

# Summary: Hobsons Bay Coastal and Marine Management Plan



## Caring for our coastal and marine areas

The Hobsons Bay community shares a love of coastal and marine environments. We have a rich history that has been shaped by proximity to the coast and water. Our Coastal and Marine Management Plan will help guide appropriate and effective management over the next ten years. The plan identifies initiatives to provide for a sustainable future, appropriately balancing the management of social, cultural, environmental, and economic values of this unique coastline.

## The vision

Community and stakeholder perspectives informed our CMMP vision. It aims to reflect their expectations and aspirations for the Hobsons Bay coastline.

*Hobsons Bay CMMP vision:*

A healthy, connected, and resilient Hobsons Bay coastline that is valued and enjoyed by its community

Key aspects of the vision include:

- **Healthy** – marine and coastal ecosystems and environments are healthy, dynamic, and biodiverse. They support community health and wellbeing and provide services such as coastal hazard protection, water purification, carbon storage and heat mitigation.
- **Connected** – The coastline is connected through biolinks and ecological corridors, shared trails, and transport networks. Care for the coast is strengthened through cultural and social connections. Access to coastal and marine areas is shared and respected by all users.
- **Resilient** – Coastal and marine areas are resilient to pressures and future changes, which could include natural hazards such as coastal erosion, climate change impacts such as sea level rise, and population growth.
- **Valued and enjoyed** – Coastal and marine areas are valued in their own right and facilities exist to allow safe enjoyment of the environmental, social, cultural, recreational, and economic benefits of the coast.
- **Community** – The community includes residents, visitors, and all users of the Hobsons Bay coastal and marine areas.

## Policy context

Coastal management reform in Victoria has involved the release of several key pieces of legislation, policies, and guidance material over recent years. The development of the CMMP has been guided by:

- *Marine and Coastal Act 2018*
- Marine and Coastal Policy (2020)
- DELWP advice on the development of new CMMPs
- Existing Guidelines for the Preparation of Coastal Management Plans (2017)
- Victorian Coastal Strategy (2014)

The CMMP has identified five core objectives to align with the objectives and guiding principles of the *Marine and Coastal Act 2018*, and the planning and decision pathway of the Marine and Coastal Policy:



**Acknowledge Traditional Owners' rights, aspirations & knowledge**

Understand, acknowledge & act upon rights & aspirations of Traditional Owner groups for Country.



**Protect & enhance the marine & coastal environment**

Protect & enhance intrinsic values & goods & benefits of the marine & coastal environment.



**Respect natural processes**

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



**Strengthen resilience to climate change**

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



**Use & develop sustainably**

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



**Promote stewardship & collaborative management**

Take a stewardship approach, build understanding & knowledge, engage, & collaborate.





## Why we love our coastal and marine areas

Our coastline provides a wide range of opportunities and places for recreation, relaxation and enjoyment. Through consultation with community and stakeholders, perspectives and experiences have been used to establish values, issues, and opportunities for Hobsons Bay's marine and coastal areas. These align with the CMMP objectives.

Objective	What we value about Hobsons Bay coastal and marine areas
 <b>Acknowledge Traditional Owners' rights, aspirations, and knowledge</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Areas of Cultural sensitivity and significant cultural values</li> <li>• Sites of Cultural significance – middens, burials, etc.</li> <li>• Connectivity with Country, including along the coastline</li> <li>• Sight lines and views of the bay and sky from the coast</li> <li>• Arts and education spaces</li> </ul>
 <b>Protect &amp; enhance the marine &amp; coastal environment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ecosystems and habitats – native vegetation, mangroves, swamps, reef systems, saltmarsh, seagrass meadows, parklands, wetlands and waterways</li> <li>• Unique and diverse fauna, including threatened and significant species</li> <li>• Distinct and abundant flora - flowers, grasses, shrubs, trees, marine and coastal species (mangroves, seagrass saltmarsh).</li> <li>• Other marine life - sponges, algae, shellfish, jellyfish, sea urchins, starfish</li> <li>• Non-polluted environments</li> <li>• European Heritage - maritime history, historic piers, museums, character buildings, iconic moorings, and fishing, port and industrial heritage.</li> <li>• Aboriginal Heritage sites and coastal values of the Bunurong People</li> <li>• Access to enjoy and learn about the natural environment</li> <li>• Marine and coastal Crown land - public access and shared community resource</li> </ul>
 <b>Respect natural processes</b>  <b>Strengthen resilience to climate change</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural coastal processes and creation/maintenance of natural areas – wetlands, sediment transport, beaches, etc.</li> <li>• Natural coastal hazard protection – mangroves, saltmarsh, rock outcrops</li> <li>• Coast, wetlands, and creeks providing cool areas and reducing urban heat</li> <li>• Human health and safety, including disaster management</li> <li>• Public and private property and asset protection</li> <li>• Engineering and coastal management initiatives to strengthen foreshore resilience</li> </ul>
 <b>Use &amp; develop sustainably</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cleanliness and maintenance of beaches/public places</li> <li>• Nature-based recreation and enjoyment</li> <li>• Accessible, close to home/city</li> <li>• Atmosphere and character – peaceful, family friendly, safe, 'village' feel</li> <li>• Commercial values - shops, cafes, restaurants, markets etc.</li> <li>• Diverse, multicultural</li> <li>• Balance of 'passive' and 'active' areas for recreation</li> <li>• Industrial areas provide economic input and jobs for the region</li> <li>• Use of coastal and marine areas for active and passive recreation</li> </ul>
 <b>Promote stewardship &amp; collaborative management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An engaged community already taking an active stewardship role</li> <li>• Enthusiastic community groups</li> <li>• Support for natural environmental education and engagement activities - planting days and educational tours</li> <li>• Collaboration with Universities/research - mangroves trials</li> </ul>



