

St Leonards Boat Ramp Upgrade

Information Bulletin:
August 2023



As part of the Victorian Government's investment into making it easier to get out on the water, St Leonards boat ramp has been identified for future upgrades.

Project Background

The St Leonards boat ramp is a 4-lane ramp located in the southern part of Port Phillip on the Bellarine Peninsula. The boat launching facility includes a long central jetty with short 'T' piece at the end, two smaller finger jetties on the northern and southern sides, dedicated car/trailer parks, toilets, fish cleaning table and an overflow carpark across the road. This facility is managed by Bellarine Bayside Committee of Management.

Consultation with boaters and the local community in 2022 highlighted the major issues with ramp being the impact of wind driven waves on the ramp which make launching and retrieval problematic for boat operators.

Based on the outcomes of the initial consultation, a draft concept plan was prepared for public consultation which featured provision of waterside upgrades to address the impact of waves on the ramp and a seasonal overflow car park to alleviate car parking and traffic congestion during the peak summer period.

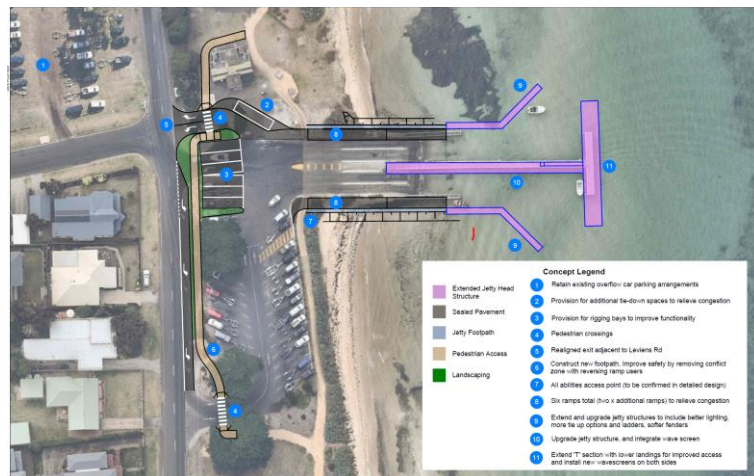
In December 2022, Better Boating Victoria released the draft concept plan for public consultation, supported by an on-line survey, which received 286 responses.

Following the analysis and consideration of feedback received through the public consultation process a concept has been developed and released, including provision of wave screens along the central jetty extending seawards as well as an extended 'T' on the end that will also incorporate wave screens to provide shelter from onshore wind

and waves. No seasonal car park options were featured.

Since this design was released, additional refinements to the design have been made, which include the following:

- Addition of two extra boat ramp lanes
- Six dedicated rigging bays
- Pedestrian access around the facility
- Realigned exit
- Dedicated derigging area



These changes have been made to enhance safety at the facility – more lanes for boaters to retrieve during poor weather conditions.

Subject to permits and approvals, construction of the new jetty and wave baffles is due to commence after Easter 2024. Meanwhile BBV will continue to progress environmental and cultural assessments to facilitate the delivery of the additional ramp lanes and pedestrian path in a subsequent year.

FAQs

What has changed?

Since the concept design was last shared with the community, additional refinements to the design have been made, which include the following.

- Addition of two extra boat ramp lanes
- Six dedicated rigging bays
- Pedestrian access around the facility
- Realigned exit
- Dedicated derigging area

Why have two extra lanes been proposed?

A new lane will be provided on each side of the existing ramps (creating three lanes on each side).

Whilst the new jetty featuring wave baffles will provide great protection from wave action at the ramp, in some wind directions, only two of the existing 4 boat ramp lanes will provide protection from wave action.

By adding two additional lanes, there will always be 3 boat ramp lanes to protect against waves action. This is particularly relevant for boaters when retrieving their vessels.

Why has a new pedestrian path been created around the facility?

The community raised concerns about the existing path crossing the top of the boat ramp. To enhance safety at the facility, a new path will be created around the outside of the facility. This path will also incorporate pedestrian crossings.

The existing path will remain in place for those wanting to continue to use it.

Why has the car park exit been realigned?

To improve traffic flow, six rigging bays have been incorporated into the design. These will be located over the existing exit.

The exit has therefore been realigned to provide room for a derigging bay as well as access adjacent to Leviens road.

What consultation has happened to date?

- *April 2022:* The public was invited to complete a survey to enable us to better understand the issues and concerns that need to be considered.
- *November 2022:* A draft concept was released, and the public was invited to complete a survey online or to attend a drop in event.
- *April 2023:* We met with local boaters to present the concept design, where the concern regarding needing additional lanes to aid retrieval in poor conditions was raised.
- *June 2023:* We met with representatives from the local community to discuss the addition of extra lanes and received feedback on concerns.
- *July 2023:* We met with boaters and representatives from the local community to share a final concept incorporating the additional lanes as well as pedestrian path.

Will the project construction be staged?

To ensure that construction works can commence after Easter in 2024, construction will be staged.

Stage 1 (\$2.8M election commitment funding) will include the construction of the new jetty and T head, with wave baffles installed, and will commence after the Easter school holidays, pending approvals.

The rest of the work will include the construction of two finger jetties, the additional boat ramp lanes, pedestrian path and car park works (realigned exit and rigging bays). These additional works require detailed designs and environmental and cultural heritage approvals and will be subject to additional funding.

What happens next?

Better Boating Victoria is progressing final designs and approvals, in close consultation with Bellarine Bayside Committee of Management, to commence the jetty works after Easter in 2024 – pending approvals.

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

Updates will be provided on Better Boating Victoria's website: <https://betterboating.vic.gov.au/ramp-upgrades/st-leonards/>

Need more information?

Find out more about the government's recreational boating initiatives at www.betterboating.vic.gov.au