



19 May 2017

Mr Robert Molloy
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Management Plan
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Dear Mr Molloy

Draft Port Phillip Bay Environmental Management Plan 2017–27

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the final draft of the Port Phillip Bay Environmental Management Plan (EMP)

Hobsons Bay City Council acknowledges the many challenges to the management of Port Phillip Bay and welcomes a coordinated approach that seeks to conserve and enhance the health of the State's marine and coastal environments. Council's Living Hobsons Bay: an Integrated Water Management Plan 2014-19 provides a strategic approach to Council's water management activities including a priority to protect waterways and the bay from key pollutants.

Council also welcomes the opportunity to provide input into the development of the Delivery Plan for the draft EMP which will guide how stakeholders collaborate to achieve the outcomes of the plan. We look forward to working with you on the implementation of this plan.

If you would like to discuss this submission further, please contact Kathleen McClusky, Director Strategic Development on 9932 1004 or email kmclusky@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Chris Eddy
Chief Executive Officer



Hobsons Bay City Council Submission to the final draft of the Port Phillip Environmental Management Plan 2017–27

Hobsons Bay is situated on the western shoreline of Port Phillip Bay, approximately seven to 20 kilometres south west of Melbourne’s Central Business District (CBD). The community has told Council through a range of strategic planning and community engagement processes that they value Hobsons Bay for its foreshore, beaches, waterways and natural open spaces.

Council’s Integrated Water Management Plan 2014-19 recognises the impact of stormwater quality on the health of the bay and our local beaches. It recognises that improving the quality of stormwater is beneficial for public health. As such there is in principal support for actions that improve the quality of stormwater. However, further clarification is sought around a number of these actions.

Overall

It is understood that the EMP is a high level plan and that the details of “who, what, why, where and how” will be provided within the Delivery Plan. Getting the details right to determine how these actions will be resourced and how agencies work together is an important component of determining the success of the plan. A significant consultation process will be required to develop an effective Delivery Plan to ensure that all stakeholders are committed to implementing the actions. As such, we welcome the opportunity to provide input into the draft Delivery Plan when it is released for feedback.

Council has noted that fishing, marine vessels (including jet skis) and coastal foreshore issues, such as erosion and inundation have been identified as “out of scope”. Whilst we acknowledge that the EMP is really about the water quality running off land into the bay, we are concerned that the impacts outlined above are part of the environmental context and therefore feel that they need to be addressed as part of a holistic approach to coastal management.

An important area of concern for Council is the potential impacts of climate change, including its impact on the coast. We see this as a priority area to be addressed by the plan particularly when riverine flooding combines with storm surges and high tides compounding present issues of coastal erosion and impact to assets. As one of the most vulnerable municipalities in Victoria, Council would value a more comprehensive approach to these issues.



Action 3.3

There is support for ensuring all urban and rural land use effectively controls impacts from stormwater and runoff, and that controls are in place to manage increases in loads. The updated action provides greater clarity about how this will be achieved and what realistic measures will be taken to achieve the desired outcomes.

Action 5.3

There is support for improved monitoring and reporting to better detect health risks. As stated in our previous submission the long term resourcing and collaborative processes need to be clearly defined to enable implementation of this action. It is important for this collaborative process to take place as part of the development of the Delivery Plan.