# Council-wide actions

## 1. Acknowledge Traditional Owners' rights, aspirations, and knowledge

- Investigate opportunities to develop Bunurong Traditional Owner partnerships, Cultural Heritage Land Management Agreements, or similar.
- Examine and implement ways to manage and protect cultural values and heritage sites within the marine and coastal environment (ref: *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*)
- Design and install a suite of interpretive signage focussed on increasing community awareness of the natural, cultural and heritage values of the coastal and marine zone, in collaboration with community groups, Traditional Owners and heritage organisations.



## 2. Protect & enhance the marine & coastal environment

- Support actions in the Biodiversity Strategy 2017-22 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 levels), and pest management opportunities.
- Investigate, trial, and implement innovative and nature-based marine and coastal management, including mangrove planting, biodiverse engineering/living seawalls, expanding shellfish reefs, and other adaptation measures.
- Support the Urban Forest Strategy in investigating and implementing tree planting, shade management, and protection opportunities along the coast.
- Investigate and implement ways to maintain and enhance the condition of marine and coastal environment, including water quality improvement, and advocacy for water-sensitive urban design in all new developments and HBCC works.
- Ensure future planning updates retain coastal land/open space in Crown or other public ownership as a resource for all. Explore opportunities to purchase/repurpose additional land to enhance the coastal zone.



## 3. Respect natural processes / strengthen resilience to climate change

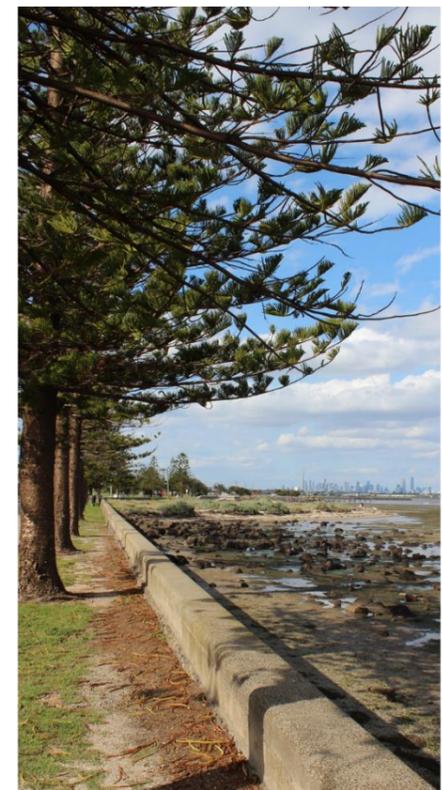
- Review and incorporate coastal hazard adaptation and climate objectives/outcomes from current State projects in asset and land use management, planning scheme/zoning and HBCC decision making. Includes Marine and Coastal Strategy, Port Phillip Bay Coastal Hazard Assessment, Victoria's Resilient Coast Project.
- Review HBCC asset management process to incorporate CMMP, ensuring consideration of changing conditions and State policy. Includes review of 'Fit-for-purpose' framework and asset management, longer-term coastal hazard risk, feasibility of nature-based solutions, innovative/multi-functional design, and relocation/transition options (consistent with the State policy pathway approach).
- In line with Victoria's coastal adaptation approach being developed as part of Victoria's Resilient Coast – Adapting for 2100+, undertake adaptation planning to assess current and future coastal and marine vulnerability and associated risks (environmental, social, and economic), providing economic risk assessment, rationale for action, and specifying adaptation responses, developed through a pathways approach.
- Examine ways to effectively manage HBCC coastal hazard risk, including nature-based methods and hard engineering structures with due regard to natural coastal processes. Ensure aging infrastructure is effectively maintained, upgraded, or removed/replaced, according to economic cost-benefit, risk assessment, and its role in increasing resilience for the area/region.
- Assess drainage outfalls to understand interaction with coastal processes, water quality and mitigation priorities (i.e. sedimentation, flooding, pollutant/nutrient loads). Includes review and confirmation of roles and responsibilities for drainage, collaboration with relevant asset managers, and incorporation of findings from PPBCHA and catchment studies.

