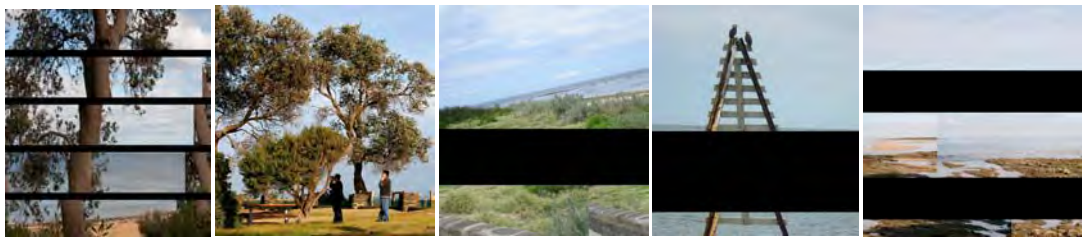


# Ricketts Point and Ricketts Point Landside Management Plan



**Draft for Community Consultation**  
**February 2013**

## **VERSION CONTROL**

This draft management plan draws on the background report prepared by URS Australia Pty Ltd in August 2012.

Version 1	11 September 2012	Restructure of 14 August draft
Version 2	20 October 2012	Theme and action development
Version 3	11 November 2012	Incorporating internal consultation feedback
Version 4	22 November 2012	First draft of consultation draft
Version 5	29 November 2012	Revisions on consultation draft (AH)
Version 6	3 December 2102	Revisions on consultation draft (CR)
Version 7	14 January 2013	Consultation draft for Council endorsement

## **NOTE**

The endorsement of the Draft Ricketts Point and Ricketts Point Landside Management Plan by Council for consultation does not constitute a decision to proceed with any identified opportunities. It provides a long term concept to guide decision making and will be subject to future decisions and funding considerations by Council.

## **AUTHOR**

Based on the background work prepared by URS Australia Pty Ltd, Bayside City Council prepared this draft management plan. Council was assisted by red ink planning in preparing the document.

## **DRAFT FOR COMMUNITY COMMENT**

Bayside City Council has been in the process of preparing a Management Plan for Ricketts Point over the last year. This draft has been prepared with extensive stakeholder and community consultation, and analysis of the existing conditions within Ricketts Point coastal reserve and Ricketts Point Landside.

The draft Management Plan provides a long term (10+ years) framework to guide decision-making and identifies a number of strategies and actions to ensure the appropriate management of Ricketts Point.

Council is seeking community comment on the draft Management Plan prior to finalisation in early 2013.

## **HOW TO COMMENT**

There are several ways for you to comment on the Draft Ricketts Point and Ricketts Point Landside Management Plan:

- Write or email your views on the draft Management Plan by Friday 12 April 2013:
  - Post to: Bayside City Council, PO Box 27, Sandringham VIC 3191
  - Email to: [enquiries@bayside.vic.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@bayside.vic.gov.au)
- Provide your comments on any aspect of the Management Plan on Council's website: [www.bayside.vic.gov.au/have\\_your\\_say.htm](http://www.bayside.vic.gov.au/have_your_say.htm)

If you have any other queries, please contact Council's Open Space Planning and Policy Officer (Monday, Tuesday, Friday) on 03 9599 4339.

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# Executive Summary

The draft Ricketts Point and Ricketts Point Landside Management Plan (the Management Plan) has been prepared to guide Council decision making over the next ten years. It sets out a vision, and range of principles, objectives and strategies for Ricketts Point, and identifies a number of actions to be implemented over the next five years to achieve this vision.

The Management Plan has been prepared in conjunction with preliminary consultation with the wide range of stakeholders who have responsibility for, care for and use Ricketts Point.

Ricketts Point and Ricketts Point Landside are located on the eastern side of Port Phillip in Beaumaris, approximately 20 kilometres south of the Melbourne CBD. It is a popular location for a wide range of recreational activities and includes the Ricketts Point Teahouse, the Beaumaris Lifesaving Club, and the Beaumaris Yacht Club.

Ricketts Point is adjacent to the Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary which is of regional environmental significance, and the Ricketts Point coastal reserve and Ricketts Point Landside contain environmental features including landforms, vegetation, fauna and cultural heritage that are highly valued.

The key management challenges facing Ricketts Point relate to appropriately managing a range of competing uses within a sensitive and fragile coastal environment. These challenges have been identified in the Management Plan as follows:

- Managing the Ricketts Point coastal reserve/Marine Sanctuary interface;
- Managing the Ricketts Point/urban environment interface;
- Minimising and managing erosion and climate change impacts;
- Protection of indigenous cultural sites and values;
- Minimising impacts on indigenous flora and fauna;
- Provision of appropriate infrastructure;
- Visitor management;
- Effective operational management and enforcement; and
- Building effective and positive relationships.

The draft Management Plan establishes the vision for Ricketts Point as follows:

*Our vision is that Ricketts Point, as a coastal environment with unique and sensitive biodiversity and cultural values, is considered an exemplar of effective and sustainable management within the wider catchment of Port Phillip and Western Port, with access for all abilities.*

*The community can enjoy and learn about the environment and conservation values of Ricketts Point and the adjacent Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary through a variety of active recreation, ecotourism and educational opportunities, ensuring environmental sustainability of the landscape.*

To achieve this vision, seven principles supported by appropriate objectives, strategies and actions have been developed:

### **Principle One: Protect Environmental Values and Coastal Character**

The objectives under this principle include minimising the impact of storm water collected within the Port Phillip and Western Port water catchment on the Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary; re-establishing and protecting native flora and fauna; protecting significant geological and geomorphologic features; more appropriately managing dog access to Ricketts Point and introducing more appropriate planning controls which recognize the environmental features of Ricketts Point.

Key strategies and actions include the removal of the main storm water pipe opposite reserve road and the development of a bio retention wetland system in its place and works to protect and encourage indigenous flora and fauna, and remove pest species, particularly on Ricketts Point Landside.

A review of dog access at Ricketts Point in the context of the vision established in this Management Plan is also proposed, along with changes to the planning scheme to better reflect existing and desired land use, and manage changes to the built environment appropriately.

### **Principle Two: Manage the Impacts of Climate Change**

The objective of this principle is to minimise the impacts of climate change through planning for sea level rise and applying the precautionary principle to decision making.

It is recognized that based on current predictions, in the long term (100 years and beyond), Ricketts Point will be covered by seawater. This long-term likelihood dictates the decisions that need to be made in Ricketts Point in the short to medium term, particularly in relation to the management of infrastructure.

The key action related to this principle is the preparation of a plan to better understand and put in place actions to enable a safe and appropriate 'staged retreat' from Ricketts Point in the long (100 years and beyond) term.

### **Principle Three: Protect and Celebrate Cultural Heritage Values**

The objectives and strategies relating to this principle ensure that indigenous heritage sites and values are identified and appropriately acknowledged, protected and preserved.

### **Principle Four: Manage the Built Environment**

The objectives relating to this principle include ensuring use and development is appropriate to the coastal environment; that Ricketts Point Teahouse is appropriately redeveloped as it reaches the end of its useful life; and that facilities and infrastructure provided are adequate, accessible and well located.

Key strategies and actions include undertaking an audit of buildings and infrastructure within Ricketts Point with a view to rationalising assets, co-locating complimentary assets and, if warranted, upgrading ageing assets; removal of the exercise station at the rear of the Beaumaris Life Saving Club; the development of an issues and options paper for the future of the Ricketts Point Teahouse; and the preparation and implementation of a signage/way-



finding strategy in partnership with Parks Victoria which minimizes signage clutter whilst providing clear and consistent information

**Principle Five: Facilitate Appropriate Access, Movement and Connectivity**

The objectives to support this principle include developing Ricketts Point to be an Access for All Abilities destination of choice (taking advantage of the physical characteristics of the area which make access to the beach relatively easy); and ensuring access to and movement around Ricketts Point is appropriate and safe.

Key strategies and actions include identifying further opportunities to improve Access for All; minimizing the impact of buses and coaches dropping off and parking; and providing additional bike parking facilities.

**Principle Six: Encourage Education and Community Involvement**

The objectives to support this principle include developing a stronger shared vision based on the environmental and cultural heritage values of Ricketts Point; improving signage and way-finding; expanding the educational facilities; and empowering and supporting community groups who care for Ricketts Point.

Key actions include developing a strategic plan for the expansion of the Marine Education Centre, considering co-locating this facility with other coastal facilities.

**Principle Seven: Support Environmentally Sustainable Economic Development.**

The objective of this principle is to ensure that economic development activities are secondary to the environmental and coastal values of Ricketts Point.

Strategies include supporting coastally dependant tourism and excluding economic activities that threaten environmental processes.

Chapter Seven of the Management Plan contains a consolidated implementation plan for Ricketts Point and Ricketts Point Landside, including the budget requirements, timing and responsibility for specific actions that Council will undertake in the next five years (subject to annual budgeting processes).

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Purpose of the plan

The draft Ricketts Point and Ricketts Point Landside Management Plan (Management Plan) is a strategic management plan for the public land above the high watermark at Ricketts Point (within the coastal reserve) known as Ricketts Point coastal reserve and the public land located on the landward side of Beach Road known as Ricketts Point Landside (refer to Figure 1). Council is the delegated Committee of Management for both reserves.



Figure 1 Ricketts Point and Ricketts Point Landside Study Area

The Management Plan provides a long-term vision that includes protection of the coastal environment and the sustainable provision of coastal recreational amenity.

The Management Plan will assist Council to manage the protection and enhancement of the natural values at Ricketts Point and bring together existing and proposed initiatives into one overarching management plan which:

- Establishes the importance of the relationship between Ricketts Point and the Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary, and how Ricketts Point will be managed to support the values of the Marine Sanctuary;
- Identifies existing conditions and values along the foreshore and measures to protect and enhance these values;
- Provides strategic management direction for the next 10+ years;
- Provides a clear decision making tool for Ricketts Point;
- Provides ongoing management strategies.

## **1.2 Methodology**

The Management Plan has been prepared by Bayside City Council to guide the use and development of Ricketts Point coastal reserve and Ricketts Point Landside. It also provides a reference for other key stakeholders such as Parks Victoria, foreshore clubs and Friends groups.

There are seven phases to the development of the Management Plan.

1. Site assessment and research phase which included a site visit and review of policy and background information;
2. Consultation phase which included onsite meetings with stakeholder and community groups;
3. Issues phase which identified and analysed the main issues to be addressed in the management plan;
4. Development of vision, principles, key themes;
5. Development of draft Management Plan including objectives, strategies, capital projects, operational projects and ongoing maintenance standards;
6. Consultation on the draft Management Plan with key stakeholders and the community; and
7. Finalisation of Management Plan.

This draft has been prepared as Stage Five of the process, ready for consultation as part of Stage Six of the process.



Figure 2 Watkins Bay foreshore

### 1.3 Community consultation process

Stakeholder and community engagement is an important component in the preparation of the Draft Ricketts Point and Ricketts Point Landside Management Plan. To date, consultation has been undertaken with key stakeholders and community groups. Bayside residents highly value the foreshore and this is shown in the wide range of Friends and community groups who volunteer their time to protect and enhance the natural values of Ricketts Point. We also know how important the foreshore is to the community through a range of other survey data that has been recently collected by Council, particularly through the preparation of the draft Recreation Strategy and the Open Space Strategy.

The consultation that was undertaken to inform this draft included:

- A letter distributed to key stakeholder groups/individuals, outlining the information sought to inform the management plan. The letter invited key stakeholder representatives to a one hour consultation session and listed discussion points to allow invitees to gather information prior to the meeting.
- Consultation workshops and meetings with representatives from Bayside City Council departments with responsibilities for Ricketts Point including:
  - Environmental Sustainability and Open Space Department
  - Recreation and Social Development Department
  - Commercial Services Department
  - City Works Department
  - Urban Strategy Department
- Consultation with government agencies including the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) and Parks Victoria.



- Consultation with representatives from key stakeholder groups such as the Beaumaris Yacht Club, Beaumaris Life Saving Club, Beaumaris Conservation Society, Ricketts Point Teahouse, various Friends groups and Marine Care Ricketts Point Inc. to discuss their concerns and aspirations for the management plan. Stakeholders unavailable to meet face to face were consulted via phone or email.

Consultation with government agencies, Friends and community groups, and businesses occurred between August and November 2011, and October and November 2012. Representatives from these groups provided early input into the development of the plan through identification of the key issues and values relevant to Ricketts Point and Ricketts Point Landside, and provided feedback on the vision, management approach and themes once they were further developed.

