

Newhaven Boat Ramp Upgrade FAQs

Why is the Newhaven boat ramp getting an upgrade?

The Newhaven boat ramp is an important part of the Victorian boat ramp network, giving access to Western Port Bay just inside of the narrow entrance at San Remo. The facility comprises a two-lane concrete boat ramp, an existing wooden jetty and car parking. The ramp has been identified to receive a future upgrade due to:

- Lack of space and configuration of berthing and tie up points
- Limited car-trailer unit parking – on peak days overflow extends onto surrounding roads
- Insufficient access for launching and retrieving, particularly at low tide
- Existing jetty poses challenges in terms of accessibility

What has happened so far?

Bass Coast Shire Council commissioned marine consultants to undertake a feasibility assessment of installing a new pontoon at the Newhaven Boat Ramp. However, due to the condition of the jetty the project was put on hold. Renewal works were completed in 2022 which included raising of lower deck, replacement of existing upper deck floor and improvements to the substructure.

In early 2023, Better Boating Victoria engaged marine consultants to deliver a concept design for a future upgrade. In mid-2023, initial meetings were held with a small group of ramp users and local and state government agencies to identify the needs for improvement at this ramp.

Based on the preliminary feedback received to date, a draft concept design was developed, and we have consulted with the community via a drop in event at Newhaven on 7 December 2023 and through an online survey that closed on Friday 19 January 2024.

What are the key features of the draft concept design?

The current draft design features the following:

- Construction of a third boat ramp lane and an extension to the existing ramps by 9 metres to allow for easier access to the water during low tide
- Existing jetty to be removed and replaced with a new jetty with a lower landing and extended with a gangway and floating pontoon
- Dredging of the seabed area around the proposed pontoon to allow for boats to dock on either side of the pontoon.
- An additional 23 car and boat trailer parking spaces which requires the reclamation of land on the west side of the existing boat ramp car park to widen the area.

Does the concept design include an additional ramp lane?

Yes, the concept design includes one additional lane (taking the total to three lanes) and extending all lanes by up to 9 metres for easier launch and retrieval of vessels, particularly at low tide.

Are there plans to increase the number of car and trailer parks?

Yes. the current design will create an additional 23 (approx.) car and trailer parking spaces by reclaiming some land.

What will be involved in the reclamation, if approved?

Better Boating Victoria has commissioned some environmental assessments and, if supported, would seek to reclaim approximately 1,300 m² and rebuild a seawall, to create an extra 23 car trailer parks.

Will the beach be impacted?

The beach at Newhaven is to be retained.

Why does the current jetty need to be replaced?

Engineering condition inspections and structural assessments were undertaken in mid-2020. The report identified that the approx. 50-year-old structure is nearing the end of its design life and an upgrade over the next 5-10 years was recommended.

Better Boating Victoria awarded funding to Bass Coast Shire Council to carry out urgent repairs to the jetty to ensure it remained operational in the short to medium term. The concept designs developed in 2023 allow for a new jetty with lower landing, new heavy-duty pontoon, which would replace the aging jetty.

Does the proposal include dredging?

Yes. Subject to approvals, dredging will be required to allow suitable depths for vessels. Key environmental assessments and approvals will be required prior to any works commencing.

Where has the funding for this project come from?

Funding for the design is from the Better Boating Fund.

The Better Boating Fund was established in 2021 and invests every dollar of marine licensing and boat registration fees to projects and programs that improve boating safety and facilities.

What are the next steps?

Better Boating Victoria hosted a drop-in session on 7 December 2023 at the Newhaven Yacht Club for the community to help develop inform the final concept plan and the online survey closed on Friday 19th of January 2024.

All feedback will be considered, and Better Boating Victoria will finalise the concept and then progress detailed designs and approvals.

To learn more about this project, please visit [here](#).