## 4. Use & develop sustainably

- Review and update recreational zoning, mapping, signage, and information in collaboration with stakeholder agencies and groups such as Parks Victoria. This may include fishing, boating, water sports, off leash areas.
- Support and contribute to the development of commercial use of public space guidelines, incorporating objectives of the CMMP.
- Investigate opportunities for increased access and connectivity along the coastline, while recognising and protecting environmentally and/or culturally sensitive areas (e.g. defined pathways, boardwalks, fishing/viewing platforms and potential access through industrial/private frontage)
- Expand monitoring to understand and quantify usage, visitation and demand to inform strategic management of marine and coastal areas. Includes usage surveys, pedestrian/bike counters, sensors at key locations (i.e. car parks, boat ramps, dog parks)
- Continue to maintain and upgrade the shared trail and associated facilities to improve connectivity, safety, enhance user experience, and strengthen the Integrated Transport Plan 2017-30. Includes management of shared trail conflicts and separation of conflicting users where possible.
- Identify key activity and recreation nodes to minimise development impacts on the coast, encourage fair access to the coast, reduce conflicts and ensure the safety and wellbeing of all foreshore users.
- Implement the effective management of buildings and structures in the marine and coastal environment, including applying the Siting and Design Guidelines for Structures on the Victorian Coast (DELWP 2020).

## 5. Promote stewardship and collaborative management

- Develop a communication and engagement plan for community and agency involvement in marine and coastal management. Includes developing key messages about Hobsons Bay coastal and marine management and program of events/engagement opportunities.
- Strategically invest in resources (staff, funding, programs) 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.
- Strengthen partnerships and advocacy with other stakeholders to raise awareness, promote and support shared care for coastal and marine areas. Identify opportunities for collaboration, funding streams and efficiencies in management.
- Partner with neighbouring Councils, Melbourne Water, and Association of Bayside Municipalities to implement broader scale coastal climate adaptation and water quality improvement measures.
- Develop a marine and coastal citizen science monitoring program, including monitoring and reporting of coastal and marine changes (e.g. through CoastSnap, drones), environmental indicators, (e.g. water quality, flora/fauna monitoring) and coastal issue identification (e.g. through Snap Send Solve).
- Promote and support lifesaving and water safety initiatives including facilities, education and volunteer patrols.



# Precinct 1

## Stony Backwash to Ferguson Street – Newport



**Precinct 1** extends from the north-eastern LGA boundary at Stony Creek and Francis Street in Spotswood to Ferguson Street in Williamstown. The precinct covers Spotswood, Newport, and parts of Williamstown, with water frontage including the lower portions of the Yarra River, the Warmies and into Port Phillip Bay.

- What we love about this area:**
- Fishing opportunities and facilities
  - Open spaces, including dog parks and sportsgrounds
  - Major tourism attraction at Scienceworks
  - Recreational boating access at Warmies boat ramp
  - Significant bird nesting habitat at the Spit and Sandy Point Reserves
  - Bike paths and connectivity via the Westgate Punt and shared trails to Yarraville.

### Key Precinct 1 actions:

- 2.1 Promote and contribute to environmental monitoring opportunities, collaborating with community groups. May include water quality, litter, stormwater monitoring.
- 2.2 Continue to enhance and protect vegetation along the Spit and Sandy Point for erosion control and significant bird nesting habitat.
- 3.1 Undertake nominated seawall upgrades to strengthen resilience to sea level rise and coastal hazards, including The Strand, Burgoyne Reserve and John Morley Reserve. Consider potential impacts of infrastructure changes/upgrades on surrounding areas and investigate feasibility of alternative adaptation measures in line with State policy
- 4.1 Promote and improve litter management through educational signage, on-land fishing facilities, disposal bins, and innovative trials (i.e. SeaBins) in key locations including The Warmies, around Stony Creek, and near Newport Power Station.
- 4.2 Support the Better Places – Spotswood and South Kingsville project and establish a working group with Port of Melbourne, DELWP, industry stakeholders and other relevant parties (e.g. Scienceworks) to develop an options assessment for activation and improved access of the Spotswood/Newport foreshore.
- 4.3 Work with Port of Melbourne to install educational/zoning signage at boat ramps. Includes raising awareness of shipping zones, operations, safety risks and implications for recreational boating.
- 4.4 Work with relevant stakeholders on the Williamstown Maritime Precinct Framework, including review of alignment with CMMP (also in Precinct 2).
- 4.5 Engage with Better Boating Victoria to improve recreational boating and fishing facilities including Warmies Boat ramp reconfiguration and land-based fishing platforms.
- 4.6 Investigate amenity improvement opportunities and implement works at Warmies dog park.