The stakeholder and community consultation process consisted of the following engagements:

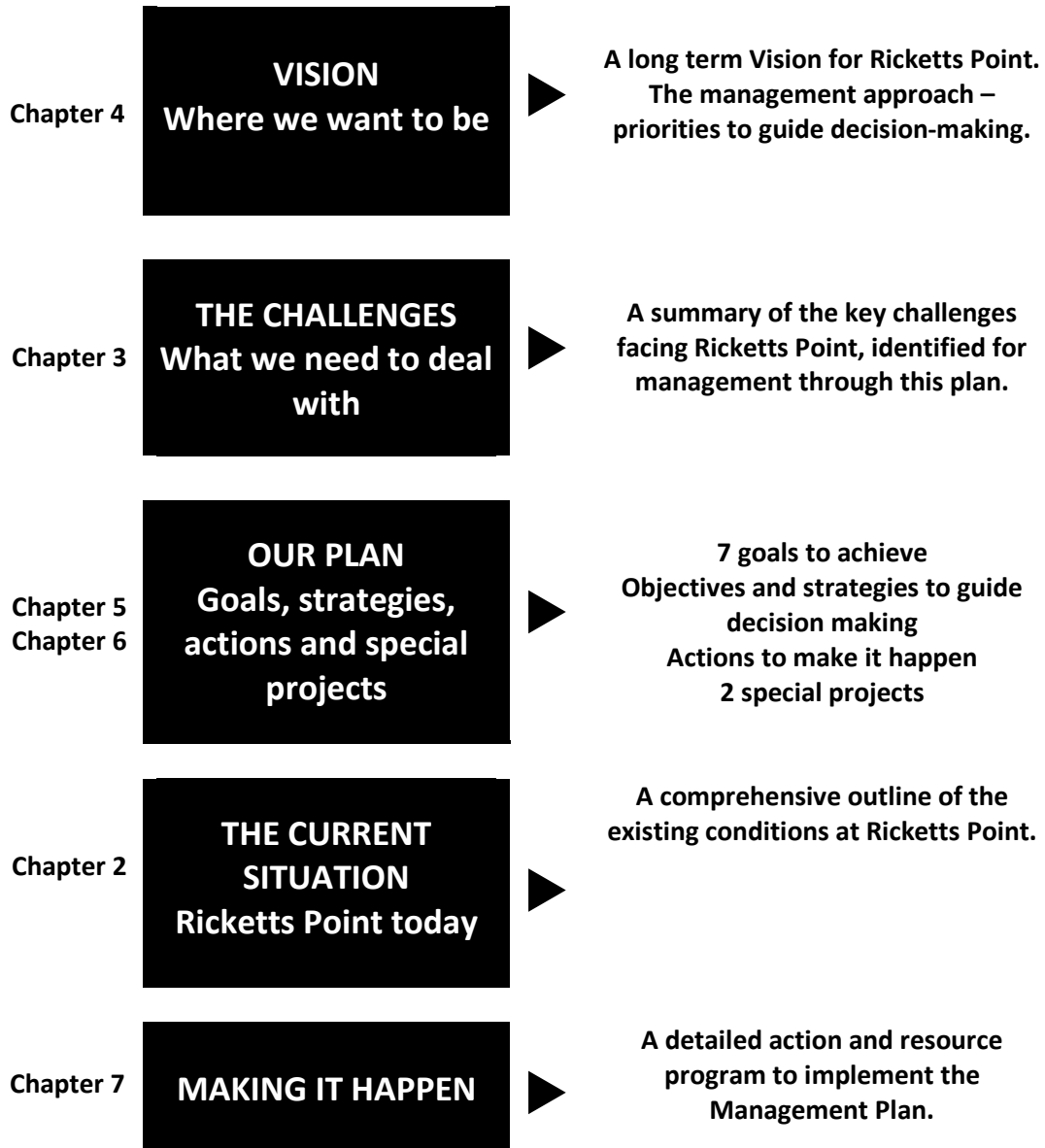
- Inception meeting with Bayside Council Officers, on 8 August 2011
- Site visit of Ricketts Point with representatives of government agencies, on 8 August 2011
- Consultation workshops held at Bayside City Council, with ten Council Officers, on 29 August 2011, and further meetings during October 2012.
- On site consultation with community, Friends groups, and businesses between September and October 2011
- Additional on site consultation with representatives from Bayside City Council, Citywide Parkcare (Bayside’s Open Space contractors), DSE and Parks Victoria, to further understand management practices of the foreshore and landside reserves.

These key stakeholders groups and organisations are listed below:

<b>Key Stakeholders</b>	
Bayside City Council	Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE)
Bayside Friends of Native Wildlife	Disabled Divers Association
Bayside Tourism Network	Friends of Ricketts Point Landside
Beaumaris Conservation Society Inc.	Friends of Watkins Bay
Beaumaris Life Saving Club	Marine Care Ricketts Point Inc.
Beaumaris Yacht Club	Parks Victoria (PV)
Citywide Parkcare	Ricketts Point Teahouse
Other individual submissions	

## 1.4 How to use this plan

Please use the following chart to help you quickly find what you are interested about in the plan.



## 2 Context

### 2.1 Overview of the study area

Ricketts Point is located on the eastern side of Port Phillip at Beaumaris, approximately 20 kilometres south of the Melbourne CBD. It is unique for its preserved natural landscape within a wider urbanised setting and is well appreciated by the local and broader community for its natural beauty.

The study area includes the coastal Crown land in the Ricketts Point locality extending from Haydens Road in the north to Dalgetty Road in the south, and from the high watermark to Beach Road. Throughout this plan, this area is referred to as the Ricketts Point coastal reserve. Ricketts Point Landside is the area of road reserve located opposite Ricketts Point coastal land. Bayside City Council is the appointed Committee of Management for both parts of Ricketts Point. The two parts of Ricketts Point are shown on Figure 1.

As well as being a popular place for enjoying active outdoor recreational activities such as swimming, snorkelling/scuba diving (it is the only accessible SCUBA point for disabled divers in Port Phillip), sail boarding, sunbathing, dog walking, plus passive activities which include picnicking and sightseeing, Ricketts Point has a number of key destinations and features, including the following.



Figure 3: View of Beaumaris Yacht Club foreshore

## 2.2 Physical context

### (i) Relationship to the Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary

Located adjacent to the study area is the Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary. This is a significant natural feature, extending 115 hectares from the high water mark to approximately 500 metres offshore, with a shoreline boundary of 2.9 kilometres. Designated as a Marine Sanctuary in 2002 for the 'Protection of Marine Habitat', it is managed by Parks Victoria under the *Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary Management Plan 2005* and protected under the *National Parks Act 1975 (Vic)*.

The coastal waters from Table Rock Point in Beaumaris to Quiet Corner in Black Rock and approximately 500 metres seaward, formally became the Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary in June 2002. This 115 hectare sanctuary is a series of sandstone rock platforms extending from the shore and creates a diverse marine environment that is readily accessible to visitors. The high diversity of marine habitats within a small area provides a fantastic opportunity for scientific research, education, and also recreation.



Figure 4: A view of part of the Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary



## (ii) Water catchment

The study area is part of the Port Phillip and Westernport Water Catchment. Higher up in the catchment is highly urbanised (Beaumaris/Cheltenham etc). Lower down in the catchment is the Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary. The quality of water discharge from Ricketts Point has a significant impact on the health of the Marine Sanctuary.



Figure 5: Stormwater pipe near unsealed car park (B18)

## (iii) Vegetation

Despite the pressures from being a high recreational area and impacts from the constant cycle of wind and wave action, there are remnant patches of significant native vegetation at Ricketts Point.

Management of flora and fauna is implemented through Councils ongoing programs. In addition, revegetation and weeding working bees are also undertaken by local Friends Groups to further conserve and enhance the indigenous habitats of Ricketts Point and Ricketts Point Landside.

To further understand and manage the existing flora and fauna values of Ricketts Point and Ricketts Point Landside, Bayside City Council commissioned flora and fauna specialists Ecology Australia Pty Ltd (2012) to prepare a 'Native Vegetation Works Program' for Ricketts Point. Council also engaged Practical Ecology Pty Ltd (2011) to provide fauna management recommendations. The management recommendations from the Ecology Australia and Practical Ecology reports are included within the 'Management Actions' of this report.

Four Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs) were identified at Ricketts Point. EVCs, as defined by the Victorian State Government, are a vegetation classification system used for biodiversity planning and conservation assessment at landscape, regional and broader scales

in Victoria (Department of Primary Industries 2012). They are groupings of vegetation communities based on floristic, structural and ecological features.

The four EVCs with associated bioregional conservation status at Ricketts Point, as outlined in the Ecology Australia (2012) report, are as follows:

### **EVC 2 Coast Banksia Woodland**

Growing in the area of the Ricketts Point Tea House is a canopy of generally large remnant Coast Banksia (*Banksia integrifolia*) over a highly maintained understorey of mown-lawn and garden beds. The vast majority of species occurring within the garden beds are indigenous, comprising both supplementary planting and remnant naturally occurring populations. Within Ricketts Point Landside and in the southern regions of the study area the Coast Banksia's are growing as a more scattered canopy, with no lawn and a generally remnant understorey.

This EVC makes up the majority of vegetation within the study area. Coast Banksia Woodland has a bioregional conservation status of 'Vulnerable' in the Gippsland Plain bioregion.



Figure 6: Coastal Banksia

### **EVC 161 Coastal Headland Scrub**

This EVC occurs at both the northern and southern extent of Ricketts Point coastal reserve in association with the steepening headlands, and is also found within Ricketts Point Landside. Impacted from weed invasion and disturbance, this habitat has a bioregional conservation status of 'Depleted' in the Gippsland Plain bioregion.

### **EVC 879 Coastal Dune Grassland**

Found on the seaward side along the foreshore. Recent planting supplements the majority of the remnant growing populations. DSE list this habitat species as having a bioregional conservation status of 'Depleted' in the Gippsland Plain bioregion.

Located close to the beach is it subject to intense user pressure, particularly trampling, and is vulnerable to weed invasion. A recent survey of indigenous vegetation of the study area considers the conservation status for this EVC should be elevated to Vulnerable (Ecology Australia 2012). Fencing and weed control has been undertaken in the study area towards protection for this habitat.



Figure 7: Fencing to protect dunes from trampling

### **EVC 311 Berm Grassy Shrubland**

This EVC occurs as a narrow band of vegetation sheltered by an adjoining reef and a break-water along the seaward side at the southern end of the unsealed car park (B18). This habitat has a bioregional conservation status of 'Endangered' in the Gippsland Plain bioregion.



The definition that the Department of Sustainability and Environment have made for each status of EVC is as follows:

Status	Definition
Endangered – on the verge of extinction	90% or more cleared. Less than 10% of its pre European (1750) extent remains.
Vulnerable – moving towards extinction	70% or more has been cleared. 10 – 30% of its pre European (1750) extent remains.
Depleted	Likely to become threatened if clearing or other threatening processes continue. 50 – 70% has been cleared. 20 – 50% of its pre European (1750) extent remains.
Rare	Vegetation that is inherently rare and naturally restricted in range. Total range is less than 10,000 ha and / or area less than 100ha and patch size less than 100ha.
Least concern	More than 50% of pre European (1750) extent remaining. <sup>1</sup>

The bioregional conservation status of the four EVCs at Ricketts Point highlights the importance of implementing vegetation conservation measures in accordance with the requirements of *Victoria's Native Vegetation Management: A Framework For Action* (refer to section 4.1.1 of this report).

#### (iv) Geomorphology<sup>2</sup>

The geomorphology of Ricketts Point comprises of wave cut platforms backed by sandy beaches and either sand dunes or cliffs. The wave cut platforms are formed of Black Rock sandstone comprising mainly quartz sand, calcareous and ferruginous compounds and containing fossilised animal and plant remains. The outer areas of the shore platform are covered with coarse boulder rubble. The sandy flat beaches and sand dunes are made from medium to coarse sand, and the cliffs facing some of the Ricketts Point area are Black Rock stone.

