

# Queenscliff Boating Facility Upgrade

SEPTEMBER 2020



## Queenscliff Boating Facility is one of six boating facilities the government committed to upgrade as part of its unprecedented investment in recreational boating.

These facilities were selected based on advice from various stakeholders including the boating and angling community.

### What's happened so far

We engaged a specialist landscape architect to develop two draft concepts that we consulted the community on between October and December 2019.

We used the feedback we received to inform a final concept design the community supports that has been created to improve the boating facility and respect the character of Queenscliff. The final concept design was released in June 2020.

### What's happening right now

#### Design team have been appointed

We have appointed a landscape design and a maritime engineering firm to develop the detailed designs needed to upgrade the boating facility. Both firms have significant experience designing maritime infrastructure and understand the environmental and cultural heritage values required to successfully deliver projects.

#### Cultural heritage assessments underway

We have engaged heritage advisors and are directly consulting with the Watherinung to investigate cultural heritage values in the boat ramp vicinity. We'll be surveying the site in collaboration with Watherinung heritage advisors to ensure cultural heritage is managed appropriately during the upgrade.

In addition, we've engaged heritage advisors to investigate European heritage within the footprint of the upgrade to ensure appropriate management.

### Working toward environmental approvals

All use, development and works on marine and coastal Crown land by any party requires consent under the Marine and Coastal Act 2018 (MACA) and is directed by Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning (DELWP) in Victoria.

A MACA is designed to ensure no neighbouring marine habitat and environment is damaged as part of the works. This is a state level requirement defined in law and all prerequisites must be satisfied before consent is granted.

Swan bay is an area of environmental significance and we are working with environmental specialists to develop a dredging plan that eliminates any risk to surrounding coastal habitat.

### Town planners engaged

A planning permit is required to undertake the upgrade and we are working with the Borough of Queenscliffe and town planners to ensure that all town planning overlays, including environmental, recreational and heritage are formally addressed and advertised as per Council policy.

### Improving the original concept design

The final concept design for the Queenscliff upgrade was released in June 2020. Following this, we received additional feedback from stakeholders and the boating community to further improve the functionality and safety of the boat ramp and the proposed kayak launch area. As a result, we have taken this onboard and updated the concept design to reflect these improvements.



## Further information about the updated concept design

### Why has the kayak ramp been moved?

Stakeholder feedback highlighted that a kayak launch ramp on the west side of the boat ramp will reduce risk of conflict between non-powered and powered vessels. We know that boat traffic launching at the ramp automatically departs east down 'the cut'. Moving the kayak launch west minimises that interface with these vessels.

### Why have the pontoon arrangements been changed from the initial concept?

Ramp users told us the proposed middle lane in the concept would be challenging to use for inexperienced and solo boaters. We have incorporated a smaller pontoon to ensure that all lane users have immediate access to a walkway. In addition, lanes will be a minimum of 4m width and clearly marked and the pontoons will be increased in length with associated dredging to allow for larger vessels.

### Why aren't you adding a fourth ramp?

The boat ramp upgrade will happen within the existing footprint and that limits boat-trailer unit and car parking capacity. The main aim of the upgrade is to improve the speed at which boats can be launched a received and we are confident that a third lane with re-arranged pontoons will meet the demand whilst proving adequate car parking capacity.

## What's happening next

We will be working with the Borough of Queenscliffe and relevant agencies to progress the detailed design and environmental approvals as part of the upgrade.

A planning permit will be lodged later this year and we will be making the updated concept design available as part of the planning permit process. During the planning permit advertising period, we'll be hosting another drop-in session with opportunities for you to hear from the design team and learn more about the project.

We are planning sediment testing investigations for October which will advise on the best spoil disposal methods associated with any dredging. We'll be completing a MACA application and commit to ensure disposal of spoil is managed in line with Environmental Protection Agency standards with no impact on neighbouring marine habitat.

## Need more information?

Find out more about the government's recreational boating initiatives at [www.betterboating.vic.gov.au](http://www.betterboating.vic.gov.au)