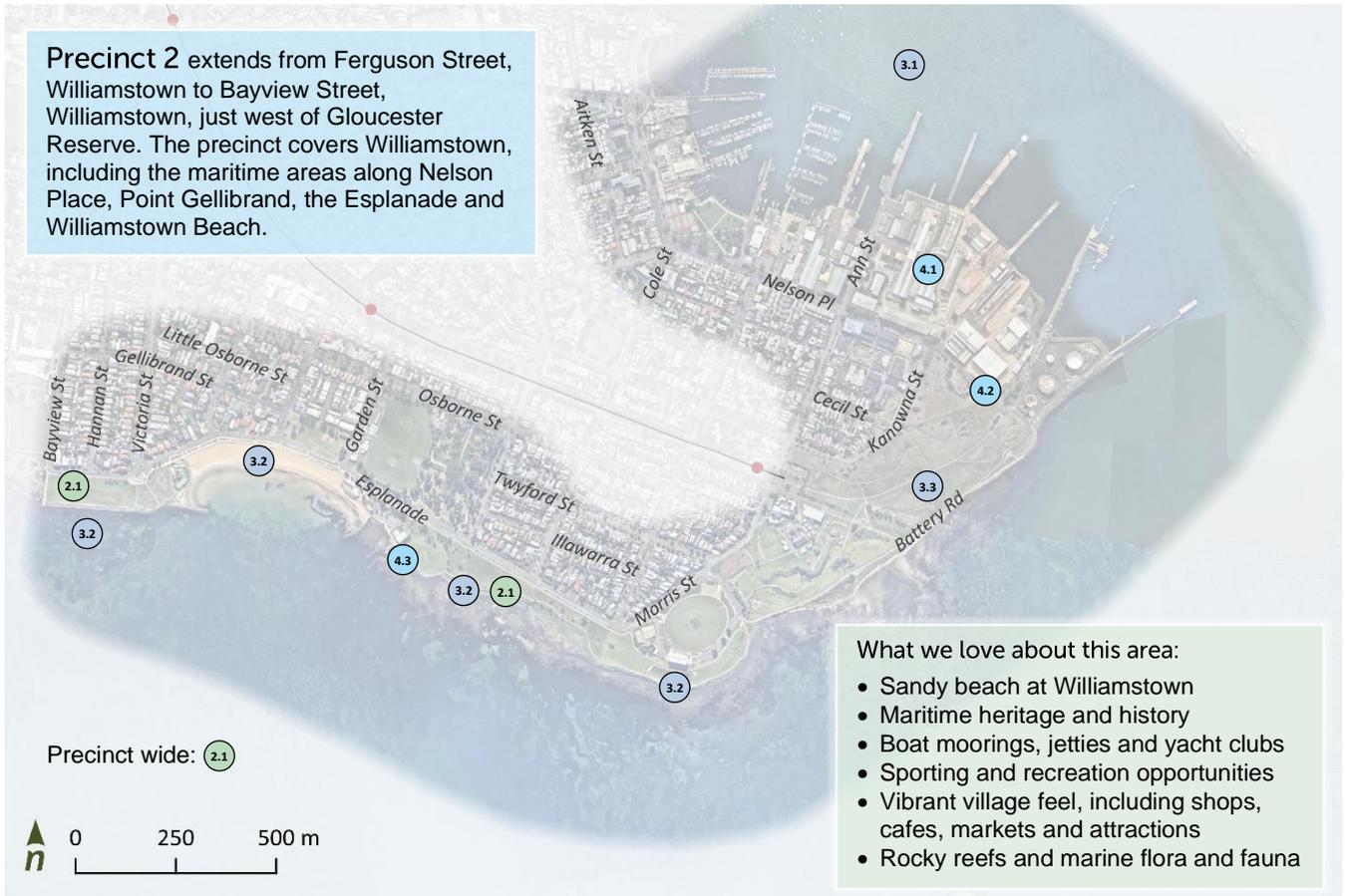


# Precinct 2

## Ferguson Street to Bayview Street – Williamstown



Precinct 2 extends from Ferguson Street, Williamstown to Bayview Street, Williamstown, just west of Gloucester Reserve. The precinct covers Williamstown, including the maritime areas along Nelson Place, Point Gellibrand, the Esplanade and Williamstown Beach.



### What we love about this area:

- Sandy beach at Williamstown
- Maritime heritage and history
- Boat moorings, jetties and yacht clubs
- Sporting and recreation opportunities
- Vibrant village feel, including shops, cafes, markets and attractions
- Rocky reefs and marine flora and fauna