#### (v) Ricketts Point Landside

Ricketts Point Landside extends along Beach Road in Beaumaris for approximately 600 metres between Haydens Road and Reserve Road. The most significant feature of this site is the stand of mature Coast Banksia trees in the centre of the site opposite the Ricketts Point Teahouse on Beach Road. Some of these trees are thought to be over 200 years old. This stand is being protected by planting understorey species and replacement trees. The Southern Brown Tree Frog (*Littoria ewingii*) can be heard calling from the southern end of the site. Here the natural depression holds transient water in times of average rainfall. At this end of the site, species such as the Swamp Paperbark (*Melaleuca ericifolia*), which prefer damper soil, are able to grow. A magnificent view of the bay, over the top of the Beaumaris Yacht Club, can be seen from local artist Kay Bunnett's memorial seat on top of the northern embankment at Coral Avenue.

<sup>1</sup> DSE, 2003, Biodiversity Action Planning. Strategic Overview for the Gippsland Plain Bioregion. Part 1 – The Bioregion, DSE.

<sup>2</sup> Information for this subsection is drawn from the following document: Parks Victoria, 2005, Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary: Management Plan, Victorian Government, Melbourne Chapter 4.1, p11.

The majority of the reserve is inaccessible to pedestrian traffic due to the density of the vegetation and natural features of the site ie. steep cliffs. At the northern end of the reserve unsealed roads provide vehicle access to a few private properties. Minimally maintained walking trails exist however, there are no public facilities such as rubbish bins or seating within Ricketts Point Landside.



Figure 8: Ricketts Point landside

**(vi) Physical infrastructure (roads etc)**

**Disabled Diving Beach Access**

A ramp at the northern end of the study area enables wheelchair users to access the beach and water for diving and snorkelling. The ramp leads from a bluestone toilet block with a shower and toilet facility for disabled users down to the beach. This is a unique Access for All location within Port Phillip and is widely promoted as ideal for parafinishing and SCUBA opportunities via the Joint Councils Access for All Abilities and other dive websites.



Figure 9: Disabled Divers Ramp

## Coastal Infrastructure

Infrastructure located within the study area includes three boat sheds, three bathing boxes, three toilet blocks, picnic tables, BBQ's, bench seats, waste and recycling bins, bike racks, signage, bluestone fencing, water taps, pedestrian and cycle paths, car parking and stormwater outlets. These features are located throughout the reserve.



Figure 10: Beaumaris Foreshore Toilet (located near Beaumaris Life Saving Club)

## Coastal Protection

To help protect the foreshore and prevent coastal erosion of the dunes, Bayside City Council undertook significant dune stabilisation works during June 2010 within the Ricketts Point coastal reserve.

Storms, high winds and tides in April 2009 led to coastal erosion within the coastal reserve and a significant amount of sand and vegetation was washed away. The resulting exposure of loose sand was susceptible to wind erosion, could have potentially spread, creating an unstable dune system. This led to the sand dune stabilisation works being undertaken.

Environmental 'geofabric' sand bags were installed in the vicinity of the northern car park to protect the foreshore and pedestrian footpath from further flooding and erosion, and to create a storm buffer. Dune stabilising plants were also planted to further stabilise the dunes.





Figure 11: Sand dune stabilisation works, near disabled divers' ramp

**2.3 Social context**

**(i) Community infrastructure**

**Ricketts Point Teahouse**

The Ricketts Point Teahouse is of historic significance as it has been providing refreshments to visitors to Ricketts Point for over 50 years. The Teahouse is situated close to a family friendly beach, with car parking located nearby. Wheelchair access is provided at the entrance to the building.



Figure 12: Ricketts Point Teahouse

### **Beaumaris Life Saving Club including Ricketts Point Marine Education Centre**

Founded in 1956 the Beaumaris Life Saving Club building is located at the southern end of the study area. The Life Saving Club provides opportunities for children and adults to participate in life saving activities, competitions and carnivals. Water and safety rescue awareness and lifeguard training programs are held throughout the year.

Marine Care Ricketts Point Inc. (MCRP) utilise the ground floor of the Beaumaris Life Saving Club building for its Marine Education Centre. The Centre's primary function is the conservation and enhancement of the Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary. Apart from undertaking marine research and survey activities, MCRP provides education and interpretation instruction for school groups and other interested parties. Representatives of MCRP report over 2,000 visitors annually visit the marine sanctuary through the Marine Education Centre program.



Figure 13: View of the Beaumaris Life Saving Club from Table Rock.

### **Beaumaris Yacht Club**

Founded in 1950, and located at the northern end of the study area, the Beaumaris Yacht Club (BYC) provides off-the-beach sailing on Port Phillip for its members. The Club building was built in 1954 and it has been extensively modified and renovated over the years.

BYC has over 200 members with 20 junior and 20 adult sailing trainees annually. BYC provides regular sail training for Bayside residents (both youths and adults) and sailing on Sundays from beginning of October till the end of May. BYC is a Yachting Australia accredited Sail Training Centre and also conducts national and Victorian State sailing regattas/championships.





Figure 14: Beaumaris Yacht Club

### Coastal Trail

An abundance of history is expressed through a series of 90 interpretative signs along 17 kilometres of coastline between Brighton and Beaumaris, including sites within the study area. The 'Bayside Coastal Trail', developed by Bayside City Council, comprises elements of art, indigenous culture, environment and history. Signs and sculptures located along the trail celebrate the lives and artwork of notable Australia artists, tell the stories of the Boon wurrung (traditional owners), recollect the historical significance of the area, and explore the local natural environment.

As part of the Coastal Trail, a 'hub' of four signs has been installed at the Ricketts Point northern car park opposite the disabled ramp. These signs provide information on the historical landscape of Ricketts Point.



Figure 15: Coastal trail interpretative signage

Three footpath murals showing aspects of the underwater landscape have been installed within the shared path near the Ricketts Point Teahouse (Claylink 2008).



Figure 16: Footpath mosaic murals

## (ii) Community values (from preliminary community consultation)

Detailed comments and issues recorded during the initial consultation meetings are presented in the manner in which the discussion occurred and where possible repeating the words used by the participant. These comments and issues are documented in Appendix B– Consultation Summary, of this report.

Assessment of the detailed comments and issues raised throughout the engagement process has identified a series of key themes and recurring matters of interest. The comments and issues (in no particular order of importance or priority), are as follows:

- increasing visitation pressures on the marine and foreshore environments
- accessibility of the foreshore is an issue due to increasing traffic on Beach Road
- increasing demand on coastal infrastructure, including equitable access
- need for upgrade and expansion of community based club infrastructure and how this will be funded
- future management of coastal Crown land and infrastructure needs to adapt/protect for climate change including sea level rise impacts
- unclear dog control and access within Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary
- need for educational and interpretative signage for flora and fauna, and cultural heritage
- untreated stormwater entering the marine sanctuary and wider Port Phillip impacting on the marine environment
- perception of a future reduction of new volunteers providing their time for vegetation management at Ricketts Point, which may impact on management input over time.

The Council Officer workshop highlighted improved management strategies are necessary to manage the identified threats to the ‘Environment’. Particular concern was raised regarding the degradation of the sand dunes and existing foreshore vegetation, and future development of the built environment overriding environmental values. Specifically, the proposed upgrade works to the unsealed car park and works to address stormwater discharge to the marine environment, would have a significant physical and visual change to the land, although this was considered a potential opportunity in value-adding to the education facility.



The 'Economic' category also highlighted improved management is required for the protection of the natural environment. In particular, the impacts on the foreshore from climate change and economic downturns were identified as a key threat. Managing increased visitors to Ricketts Point was raised as a potential management action. It was suggested the Ricketts Point Teahouse could support the education facility, recommending consultation with the community be undertaken to find out what they want from the Ricketts Point Teahouse.

Key findings from the 'Cultural/Social' category revealed improved management measures are needed for managing increased development at Ricketts Point. The ageing demographic of members in the Friends Group's, with low growth in new members is also of key concern.

## 2.4 Cultural context

### (i) Pre contact cultural values

The Port Phillip coastline was particularly significant to Aboriginal people in providing an abundance of food. In particular the route along the foreshore is considered to be both an historic clan border as well as a historic trail, used by the Boon wurrung people on their annual travels from Port Phillip to Mornington. Evidence of past Aboriginal life has been located within the study area.

As part of the Bayside City Council commitment to the recognition of Indigenous people, Council commissioned a bluestone and crushed yellow ochre sandstone sculpture incorporating indigenous plants, named 'Boon wurrung Blossom'. This sculpture is installed near Ricketts Point Teahouse.



Figure 17: Boon wurrung 'Blossom'

## **(ii) Post contact cultural values**

Post contact, Ricketts Point attracts people interested in the natural values, recreational opportunities and stunning views and vistas offered at Ricketts Point. It has long been a popular spot for artists and is becoming more widely appreciated for the educational values offered by the Marine Sanctuary. Because it is one of the few accessible beaches in the Bay, it is very popular with people with limited mobility, including people with disabilities, older people and families with young children.

## **2.5 Economic context**

Ricketts Point is a tourist destination within Bayside, with the key attractors being:

- The Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary is easily accessible from the shore and supports a significant range of marine life and features;
- The Bay Trail which encourages cyclists and pedestrians;
- The Coastal Art Trail, which attracts walkers, art lovers and people interested in local history.
- The ease of access to the beach as there are no steps or steep slopes between the car park and the beach.
- The accessible ramp and chair, which is the only ramped point of entry for people with disabilities in the bay.
- High environmental and cultural values; vegetation, birds and indigenous culture in particular.

Ricketts Point is also on the busy Beach Road cycle route, and is a popular location of personal trainers and other recreation providers.

These activities all support the success of the Ricketts Point Teahouse, one of the few cafes along the bay, and the key economic resource at Ricketts Point.

## **2.6 Management context**

### **(i) Land Ownership and Management responsibilities**

The following table provides a visual matrix to identify coastal management responsibilities for Bayside City Council, including the areas of responsibility for Parks Victoria, DSE, Melbourne Water, VicRoads, community groups and lessees of foreshore buildings.

This matrix can be utilised by the stakeholders, government and the general community to provide clear guidance on management responsibilities.

		Bayside City Council	Parks Victoria	DSE	VicRoads	Lessee	Melbourne Water
LAND	Below the high water mark		Recreation boating	Seabed			Manager of stormwater drains
	Above the high water mark			Coastal protection structures			
BUILDINGS	Beaumaris Yacht Club	Lessor		Land manager		Building manager	
	Ricketts Point Teahouse	Lessor		Land manager		Building manager	
	Beaumaris Life Saving Club	Lessor		Land manager		Building manager	
	Bathing Boxes	Lessor				Licence to occupy	
	Boatsheds	Lessor				Licence to Occupy	
	Public Toilets	Manager					
NATURAL ASSETS	Foreshore flora and fauna	Manager					
	Landside flora and fauna	Manager					
ACCESS WAYS	Landside undeveloped road reserve and unsealed road	Manager					
	Foreshore shared paths	Manager					
	Beach Road				Manager		
OTHER INFRASTRUCTRE	Stormwater drainage outlets	Manager (4 outlets)					Manager (1 outlet)
	Memorials / Public art	Manager					
	Interpretive signage	Onshore signage	Recreation boating and marine signage				
	Mobi-chair	Manager					

