

# Point Richards Boat Ramp: New Navigational Channel

## July 2022

Better Boating Victoria has funded the delivery of the Point Richards boating facility upgrade which include 50 additional boat/trailer parking bays and the construction of a rock groyne to the west of the boat ramp. Construction of this groyne will change the direction of boat traffic out of the harbour with channel markers to identify the new channel.

### Point Richards Navigational Channel Changes

Better Boating Victoria (BBV) has collaborated with Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee of Management (Bellarine Bayside) to deliver the upgrade of the Point Richards boating facility. As part of the upgrade, a rock groyne has been constructed to the west of the boat ramp.

The rock groyne has been designed to decrease the amount of seagrass build-up at the boat ramp, reducing closure and disruption to boaters throughout the year. However, as a result, the current navigational channel will change.



### The new rock groyne:

The new rock groyne has been constructed to deflect sea grass to the north away from the boat ramp - limiting how often the ramp is closed for maintenance and sea grass removal.

The groyne has been designed with a platform on the end to allow for a long-reach excavator to undertake maintenance dredging if required.

### Boaters should:

- ✓ Follow all new directions and channel markers at all times.
- ✓ Exit and enter the boat ramp and associated harbour in an east/west direction.
- ✓ Be aware of the shallow sand bar to the north of the ramp.
- ✓ Be aware of other boats when exiting/entering the safe harbour and boat ramp.
- ✓ Be aware of tide changes, your vessel limitations and changes in weather.

### The new navigation channel:

The new navigation channel is marked by floating buoys and piles:

- New navigation port and starboard buoy markers have been placed to guide boaters through the navigational channel which runs in an east/west direction to avoid the shallow waters to the north of the boat ramp.
- The new channel location has a similar depth profile and seabed characteristics as the previous channel



**WARNING – Shallow waters to north**

**Stay in navigation channel at all times**

### What is the new channel arrangement at Point Richards?

A series of port and starboard navigation markers have been placed to mark the new channel. Boaters will enter/exit the boat ramp area from a north/south direction. However, the access channel runs in an east/west direction.



### Will dredging at Point Richards still be required?

Sand will continue to move in the vicinity of the boat ramp, and dredging will be required on occasions. A long-reach excavator will be able to complete maintenance dredging at the mouth of the boating facility entrance if required.

### Is the boating facility entrance wide enough?

The channel entrance has been designed to Australian Standards and provides 20m clearance.

### Why is there so much sea grass on the beach?

Seagrass meadows fluctuate in size and are currently at their most abundant level over the last 20 years. When northerly winter storms occur, seagrass detaches and is deposited onto the beach. As the seagrass meadows are very large, high amounts are being experienced along the northern Bellarine Coast and Corio Bay.

### Is the Groyne causing seagrass build-up on the beach to the west of the boating facility?

No, currents move toward Point Richards from a south westerly direction. Seagrass is deposited on the beach before any interference by the rock groyne. There is however some build up against the southern section of the rockwall which may be utilised from time to time with sand for local erosion mitigation programs.

### Will seagrass still build up on the boat ramp?

The rock groyne will greatly reduce seagrass build-up. However, some residual seagrass may still deposit within the boat ramp area at a much-reduced rate.

### Is the groyne accessible for fishing or walking?

No, there is no pedestrian access to the groyne.

### My boat is large and slow to maneuver – what can I do on busy days?

Temporary holding piles will be installed away from the boat ramp for larger boats to tie off on until the boat ramp becomes available.

### What works have been undertaken to improve the Point Richards boating facility?

In September 2021, the upgrade to the overflow carpark was completed, creating an additional 50 formal parking bays suitable for car & trailer units.

For more information on Point Richards and other project upgrades go to our website at

<https://betterboating.vic.gov.au/ramp-upgrades/point-richards-stage-2/>

## 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)