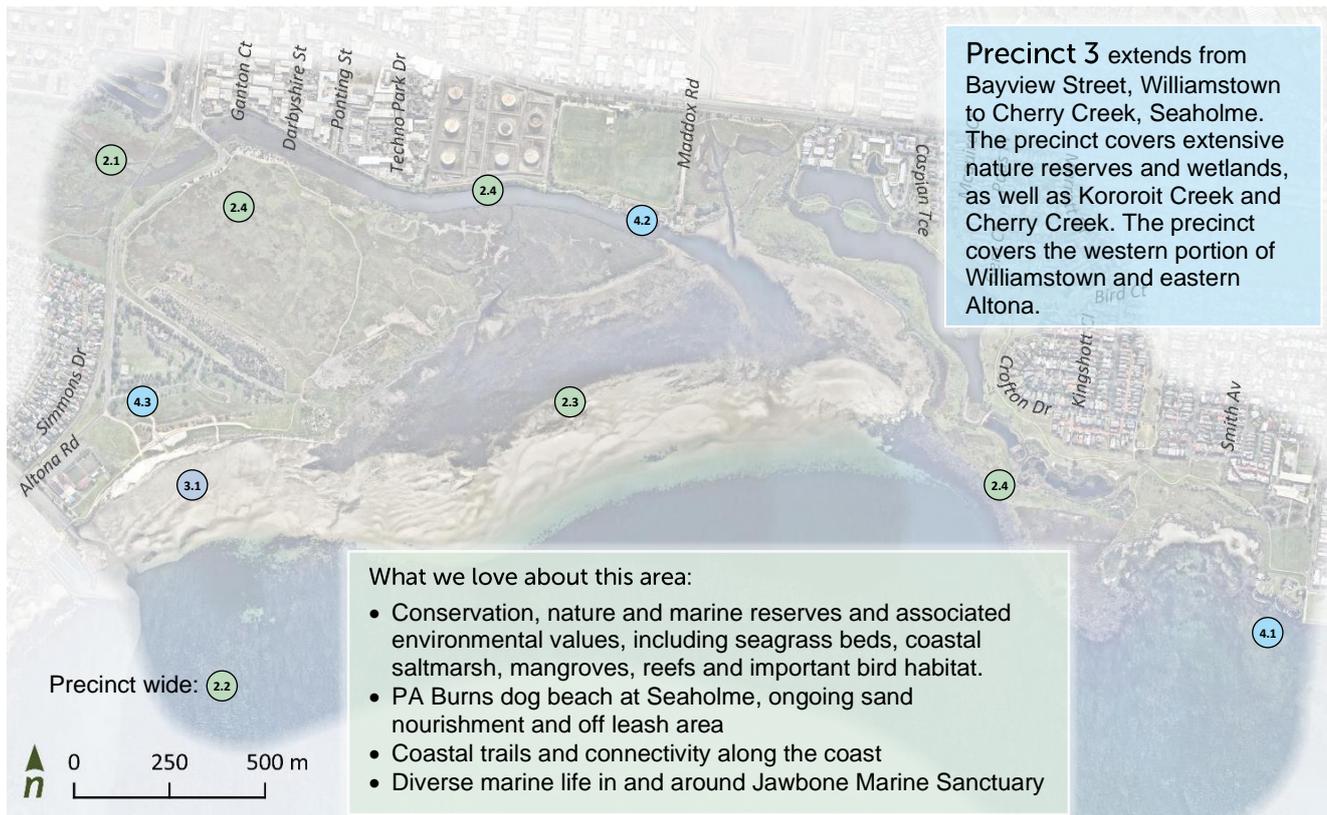
### Key Precinct 2 actions:

- 2.1 Supporting actions in the Urban Forest Strategy, increase tree canopy cover and vegetation within foreshore areas (including Gloucester and Hatt reserves), to enhance the natural environment, provide shade, and reduce urban heat.
- 3.1 Review Parks Victoria's Williamstown Wave Surge Study and embed outcomes in future land use/infrastructure planning, including Williamstown Maritime Precinct Framework.
- 3.2 Undertake nominated seawall upgrades to strengthen resilience to sea level rise and coastal hazards, including Gloucester Reserve, Hatt Reserve, Cyril Curtain Reserve and Williamstown Beach. Consider potential impacts of infrastructure changes/upgrades on surrounding areas and investigate feasibility of alternative adaptation measure in line with State policy.
- 3.3 Support Parks Victoria in the preservation of cultural heritage, shared trails and amenity at Point Gellibrand, strengthening the resilience of this location (including seawall maintenance).
- 4.1 Work with relevant stakeholders on the Williamstown Maritime Precinct Framework, including review of alignment with CMMP (also in Precinct 1).
- 4.2 In collaboration with Williamstown Maritime Precinct Framework, advocate for the sustainable activation of foreshore areas adjacent to Nelson Place and Battery Road and upgraded connectivity, amenity, and safety of the shared trail along Nelson Place and Battery Road.
- 4.3 Assess condition of Newport and Williamstown Anglers Club jetties, to inform feasibility of possible upgrades/modifications. May include provisions for paddle craft pontoon to meet demand and future proofing for changing climate.