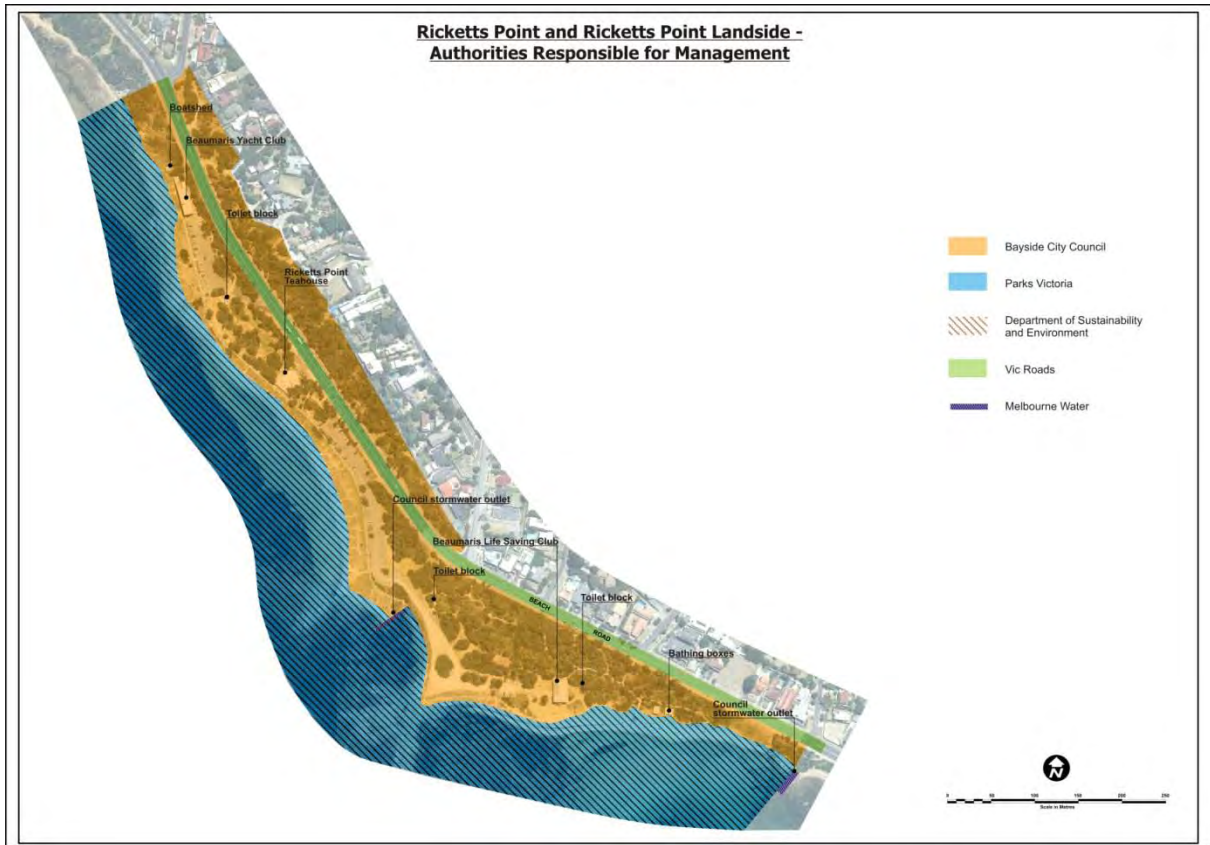


Figure 18: Authorities responsible for management of Ricketts Point and Ricketts Point Landside.

All lease arrangements for buildings on Crown land at Ricketts Point are between Council and the lessee (with the written approval of the Minister). The status of each of the buildings (apart from toilets which are managed by Council) is outlined below:

**Beaumaris Yacht Club:**

Beaumaris Yacht Club is on a fifteen year lease which commenced on 1 March 2009. Any extension to the Club building is the Yacht Clubs’ responsibility. The Yacht Club looks after maintenance. The lease expires on 29 February 2024.

**Beaumaris Life Saving Club:**

Beaumaris Life Saving Club is currently operating on a lease which is in overholding (expired lease). The Club has occupied the site since 1961. Under the conditions of the Beaumaris Life Saving Club lease, any works to the building is the responsibility of the Club as owner of the building. Any redevelopment of the building is the responsibility of the Club and subject to consent from Council and DSE

**Ricketts Point Teahouse:**

The current proprietors of Ricketts Point Teahouse have a thirteen year lease which commenced on 1 January 2005. Council owns the building. The lease expires on 31 December 2018.

**Boatsheds:**

There are three boatsheds located to the north of Beaumaris Yacht Club numbered 230, 231 and one which is un-numbered. Council has prepared draft three year licences for the occupiers of these boatsheds to 'occupy the land' to meet Council and DSE compliance. Council has been granted Parliamentary approval to enter into a formal licence with the boatshed occupiers. These licences are expected to be issued in early 2013. Currently the 'permissive occupancy' of the boatsheds is renewed annually with payment of the occupancy fee made via the annual rates bill.

**Bathing Boxes:**

There are three bathing boxes at Dalgetty Beach (numbered 262, 263 and 264). The bathing boxes are currently on a yearly occupancy licence agreement with the licence fee made via the annual rates bill.

**(ii) Friends groups**

Several Friends groups are involved in land management and community education within Ricketts Point. The purpose and focus of each of these groups is outlined below.

Council works closely with each of these groups.

**Friends of Ricketts Point Landside:**

The Friends of Ricketts Point Landside was created in 1999 to preserve and protect the distinctive and well known Ricketts Point Landside woodland. The most significant feature of this site is the stand of mature Coast Banksia trees in the centre of the site opposite the Ricketts Point Teahouse on Beach Road. Some of these trees are thought to be over 200 years old. The Friends are protecting the Coast Banksia's by planting understorey species and replacement trees. The Southern Brown Tree Frog (*Littoria ewingii*) can be heard calling from the southern end of the site.

**Marine Care Ricketts Point:**

Marine Care Ricketts Point Inc. is a volunteer group concerned with the well-being of the Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary. It works in cooperation with Parks Victoria, Bayside City Council and many other interested groups. Active members participate in activities such as: mapping the sanctuary, monitoring marine life, marine photography, education, surveillance and compliance, inter organisational activity, surveys and the natural and human history of the area. The objective is to foster the regeneration of the once abundant plant and animal life so that a thriving marine environment is assured for the future.

**Friends of Table Rock:**

The Friends of Table Rock was formed from members of Beaumaris Conservation Society Inc. to help control the spread of the environmental weed Bridal Creeper (*Asparagus asparagoides*) along this part of the foreshore reserve. The area the group maintains extends along the foreshore reserve from Rennison Street to Keys Street in Beaumaris.



### **Friends of Watkins Bay:**

Watkins Bay is also known as Dalgetty Road Beach. It runs from the wooden triangle on the rocks near the Beaumaris Life Saving Club to Table Rock and is part of the Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary. The group works mostly in the lower level of the coastal reserve from Tramway Parade to Reserve Road below the cliffs, which are thought to be an ancient coast line. Activities include removing weeds such as Mirror Bush and Veldt Grass, and in autumn and winter plant indigenous species that are grown at the Bayside Community Nursery.

### **Friends of Native Wildlife:**

The Friends of Native Wildlife work throughout the entire Bayside area and work closely with flora groups as well. The group was formed in 1996 and undertakes regular surveys of fauna within Bayside, including frogs, bats, the Rakali (native water rat), other small mammals and native birds.

### **(iii) Current capital and operational projects underway and planned**

The following recently completed projects, current projects and future activities for implementation at Ricketts Point:

#### **Recently completed projects and works:**

- Coastal Trails signage
- Public Toilet upgrades including the bluestone, Exceloo and disabled toilets
- Review of the draft Bayside Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) community consultation held in September 2011
- Signage at southern car park
- Fencing and revegetation of sand dunes
- Ricketts Point Teahouse – roof restoration works
- Beach Road Corridor Parking Strategy

#### **Proposed projects and works:**

- Upgrade of unsealed car park (B18)
- Removal of stormwater pipe – complete feasibility study to inform future upgrade works
- Banksia Risk Management Plan
- Review of dog controls within Ricketts Point (identified in the Bayside DAMP 2012).
- Future directions for Ricketts Point Teahouse (pending lease renewal in 2018)



### **3 Key Management Challenges**

The Ricketts Point area is highly valued and highly utilised by the community for a wide range of relaxation, education and recreational purposes. The area has high environmental values, and is uniquely located adjacent to the Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary, which has been recognised and protected for its significance within Port Phillip and the wider region.

The key management challenges facing Ricketts Point relate to appropriately managing a range of competing uses within a sensitive and fragile coastal environment. These are expanded on in Chapter Five, which also outlines the strategies and actions to address the key management challenges identified.

#### **3.1 Managing the Ricketts Point Coastal Reserve/Marine Sanctuary interface**

Management challenges relating to the Ricketts Point coastal reserve and Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary interface include:

- The boundary between the coastal reserve and Marine Sanctuary is the high tide watermark. This can be subjective, and difficult to identify when on location.
- There are uses permitted in the Ricketts Point coastal reserve, such as dogs off-leash, which are prohibited within the Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary.
- Enforcement issues relating to fishing, removal of marine life and damage to the rock platforms.
- Community concern about the visual impacts and odour of seaweed accumulating on the beach as a result of natural processes.
- A poor sense of entry to the Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary from Ricketts Point coastal reserve.

#### **3.2 Managing the Ricketts Point/urban environment interface.**

Management challenges relating to the Ricketts Point coastal reserve and the urban environment interface include:

- Increased use demands on Ricketts Point as the population grows and demand for open space increases.
- The detrimental impact of stormwater discharge from the wider water catchment on the Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary.
- Pedestrian safety issues due to the proximity of Beach Road and busy car parks.
- Deterioration of natural habitat due to the proximity of Beach Road and busy car parks.

#### **3.3 Minimising and managing erosion and climate change impacts.**

Management challenges relating to managing erosion and climate change impacts include:

- Planning for the likely impacts of climate change at Ricketts Point as a result of the potential for increased wave heights and storm frequency to 2100.

- Managing erosion caused by natural processes and human traffic to sand dunes, cliff faces and other natural features.

### **3.4 Protection of indigenous cultural sites and value.**

Management challenges relating to protection of indigenous cultural sites and value include:

- Better understanding the extent and value of indigenous cultural sites within Ricketts Point.
- Appropriately protecting and preserving indigenous cultural sites.

### **3.5 Minimising impacts on indigenous flora and fauna.**

Management challenges relating to minimising impacts on indigenous flora and fauna include:

- Trampling of indigenous flora by humans.
- Impact on indigenous flora and fauna by pest plants and animals such as weeds, foxes, rats and rabbits.
- Disturbance to indigenous flora and fauna, particularly shoreline roosting birds, by dogs off-leash.
- Impacts of digging and nutrients left by dogs to soil and flora.



Figure 19: Dog off-leash at Ricketts Point

### **3.6 Provision of appropriate infrastructure**

Management challenges relating to provision of appropriate infrastructure include:

- Making the most of Ricketts Point accessibility, particularly for people with disabilities and/or limited mobility.
- Ageing foreshore buildings that are reaching the end of their useful life.
- Rationalising visually dominant and cluttered foreshore facilities such as signage and rubbish bins.
- The impact of infrastructure on the landscape and heritage values of Ricketts Point.

### **3.7 Visitor management**

Management challenges relating to visitor management include:

- Potential expansion of the role of the well established Marine Education Centre.
- Resolving confusing signage.
- Balancing economic activities with environmental values.
- Managing large numbers of cyclists on the weekends requiring bike parking facilities at Ricketts Point Teahouse.
- Managing coaches and buses dropping off and picking up visitors to the Marine Education Centre.

### **3.8 Effective operational management and enforcement**

Management challenges relating to effective operational management and enforcement include:

- Enforcement of local laws.
- Appropriate provision and maintenance of road infrastructure.
- Unstable land.
- Illegal fishing.
- Environmental weeds.
- Feral animals.
- Preservation of habitat for native fauna.
- Dumping rubbish.

### **3.9 Building effective and positive relationships**

Management challenges relating to building effective and positive relationships include:

- Ensuring clear delineation of roles.
- Encouraging collaboration between agencies and groups.
- Further developing the Parks Victoria/Council relationship.
- Educating the wider community about the vision for Ricketts Point.

## 4 Vision and Management Approach

### 4.1 Vision

The draft vision is that Ricketts Point, as a coastal environment with unique and sensitive biodiversity and cultural values, is considered an exemplar of effective and sustainable management within the wider catchment of Port Phillip and Western Port Catchment, with access for all abilities.

The community can enjoy and learn about the environment and conservation values of Ricketts Point and the adjacent Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary through a variety of active recreation, ecotourism and educational opportunities, ensuring environmental sustainability of the landscape.



Figure 20: Ricketts Point coastline viewed through the Coast Banksias (*Banksia integrifolia*).



## 4.2 Management approach

- Protect, maintain and actively enhance natural environment and biodiversity values.
- Plan and implement adaption strategies to deal with the impacts associated with climate change, including erosion, flooding, storm surges and sea level rise.
- Protect and enhance indigenous, pre-contact and post-contact cultural values.
- Promote access for all abilities to Ricketts Point beach, recognising its high level of accessibility in the context of Port Phillip.
- Promote, resource and manage increased educational and interpretation opportunities at Ricketts Point
- Promote a safe and attractive foreshore environment, particularly pedestrian linkages, cycle and disabled access (where possible) between the foreshore environment and the surrounding urban centre and public transport.
- Discourage additional development that does not align with the values of Ricketts Point. Where development or redevelopment is appropriate, support environmentally sustainable foreshore buildings that are coastal dependant, and multi-purpose in design to encourage shared use and fulfil a range of community uses and needs.
- Manage the foreshore reserve having regard for this unique area within an urban setting, including natural, manmade and cultural assets that contribute to the overall coastal character of the foreshore.
- Allow economic activities that are coastal dependent and sustainable in the long term and do not undermine the environment and biodiversity values of Ricketts Point.

