

CITY OF PORT PHILLIP REPORT

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
27 MARCH 2012

2	FORESHORE MANAGEMENT PLAN
LOCATION/ADDRESS:	FORESHORE
GENERAL MANAGER:	JOHN HICKS, CITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES
PREPARED BY:	DAMIEN BURGESS, MANAGER PARKS AND OPEN SPACE
FILE NO.:	12/02/94
ATTACHMENTS:	NIL

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report is being presented to seek Council adoption of the Foreshore Management Plan.
- 1.2. The Foreshore Management Plan covers the 11 kilometres of coastline of the City of Port Phillip between Sandridge and Elwood. This includes the coastal Crown Land reserved under the Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978 for which the City of Port Phillip is the delegated Committee of Management.
- 1.3. The Plan will guide how Council protects, maintains and manages its coastline and foreshore.
- 1.4. The Plan will inform Council's future management and budgeting for the foreshore. Once adopted by Council, approval of the Plan will be sought from the Victorian Minister for Environment and Climate Change.
- 1.5. A revised set of guiding principles update the previously adopted foreshore principles and are based on the current stakeholder and community expectations as well as the policy and legislative direction relating specifically to the Port Phillip foreshore.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 2.1 Adopts the Foreshore Management Plan.
- 2.2 Considers future implementation of actions in the annual budget process.
- 2.3 Seeks approval of the Foreshore Management Plan by the Victorian Minister for Environment and Climate Change.

3. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 3.1 The foreshore is Port Phillip's most outstanding natural and cultural asset and plays a very important social and recreational role for the local and wider population. Port Phillip's foreshore includes the beaches and adjoining paths, buildings, parks and open spaces.
- 3.2 Since the development of the 2004 Plan there have been changes that impact on the foreshore including:
- Increased population, with further increases projected (100, 605 people in the City of Port Phillip by 2016).
 - Increased usage along the foreshore.
 - Increased awareness and understanding of the impacts of climate change.
 - Development of the Victoria Coastal Strategy 2008.
- 3.3 The result of this has been:
- Increased demand for additional facilities such as toilets and showers.
 - Demand for improvements to facilities such as lifesaving clubs.
 - A decline in the condition of foreshore reserves and vegetation areas.
 - Increased usage along the bike paths.
 - A 24 hour culture over summer.
- 3.4 Council has identified integrated planning and management of the foreshore along with protecting, preserving and reinstating local natural environments and open spaces within the city as key strategies for the foreshore. (Council Plan Strategy 4.3.1 and 4.3.2)
- 3.5 Council received the Foreshore Management Plan at the Ordinary Council meeting on 12 December 2011.

4 CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

- 4.1 A Community Reference Committee was appointed in July last year to assist with the development of the Foreshore Management Plan. The Community Reference Committee has guided its development in line with the Council Plan and 2010-2011 strategic priorities.
- 4.2 The stakeholders represented on the Reference Committee included:
- Four community members appointed by Council.
 - A delegate from Life Saving Victoria.
 - A delegate from Parks Victoria.
 - A delegate from Department of Sustainability and Environment.
 - Two Port Phillip Councillors appointed by Council.
- 4.3 A total of six meetings were held with the Foreshore Reference Committee Group including five on-site visits. The Reference Committee has indicated its satisfaction with the consultation process, responsiveness to the community feedback and the incorporation of Reference Committee recommendations.
- 4.4 Initial community consultation occurred during October and November 2010. In order to ensure that the view of a representative number of individuals,

groups and opinions were captured, Council sought information from the community and business through a variety of mediums. This included:

- Online discussion forum.
- 380 telephone surveys with residents.
- Newspaper advertisements and on-site signage.
- Video interviews conducted along the foreshore.
- 202 on-site surveys along the length of the foreshore.
- Foreshore Management Plan Community Reference Committee.
- 80 participants at the 'Your Bay Your Say' public consultation event on 17 November 2010.
- 32 attendees at two separate workshops from agencies, community groups and businesses.
- Ongoing responses to community member contributions by phone and email.

4.5 The final stage of public consultation on the Draft Foreshore Plan during November 2011 involved:

- Local newspapers advertisements.
- 28 onsite signs along the length of the foreshore.
- Emails to over 700 residence, clubs, businesses, agencies and other stakeholders with an interest in the foreshore.
- Updated online discussion forum and individual emails.

4.6 Submissions on the Draft Foreshore Management Plan closed November 30 2011.

4.7 The community consultation process had a high level of engagement from the local community. Positive feedback was received from residents and visitors in relation to the plan development and consultation process adopted. Several residents phoned to thank Council for their feedback being considered as part of the updated Foreshore Management Plan and responsiveness to their particular concerns.

5. DISCUSSION

5.1 OPTIONS

5.1.1 Council can adopt the Foreshore Management Plan.

This is the preferred option as it will support Council to achieve its Council Plan and support community interest groups and residents.

5.1.2 Council can choose to not adopt the Foreshore Management Plan.

If the Plan is not adopted Council will continue to deal with community requests regarding: ageing infrastructure, declining vegetation, demands for upgraded and additional facilities, climate change impacts and a 24 hour culture over summer without the guidance provided by a plan.

5.2 ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN

5.2.1 The recommendations in this report support the Council Plan 2009-2013, as outlined below:

5.2.1.1 Strategy 4.3.1 Ensure integrated planning and management of the foreshore, and

5.2.1.2 Strategy 4.3.2 Protect, preserve and reinstate local natural environments and open spaces within the city.

5.3 POLICY IMPLICATIONS PLAN

5.3.1 The key policy drivers that most directly relate to this project are the Open Space Strategy and Victorian Coastal Strategy.

5.3.2 The City of Port Phillip Open Space Strategy (page 6) defines poor open space as land that “is under utilised, offers poor connection to other spaces or streets, is unsafe for users, [and] offers poor accessibility”. Developing a plan for future improvements will assist with enhancing the value and functionality of the foreshore.

5.3.3 DSE states that if a plan is developed in accordance with the Coastal Management Act 1995 and Victorian Coastal Strategy 2008, then the plan would provide support for future bids for funds from government agencies and other funding sources.

5.4 FINANCE / RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.4.1 Council has invested \$120,000 in planning and community consultation to develop the updated Foreshore Management Plan over the past year.

5.4.2 The Plan incorporates Council's current and ongoing financial commitments on the foreshore. Future Council investments will need to be considered in Council's annual budget process.

5.5 LEGAL & RISK IMPLICATIONS

5.5.1 The risk of not endorsing the Plan would be that there would be no integrated planning and management of the foreshore including the protection, preservation and reinstatement of the local natural environments and open space along the foreshore.

6 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

6.1 TIMELINE

- 6.1.1 The Foreshore Management Plan will need to be considered as part of the annual budget process. The Foreshore Management Plan would remain current for 3-4 years, once approved by the Victorian Minister for Environment and Climate Change

6.2 COMMUNICATION

- 6.2.1 Council undertook an extensive consultation process with the local community and key stakeholders to develop the Foreshore Management Plan.
- 6.2.2 Residents and community interest groups will be directly notified of the Plan's progression with Council and State for implementation.

7 OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST

- 7.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any direct or indirect interest in the matter.