

APPENDIX D

Summary of DELWP's attestations on its progress in addressing our 2018 audit recommendations

Our 2018 audit *Protecting Victoria's Coastal Assets* audited several agencies, including DELWP, that represent coastal managers of different types and sizes.

We made 5 out of the 6 recommendations to DELWP.

DELWP accepted all 5 recommendations. Figure D1 outlines a summary of:

- our recommendations
- DELWP's latest updated actions, as provided in its yearly attestations about progress made against these recommendations.

FIGURE D1: **Summary of VAGO recommendations and DELWP's responses**

Recommendation 1

Improve its knowledge of coastal hazards and its oversight of coastal asset management across the state by:

- compiling and maintaining a statewide inventory of state, regional and locally significant coastal assets and their condition using consistent ratings
 - supporting and overseeing committees of management to align their asset management practices with key elements of Victoria's Asset Management Accountability Framework and their risk management practices with AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009 Risk management—Principles and guidelines
 - addressing gaps in coastal hazard data and knowledge of risks to coastal assets, and communicating this information and any tools developed to coastal managers.
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DELWP's progress and response

Complete (2021)

DELWP has completed the development of its coastal assets data management system (CAMS). The scoping phase of the project (preferred IT, attributes and functionality) was completed in March 2019 and became fully operational in March 2021. Field engineering inspections for all individual coastal protection structures are underway and approximately 60% complete (823 inspection). The inspections assess the integrity of the structures and their suitability to mitigate against current and future inundation projections. To date, about 30% of the structures have been found to be in poor to very poor condition. Each structure is also valued to provide information to Valuer-General Victoria.

Recommendation 1

DELWP has also developed a risk-based decision-making framework that provides a risk rating for each structure to inform priorities for maintenance or redesign investment.

DELWP collaborated with the Victorian Managed Insurance Authority and delivered a Pilot workshop in Coastal Asset and Risk Management for developing a) Asset Inventory practices aligning with the Victorian Asset Management Accountability Framework (VAMAF) and, b) Developed risk registers complying to DELWP's Best Practice Guidelines and ISO31000. The outcomes of the Pilot workshop informed a series of Asset Management capability building workshops that were delivered statewide for Committees of Management. The workshops focussed on the VAMAF, the new Marine and Coastal Policy, highlighted examples of foreshore management including climate change adaptation, and cultural heritage responsibilities for asset management.

Recommendation 2

Strengthen oversight of Victoria's coastal managers, by extending and adequately resourcing its oversight role to cover the management of all public coastal areas and:

- clarifying the coastal asset management roles and responsibilities of the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, and committees of management under the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978*, the functions and the performance measures they will be held accountable for, and holding them accountable
- providing guidance to support coastal managers' decisions about where and when it is appropriate to use different climate change response options—protect, adapt, relocate or decide not to renew assets—and additional support on coastal hazard and risk assessment to those managers with limited capability and/or resources.

DELWP's progress and response

In progress (2022 update)

The Marine and Coastal Policy now guides ongoing planning, management and decision making by DELWP and delegated land managers. Coastal and Marine Management Plans, prepared by delegated land managers, are required to be consistent with the Policy and these plans (prepared under the *Marine and Coastal Act 2018*) including actions to support and build capacity of asset managers in understanding their roles and responsibilities for coastal asset management.

Amendment VC171 to the Victoria Planning Provisions was gazetted in September 2021. The Amendment changes the Victoria Planning Provisions and all planning schemes to implement the Marine and Coastal Policy (DELWP 2020), support coastal hazard and risk planning and sea level rise adaptation and update policy references. DELWP also developed sector-based Adaptation Actions Plans, including the Built Environment Adaptation Action Plan, which will support whole-of-government responses to climate change. Community consultation on the plan was undertaken during 2021, tabled in Parliament in February 2022 and publicly released.

Work on this recommendation has all been completed, internal (to DELWP) verification processes are currently underway to close out this recommendation.

In progress (2021)

A statewide Marine and Coastal Policy was released in March 2020 and covers the management of all public coastal areas. It provides clarity on the roles and responsibilities for coastal asset management. It also provides guidance to support coastal managers' decisions about climate change response options. A Marine and Coastal Strategy is being developed and will include actions to support implementation of the policy, including actions to support and build capacity of asset managers in understanding their roles and responsibilities for coastal asset management. Performance measures will be linked to reporting on progress on implementing the Strategy.

The review of the governance arrangements for the Great Ocean Road coast and parks has been completed with the public release of the:

- Community View Report
- Great Ocean Road Taskforce Co-Chair Final Report with 26 recommendations on reforms to the governance arrangements
- Great Ocean Road Action Plan—the Victorian Government response outlining delivery of all 26 recommendations through 18 actions. Subsequently the *Great Ocean Road and Environs Protection Act 2020* and the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority have been established.

Recommendation 2

DELWP (Planning) has prepared Amendment VC171 to the Victoria Planning Provisions (pending Minister for Planning approval and gazettal). The amendment will implement the Victorian Government's new Marine and Coastal Policy 2020 and update coastal climate change-related policy and overlay provisions to further clarify state policy on planning for coastal climate change. DELWP is also developing the Built Environment Adaptation Action Plan, which will support whole of government responses to climate change. Community consultation on the plan will be undertaken in mid-2021.

Recommendation 3

Develop a sustainable funding model to guide the effective resourcing of coastal managers, including:

- developing a coast-wide understanding of the cost and skills required to manage and maintain significant coastal assets to the levels of service needed to support their function
- appointing the most appropriate skilled and resourced coastal manager under the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978*
- implementing the coastal accounting framework once developed and requiring coastal committees of management to adhere to it.