From this management approach, seven principles have been developed:

- Principle One: Protect Environmental Values and Coastal Character
- Principle Two: Manage the Impacts of Climate Change
- Principle Three: Protect and Celebrate Cultural Heritage Values
- Principle Four: Manage the Built Environment
- Principle Five: Facilitate Appropriate Access, Movement and Connectivity
- Principle Six: Encourage Education and Community Involvement
- Principle Seven: Support Environmentally Sustainable Economic Development

Included in each principle, is an overview of relevant issues followed by a discussion of each issue. Where appropriate, proposed objectives, strategies and actions have been identified.

The objectives, strategies and actions should be interpreted and used as follows.

**Objectives** are the goal; they describe what we want to achieve at Ricketts Point in relation to relevant issues.

**Strategies** are the overall plan to achieve the objective. Strategies should be used to guide decision-making about current and future issues, initiatives and projects at Ricketts Point.

**Actions** are specific projects that need to be undertaken to achieve the identified objectives and strategies. These will need to be funded and prioritised in line with Council's budget process.

## 5 Principles

### 5.1 Principle One: Protect Environmental Values and Coastal Character

#### (i) Overview

There is a high level of visitation to Ricketts Point for a range of recreational, relaxation, research and educational purposes. Over time, as the population grows and demand for open space increases, this level of visitation is expected to increase.

The interface between Ricketts Point coastal reserve, managed by Council, and Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary, managed by Parks Victoria, is the high tide watermark of the intertidal zone between the water and the beach. This boundary is subjective, and can be difficult to identify when on location at Ricketts Point.

Dogs are allowed on and off-leash within the Ricketts Point coastal reserve but are prohibited within the Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary (except on boats). Whilst acknowledging that dogs are required to be under voice control at all times, regular breaches mean that dogs frequently run over the prohibited intertidal zone and rock platforms, and swim within the waters of the Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary.

Ricketts Point coastal reserve and Ricketts Point Landside are a point of stormwater discharge into Port Phillip from further upstream within the catchment. This directly impacts on the Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary.

Erosion caused by natural processes and human traffic is another management challenge facing Ricketts Point.

Threats to indigenous flora and fauna at Ricketts Point include trampling of indigenous flora by humans, digging and nutrient disposal by dogs, pest plants and animals such as weeds, foxes, rats and rabbits and off-leash dogs disturbing indigenous fauna, particularly shoreline roosting birds.

Fishing and removal of marine life within the Marine Sanctuary is prohibited. The enforcement of these activities will often take place within the boundaries of the Ricketts Point Coastal reserve, requiring a high level of cooperation between Council, Parks Victoria and Fisheries.

Other management and maintenance issues that need to be dealt with at Ricketts Point include enforcement of local laws, unstable land, environmental weeds, feral animals and preservation of habitat for native fauna within close proximity of an urban residential area.

There are some specific issues that require improved management at Ricketts Point Landside. These include gradual encroachment of private boundaries into Ricketts Point Landside, dumping of building rubble, clearing of indigenous vegetation and revegetation of landslip areas with exotic species.

## (ii) Discussion

### Stormwater management

Ricketts Point is the collection point for significant amounts of stormwater from further up in the catchment. Currently water collected through the stormwater system is discharged into the Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary through five stormwater pipes; one managed by Melbourne Water and four managed by Council.

Water discharged goes directly into the Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary.

Water discharged through the stormwater system into the marine environment is adversely affecting the Marine Sanctuary and opportunities to minimise this impact need to be explored.

Preliminary plans to reduce the length or remove the stormwater drain exiting Ricketts Point in line with the end of Reserve Road into the Marine Sanctuary have been investigated.

The intention is to replace this stormwater outlet with a bio-retention system to cleanse and slow the velocity of water collected through the stormwater system before its infiltration into the water table and ultimately Port Phillip.

The bio-retention system will only have the capacity to deal with regular flows through the stormwater system. Significant storm events and high water flows through the stormwater system will continue to discharge into Port Phillip prior to treatment but with a reduced impact as water will be dispersed via the bio-retention system.

Details of the project are included in Section 6.2 of the report.

Further efforts to reduce the impact of stormwater, particularly as a result of significant storm events, will be able to be achieved through the incorporation of Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) features to reduce the impact of stormwater run-off in landscaping and development. Examples of such features include rain gardens, porous pavements, grassed or landscaped swales, infiltration trenches, wetlands, rainwater tanks, stormwater harvesting and reuse, grey water harvesting and reuse.

<b>Objective 1.0:</b>	<b>Impact of stormwater collected within the Port Phillip and Western Port water catchment on the Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary is minimised</b>
Strategy 1.1:	Encourage the diversion of stormwater from Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary through landside collection and reuse techniques within Ricketts Point and higher up in the water catchment system.
Strategy 1.2:	Reduce the velocity of stormwater entering the Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary.
Strategy 1.3:	Cleanse and slow water collected through the stormwater system prior to it entering the Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary.
Strategy 1.4:	Apply Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) to landscape works programs to manage stormwater.



**Strategy 1.5:** Upgrade/remove stormwater outlets to improve and reduce water discharge into the Marine Sanctuary.

**Action 1A:** *Develop a bio-retention system to enable removal of the stormwater pipe opposite Reserve Road. Refer to Section 6.2 for further information.*

## Vegetation

Ricketts Point has several pockets of indigenous vegetation with EVC values that are significant at a bioregional level. This creates habitat for a range of indigenous fauna.

The Bayside Planning Scheme recognises the significance of the Coast Banksia, Sallow Wattle, Coast Tea Tree and Drooping She-oak within Ricketts Point Landside and the Coast Banksia in the road reserve opposite 423 Beach Road, Beaumaris. These are protected by a Heritage Overlay. The Heritage Overlay is not the most appropriate planning tool to protect vegetation. There is no planning scheme protection over the pockets of vegetation with EVC values apart from blanket vegetation controls that apply to much of the southern part of Bayside.

There are a wide range of threats to the indigenous vegetation of Ricketts Point. These include:

- Clearing of native vegetation by people who wish to improve their bay views.
- Revegetation of land slip areas with exotic species.
- Trampling of vegetation by people and dogs walking and running through Ricketts Point.
- Dog nutrients left at Ricketts Point.
- Introduction of exotic species.

The *Ricketts Point Coastline, Beaumaris: Native Vegetation Works Program 2012* was prepared by Ecology Australia Pty Ltd for Council to establish a management regime for vegetation at Ricketts Point.

The scope of the works program includes:

- Weed control;
- Revegetation;
- Fencing to protect coastal dune grasslands;
- Establishment of monitoring plots.

There are some specific issues that require management at Ricketts Point Landside including clearing of indigenous vegetation to provide for bay views from private properties, illegal stormwater discharge from private properties, and encroachment of private boundaries into the reserve and revegetation of landslip areas with exotic species.

**Objective 2.0: Native flora is re-established and protected.**

**Strategy 2.1:** Remove introduced species of flora.

**Strategy 2.2:** Protect existing indigenous flora, including coastal dune grasslands.

**Strategy 2.3:** Revegetate Ricketts Point indigenous flora (except for the coastal dune grasslands seaward of the B18 car park)

Strategy 2.4:	Monitor vegetation at Ricketts Point.
Strategy 2.5:	Appropriately enforce inappropriate activities such as removal of indigenous flora, and planting of weed species.
Action 2A:	<i>Implement the actions outlined in the Ricketts Point Coastline, Beaumaris: Native Vegetation Works Program in line with the timelines specified.</i>
Action 2B:	<i>Ensure protection of juvenile and semi-mature Banksia's through plant and pest management and fencing off where necessary to protect from trampling.</i>
Action 2C:	<i>Manage pest plants and vegetation vandalism on Ricketts Point Landside by: monitoring pest plant spread quarterly; undertaking coordinated pest plant control as required in collaboration with neighbouring property owners; educating the community about the values of remnant vegetation, impacts of dumped garden waste, impacts of clearing native vegetation and why planted exotic species will be removed; developing a vandalism action plan which includes installation of signs seeking witnesses, view obstructing signs where trees/vegetation have been removed, prosecution process and publicity about vandalism events; revegetating landslip prone areas; and Council to apply enforcement measures on any instances of illegal encroachment.</i>

<b>Objective 3.0:</b>	<b>Tree vandalism is prevented</b>
Strategy 3.1:	Improve education about the value of Ricketts Point vegetation to discourage tree/vegetation vandalism.
Strategy 3.2:	Enforce and prosecute any tree/vegetation vandalism.
Strategy 3.3:	Ensure that vegetation values are understood before pruning for fire tracks to ensure no damage to rare or threatened plant species.
Strategy 3.4:	Maintain and install fences to avoid creation of informal tracks, track widening and damage to vegetation.

## Fauna

Ricketts Point coastal reserve and the Marine Sanctuary provide habitat for a wide range of native fauna, significantly the Rakali (native water rat) and roosting and feeding shorebirds such as the Australian Pelican, Silver Gull, Sooty Oyster Catchers, various Cormorants and Crested Tern, which visit and live within the beach surrounds. Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary is recognised as having International Treaty Significance due to 'supporting significant populations of species and their habitats', these being largely in relation to resident and migratory shorebirds and seabirds which roost at Ricketts Point, particularly between October and March.

Many threats face these species at Ricketts Point including.

- Domestic and feral animal management
- Weed/pest plant management

- Fauna Habitat
- Litter Control

There is a range of ways to protect fauna at Ricketts Point. These include:

- Protecting habitat sensitive to disturbance, such as Rakali (native water rat) habitat in rocky areas near the water, and shorebird roosts.
- Monitoring pests including rabbits, foxes and rodents, and baiting as required.
- Better enforcing a domestic cat curfew.
- Focusing on larger areas of higher habitat quality and potential during revegetation works.
- Connecting habitat zones to allow passageways/links for fauna.
- Revegetation to provide habitat and roosting areas for shorebirds along the foreshore.
- Planting mid-storey dense and/or prickly indigenous shrubs to encourage smaller birds to visit and remain longer in the area.
- Retaining fallen logs as habitat for lizards and other reptiles.
- Providing temporary habitat corridors if roadworks or excavation is to take place.

**Objective 4.0: Native fauna is protected and encouraged.**

Strategy 4.1: Maintain and improve the integrity of existing habitat.

Strategy 4.2: Link habitat zones through establishment of habitat corridors.

Strategy 4.3: Identify and remove threats to native fauna including weeds, pest animals and litter.

*Action 4A: Manage pest animals in Ricketts Point Landside by: monitoring pest animal activity annually; and undertaking coordinated pest animal control as required in collaboration with neighbouring property owners.*

**Erosion**

Erosion of cliffs, steep slopes and sand dunes within Ricketts Point coastal reserve and Ricketts Point Landside occurs as a result of both natural process and human activities.

Natural processes include: storm events leading to high rainfall events, temporary rises in sea levels, high winds and excessive wave action; and stormwater runoff from higher up in the water catchment.

Human activities include: coastal modification through installation of seawalls and groynes and beach renourishment; high velocity stormwater flow because of poor drainage or excess hard surfaces; trampling; removing vegetation; and planting exotic species of vegetation.

Extensive work has been undertaken recently to stabilise the sand dunes and exclude human traffic. Additional erosion control of this nature may be required on other geological features within Ricketts Point.

Within Ricketts Point Landside, there are areas affected by landslip cause by vegetation clearance and stormwater runoff. Revegetation of these areas is necessary to prevent or reduce the chance of further landslips.

**Objective 5.0: Significant geological and geomorphologic features are protected.**

- Strategy 5.1: Understand natural coastal processes before considering any beach renourishment proposals.
- Strategy 5.2: Understand how any vegetation removal or development on the foreshore has the potential to contribute to, or initiate, erosion.
- Strategy 5.3: Slow the velocity of stormwater entering Ricketts Point from higher up in the catchment.

**Dog access to Ricketts Point**

Dogs are currently permitted off-leash at Ricketts Point (within the coastal reserve) at some locations at some times of the year. This access has been in place for many years, and Ricketts Point is a very popular location for people to take their dogs for recreation and exercise.