# Precinct 3

## Bayview Street to Cherry Creek – Williamstown North



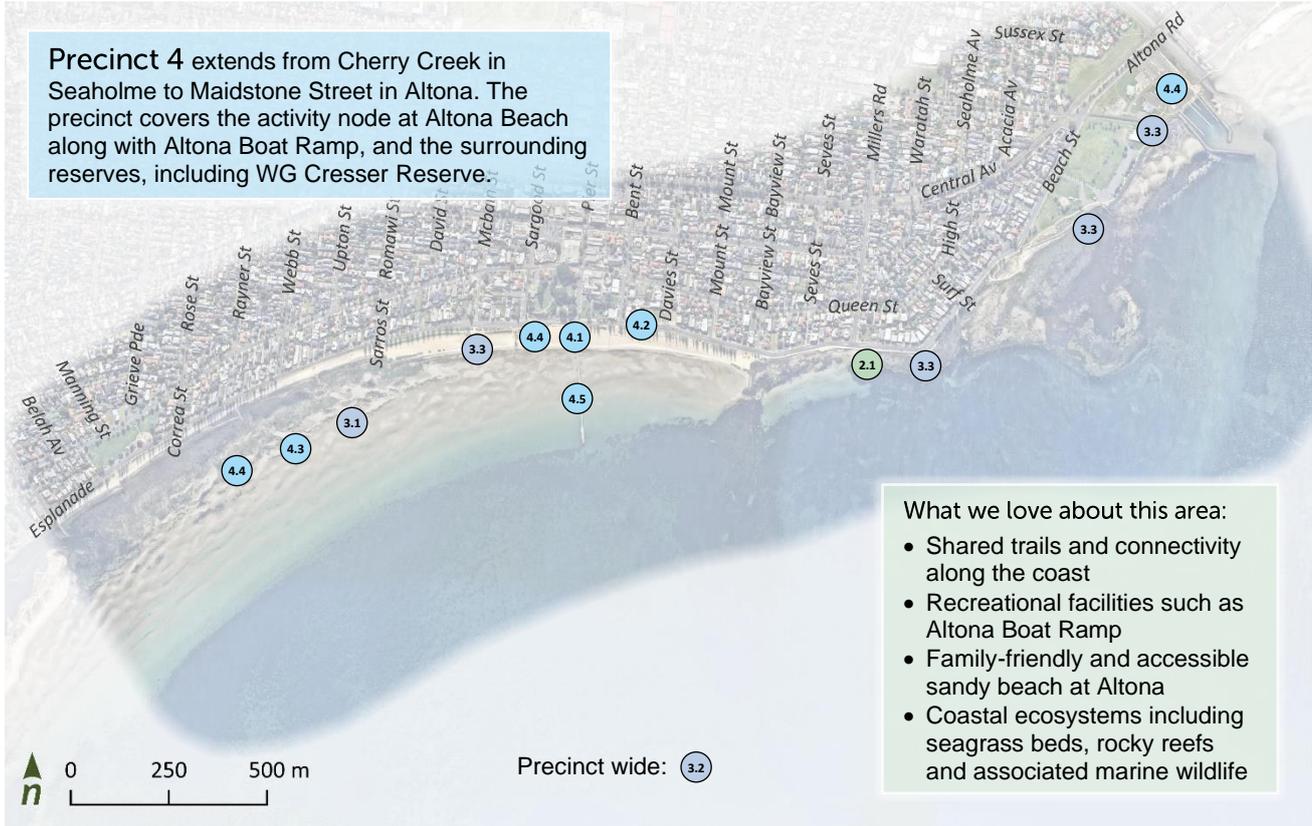
### Key Precinct 3 actions:

- 2.1 Identify opportunities for maintaining natural buffers, and for habitat creation and vegetation migration up Kororoit Creek and neighbouring reserves, to mitigate habitat loss due to changing climate.
- 2.2 Investigate local ecosystem responses/sensitivities to climate change and management implications (linked to research partnerships). Includes wetlands, saltmarsh, mangroves, and other coastal and marine ecosystems.
- 2.3 Review outcomes of mangrove planting trials and extend planting in other areas, based on outcomes.
- 2.4 Promote and contribute to environmental monitoring opportunities Altona Coastal Park, Kororoit Creek and Jawbone Reserve and Marine Sanctuary, collaborating with community groups and relevant agencies.
- 3.1 Review and revise renourishment approach for Altona Dog Beach, confirming feasibility and implications of dredge material placement from Altona Boat Ramp, and potential impacts on surrounding marine/coastal environments (e.g. Jawbone reserve).
- 4.1 Undertake condition and feasibility assessment of Little Harbour upgrades, include consideration of coastal hazards, marine environment sensitivities and economic risk assessment.
- 4.2 Undertake review and options assessment for management of Kororoit Creek fishing village, including recognition of increasing coastal hazards, cultural and heritage values and compliance with local laws/zoning. Review in line with CMMP.
- 4.3 Undertake open space improvements at PA Burns Reserve, including car park, fenced dog off leash zone, and landscaping to meet demand and adapt to changing climate. Include consideration of water and environment sensitive design.



