



Dear Sir/Madam

Submission to the Western Regional Coastal Plan 2015-2020 Draft

Council welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission that may add value to the Western Regional Coastal Plan 2015-2020 Draft ('the Plan').

Council offers the following comments and recommendations:

2.4 Protecting Coastal Values

While it is acknowledged that page 10 makes a brief reference to Regional Growth Plans (RGP's) in the context of guiding the decisions of Local Government, the Plan could be improved by the addition of a section about RGP's that explains the role of the Great South Coast and G21 RGP in identifying the role of different settlements along the Western coastline and future growth patterns.

The Plan could benefit from an explanation about the RGP's critical role at the regional level in guiding statutory land use planning decisions by Councils at the local level due to their incorporation in Clause 11.05 (Regional Development) of the State Planning Policy Framework (SPPF) in all planning schemes across the Victoria.

The referencing of RGP's in the Plan would highlight the significance of regional plans to land use planning outcomes that are made at the local level and provide a necessary linkage from the regional to the local level in the Plan.

While it is acknowledged that on page 3 under the heading 'Hierarchy of Principles', the Plan states that coastal principles are included in the SPPF and planning schemes across Victoria, the relationship and role that the Plan has to land use planning decisions on the coast is ambiguous and is not made explicit throughout the length of the document.

It is recommended that the Plan reiterate the focus that the Victorian Coastal Strategy 2014 places on the broader land use planning system as being 'important for the implementation of the [Victorian Coastal Strategy], Coastal Action Plans (now Regional Coastal Plans) and Coastal Management Plans'.

A stronger emphasis throughout the Plan on land use planning would make it a more useful reference document for decision makers at the local level who have to take into account State and Regional strategies when balancing competing priorities and development pressures on the coast.

4.3 The Draft Shipwreck Coast Masterplan

Moyne Shire has contributed to the development of this Masterplan through membership on the Project Control Group (PCG) and in making a submission to the PCG that highlighted key land use planning implications contained in the Plan and local community views.

Council recommends that the Plan state that Parks Victoria is the lead Agency responsible for the development of Masterplan (in partnership with local Councils and Tourism Victoria) and that the Masterplan contains land use implications for the future use and development of land along the Shipwreck coast study area.

With regard to managing visitation, it is recommended that the table '*Chapter 4 – Visitation Actions*' under point '*3. Identify priority areas for visitation demand management*' be amended to include Parks Victoria as a Partner Agent because the Masterplan may likely have implications for future demand management along the Shipwreck Coast study area.

5. A regional approach to Foreshore Management

Beaches along the west coast form an integral element of coastal towns and underpin much of the tourism based economy that supports regional coastal communities. Many of these beaches are subject to increasing pressure from storms and sea level rise. Renourishing popular beaches within Port Phillip Bay is routinely undertaken to protect assets and provide amenity for metropolitan beach goers yet there is no financial provision for regional beaches. The Western Coastal Board is encouraged to support west coast communities and make a commitment through this plan to advocate for funding to enable priority beaches along Victoria's open coastline to be renourished with sand.

6. Regional-scale planning for Coastal Flooding and Erosion

Council would like assistance with working together across land owners to achieve a less compartmental and more interdisciplinary approach to manage erosion.

As an example, South East Florida modelled an interdisciplinary regional action plan very effectively. Please refer to: <http://www.southeastfloridaclimatecompact.org/>

This model "represents a new form of regional climate governance designed to allow local governments to set the agenda for adaptation while providing an efficient means for state and federal agencies to engage with technical assistance and support."

A beachfront management agreement between Local and State Government could assist with long term solutions to the hazards identified in the Port Fairy Local Coastal Hazard Assessment and set a role for funding over future years. This would include agreed concept designs and a regular funding plan.

It is recommended that the heading on page 24 '*Case Study – Ocean Drive, Port Fairy (Port Fairy West Structure Plan)*' and text be amended by replacing the words 'Port Fairy West Structure Plan' with 'Port Fairy Coastal and Structure Plan'.

It is also advised that the photo above the text showing a storm surge in Apollo Bay be changed to a local photo from Port Fairy.

Under the heading on page 24 '*Case study – Implementing flood studies*' the last paragraph should read that 'A similar approach has been undertaken by the Moyne Shire by implementing the findings of the 2008 Port Fairy Regional Flood Study and the 2010/12 Addendum Reports on Sea Level Rise".

7. Supporting Communities Caring for the Coast

Data collection and management should be a priority at a regional level at key areas valued in Figure 3.

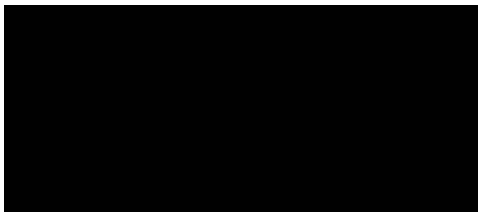
Data can be compared with predictions and used as evidence to make decisions on regional priorities for adaptation planning.

Data collection should include community surveys to validate predictions in Figure 3 and scientific data on factors that influence coastal processes such as wind, erosion and sand movement.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Council commends the Western Coastal Board on its Draft Regional Coastal Plan 2015-2020 and looks forward to working closely with the Board and relevant stakeholders to implement various actions identified in the Plan.

Yours sincerely



19.03.2015