The controls relating to dog off-leash areas at Ricketts Point are as follows:

	Peak period	Off peak period	Intertidal rock platforms
Area 1 Between Fourth Street and the McGregor Ave Ramp	1 Nov – 31 Mar 10am – 7.30pm – prohibited 7.30pm – 10am – on leash	1 April – 31 Oct On leash	Prohibited
Area 2 Between McGregor Av ramp and the disabled ramp at southern end of car park B17	Off-leash	Off-leash	Prohibited
Area 3 Between the disabled ramp at the southern end of the Beaumaris Yacht Club car park (B17) and the Beaumaris Life Saving Club:	10am – 7.30pm – prohibited 7.30pm – 10am – on leash	Off-leash	Prohibited
Area 4 Between the area south of the Beaumaris Life Saving Club and Dalgetty Road	10am – 7.30pm – prohibited 7.30pm – 10am – off-leash	Off-leash	Prohibited

The *Bayside Domestic Animal Management Plan 2012 – 2016* (DAMP) identifies the following objective in relation to provision for dogs off-leash:

*To plan and manage provision for dog off-leash in consideration to other park and foreshore activities.*

The DAMP (2012-2016) identifies a range of issues in relation to management of dog off-leash areas along the foreshore, including:

- the challenges associated with accommodating often competing demands for access to open space in areas with environmental areas;
- confusion in relation to where dogs are and are not permitted, and at what times;

Action 29 of the DAMP (2012-2016) proposes a review of dog access to sensitive bushland areas and the Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary during 2013.



Several other strategies relating to Ricketts Point have also highlighted the need to review dog controls including:

- Parks Victoria Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary Management Plan 2005
- Ricketts Point Fauna Survey: Reserve fauna habitat assessment and management recommendations 2011-2012
- Black Rock-Beaumaris Foreshore Masterplan 2000
- Bayside Open Space Strategy 2012

The relevant extracts of these documents are within Appendix One

As has been established, Ricketts Point has sensitive bushland areas, and is adjacent to the Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary.

The adjacent table shows that the range of restrictions in place throughout Ricketts Point is complex and it is understandable that people are confused in relation to areas and times where dogs are permitted.

There are several published papers to suggest that dogs can have negative impact on identified environmental values. This is particularly relevant to Ricketts Point in relation to interaction with fauna and birds that live within the environs.

Even though dogs are prohibited on the intertidal rock platforms within the Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary at all times, as there is dog off-leash areas adjacent to the rock platforms, breaches do occur, and require enforcement.

The issue of whether it is appropriate to have dogs either on or off-leash adjacent to a declared Marine Sanctuary, and remnant significant indigenous vegetation needs to be carefully considered in the review of dog access to Ricketts Point.

The Draft Ricketts Point and Ricketts Point Landside Management Plan establishes a framework for decision-making in relation to dog access to the area.

There are three options in relation to dog access to Ricketts Point:

1. Existing controls remain – a combination of dog off-leash/dog on leash and dog prohibited areas.
2. Dogs are not permitted off-leash – dogs permitted on leash up on the beach, and prohibited on the intertidal rock platforms.
3. Dogs are prohibited from the entire area, with the exception of the bike path, and road side of the Ricketts Point Teahouse.

It is recognised that there will be strongly differing views in relation to the appropriate access for dogs at Ricketts Point. In order to assist with review of dog access to Ricketts Point, the following process is proposed:

Step One:            Develop a consultation paper outlining the opportunities and challenges for each of the options identified above.

Step Two:            Undertake a random survey of residents within the immediate catchment of Ricketts Point, and community members within the wider Ricketts Point catchment to discuss the relative values of Ricketts Point.

Step Three: Refine the consultation paper and undertake general community consultation on the options available, including Council's preferred option/s.

Step Four: Council decision on dog access for Ricketts Point, and associated implementation.

**Objective 6.0: Dog access is managed to protect environmental values and coastal character.**

Strategy 6.1: Consider the impact of dogs on the environmental values and coastal character of Ricketts Point.

Strategy 6.2: Ensure dog owners are appropriately educated in relation to dog controls.

*Action 6A: Review dog access at Ricketts Point, in line with the following process: 1) Develop options for dog access to Ricketts Point and Ricketts Point Landside; 2) Undertake random survey to understand relative values (both immediate and wider catchment); 3) General community consultation and identification of Council's preferred option; 4) Council decision on dog access, and associated implementation.*

### Planning Scheme Controls

Ricketts Point coastal reserve and Ricketts Point Landside are both zoned Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ). The PPRZ zoning extends 600 metres into the Bay and thus applies to the Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary, which is managed by Parks Victoria (not Council). The boundary between the Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary and Ricketts Point coastal reserve is the high water mark. This is a subjective boundary that changes frequently.

Several planning overlays apply to Ricketts Point coastal reserve and Ricketts Point Landside:

- Vegetation Protection Overlay, Schedule 1 protects the coastal vegetation within Ricketts Point as well as the rest of the foreshore in Bayside.
- Heritage Overlay, Schedule 704 applies to the Coast Banksia, Sallow Wattle, Coast Tea Tree and Drooping She-oak within Ricketts Point Landside and includes tree controls.
- Heritage Overlay, Schedule 705 applies to the Coast Banksia in the road reserve opposite 423 Beach Road, Beaumaris and includes tree controls.
- Erosion Management Overlay applies to the coastal land from Picnic Point in Sandringham to the municipal boundary with Kingston. It controls development on erosion prone slopes, and includes tree controls.
- Design and Development Overlay, Schedule 1 applies to the whole of Bayside's coastline and hinterland. It places a restriction on building heights of six metres (two stories).

Many of the controls currently applying to Ricketts Point are duplicitous, and not all of the issues that have been identified as being of significance are recognised in the current planning regime. For example:

- Despite several overlays controlling removal of vegetation, it is only the Heritage Overlay control that actually specifies which vegetation is significant and requires protection.
- The Erosion Management Overlay and associated schedule contain very little information as to how to identify vulnerable landscapes that may need protection from development.
- The zoning of the Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary as Public Park and Recreation Zone needs further consideration. Given its significance in Bayside and also the greater Melbourne region, it is recommended that it should be zoned Public Conservation Resource Zone to align with other Marine Sanctuaries and National Parks.

The *Bayside Open Space Strategy, April 2012 (BOSS)* proposes that several parcels of open space with high environmental value be rezoned to PCRZ. This includes Ricketts Point Landside.

The BOSS (2012) also recommended an investigation into the zoning of coastal land to ensure the appropriate planning controls are in place. Preliminary discussions at a Council officer level indicate that the current zoning of the land as PPRZ is appropriate due to the wide mix of uses on the coastal land; however the overlay controls in place do not adequately recognise or protect the environmental values of the coastal land including vegetation protection, cultural heritage, erosion management and landscape values. A thorough review of the planning controls relating to the coastal land is recommended and will be referred to the Bayside Coastal Management Plan process (currently underway).

### **Planning guidelines**

The following policies align with the Victorian Coastal Strategy (2008), and are recommended for inclusion in the Bayside Planning Scheme to allow for the appropriate assessment of use and development of land within Ricketts Point.

**Policy 1: Use of land is appropriate for the Ricketts Point environment.**

- 1.1 Ensure uses are coastal dependent.
- 1.2 Ensure new uses are compatible within existing uses at Ricketts Point.
- 1.3 Avoid uses that will result in a detrimental impact on flora and fauna.
- 1.4 Avoid uses that may damage the sensitive dune system, and natural coastal elements of Ricketts Point.

**Policy 2: Coastal climate change vulnerability is considered in all development and redevelopment proposals.**

- 2.1 Avoid locating buildings on land that is likely to be impacted as a result of climate change through events such as sea surge and sea level rise.
- 2.2 Require development to be adaptable in the event of climate change, considering location, construction, materials and re-locatability.
- 2.3 Require all proposals for development and redevelopment to include a statement to demonstrate how the potential impacts of climate change have been considered and, if necessary, addressed.

**Policy 3: Development of buildings and infrastructure is appropriate to the Ricketts Point environment.**

- 3.1 Ensure that development or redevelopment activities support, and do not undermine achievement of the vision for Ricketts Point.
- 3.2 Avoid any development that will cause unreasonable negative impact on the Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary, including development which may: increase storm water runoff or water turbidity; cause damage to corals and rocks; disturb migratory bird species.
- 3.3 Require stormwater to be recycled or managed onsite for any new use or development.
- 3.4 Avoid developments that will result in a detrimental impact on flora and fauna.
- 3.5 Avoid development within the drip line of Coast Banksia's.
- 3.6 Avoid developments that may damage the sensitive dune system, and natural coastal elements of Ricketts Point.
- 3.7 Ensure the scale of development is compatible with the surrounding environment and its existing buildings.
- 3.8 Ensure the development is designed with materials and fixtures to withstand coastal elements.

**Policy 4: Siting of new development or redevelopment is appropriate.**

- 4.1 Avoid siting buildings in areas of high environmental significance.
- 4.2 Ensure new development or redevelopment of existing facilities is grouped with other structures on the foreshore where possible.
- 4.3 Avoid siting developments in the view line of existing public viewing points.
- 4.4 Prioritise the use of already disturbed sites for redevelopment or new development, subject to environmental and coastal vulnerability considerations.
- 4.5 Avoid disturbance of undisturbed land for redevelopment or new development, unless it is necessary to protect the Ricketts Point environment (for example, installation of fencing to exclude people from sensitive areas).
- 4.6 Ensure new development is designed to avoid overshadowing of the beach.
- 4.7 Ensure existing infrastructure and path networks are utilised to access new buildings and development.

**Policy 5: Amenity impacts of use and development in Ricketts Point are appropriately managed.**

- 5.1 Ensure hours of operation of the use or development minimise detriment to existing uses.



- 5.2 Ensure adequate facilities to support the use - including toilets, change rooms, bicycle facilities and car parking are provided.
- 5.3 Minimise signage associated with the use or development and ensure it is low level in keeping with the character of existing foreshore signage.
- 5.4 Require a management plan to be prepared if the use or development relies on patrons utilising bus or coach services to access Ricketts Point, in order to manage drop offs, pickups and off site bus/coach parking.

**Policy 6: Impacts of car parking are minimised.**

- 6.1 Ensure there is adequate car parking to support the use or development.
- 6.2 Encourage the sharing of car parking between different uses that operate during different times of the day or week in order to most efficiently use car parking provided at Ricketts Point.
- 6.3 Identify alternative parking venues (such as nearby schools during school holiday periods) for coaches and buses, to allow for pick up and drop off only at Ricketts Point.

**Policy 7 Indigenous and post contact cultural values are recognised and respected**

- 7.1 Consider the impacts that new use or development may have on pre-contact heritage values (whether they are identified in the Bayside Planning Scheme or not) and manage or mitigate as appropriate in accordance with the requirements of the Heritage Act 1988 and the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006

**Decision guidelines**

Prior to any new use or development, or any redevelopment occurring, the following issues must be addressed by the developer to the satisfaction of Council as Land Manager and Responsible Authority:

- *Siting and Design Guidelines for Structures on the Victorian Coast, Victorian Coastal Strategy 2008.*
- Evidence that the developer has consulted appropriately with the landowner (DSE) and the Land Manager (Bayside City Council) regarding the proposal.
- The safety of participants and the community has been considered in the proposal.
- The party responsible for maintenance is clear and a maintenance plan has been prepared.
- The location of development has considered climate change implications, including sea level rise.
- Arrangement for collection of rubbish and recycling facilities to service the development.
- An Environmental Management Plan and Work Site Management Plan has been developed and approved by Council to manage construction impacts.
- The development provides access for all abilities.

**Objective 7.0: Planning scheme controls are appropriate to protect environmental values and coastal character.**

Strategy 7.1: Ensure planning controls applied to Ricketts Point address recognised environmental values, cultural heritage values, appropriate vegetation management and erosion control.

Action 7A: *Amend the Bayside Planning Scheme to implement appropriate planning controls as follows: incorporation of the vision/principles for Ricketts Point in the Local Policy Planning Framework; rezone Ricketts Point Landside to Public Conservation and Resource Zone (PCRZ) in line with the recommendations of the Bayside Open Space Strategy (2012); rezone Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary to Public Conservation and Resource Zone (PCRZ) after consultation with Parks Victoria and DSE.*

Action 7B: *Develop a suite of planning zone and overlay tools for Ricketts Point coastal land which allow for the use of land in accordance with the vision outlined for Ricketts Point, and provide adequate recognition and protection of the environmental values of and threats to the area. (This work will be undertaken through the development of the Bayside Coastal Management Plan – in progress).*

## **Enforcement**

There is a range of issues requiring enforcement within Ricketts Point.

