

STRATEGY AT A GLANCE

VISION A healthy coast, appreciated by all, now and in the future

Protection of significant environmental & cultural features

Clear directions for future use

Sustainable use of natural coastal resources

Suitable development

KEY ISSUES

HIERARCHY OF PRINCIPLES

VALUE & PROTECT

Valuing the coast
Marine environments
Wetlands & estuaries
Onshore environments
Catchments & water quality
Heritage

PLAN & ACT

Coastal hazards & processes
Coastal settlements
Port precincts
Research & knowledge sharing
Community participation

USE & ENJOY

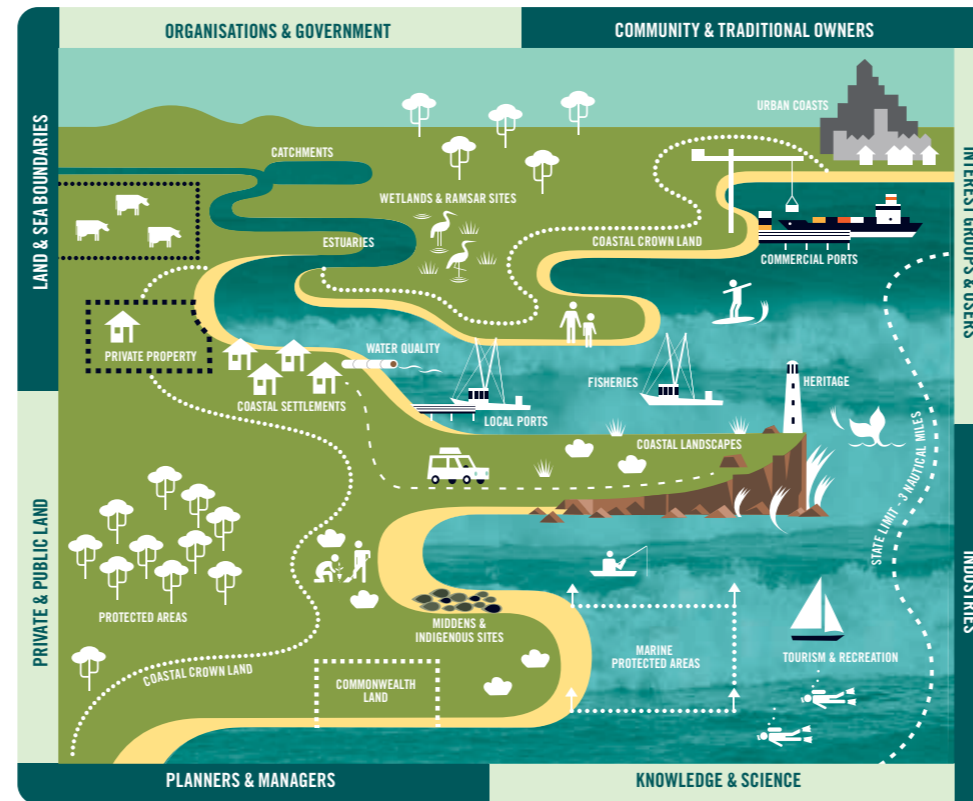
Coastal buildings, infrastructure & management
Visitation & tourism
Access to the coast
Boating & water-based activities
Fishing & aquaculture
Coastal energy resources

DESIRED OUTCOMES, POLICIES & ACTIONS

IMPLEMENTATION Monitoring, evaluation & reporting

...MANY ORGANISATIONS HAVE A ROLE IN CARING FOR THE COAST

These include volunteer groups, committees of management, local councils, catchment management authorities, regional coastal boards, government agencies and businesses and their representatives.



The Victorian Coastal Strategy is available on the VCC website: www.vcc.vic.gov.au or by contacting the DEPI Customer Service Centre 136 186.



