

Kirk Point Upgrade

Update

Information

Bulletin: April 2023



Construction works for the upgrade of Kirk Point Boat Ramp will begin shortly.

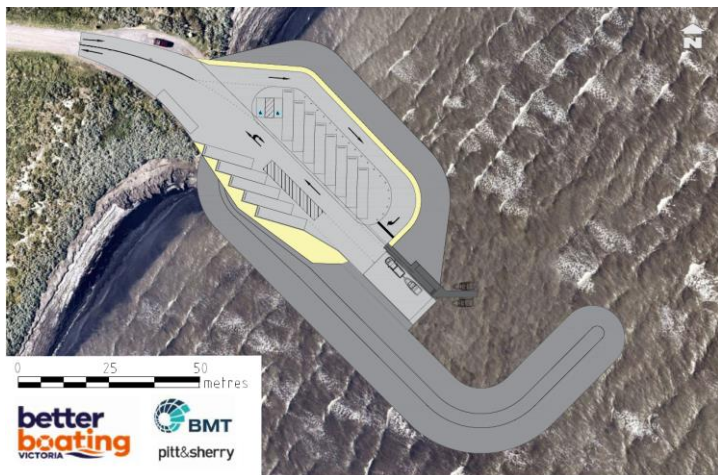
The Kirk Point Boat Ramp is being upgraded to make it safer and easier to use for recreational boaters. A contract has been awarded and construction is due to commence in late May 2023.

Project Background

The Kirk Point Boat Ramp is a popular fishing destination on the western side of Port Phillip Bay. With the ongoing growth in demand for boating and its current poor condition, Kirk Point will be upgraded.

The upgrade of the facility will provide a safe and sheltered launching area for recreational boaters by constructing a protective breakwater and jetty. The project will also provide environmental benefits by closing access to vehicles on the Kirk Point Wildlife Spit Reserve to protect sensitive vegetation.

As Kirk Point falls in a RAMSAR site (wetlands of international importance), BBV has worked closely with ecologists and subject matter experts from the Western Treatment Plant Biodiversity Advisory committee to ensure the protection of native vegetation and birdlife.



Project Construction

Better Boating Victoria is collaborating with the facility manager, Parks Victoria, to deliver the upgrade to the Kirk Point Ramp.

A contract has been awarded to specialist marine contractors, and construction is due to commence from late May 2023.

During the works the boat ramp will be closed for public safety reasons with expected completion in Spring 2023.

Parks Victoria will oversee the delivery of the upgrade.

What's next?

Construction works for the upgrade will occur between May and late September and will include the following upgrades to the facility:

- Two boat ramp lanes
- Construction of a breakwater to provide shelter from wave action
- Construction of a jetty
- Provision of 31 formal car-trailer parks.
- Other incremental improvements including Navigation markers and improvements to the overflow carpark.

Construction activities have been timed to occur outside of the peak boating season and in the cooler months to reduce impacts to migratory birds.

Where can I find out more?

To follow the next steps and updates visit our website at: <https://betterboating.vic.gov.au/ramp-upgrades/kirk-point/>

FAQ's

What does the project involve?

The project involves the upgrade of the Kirk Point Boat ramp to create a two-lane facility, construction of a breakwater to provide shelter from wave action, a jetty and provide additional car parking (31 car and trailer parking space to be provided in total).

What's happened already?

Better Boating Victoria has progressed designs that were developed over 5 years ago by Melbourne Water and Parks Victoria. In addition, due diligence of environmental and coastal impacts have been assessed to obtain permits and approvals.

Who is managing this project?

Parks Victoria will manage and deliver the construction phase of the project.

When is construction due to start?

Works are anticipated to commence in late May 2023, with an indicative completion of Spring 2023 subject to favourable weather conditions.

Will I be able to use the boat ramp when construction is taking place?

No. Once works begin there will be no access to the boat ramp. Works are due to commence from late May 2023 and the facility will be open again in Spring 2023 when works have been completed.

Where can I launch and retrieve my boat while the Kirk Point boat ramp is closed?

