority)
	Corangamite Waterway Strategy 2014-2022 (Corangamite Catchment Management Authority)
	Port Phillip Bay (Western Shoreline) & Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar Site Management Plan 2018 (DELWP)
Local	G21 Regional Growth Plan 2013 (Geelong Regional Alliance)
	Greater Geelong Planning Scheme as at 2022 (City of Greater Geelong)
	Environment Management Strategy 2020-2030 (City of Greater Geelong)
	Biodiversity Strategy (being updated) (City of Greater Geelong)
	Climate Response Plan 2021 (City of Greater Geelong)
	Settlement Strategy 2020 (City of Greater Geelong)
	Sustainability Framework 2020 (City of Greater Geelong)
	Open Space Social Infrastructure Plan Generation One 2020-2023 (City of Greater Geelong)
	Bellarine Peninsula & Corio Bay Local Coastal Hazard Assessment, Inundation Report 2016 (Our Coast)
	Barwon Coast CMMP 2018 (Barwon Coast Foreshore Committee of Management)
	Borough of Queenscliffe CMMP Draft 1 2021 (Borough of Queenscliffe)
	Greater Geelong and Bellarine Tourism Development Plan 2019-22 (Tourism Greater Geelong and The Bellarine)

Appendix 2

PRECINCT PLAN

The Southeast Bellarine Biolink Master Plan (draft) is a detailed precinct plan including the natural foreshore areas of the Bellarine Peninsula Southern Coast, Lonsdale Lakes Wildlife Reserve and surrounding private land.

The master plan has been developed with extensive community engagement and encompasses the foreshore areas managed under Coastal and Marine Management Plans from Barwon Coast and the Borough of Queenscliffe.

PRIORITY VALUES

- Vegetation and habitat for wildlife
- Wadawurrung living values and connection to Country
- Natural, quieter, and uncrowded beach
- Passive recreation
- Threatened Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh and Moonah Woodland Communities
- Hooded Plover breeding areas, Orange-bellied Parrot habitat and migratory bird refuge and feeding grounds

PRECINCT MASTER PLAN PRIORITIES

1. Manage informal pedestrian access, dune intrusion and trampling of vegetation.
2. Recognise Wadawurrung living cultural heritage through renaming, signage and co-management partnership
3. Provide for passive recreation where it does not impact upon natural values.
4. Manage informal dune intrusion at the front of the dunes by beach users and dogs.

This precinct is backed by a wide dune formation with extensive tracts of locally native vegetation providing important habitat for wildlife. The precinct covers the 140 hectares of the Southeast Bellarine Coast and adjoins Barwon-Coast-managed natural foreshore to 13W (west) and the Borough-of-Queenscliffe-managed natural foreshore to Port Phillip heads (east). The beach allows for passive recreation, providing a feeling of remoteness from nearby residential development. An increase in beach usage in this precinct has been observed in recent years and this will need to be monitored during to assess whether further action is required. See Figure 1 below for a map of the Southeast Bellarine Biolink Master Plan precinct.

The role of the precinct is primarily protection and enhancement of natural values. An active group of volunteers from numerous community groups, such as Friend of Buckley Park, Ocean Grove Coastcare and Swan Bay Environment Association, support the City's environment programs. Maintaining public access while managing dune intrusion will be considered during the master planning process for this precinct.

This beach zone provides space for walking with dogs off leash at some times of the year (provided they are under effective control) and on leash during Hooded Plover breeding times. Responsible dog ownership and monitoring is needed to minimise potential impact on conservation values. A strategic review of dog controls will aim to simplify regulations and increase enforcement.

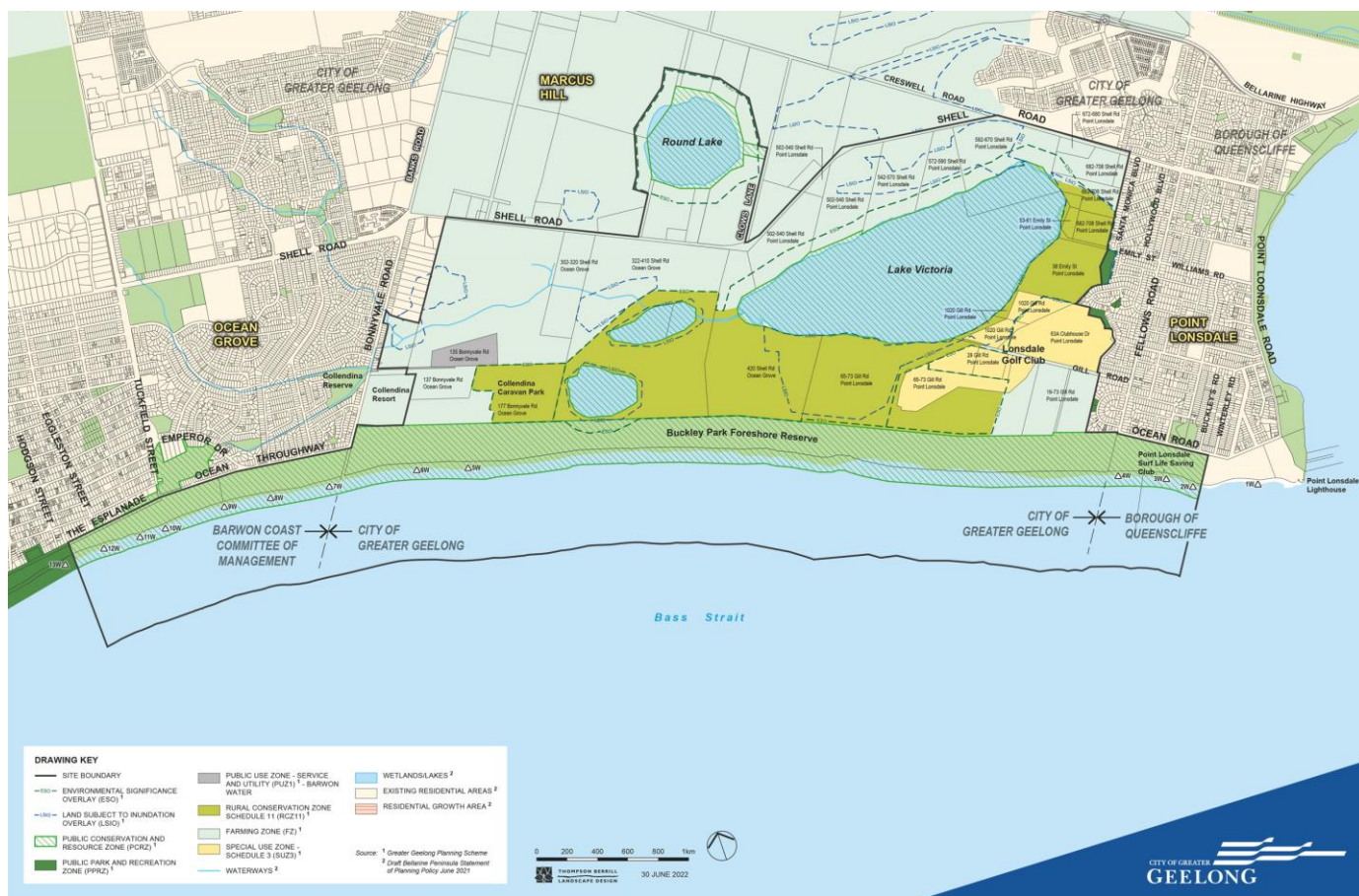


Figure 1: Map of area covered under the Southeast Bellarine Biolink Master Plan (which includes the CMMP area)

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