DELWP's progress and response

Complete (2022 updates)

The Future Foreshores project included the development of future management options. A feasibility assessment of the preferred options was undertaken in 2021, concluding with a recommended approach for building an effective and sustainable management model for the pilot regions' Crown foreshore reserves. The lessons from this pilot are transferable to future assessments of the effectiveness and sustainability of committees of management arrangements at other Crown foreshore reserves and more broadly for reserves set aside for other purposes.

In progress (2021)

A coast-wide understanding of the cost associated with the management and planning of coastal assets and land was completed through the Financing the Coast Project delivered in August 2019. The Marine and Coastal Policy 2020 sets out a process for identifying funding needs and future demands for management of marine and coastal Crown land. The Policy also includes guidance on co-investment arrangements, accounting and reporting, and fees and charges for activities on marine and coastal Crown land. The Marine and Coastal Strategy (currently in development) will provide for actions to progress sustainable funding models to guide the effective resourcing of coastal managers.

The Future Foreshores project has completed a review of Committees of Management within the 3 pilot coastal compartments on the Mornington Peninsula and City of Casey, including their accountabilities and responsibilities alongside their capacity, skills and resourcing. The project has completed current state analyses and developed future management options. A stakeholder reference group further examined management options and governance arrangements on the scale of a coastal compartment and took into account the new Marine and Coastal Policy 2020 and Committee of Management Outcomes Framework. Delays in engagement occurred due to COVID-19 restrictions and online workshops were held between October and December 2020.

Recommendation 4

Address the gaps in their asset management practices against Victoria's Asset Management Accountability Framework requirements and guidance and strategically target their asset funding, including, where relevant:

- identifying all the assets they are responsible for
- using information on asset risks from coastal inundation and erosion hazards to help target their asset management priorities and funding decisions, in conjunction with other defined prioritisation criteria.

DELWP's progress and response

Complete (2019)

Action 1 DELWP now has a coastal asset database that supports monitoring and maintenance scheduling of coastal protection structures. An ongoing project officer has been appointed to manage the curation of data, coordinate staff training needs and manage IT contract and support needs.

Recommendation 4

Action 2: This action has led to the production of new and consistent guidance materials for the management of assets, and a transparent risk-based approach to investment in asset management.

Action 3: This action has provided new evidence-based information to coastal managers of erosion hazards and the physical processes driving those hazards. This now facilitates more focussed decision-making for coastal asset investment. Greater focus is now on areas subjected to the highest risk to coastal hazards.

Recommendation 5

Assess the risks that coastal inundation and erosion hazards pose to coastal assets, using robust risk assessment practices that consistently apply AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009, including:

- documenting the considerations, assessments, analysis and decisions that their assessments involve
- using available information to regularly review risks and monitor changes in risk ratings over time
- introducing triggers and monitoring information into their asset management and/or climate change activities as appropriate, to identify when to implement adaptation measures or revise their risk treatment approaches.

DELWP's progress and response

Complete (2022 updates)

A statewide coastal hazard assessment project was completed in 2017 to enable assessment of erosion and inundation risk to the Victorian coast. The reporting includes a risk framework for coastal assessment. A new Coastal Protection Asset Database was also established in 2018 and implemented in 2019.

In 2017, the Victorian Coastal Monitoring Program was implemented with focus on monitoring coastal locations of greatest immediate risk to erosion. A comprehensive evaluation report of the first 5 years of the program was completed in August 2021. This report details how DELWP now monitors change and applies to coastal infrastructure and hazard assessment projects across Victoria.

In addition, support to coastal land managers has been strengthened through data and information products guided by the Marine and Coastal Policy 2020 and the findings from the Victorian Coastal Monitoring Program, which have been shared and made accessible.

An independent Risk Assessment Process report, prepared in July 2021, outlines the process and methodology for DELWP to undertake a risk assessment of Coastal Protection Structures (CPS). Guidance is provided for a) conducting risk assessment process that is ISO-compliant and consistent with DELWP's Risk Management Guidelines, and b) developing treatment plan, including evaluation of options, for the CPS. Using this process DELWP can identify which CPS are highest priority for future attention and management.

Use of the ISO risk standard ensures that the process for prioritisation is robust and takes account of all relevant matters for consideration. The ISO risk standard also provides a mechanism for identifying relevant treatment measures to address risks that are considered unacceptable.

A DELWP CPS Risk Assessment Tool has also been developed and is being used to assess risk relating to CPS's. The tool provides a link to Coastal Inspection guidelines and provides detailed instructions to users on how to complete a risk assessment.

In progress (2021)

The Marine and Coastal Policy 2020 is complete. It provides guidance and support to coastal land managers on assessing climate change risks from coastal inundation and erosion hazards across their coastal asset portfolios. This includes guidance for climate change adaptation outlined in Chapter 6 of the policy and clarity on roles and responsibilities outlined in Chapter 13.

DELWP has completed work to build capacity and expertise in DELWP and partner agencies to provide ongoing advisory services, capacity building and expertise (under the Marine and Coastal Act 2018) to coastal land managers on coastal erosion and flooding hazards. This included:

1. Implementing the Victorian Coastal Monitoring Program (VCMP) with findings being shared with coastal land managers through provision of data, modelled outputs and technical advice. The program is also communicated to stakeholders through the VCMP Story Map website; and
2. Developing data tools and systems, including the CoastKit knowledge portal that provide information on coastal hazard drivers, shoreline morpho dynamics and erosion dynamics at 50 m intervals along Victoria's coastline.

Recommendation 5

DELWP will continue to progress the statewide process to consistently apply AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009 and better document the considerations, assessments, analysis and decisions as part of risk assessment processes in the management of coastal assets by 30 November 2022.

Source: VAGO, based on DELWP's attestations.