

Video transcript: Follow-up of Protecting Victoria's Coastal Assets

Why this review is important

Recent extreme weather events and rising seas mean protecting our coasts is more important than ever.

Review objective

In this follow-up review, we assessed if the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, or DELWP, effectively responded to our 2018 audit *Protecting Victoria's Coastal Assets*.

What we concluded

We found that while DELWP has made progress since 2018, it still has work to do on some of our recommendations.

Background information

Coastal protection assets are structures, such as sea walls, that protect our coasts from hazards like inundation and erosion.

DELWP helps make sure this infrastructure is managed and maintained. It oversees over 1,500 assets across Victoria and manages about 500 of them directly.

The rest are managed by local councils, committees and other bodies with DELWP's support and oversight.

Why we followed up on our 2018 review

We followed up with DELWP because our 2018 audit found it wasn't looking after this infrastructure well enough.

Because DELWP and other coastal managers didn't clearly understand the condition assets were in, they often fixed assets when they broke instead of maintaining them.

This approach was expensive and potentially risky for our coasts.

Finding 1: Asset data has improved

Four years later, DELWP has improved the way it collects data about these structures and analyses the hazards they face.

It now knows the number, value and condition of coastal assets.

This information will help DELWP direct its money and attention to the most important and at-risk assets.

Finding 2: Decision-making is getting better

DELWP now has a much better asset management plan to monitor and maintain assets.

But a lot of them are in poor condition and DELWP has a backlog of maintenance to work through so the 'fix-on-fail' approach may still be occurring.

Finding 3: Other coastal managers need more support

DELWP has more work to do to strengthen its oversight and support for other coastal managers.

It also hasn't established a clear way to check how well coastal managers are looking after assets and if they need more help.

More information

To find out more, or read our full report, please go to audit.vic.gov.au

To access the complete video, please go to <https://youtu.be/1X6KNWqxYEs>