The nearest boat ramps include St Helens (Geelong) and Werribee South Boat Ramp. For more information on local boat ramps please visit <https://www.boating.vic.gov.au> or <https://geelongaustralia.com.au/boating>

Please note that due to upcoming upgrade works, the Avalon Beach Boat Ramp will also be closed to the public from June to September 2023.

Will I still be able to access the Western Treatment plant for birdwatching?

Access to Western Treatment Plan will be maintained at multiple gates across the area. At times, given the nature of construction works, access to the gate nearest the boat ramp may be impacted project will aim to minimise disruption to the area and visitors should refer to the project website for regular updates and keep an eye out for any detour signage in place during the construction.

How will the upgrade improve functionality of the ramp?

The Kirk Point Boat Ramp upgrade will achieve the following design outcomes:

- Doubling to create a two-lane facility.
- Construction of a breakwater to provide shelter from wave action.
- Provision of an additional 31 car-trailer parks.
- Other incremental improvements including upgrade of the overflow carpark.

What will construction involve.

Construction works will involve the civil and structural engineering and will include:

- Delivery of construction materials to site

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- Driving of piles
- Civil works to construct new carparking area
- Placement of rock to construct new breakwater.

A Construction and Environment Management Plan and no-go zones will be prepared to manage and mitigate impacts of the construction works.

Have the cultural and environmental values be protected?

Yes. Key environmental approvals, including *Marine and Coastal Act 2018 consent*, have been obtained. Parks Victoria have also engaged with the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, on this project.

The Kirk Point boat ramp is in a RAMSAR protected location with sensitive bird habitat nearby. An independent Environmental Impact Assessment of the risks to nearby flora and fauna has been conducted to confirm the risk is negligible.

The upgrade will minimise unauthorised access to the Kirk Point Spit Wildlife Reserve, and subsequently protect habitat of significant to endangered birdlife, particularly the orange-bellied parrot and other migratory birds.

How much funding has been provided?

A total of \$4 million has been allocated to this project.

Where is the upgrade being funded from?

The Better Boating Fund (BBF) which returns all the funding collected from boaters' registration and licence fees back into projects across the state.

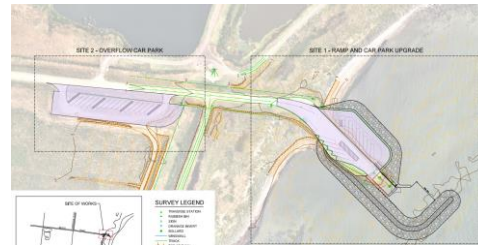
Why has this project been funded?

Kirk Point Ramp is in poor condition and located is near the growth areas of Geelong and Wyndham. Furthermore, the upgrade will minimise unauthorised access to the Kirk Point Spit Wildlife Reserve, and subsequently protect bird habitat. The upgrade was identified in the Recreational Boating Action Plan 2022-23 for delivery.

How many boat trailer spaces will there be?

A total of 31 car trailer bays will be provided as part of the upgrade.

The existing overflow carpark will be reconfigured to provide parking for up to 17 car & trailer units. The carparking beside the boat ramp will provide 14 car & trailer bays.



What will be done to make it easier to launch a boat in windy conditions?

A new breakwater will be constructed to provide shelter and protect boat ramp users from easterly and southerly winds and waves.

A fixed jetty will provide a temporary holding structure to berth against during the launching and retrieval process.

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Will the access road be upgraded?

No. The access road is managed by the City of Greater Geelong and is out of scope for this upgrade.

Will there be impacts on native vegetation/birdlife?

The works have been timed to occur outside of the migratory bird season, which are at their lowest numbers during winter.

A dedicated environmental management plan will be prepared to document how works activities will limit impacts to surrounding wildlife in the area and strict no-go zones will be installed to protect surrounding native vegetation and habitat.

Will we get regular updates to let us know how the project is progressing?

Monthly updates will be provided on Better Boating Victoria's website. For updates on project progress and more information please go to:
<https://betterboating.vic.gov.au/ramp-upgrades/kirk-point/>



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