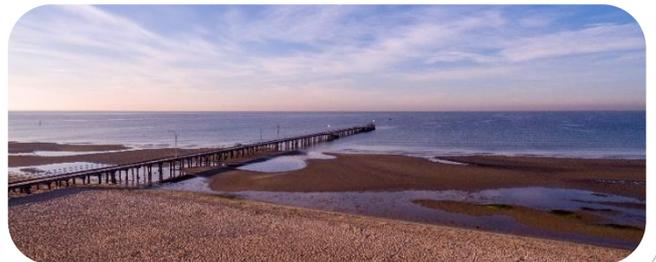
# Precinct 4

## Cherry Creek to Maidstone Street – Altona and Seaholme



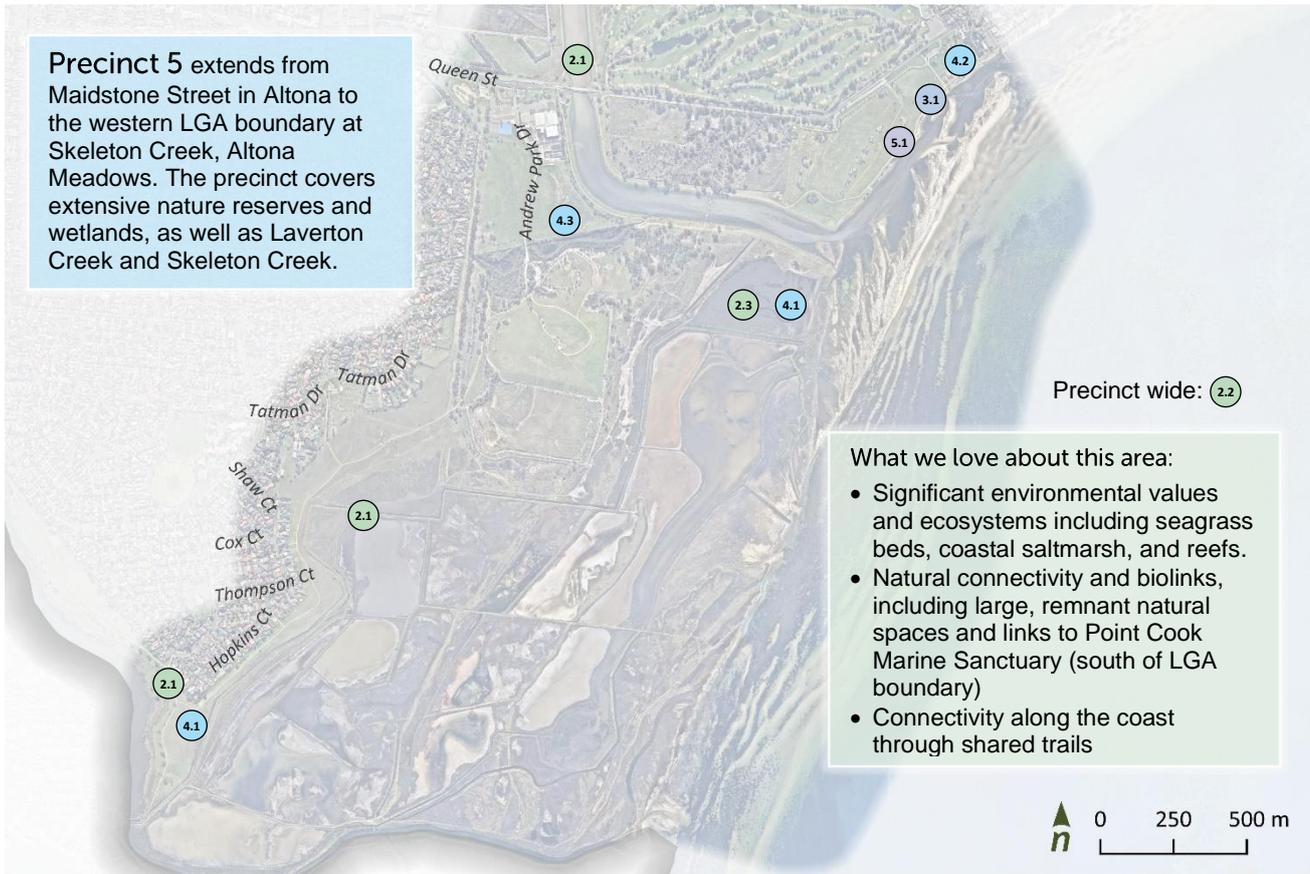
### Key Precinct 4 actions:

