



Management of Port Phillip and Western Port Boating facilities

Summary

December 2019

In March 2019, the Victorian Government set up Better Boating Victoria to help make a day out on the water cheaper and easier. This included a review of the management of boating infrastructure across Port Phillip and Western Port.

As part of this review, Better Boating Victoria wants to hear from you, and all passionate boaters, about how to do boating reform right.

Why are we reviewing boating infrastructure management in Port Phillip and Western Port?

We know that the current arrangements result in varied standards of our boating infrastructure. With different facility managers taking different approaches to the upkeep and improvement of facilities in their patch, it can get frustrating for boaters.

Port Phillip and Western Port are the focus of this review because the majority of boating is concentrated around these areas. The review covers a total of 43 public recreational boating facilities across Port Phillip and Western Port.

Why have we released a discussion paper?

We know that we don't have all the answers. We're doing our own thinking about improving boating around the bays, but we also want boaters, anglers, facility managers, industry groups and anyone interested using our waterways to tell us how we can improve the management of boating infrastructure in the bays.

The feedback we get will be used to change boating for the better in Victoria.

What have we found out so far?

1 It's not clear what is and isn't a recreational boating facility. Some are small scale facilities with no amenities whereas others can be multi-lane boat ramps, with toilet blocks, BBQs and fish cleaning tables. Defining what a boating facility is will help make it clearer who is responsible for looking after them.

2 Day to Day management of facilities varies a lot.

As you've probably noticed, the way facilities are managed and the standard to which they are maintained differs significantly from one waterway manager to another.

3 There is no plan to ensure consistency in the way recreational boating is managed across different locations.

We've found out that there is no clear, consistent picture of the quality and condition of the facilities and what their longer-term needs are, or where the priority areas are for upgrades and maintenance. The Review will help address some of these limitations and improve the way infrastructure is managed in the future.

4 There are some gaps in funding, skills and experience for those required to manage facilities. The skills and experience of facility managers differ between locations and different funding levels impacts the kind of maintenance that can be undertaken.

5 There is currently no way for boaters to provide feedback and get information about the way boating infrastructure is managed in the bays. We think we can do this better and this review will inform how to do things better.

6 The way other states in Australia manage boating infrastructure provide ideas for how we can do things better in Victoria. Through our research, we found there might be elements we can borrow, learn from or adapt to improve how we manage boating facilities in Port Phillip and Western Port.

How to read the discussion paper and have your say:

The discussion paper can be accessed through our Get Involved online platform: getinvolved.transport.vic.gov.au/boatingreview

Here you will also find a survey that will allow you to provide feedback on the paper and how we can improve management arrangements of boating facilities in Port Phillip and Western Port.

The deadline for submitting feedback will be Friday 10 January 2020.

Next steps in the review process

We'll review the feedback you provide and will release a summary of the findings early next year. Importantly, we'll be actively listening to what you have to say now and using your feedback to start working on options for how recreational boating facilities in Port Phillip and Western Port can be improved into the future.