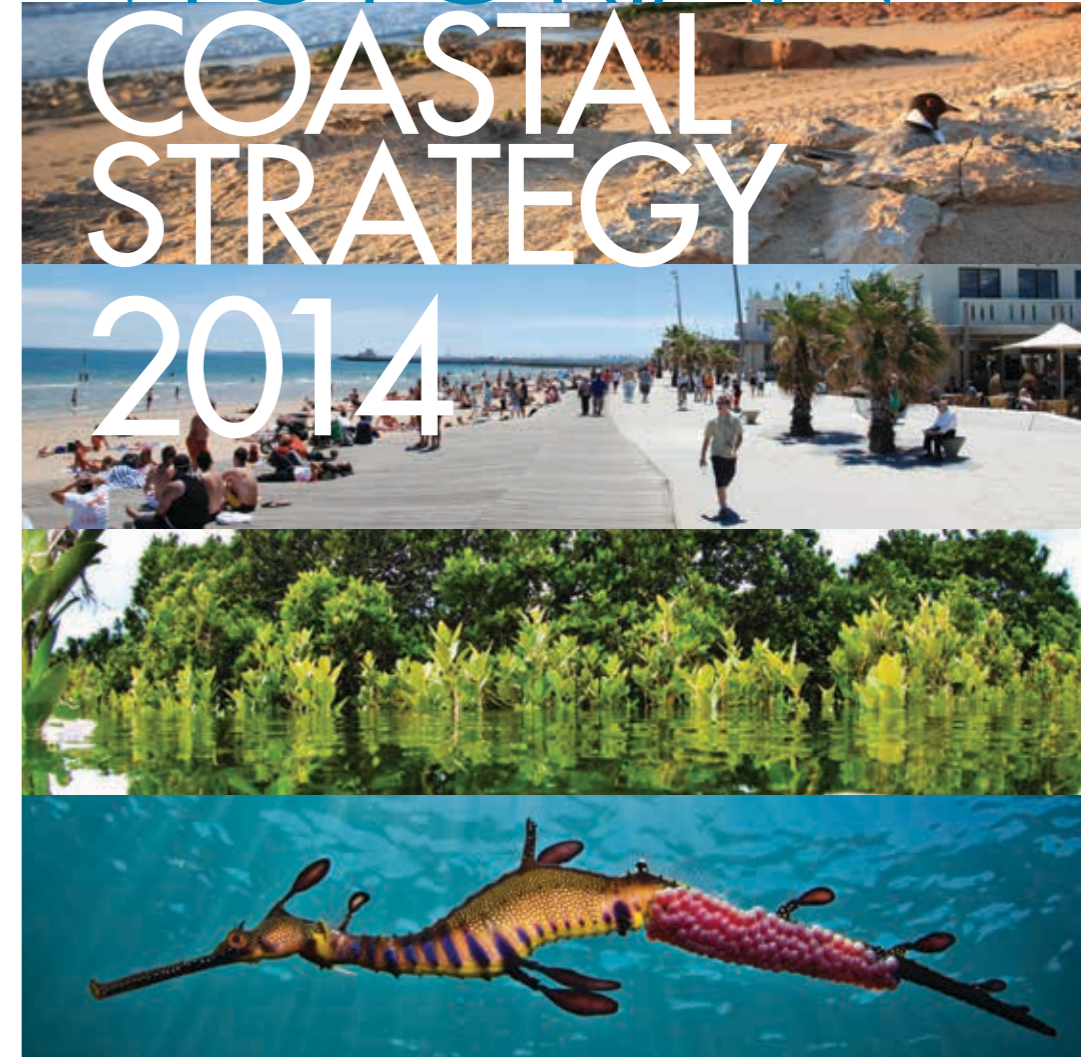
Victorian Coastal Council

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The Victorian Coastal Council is appointed under the *Coastal Management Act 1995*, as the peak body for the strategic planning and management of Victoria's coast and to provide advice to the Minister for Environment and Climate Change.

VICTORIAN COASTAL STRATEGY

2014



SUMMARY BROCHURE



Victorian Coastal Council



A HEALTHY COAST, APPRECIATED BY ALL, NOW AND IN THE FUTURE

WHAT IS THE VICTORIAN COASTAL STRATEGY?

The Victorian Coastal Strategy (VCS) 2014 is the State Government's policy commitment for coastal, estuarine and marine environments in Victoria. The VCS 2014 provides a long-term vision for the planning, management and sustainable use of our coast. Established under the *Coastal Management Act 1995* it provides the policies and actions Victorians will need to implement over the next five years to help achieve that vision.