- 2.1 Install educational signage at Flemings Pool providing information/education about marine life and advice on protecting wildlife, e.g. litter reduction, stormwater improvements, poaching, fishing etc.
- 3.1 Continue seaweed management and recycling programs. Review current process, including feasibility and identifying improvement opportunities for efficiencies and responsiveness. Install educational signage in hotspots areas, including information on natural processes and Council's commitment to sustainable management.
- 3.2 Assess drainage outfalls to understand interaction with coastal processes and mitigation priorities (i.e. sedimentation, flooding). Includes review and confirmation of roles and responsibilities for drainage, collaboration with relevant asset managers, and incorporation of findings from PPBCHA and catchment flood studies.
- 3.3 Undertake condition assessments, design, and renewal of jetties, retaining structures and seawalls, including seawall lifts, to strengthen resilience to climate change, including Seaholme foreshore (Cresser Reserve), Altona foreshore, Melbourne Water outfall near boat ramp. Consider potential impacts of infrastructure changes/upgrades on surrounding areas and investigate feasibility of alternate adaptation measures in line with the State policy.
- 4.1 Review actions and undertake upgrades included in the Altona Beach Precinct to ensure alignment with CMMP, and recently adopted Urban Forest Strategy and Climate Change Plan.
- 4.2 Support ongoing pedestrianisation of Altona Beach esplanade and promote activation of the area.
- 4.3 Advocate for Parks Victoria to review zoning (including windsports, watercraft) between Laverton Creek and Altona Pier, updating mapping, signage, and information in collaboration with stakeholder agencies and groups.
- 4.4 Undertake foreshore improvements to meet demand and adapt to changing climate including Altona Beach access, boat ramp configuration, kiteboarding/windsurfing infrastructure. Include consideration of water and environment sensitive design.
- 4.5 Support Parks Victoria in the Altona pier redevelopment and associated projects in the area.



# Precinct 5

## Maidstone Street to Skeleton Creek – Altona Meadows



### Key Precinct 5 actions:

- 2.1 Identify opportunities for maintaining natural buffers, and for habitat creation and vegetation migration up Laverton Creek, at Cheetham Wetlands, and neighbouring reserves, to mitigate habitat loss due to changing climate.
- 2.2 Investigate local ecosystem responses/sensitivities to changing climate and management implications (linked to research partnerships). Includes wetlands, saltmarsh, mangroves.
- 2.3 Continue to work with DELWP and relevant Commonwealth agencies to advocate for the review of existing Ramsar boundaries, including expansion of the boundaries to enhance environmental protection.
- 3.1 Work with Melbourne Water and other relevant stakeholders to develop a management plan for Laverton Spit, with consideration of entrance management, flooding impacts, access, and environmental values.
- 4.1 Explore opportunities for ecosensitive design and construction of recreational infrastructure including boardwalks and viewing and/ or fishing platforms at Laverton Creek spit and Skeleton Creek.
- 4.2 Advocate for Parks Victoria to review zoning (including windsports, watercraft) between Laverton Creek and Altona Pier, updating mapping, signage, and information in collaboration with stakeholder agencies and groups.
- 4.3 Support advocacy activities to develop the Hobsons Bay Wetland Centre and ensure alignment with the CMMP, Biodiversity Strategy and Climate Change Plan.
- 5.1 Install CoastSnap (or similar) monitoring point near Laverton spit, to track and quantify sand movement and provide interactive education tool, including educational signage.





## Implementation and next steps

The CMMP includes an implementation action plan for the next 10 years.

Each of the Council-wide and Precinct-specific actions are ranked by priority:

- **Short-term actions:** should commence immediately, within 2 years or are already underway and are important to implement as soon as possible.
- **Medium-term actions:** should be initiated within 3-5 years during implementation of the plan.
- **Long-term actions:** should be commenced in 6-10 years, however preliminary work and consultation may occur sooner if opportunities arise.
- **Ongoing actions:** part of Council'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 (e.g. an extreme event).

The action plan provides funding estimates, lead group, key partners and deliverables. This assists with tracking and monitoring progress. The action plan will be adaptive, allowing responses to changing conditions, new opportunities or updated technical information.



Implementation of the CMMP includes aspects of monitoring, evaluation, review, and improvement.

The next steps are:

Endorsement and adoption	Endorsement of the CMMP by Council and DELWP
Implementation	Implementation of actions is focussed on embedding in existing Council processes and activities, particularly through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capital works program</li> <li>• Local laws</li> <li>• Asset management plans</li> <li>• Planning schemes and overlays</li> <li>• Other strategic plans</li> <li>• Business as usual Council operations</li> </ul>
Operational monitoring and review	Ongoing operational review and monitoring of risks to project delivery. Monitoring and adjustment of 'on-ground' actions
Monitoring and evaluation	Regular and systematic monitoring and evaluation of implementation, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation monitoring</li> <li>• Community perceptions and surveys (every 2-3 years)</li> <li>• Triggers to review and update, e.g. changes in policy, scientific advances, legislative change, etc.</li> </ul>
Review	Formal review occurs within 5 years or if triggered sooner through monitoring and evaluation process.
Improvement	Outcomes of the review are embedded through improvement of the existing Plan or development of a new Plan.

