

Central Coastal Board

Annual Report 2016-17

1. The Central Coastal Region

The Central Coastal Region, from Breamlea to Inverloch, covers 990 kilometres of coastline. It includes the cities of Melbourne and Geelong, 1.6 million hectares of hinterland catchment, the two large bays of Port Phillip and Western Port and coastal waters and islands. The 13 local government authorities comprising this area are home to three quarters of the Victorian population.

2. Operation of the Board

a. Membership

The following Board members were appointed on 22 September 2015 until 30 June 2018:

- Ross Kilborn - Chair
- Dr Sandra Brizga
- Greg Hunt
- Dr Rosalind Jessop
- Dr Rebecca Koss
- Jeff Weir
- Nick Wynn

b. Meetings

The CCB has held eight meetings in 2016-17. Three working groups have been established and they have been active in progressing key projects.

Table: Board meeting dates

Meeting no.	Date
134	3 August 2016
135	14 September 2016
136	2 November 2016
137	14 December 2016
138	1 February 2017
139	15 March 2017
140	3 May 2017
141	14 June 2017

c. Resources

The Board expended its 2016-17 operational budget of \$32,500. This is in addition to its staff resources, comprising a Partnership Manager shared with the other two regional boards and a Program Manager and part-time Project Officer. The Trust Account balance is \$72,348.

3. Business Plan Progression

The Board's three-year business plan reflects its objectives under the *Coastal Management Act 1995* and includes the actions to implement the Central Regional Coastal Plan 2015-2018. It identifies five priorities which have been the focus for the board's activities during the year.

The Priorities:

1. *Implement the Central Regional Coastal Plan (RCP)*

The RCP Implementation Committee was established in 2016 to share information and discuss opportunities and any issues related to implementing actions in the Central RCP. The group has met twice during the financial year.

The first meeting in November 2016 provided an opportunity for an overview of the RCP actions and discussion on issues such as the likely implications of the Marine and Coastal Act review. Actions that had been progressed included DELWP's release of a report on state-wide priorities for local coastal hazard assessments (LCHA), reports on climate change risk assessment for Crown land and progress on the LCHA learnings project.

The second Committee meeting in June 2017 focused on specific projects. This included an update on planning for a CCB hosted forum in November 2017. The purpose of the forum is to elevate the priority and profile of the coast, raise the level of knowledge for future coastal plans and practices and create a legacy network. The CCB's ideas for the Sustainable Visitation and Tourism Framework were also outlined and there was support for working closely with Parks Victoria on this project. Another noteworthy project discussed at the meeting was the commencement of the Port Phillip Bay LCHA with \$2 million funding from the State government.

2. *Develop a Sustainable Visitation and Tourism Framework*

The purpose of a coastal visitation framework is to provide a diversity of sustainable recreational experiences while addressing risk and balancing this with the aim of valuing and protecting coastal and marine environments.

The Victorian Coastal Strategy recognises the need for strategic planning to address how increasing tourism and visitor use will be experienced and managed along the coast. The Western, Central and Gippsland regional coastal plans similarly include actions to develop a visitation levels of service framework and identify where visitation on the coast can be encouraged or where areas are more vulnerable and demand needs to be managed or even reduced.

A report has been prepared by GeoDimensions to provide greater clarity on the scope of this project. It recommends the need to rank and map priorities for conservation, risk and recreation supply and demand. Statewide mapping of coastal and marine assets and a second pass coastal risk (impact) assessment are currently being undertaken through DELWP's Iconic Beaches Monitoring Program. This information will be made available via a portal on DELWP's website (in late 2017).

The budget bid submitted by DELWP for the visitation project was unsuccessful therefore the project is being progressed with only limited funds from the three coastal boards. The current major gap in information is on recreation supply and demand. Hence, the focus over the next 12 months will be on the visitor experience and developing a levels of service approach, mapping visitor sites, areas, journeys and waterway destinations. The project methodology will be similar with the Parks Victoria's Visitor Experience Framework. It will also provide landscape scale mapping to compare with the mapping from the Iconic Beaches Monitoring Program and identify priorities for investment on the coast.

