

File No: 09/005970

2 April 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

**Invitation for Feedback – draft Regional Coastal Plans 2015-2020**

Thank you for allowing the Heritage Council of Victoria (HCV) the opportunity to provide feedback on the three draft Regional Coastal Plans.

It is noted that the Victorian Coastal Strategy 2014 (VCS) contains 11 actions directly involving the Regional Coastal Boards and consequently, matters to be addressed or incorporated in Regional Coastal Plans. Six (6) of these actions relate directly or generally to cultural assets, including heritage, i.e. 1.2 (Action 2), 1.3 (Action 2), 1.6 (Action 4), 2.1 (Action 4), 2.3 (Action 2) and 3.2 (Action 2).

By reference to the draft Western Regional Coastal Plan 2015-2020 (WRCP), it is noted that Appendix 4 lists the chapters in the WRCP where the above VCS actions are incorporated.

It is acknowledged that a prime purpose of the Regional Coastal Plans is to “translate the state-wide direction by identifying regional values, initiatives and management gaps” and thus to guide the development of current and locality/issue-specific Coastal Management Plans throughout each region and across multiple public land managers.

The HCV concurs with the tenor of comments under “2.2.1 Cultural heritage values” in the WRCP and would provide the following general comments relating to cultural heritage management as an integral part of the multi-faceted requirements of effective coastal planning and management:

1. The Victorian coast is well-endowed with significant cultural heritage values relating to many places or objects e.g. ranging from discrete localised structures such as South Channel and West Channel Pile Lights (VHR H1518 and H1519) to an extensive linear route with the Great Ocean Road between Torquay and Aliansford (VHR H2261).

2. Protection of cultural heritage assets along the coast is integral to the achievement of sustainable measurable and non-measurable benefits of the coast, including recreational and tourism opportunities and flow-on economic gains.
3. It is clear that in some areas, places or structures with significant heritage values are likely to be at risk from increased erosion or inundation, including the effect of climate change, sea level rise and storm surges. This increases the need for long-term regional and local adaption plans.
4. Cultural heritage values may well be matters for consideration under multiple approvals relating to coastal works or development e.g. consent under the Coastal Management Act 1995, a planning permit under the Planning and Environment Act 1987 and a permit under the Heritage Act 1995. This requires relative consistency between assessment methodologies and appropriate liaison between decision-making authorities.

The Heritage Council would like to acknowledge the significant amount of work that has gone into the development of these documents and thank you, once again, for providing us with the opportunity to provide comments.

If you have any questions in relation to this matter please don't hesitate to contact 

Yours sincerely

