

# The Port Phillip and Western Port boating infrastructure management review



## The Victorian Government committed to reviewing the management of boating infrastructure across Port Phillip and Western Port.

As part of this commitment, we released the Management of Port Phillip and Western Port Boating Facilities discussion paper that outlines initial findings about how boating infrastructure is currently managed across Port Phillip and Western Port.

We sought feedback on the discussion paper from boating facility users, managers and boating industry stakeholders to help inform options that will improve how public boating infrastructure is managed. This feedback was received over a five-week period between Friday 6th December 2019 and Friday 10th January 2020.

### What we did

We wanted to hear from boating facility users, managers, and industry stakeholders about how boating infrastructure is currently managed and opportunities that may exist to better manage it across Port Phillip and Western Port.

A discussion paper was prepared, based on initial findings by Deloitte who were appointed to undertake the review in September 2019.

The discussion paper was released in December 2019 and we set up an online survey to ask questions about how the facilities are currently used, how they are managed and how stakeholders think they can be better managed in the future.

The feedback captured during consultation will be used to inform options to better manage recreational boating infrastructure across Port Phillip and Western Port.

### People reached



**667 visits** to the online project page

**174** people downloaded the discussion paper



**7 formal submissions** from members of the public, industry groups and local councils



**51** responses to the online survey

**Over 9,000** people reached via Facebook

# Who we heard from

- Recreational boating facility users
- Managers of recreational boating facilities
- Industry representatives including representations from Local Government

## What we heard

### Through the online survey, you told us

#### Your top five recommendations

- 1 improving boating facility design
- 2 ensuring facilities are safe
- 3 functional all year round
- 4 a centralised management approach
- 5 clear and consistent funding model



You want better boating facility designs and maintenance plans to improve safety, reduce congestion and allow for easy use.

#### Your three most important features of a boating facility

- 1 safety
- 2 good design
- 3 maintenance

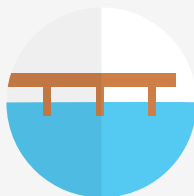


The best managed boat ramps across Port Phillip and Western Port are Patterson River, Hastings, Altona, Rye and Mornington.

#### Your six essential assets for a recreational boating facility are:



Boat ramps



Pontoons and jetties



Carparks



Lighting



Navigation aids



Toilets

#### Facility managers



##### Role and responsibility

You told us the role and responsibilities of boating facility managers should include

- maintenance and repairs
- asset monitoring and
- capital upgrades

##### Key capabilities

- Staff capacity
- expertise in recreational boating
- standardised management practices and
- asset management expertise

# You said

## During consultation, you said:

These three key priorities are essential to improving boating facilities

1

upgrading existing facilities

2

proactively maintaining existing facilities

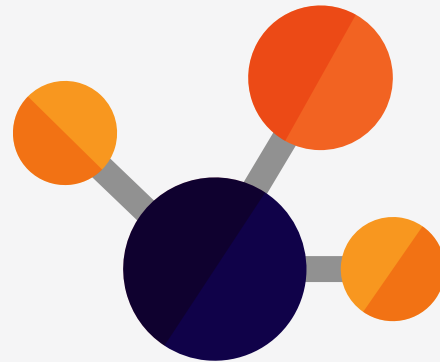
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improving access to ramps and water

### You'd like to see a centralised entity

A centralised entity responsible for prioritising funding, assessing user feedback and enabling better communication between managers and users could improve the standard of facilities in Port Phillip and Western Port.

A centralised entity could also improve the standard of boating facilities by providing clear guidelines for the maintenance and upgrade of facilities.



### Consistency is key



A lack of consistency in the standard of boating facilities was a real issue across Port Phillip and Western Port.

### Facility managers



To successfully do their job they need support for maintenance and repair, prioritising upgrades and renewals, collecting feedback, monitoring and assessment of assets.

### Access to information



Easy access to information about the accessibility of the ramp, its condition, and congestion levels before visiting is important.

### Managing boat ramp capacity issues



Utilising reserves as overflow parking and managing capacity issues with live webcams have been successful in other states.

### Dedicated website



You'd prefer to receive information and provide feedback about recreational boating facilities via a dedicated website.

## You asked

### Q. What is the purpose of the management review?

The review of the management of boating facilities across Port Phillip and Western Port will look at how these facilities are being managed now, the condition of these assets, the current issues with management, and what options are available for improving the management of these boating facilities in the future.

### Q. Are you setting up a dedicated boating infrastructure authority?

The government committed to undertaking a review with a view to establishing a dedicated boating authority. While this is an option being considered as part of the review, the key outcome of the review is to identify ways for improving how boating facilities are managed.

### Q. Are you going to investigate ways to improve boating facility management in other parts of Victoria?

Yes. The themes identified for managing boating infrastructure across Port Phillip and Western Port will be tested to see if they apply to our boating facilities across regional Victoria. Furthermore, we will survey regional Victoria to gather insights and see if there are additional options that need to be considered for improving boating infrastructure management across regional Victoria.

### Q. Will boating facility managers receive additional funding to support the maintenance of the facilities?

A key outcome of the review is to identify a range of options for improving how infrastructure is managed. The Government will then consider the options that are presented to assess how to best improve the way boating facilities are managed for Victorians.

### Q. What's being done to make Victorian boating facilities more accessible for all users?

Better Boating Victoria has started work on identifying and improving accessibility for all users at various locations across Victoria. More information will be made available by Better Boating Victoria throughout the year.

### Q. Will the role of boating facility managers be defined in a strategy or publication so community members can refer to?

Options to improve how boating facilities are managed will be identified throughout this review. This may include clearer guidelines or a strategy. However, options arising from the review will need to be further considered to determine if they are feasible and how to best implement them.

### Q. When will we see improvements in Port Phillip and Western Port?

The Government is currently improving facilities at Mordialloc, Hastings, Point Richards, Queenscliff, Rhyll and the Cowes Jetty.

The review will identify options for how boating facilities could be better managed by mid-2020. These will then need to be considered by Government. It's too early to tell what the outcomes of the review will be. However, announcements regarding any outcomes will be provided throughout the year.

## Next steps

**We would like to thank everyone who provided feedback on the management of boating facilities.**

All your feedback is being considered and will be used to identify options to improve the way public boating infrastructure is managed.

A final report identifying the outcomes of the review is expected to be released by mid-2020.