Fishing and removal of marine life within the Marine Sanctuary is prohibited. The enforcement of these activities will often take place within the boundaries of the Ricketts Point coastal reserve, requiring a high level of cooperation between Council and Parks Victoria. Fisheries officers are responsible for enforcement, but it will often be Council and Parks Victoria rangers who will identify the illegal activity.

Other enforcement issues managed by Council officers under Bayside Local Laws include feral animal management, domestic animal management, environmental weeds, litter, car parking and vandalism.

Specific enforcement issues at Ricketts Point Landside include extension of private boundaries encroaching on Ricketts Point Landside and dumping of building rubble and garden waste.

**Objective 8.0: Breaches of legislation, regulations and local laws are effectively enforced.**

Strategy 8.1: Ensure effective communication of relevant legislation, regulations and local laws through appropriate signage, brochures and website information.

Strategy 8.2: Actively and promptly enforce breaches.

Strategy 8.3: Promote interagency co-operation to ensure effective and efficient enforcement.

*Action 8A: Develop an agreement between Parks Victoria, Fisheries and Bayside City Council which identifies opportunities for shared responsibility of communication and enforcement of legislative requirements, regulations and local laws applying to Ricketts Point coastal reserve, Landside and Marine Sanctuary.*

## **Maintenance**

Community expectations about the level of maintenance standard of Ricketts Point foreshore sometimes differ from the actual appearance of the area.

Ricketts Point foreshore is at the interface between the Marine Sanctuary and the coastal reserve and is a natural environment. It is important for the integrity of the Marine Sanctuary that natural processes are allowed to occur, and that intervention through maintenance activities and litter management is minimised. For example, at Ricketts Point, seaweed (or wrack) is considered part of the marine environment and is not removed during general beach cleaning.

This is in contrast to other highly modified foreshore environments in Bayside, such as Hampton Beach.

Build up of seaweed on the foreshore, particularly within the small bay directly adjacent to the stormwater outlet, is one issue that concerns some members of the community. Council do receive some complaints about odour and difficulty in walking along the beach, due to seaweed build up. Council and Parks Victoria monitor seaweed, and it may be removed if the accumulation of seaweed is likely to cause health or safety issues.

Beach cleaning is another related issue of concern to some members of the community. Regular review of the beach cleaning regime takes place to ensure that the right balance between maintaining environmental values and providing a safe beach environment is achieved.

A major and easy to eliminate source of rubbish in the Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary are cigarette butts. Smoking is already prohibited within 50 metres of the lifesaving flags at Beaumaris Lifesaving Club. It is proposed to extend this prohibition to the Ricketts Point coastal area.

**Objective 9.0: Ricketts Point is appropriately maintained to protect environmental values and coastal character.**

Strategy 9.1: Allow seaweed to remain on beach to retain biodiversity values of the Marine Sanctuary.

Strategy 9.2: Declare the Ricketts Point coastal area a 'Smoke Free Area', to reduce the impact of cigarette butts on the Marine Sanctuary

*Action 9A: Under Section 8, Clause 68 of Local Law 2, declare Ricketts Point coastal area a smoke free zone promote and enforce as required.*

## 5.2 Principle Two: Manage the Impacts of Climate Change

### (i) Overview

Coastal zones such as Ricketts Point have been identified to be particularly sensitive to the physical impacts of climate change such as increased sea levels, increased wave heights and storm frequency.

Climate change is unlikely to create any new coastal hazards<sup>3</sup>, but at many locations it will make existing hazards worse. This could result in increased rates of coastal erosion, more extensive and frequent coastal flooding, increasing intrusion of seawater into estuaries and coastal aquifers, changing water quality, groundwater characteristics and sedimentation, and increasing seawater temperature that may affect ecosystems.

### (ii) Discussion

Within Ricketts Point the impacts of climate change may include damage to the rock platforms, beach, dunes, cliffs and foreshore as a result of erosion created by these events. This in turn may impact on habitat for flora and fauna that lives within or migrates through Ricketts Point or the Marine Sanctuary.

Latest advice from the Victorian Government<sup>4</sup> indicates that authorities around Port Phillip should be planning for sea level rise of not less than 0.8 m by 2100, and allow for the combined effects of tides, storm surges, coastal processes and local conditions when assessing risks and impacts.

It recommends authorities:

- Apply the precautionary principle to planning and management decision-making when considering the risks associated with climate change.
- Ensure that climate change is not a barrier to investment in minor coastal public infrastructure provided the design-life is within the timeframe of potential impact.
- Ensure planning and management frameworks are prepared for changes in local conditions as a result of climate change and can respond quickly to the best available current and emerging science.

Short to medium term actions to ensure that Ricketts Point is well positioned to adapt for climate change include:

- Upgrade infrastructure to accommodate climate change impacts such as changes to building and infrastructure design requirements (e.g.: floor height, insulation, re-locatability);
- Provide more shade along the foreshore where people congregate;
- Include rain gardens in car park landscape plans to minimise impact of surface water run-off;
- Harvest rain water;

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<sup>3</sup> DSE, 2012, Victorian Coastal Hazard Guide, Victorian Government Department of Sustainability and Environment Melbourne, June 2012

<sup>4</sup> DSE, 2012, Victorian Coastal Hazard Guide, Victorian Government Department of Sustainability and Environment Melbourne, June 2012

- Install solar panels on buildings for increased energy efficiency;
- Plant drought tolerant species;
- Apply erosion treatment such as sand bags.

For longer term (100 years) planning, it is realistic to consider a staged retreat from Ricketts Point, as the forecast sea level rise is anticipated to submerge the coastal strip. Planning for this level of change requires a better understanding of the full impacts of climate change on Ricketts Point and developing a strategy to safely remove infrastructure and facilities from Ricketts Point as required.

<b>Objective 10.0</b>	<b>Environmental, social and economic impacts associated with climate change are minimised</b>
Strategy 10.1:	Plan for sea level rise of not less than 0.8 m by 2100, and allow for the combined effects of tides, storm surges, coastal processes and local conditions when assessing risks and impacts.
Strategy 10.2:	Apply the precautionary principle to planning and management decision-making when considering the risks associated with climate change.
Strategy 10.3:	Ensure that climate change is not a barrier to investment in minor coastal public infrastructure provided the design-life is within the timeframe of potential impact.
Strategy 10.4:	Ensure planning and management frameworks are prepared for changes in local conditions as a result of climate change and can respond quickly to the best available current and emerging science.
<i>Action 10A:</i>	<i>Prepare a strategy to facilitate a safe and timely staged retreat from Ricketts Point as the impacts of climate change, particularly sea level rise, impact on the area.</i>

### 5.3 Principle Three: Protect and Celebrate Cultural Heritage Values

#### (i) Overview and discussion

Ricketts Point, as a coastal environment, is culturally significant to indigenous communities. Ricketts Point provided a reliable source of food and water for indigenous communities and evidence of kitchen middens along the Beaumaris coast indicates the Boon wurrung have inhabited the area for at least 6000 years. Ricketts Point is part of the *Country* of the Boon wurrung people.

All indigenous places are protected by the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 and the Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2007 and any works need to comply with this legislation.

Issues relating to native title are dealt with under the Native Title Act 1993 (Comm.)

There are further opportunities for people to learn about and understand the cultural and spiritual significance of Ricketts Point to indigenous people.

<b>Objective 11.0</b>	<b>Indigenous cultural heritage sites and values are identified, appropriately acknowledged, protected and preserved.</b>
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Strategy 11.1	Nurture indigenous cultural lore relating to Ricketts Point.
Strategy 11.2	Provide opportunities for people to learn about and understand the cultural and spiritual significance to indigenous people.
Strategy 11.3	Protect indigenous places and objects from disturbance and damage in partnership with Traditional Owners.
Strategy 11.4	Maintain confidentiality in respect of indigenous cultural lore, places, objects and aspirations in accordance with the wishes of the Traditional Owners.
Strategy 11.5	Ensure all management actions are in accordance with the Native Title Act 1993 (Commonwealth) and the Aboriginal Heritage Act (2006).

## 5.4 Principle Four: Manage the Built Environment

### (i) Overview

Some of the foreshore buildings at Ricketts Point, including the Ricketts Point Teahouse and the Beaumaris Yacht Club, are aging and reaching the end of their useful life. Their future needs to be carefully considered.

Across Ricketts Point, there are a wide variety of foreshore facilities such as rubbish bins, seats, exercise facilities and signage. These facilities are often visually dominant and cluttered.

The impact of existing, redeveloped and new infrastructure on the landscape and heritage values needs careful management to ensure it is appropriate for the coastal environment.

### (ii) Discussion

#### Use and development of coastal land

The Victorian Coastal Strategy (VCS) 2008, prepared by the Victorian Coastal Council (VCC) provides a comprehensive integrated management framework for the Victorian coast. It is established under the *Victorian Coastal Management Act 1995*. The Act directs the VCS to provide for long-term planning of the Victorian coast for the next 100 years and beyond.

Decision-making along the coast should be consistent with the hierarchy of VCS principles, which are:

- Provide for the protection of significant environmental and cultural values.
- Undertake integrated planning and provide clear direction for the future.
- Ensure the sustainable use of natural coastal resources.

When the above principles have been considered and addressed:

- Ensure development on the coast is located within existing modified and resilient environments where the demand for development is evident and the impact can be managed.

**Objective 12.0: Use and development is appropriate to the coastal environment.**

- Strategy 12.1: Ensure development on the coast is located within existing modified and resilient environments where the demand for development is evident and the impact can be managed.
- Strategy 12.2: Encourage co-location of uses to enable multi-use of foreshore buildings.
- Strategy 12.3: Apply the principles and guidelines within the Victorian Coastal Strategy (2008) when making decisions about buildings and infrastructure along the foreshore.

**Objective 13.0: Buildings and infrastructure along the foreshore are appropriate and in good condition.**

- Strategy 13.1: Consider all land use, buildings and facilities within the wider context of Ricketts Point as a sensitive coastal environment.
- Action 13A: Audit coastal facilities and buildings and develop an integrated program to rationalise the number of facilities, co-locate complimentary assets and, if warranted, upgrade ageing assets.*
- Action 13B: Remove the exercise station at the rear of the Beaumaris Life Saving Club and revegetate the area.*

**Ricketts Point Teahouse**

The current Ricketts Point Teahouse structure is approximately 35 years old. It has been extended extensively over time and now has seating to accommodate over 200 people.

The building is owned by Council and leased to the proprietors of the Ricketts Point Beachside Café until 31 December 2018. The lease generates income to Council, in excess of \$100,000 per annum.

Ricketts Point Teahouse is an extremely popular destination, particularly with beach goers, cyclists and walkers.

The Ricketts Point Teahouse structure is ageing and is near the end of its useful life.

The end of the current lease in 2018 provides an opportunity to review the future of the Ricketts Point Teahouse.

**Objective 14.0: Ricketts Point Teahouse is appropriately redeveloped.**

- Strategy 14.1: Explore the opportunities available for the redevelopment of the Ricketts Point Teahouse. There is an opportunity to explore the development of a multi-use facility. This could include the Marine Care Ricketts Point education function that is currently delivered at the Beaumaris Life Saving Club. This would provide a long term, purpose built facility supporting both the cafe and educational functions. It would also facilitate improved management of school visits to the site. An initiative of this nature requires significant investigation.

*Action 14A: Develop an issues and options paper for consideration by Council and the State Government, in accordance with the principles established in the Victorian Coastal Strategy 2008 and the Bayside Coastal Management Plan (currently in development), for the future of the Ricketts Point Teahouse. See Section 6.1 for more detail.*

### **Facilities and infrastructure**

The location of foreshore facilities has evolved over time, and is not always consistent or well located. The management plan has developed a clear vision for Ricketts Point, which establishes the priority of environmental values. In conjunction with the outcomes of the Bayside Coastal Management Plan (in progress) this will influence the level of facilities that should be provided at Ricketts Point and the style and the location or siting of the facilities.

A wide range of facilities are provided for community use at Ricketts Point. Facilities include:

- Signage
- BBQ's
- Seats
- Drinking fountains
- Taps
- Showers
- Public toilets
- Rubbish bins
- Access ramps and steps
- Shelters
- Parking for bikes and cars
- Bicycle and pedestrian paths.