3. Promote leadership, coordination and capacity building for the coast

The CCB commenced planning to host a coastal forum during the year. A survey monkey was used to determine interest in a forum and what stakeholders wanted to gain from it. The board is now progressing the arrangements for a one day event to be held in November 2017. The target audience will be coastal decision makers and the people that influence them. The board recognises the potential value of a forum held in alternative years to the National Coast to Coast conference and hopes to establish this as a regular event for Victoria. It has sought the services of an Event Organiser and its own governance includes a steering group with representatives from key agencies to help plan the event.

The Board continues to update its Communications Plan as an internal document to support its activities with stakeholders. It publishes a regular newsletter, prepares a quarterly update for the Minister and ensures its website includes 'what's new'.

This year the board published two discussion papers. The first drew attention to coastal erosion issues and the fact they will worsen with climate change impacts on the coast. The second prompted discussion and encouraged other stakeholders to respond to the opportunities associated with the review of the Coastal Management Act:

- Collaroy – consequences and considerations for the Victorian Central Coast
- Marine and Coastal Act Consultation Paper August 2016.

The Board is actively engaged in key strategic coastal issues and this year prepared submissions to:

- focus on the importance of the coast and opportunity to address longstanding issues through the Marine and Coastal Act Consultation Paper (see item 4)
- improve management for recreational boating through comments on the Safe and Accessible Victorian Waterways Discussion Paper
- support management of a catchment to coast continuum and use of the State of the Bays reporting to inform management of marine ecosystems in a submission on the Draft Port Phillip Bay Environmental Management Plan 2017-2027
- recommend a regional coastal park and wider foreshore as a buffer to climate change impacts on the coast in response to the draft Moolap Coastal Strategic Framework Plan
- respond to Strengthening Parks Victoria and the Victoria's Climate Change Adaptation Plan Directions Paper.

The 'Protection of Victoria's iconic beaches and coastline' program with funding of \$21.4 million over 4 years was a welcome announcement by the Minister at the Coast to Coast Conference. As part of this program, the CCB and DELWP hosted information sessions on the \$15 million 'Coastal protection infrastructure upgrade program' (seawalls, revetments and groynes). The sessions considered co-investment opportunities, a statewide database and greater emphasis on risk assessment to prioritise protection projects. The sessions were held in three locations for central region stakeholders: Torquay, Melbourne and Hastings. A fact sheet has been prepared about the program as an update for participants.

Board members, particularly the Chair, participated on coastal working groups and other opportunities including:

- Port Phillip Bay Environmental Management Plan Reference Group
- the ABM and PPWCMA Day on the Bay for induction of newly elected councillors
- NCCARF's workshop and introduction to the CoastAdapt website
- NSW Coastal Conference November 9-11 at Coffs Harbour
- Membership on a panel to review Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority's (PPWCMA) Our Catchment our Community funding submissions
- the PPWCMA's Knowledge Banquet and Leaders Forum.

4. Input to the Marine and Coastal Act Review

The State Government's election commitment for a new and more integrated Marine and Coastal Act formed a major focus for the board in 2016/17. The CCB participated in the DELWP hosted consultation sessions on the review held in Torquay and St Kilda. The Board Chair also participated in a Ministerial Roundtable in March which provided a welcomed opportunity to ensure the Minister heard first-hand about issues on the coast that could be addressed by the reform program.

The board provided a comprehensive submission to the DELWP Marine and Coastal Act Consultation Paper. The CCB position is the coast is one of our most valuable assets and an emerging concern as it comes under increasing threat from population growth, natural processes and climate change impacts. While the CCB welcomes many initiatives in the Consultation Paper, overall it does not think it has delivered sufficiently on longstanding issues such as funding for the coast and effective leadership to progress change.