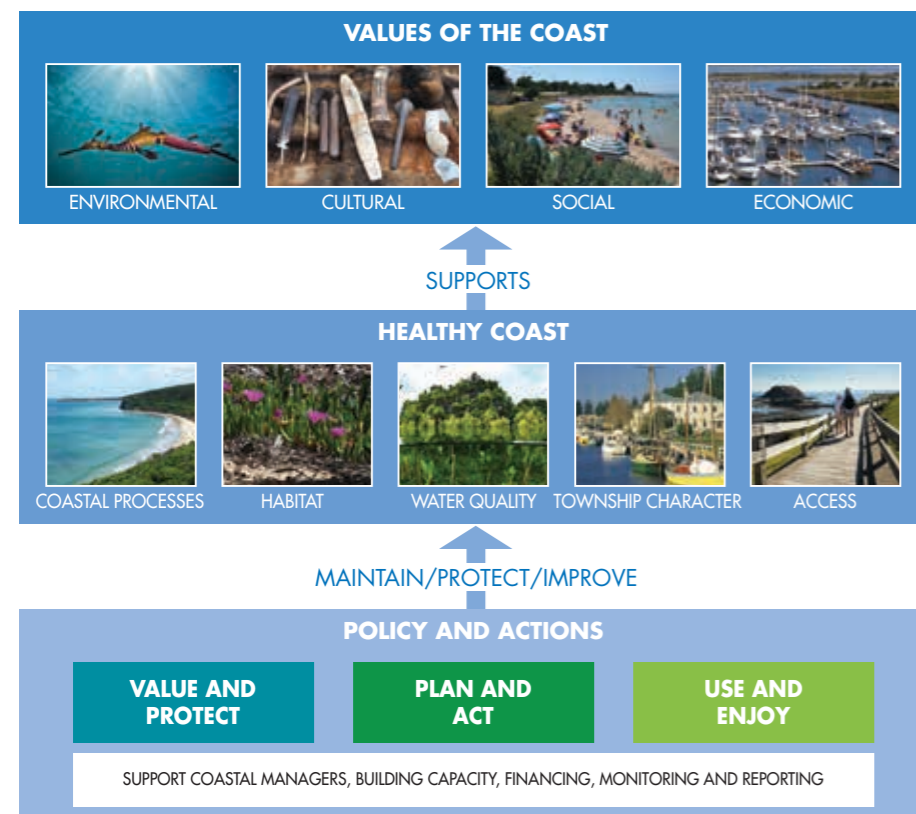
WHAT'S NEW?

Reviewed every five years, and in its fourth iteration, the 2014 Strategy builds on the strengths and achievements of previous strategies. The VCS 2014 has a clear focus on five significant and interrelated themes:

- Managing population growth,
- Adapting to a changing climate,
- Managing coastal land and infrastructure,
- Valuing the natural environment, and
- Integrating marine planning.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE COAST

Victorians have a strong connection with the coast. It is a special place for us to visit, holiday and live. We highly value clean and healthy beaches and water, which are integral to our use and enjoyment. The coast provides great social, cultural, economic and environment benefits for all Victorians. Policies and actions in the Strategy aim to protect and improve the health and value of the coast.



PURPOSE OF THE STRATEGY

The purpose of the Strategy is to:

- provide *guidance* for agencies and statutory decision-making along the coast and in marine and estuarine environments
- provide a *framework* for related Regional Coastal Plans, Regional Growth Plans, Regional Catchment Strategies, Local Planning Schemes, and Management Plans for coastal Crown land
- *engage* the community to continue to value the coast and marine environments and to participate in its planning and management.

The Strategy also provides guidance for planning and management frameworks where these exist outside the *Coastal Management Act 1995*. Where decisions are made outside the framework of the Act, project sponsors and decision makers are to take into account the Hierarchy of Principles and the policies set out in the Strategy.

HIERARCHY OF PRINCIPLES

Managing the coast now and in the future requires responses to the many ongoing pressures we face. To assist with this, previous Strategies have introduced a Hierarchy of Principles. This Strategy continues a Hierarchy of Principles and recognises that the foundation of coastal planning and management is a healthy coastal and marine environment.

The Hierarchy of Principles gives effect to the directions in the *Coastal Management Act 1995* and is included in the State Planning Policy Framework and in planning schemes across Victoria. Planning and decision making on the coast needs to be guided by and consistent with the Hierarchy of Principles.

The policies and actions in the Strategy have been grouped into three sections that align with the Hierarchy of Principles:

VALUE & PROTECT	1 ENSURE THE PROTECTION OF SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL VALUES The starting point is recognising and protecting what we value on the coast, based on identification and sound understanding of coastal and marine features and processes, vulnerabilities and risks
PLAN & ACT	2 UNDERTAKE INTEGRATED PLANNING AND PROVIDE CLEAR DIRECTION FOR THE FUTURE This highlights the importance of having integrated policies, plans and strategies that respond to the major issues affecting coastal and marine environments, provide clear direction for protection, management and sustainable development, and involve coastal stakeholders and the broader community
USE & ENJOY	3 ENSURE THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF NATURAL COASTAL RESOURCES This emphasises that natural coastal resources are a limited and valuable public resource, and if developed or used, this should be done wisely and deliver proven net community and public benefit for current and future generations Only when the above principles have been considered and addressed: 4 ENSURE DEVELOPMENT ON THE COAST IS LOCATED WITHIN EXISTING, MODIFIED AND RESILIENT ENVIRONMENTS WHERE THE DEMAND FOR DEVELOPMENT IS EVIDENT AND ANY IMPACTS CAN BE MANAGED SUSTAINABLY This aims to ensure that development on and adjacent to the coast is of high quality design, sensitively sited, suitable and sustainable over the longer term. Development on coastal Crown land must have a demonstrated need to be located on the coast and a demonstrated public benefit.