5. Meet other requirements of the Act

The Board submitted its three-year Business Plan to the VCC in 2016. It has submitted this year's Annual Report and held eight meetings during the year. The board has undertaken an annual assessment of its performance. All members have adopted the DELWP model policies and guidelines for good governance.

4. Implementation of the Victorian Coastal Strategy 2014

The Victorian Coastal Strategy (VCS) Implementation Plan (April 2017) provides a progress update compiled by DELWP on all actions in the VCS (see DELWP website). It shows that most actions in the Strategy are either complete or in progress.

The Regional Coastal Plan addresses many actions assigned to the regional coastal boards including developing a Tourism and Visitation Framework to provide strategic direction for how increasing tourism and visitation will be experienced and managed along the coast.

At a workshop to discuss the outstanding VCS actions it was noted that actions on wetlands and estuary management and on water quality hotspots assigned to the Regional Coastal Boards are addressed in more detail in the Victorian Waterway Management Strategy and the Port Phillip Bay Environmental Management Plan (due 2017) and updated State Environment Protection Policy (SEPP).

5. Implementation of RCP/CAPS

Progress in implementing the Central Regional Coastal Plan 2015-2018 has been considered in the section on progressing the Board's business plan.

The Recreational Boating Facilities Framework (RBFF) is integrated into the Regional Coastal Plan and replaces the Boating Coastal Action Plan 2007. It provides information on the current state and preferred future of recreational boating facilities in the region. This year saw the release of DEDJTR's Safe and Accessible Victorian Waterways Discussion Paper and the CCB looks forward to its development as a strategy to help prioritise investment in recreational boating infrastructure. The mid-year review of the RBFF has been deferred to next year.

Table: Coastal Action Plans current during 2016-2017

CAP Title	
Central Regional Coastal Plan 2015-2020	Released 2015, Mid-year review due 2018
Recreational Boating Facilities Framework (2014)	Mid-year review required
CCB Corio Bay CAP (2005)	Five-year review complete
Mount Eliza to Point Nepean CAP (2005)	Five-year review complete

6. Working with Stakeholders

A Regional Coastal Board's Partnership team continues to help co-ordinate the work of the three regional coastal boards and that of the Victorian Coastal Council. DELWP provides briefings on key issues at Board meetings and regular updates on regional coastal activities.

Board meetings are also seen as opportunities to gain local perspectives. Over the year the board scheduled its meetings on Phillip Island, in Frankston and on the Bellarine Peninsula.

While on Phillip Island the board heard on coastal erosion and protection at San Remo, Phillip Island Nature Park Visitor Centre re-development, foreshore management at Silverleaves and the difficulties of establishing a Land Subject to Inundation Overlay in a planning scheme that warns of the risks from climate change impacts.

The Board's meeting at Frankston provided opportunity for a better understanding of the role of PPWCMA and an inspection of the Frankston foreshore with council staff to discuss foreshore management issues related to the coastal management plan, the use of planning overlays (e.g. Oliver's Hill), long term dredging of Kananook Creek and the boat ramp improvements.

On the Bellarine Peninsula, the board met with staff from Bellarine-Bayside and Barwon Coast Committees of Management to hear about the need for an emergency/risk management budget, increased coastal erosion impacts and the legacy of previous planning decisions with development sited too close to the coast. There is also the issue that the Committee of Management does not receive a financial contribution from the City of Greater Geelong and its ratepayers for managing coastal facilities.

Other presentations received by the board were from the Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability Victoria on the State of the Bays, DELWP on an update of the Marine and Coastal Act review and on the Iconic Beaches Monitoring Program and Parks Victoria on its Visitor Experience Framework.

The National Coast to Coast conference was held in Melbourne 29 August-1 September 2016. The CCB sponsored the conference as a valuable opportunity to learn, share and engage with some of the leading coastal thinkers and managers.

7. Contact Details

Postal address:

6/8 Nicholson Street
Melbourne VIC 3002

Phone: (03) 9637 9463

Email: admin@ccb.vic.gov.au

Website: <http://ccb.vic.gov.au/>