### **Objective 15.0: Facilities and infrastructure provided are adequate, accessible and well located.**

Strategy 15.1: Rationalise the provision of facilities and infrastructure to minimise visual clutter and detriment to environmental values.

Strategy 15.2: Locate picnic tables, BBQ's, bench seats, rubbish bins etc. with consideration of convenience to users, comfort and safety from potential tree branch fall.

Strategy 15.3: Ensure facilities and infrastructure are maintained to ensure they are safe to use and in reasonable condition for users.

*Action 15A: In conjunction with Parks Victoria, undertake an audit of signage within Ricketts Point and develop a signage plan that minimises the amount and impact of signage whilst still conveying necessary information clearly and consistently. Particular areas to address include: dog controls and restrictions; way finding signage to key features and destinations; educational awareness of the impacts of trampling on sensitive areas.*

## 5.5 Principle Five: Appropriate Access, Movement and Connectivity

### (i) Overview and discussion

#### Access for all

Ricketts Point is one of the few beaches around Port Phillip that is easily accessible as the car park is at the same level as the beach. For this reason it is a popular location for people with limited mobility, such as parents with young children, people with physical disabilities and older people.

To take advantage of the easy accessibility, a disabled access ramp has been provided to allow water access to SCUBA divers and snorkelers with disabilities. In addition, the Beaumaris Yacht Club houses a mobi-chair which is available for hire and use by people with reduced mobility. This is the only wheelchair accessible diving and snorkelling point in Port Phillip.

There is an opportunity to build on Ricketts Point accessibility to create a premier location for people with disabilities who wish to access a coastal and marine environment but may have barriers to doing so.

**Objective 16.0: Ricketts Point is an Access for All Abilities destination of choice**

Strategy 16.1: Incorporate Access for All features into all infrastructure where opportunity arises.

Action 16A: *Develop an action plan to improve accessibility of Ricketts Point, buildings, facilities and infrastructure for people with disabilities.*

#### Access to Ricketts Point

Beach Road forms a major barrier between Ricketts Point coastal reserve, Ricketts Point Landside and the wider urban area. Unsafe access across Beach Road for pedestrians due to increasing traffic and other barriers such as footpaths and car parking areas may discourage pedestrian access to Ricketts Point.

Council wishes to improve use of sustainable forms of transport across the municipality, and improving use of modes including walking, cycling and bus to Ricketts Point is a priority.

The car park known as B18 (between the Ricketts Point Teahouse and Beaumaris Life Saving Club) is currently informal and gravel beyond the area opposite the Exeloo.

The Marine Education Centre attracts regular visitors including school groups and special interest clubs. Larger groups normally travel by coach or bus to Ricketts Point. The car parking facilities are not designed for coach/bus access, and there is not appropriate space for coach/bus parking.

Preliminary plans to redesign the car park are being investigated. This project has been combined with another project investigating the feasibility of creating of bio-retention

facility to replace the stormwater drain opposite the end of Reserve Road. More detail can be found at Section 6.2 of this report.

In addition, a bus and coach permit system would allow for large numbers of visitors to the Marine Sanctuary to be managed, and would provide agencies with an understanding of visitation numbers to assist in developing future management priorities and strategies. Revenue collected could be put towards providing bus and car parking bays and drop off areas.

<b>Objective 17.0: Access to Ricketts Point is appropriate and safe.</b>	
Strategy 17.1:	Encourage visitors arriving at Ricketts Point by bus or coach to advise Parks Victoria or Marine Care Inc. of their planned visit time.
Strategy 17.2:	Discourage buses and coaches from parking at Ricketts Point.
Strategy 17.3:	Encourage increased patronage of sustainable modes of transport to Ricketts Point i.e. walk, bike, bus.
Action 17A:	<i>Develop a permit system to control bus drop off and pick up car parking areas and identify alternative venues for bus and coach parking, such as along Beach Road or in local school grounds during school holiday periods.</i>

**Movement around Ricketts Point**

Ricketts Point coastal reserve and Ricketts Point Landside are natural environments, which contain many isolated areas. Recreational pursuits such as walking, cycling and running are encouraged, and to facilitate this, safe design and facilities need to be provided.

The Bay Trail, a cycle and pedestrian route around Port Phillip, attracts large numbers of cyclists, particularly on weekends. Ricketts Point Teahouse is a popular destination. Cycle facilities are inadequate to cater for these large numbers.

A boardwalk may be appropriate to consider as part of the of the bio-retention system project (refer to section 5.1). A boardwalk would allow people to appreciate the environmental values of the transitional zone between the sandy beach and the grassy foreshore without trampling on fragile dune systems and vegetation and could provide both a recreational and educational asset to Ricketts Point. More details can be found in Section 6.2 of this report.

<b>Objective 18.0: Movement around Ricketts Point is appropriate and safe.</b>	
Strategy 18.1:	Incorporate <i>Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)</i> principles into decision making for style and location of foreshore facilities and maintenance.
Strategy 18.2:	Manage bicycle parking at Ricketts Point Teahouse, particularly on weekends.
Action 18A	<i>Review current provision of bicycle racks at destinations along the Ricketts Point foreshore including the Ricketts Point Teahouse, Beaumaris Yacht Club and Beaumaris Life Saving Club to ensure they are adequate to meet demand and install new bicycle parking facilities as required.</i>



## 5.6 Principle Six: Facilitate Education, Partnerships and Community Involvement

### (i) Overview

Ricketts Point is a major 'entry point' to Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary. At present, there is little recognition of this entry point within the Ricketts Point coastal reserve. There is an opportunity to strengthen Ricketts Point's role as an entry to the Marine Sanctuary through interpretive signage and way-finding strategies.

Whilst rationalisation of signage is ongoing at Ricketts Point, there is still unclear and confusing signage in place, particularly relating to dog regulation.

Community expectations need to be managed in regard to what to expect in the Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary and environs (including the coastal reserve). One example is complaints about the build up of seaweed adjacent to the stormwater pipe opposite the end of Reserve Road. This seaweed build up is part of the natural process associated with the coastal ecosystem, and in the context of a Marine Sanctuary it is not appropriate to 'clean up' the seaweed for purely aesthetic reasons.

The role of Ricketts Point as a marine education resource is already well established, and has the potential to expand. Key issues to be managed in relation to this include the impact on the role of Marine Care Ricketts Point Inc, and the impact of visitors who often arrive in buses, which cannot be accommodated at Ricketts Point, and unregulated groups.

Many agencies and volunteer groups contribute to the management of Ricketts Point. Maintaining good communication and effective relationships will lead to better outcomes for Ricketts Point and Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary.

Challenges include ensuring clear delineation of roles, working collaboratively where possible and providing practical support for volunteer land managers (such as the Beaumaris Life Saving Club) and Friends groups to continue their contribution to Ricketts Point.

### Building a common vision

Providing the wider community with a clear understanding of the vision for Ricketts Point is also a key challenge. Ricketts Point is a sensitive environment, yet it is also highly utilised for a wide range of recreational and relaxation activities. Balancing the range of activities that people want to take part in can be a challenge.

<b>Objective 19.0:</b>	<b>Shared vision based on an understanding of the environmental and cultural heritage values for Ricketts Point</b>
Strategy 19.1:	Build community ownership towards the conservation of Ricketts Point.
Strategy 19.2:	Facilitate the involvement in the local community in regeneration activities
Strategy 19.3:	Install public art to suit the character and history of Ricketts Point.
Action 19A:	<i>Explore use of information technology, such as phone apps, to further inform and educate the community and visitors to the values of Ricketts Point.</i>

**Signage and way-finding**

Signage and way-finding strategies can be used to better effect at Ricketts Point to create a sense of arrival at Ricketts Point, and provide clear and concise visual cues to assist people with moving around and understanding the values of Ricketts Point.

Many issues in relation to signage were raised through the consultation undertaken for the preparation of this plan; at times these issues were in conflict, showing that there will be a need for consultation with the community in developing any future signage strategy for Ricketts Point.

<b>Objective 20.0</b>	<b>Signage and way-finding tools provided are adequate, educational and well located.</b>
Strategy 20.1	Avoid unnecessary signage which causes visual clutter.
Strategy 20.2	Use signage/way-finding techniques to create a clearer sense of arrival to Ricketts Point.
Strategy 20.3	Use signage/way-finding as education and interpretive tools about the values of Ricketts Point.
<i>Refer Action 15A for implementation.</i>	

**Marine Education Centre**

The Marine Education Centre, which is currently based at the Beaumaris Life Saving Club, is a very successful and popular community resource. The main aim of the Marine Education Centre is to provide interpretative resources and education opportunities about the Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary and encourage people to explore the rock platforms and other coastal assets with minimal impact. Marine Care Inc. currently co-ordinate the service, working closely with Council and Parks Victoria.

There is an opportunity to expand the role of the Marine Education Centre over time because it is an effective way of managing access to the Marine Sanctuary, as well as all of the educational benefits that a facility of this nature can provide.

In considering the future of the Marine Education Centre, opportunities to incorporate the facility into a multi-use building that provides a range of other services, and minimises the number of buildings on the coast should be explored.

<b>Objective 21.0:</b>	<b>Interpretive and educational facilities promote learning about and respect for the exceptional coastal, environment and cultural values at Ricketts Point</b>
Strategy 21.1:	Investigate the development of a multi-use facility that includes the Marine Education centre at Ricketts Point.
Strategy 21.2:	Support Ricketts Point as a centre for environmental education with a biodiversity focus.

*Action 21A: In collaboration with key stakeholders, develop a strategic plan for the expansion of the Marine Education centre at Ricketts Point. Consideration should be given to the best location for the Marine Education Centre, provision of outside and inside space, management structure and funding options. Co-location of this facility with other coastal facilities is desirable.*

### **Support for Friends Groups and volunteer land managers**

Friends Groups and volunteer land managers (such as the Lifesaving Club and Yacht Club) provide valuable support to Council in managing and maintaining Ricketts Point, particularly for pest and erosion control, and provide a valuable source of community education.

There are a several strong and active Friends Groups and volunteer land managers devoted to Ricketts Point, and Council intends to continue supporting these groups to continue their work.

**Objective 22.0: Community groups are empowered and resourced to care for Ricketts Point.**

Strategy 22.1 Develop collaborative and positive relationships with Friends groups and volunteer land managers with an interest in Ricketts Point.

## **5.7 Principle Seven: Support Environmentally Sustainable Economic Development**

### **(i) Overview and discussion**

#### **Appropriate economic activities.**

The draft Ricketts Point and Ricketts Point Landside Management Plan has established seven principles. These priorities have established that the facilitation of economic development at Ricketts Point is not the prime goal of Council in this location.

This needs to be balanced against the demand for economic generating activities at Ricketts Point. Examples include the popular Ricketts Point Teahouse, which supports the Ricketts Point experience, and provides revenue to Council which can then be invested in improvements to Ricketts Point and other economic development activities such as the cultural signage tourist trail, and the use of Ricketts Point by recreation providers.

Where economic development or economic generating activities support the environmental and coastal values of Ricketts Point, they should be appropriately controlled and managed. Where they undermine the environmental and coastal values of Ricketts Point they should not be allowed.

**Objective 23.0: Economic development activities protect the environmental and coastal values of Ricketts Point.**

Strategy 23.1 Exclude economic activities that threaten environmental processes, including professional dog walking.

Strategy 23.2	Monitor and manage recreationally based economic activities, such as personal trainers, to ensure minimal impact on the Ricketts Point environment.
Strategy 23.3	Support education and research activities that build knowledge of local environmental and cultural values.
Strategy 23.4:	Support ecologically coastal dependent focussed tourism.
Action 23A	<i>Introduce policy to exclude economic activities that threaten environmental processes from Ricketts Point (for example, professional dog walking).</i>

## 6 Strategic projects

### 6.1 Ricketts Point Teahouse – issues and options

The current Ricketts Point Teahouse structure is approximately 35 years old. It has been extended extensively time and now has seating to accommodate over 200 people.

The building is owned by Council and leased to the proprietors of the Ricketts Point Beachside Café until 31 December 2018. The lease generates income to Council in excess of \$100,000 per annum.

Ricketts Point Teahouse is an extremely popular destination, particularly with beach goers, cyclists and walkers.

The Ricketts Point Teahouse structure is ageing and is near the end of its useful life.

The end of the current lease in 2018 provides an opportunity to review the future of the Ricketts Point Teahouse.

In reviewing the future of the Ricketts Point Teahouse, the starting point needs to be the Victorian Coastal Strategy 2008 policy in relation to Coastal Crown land buildings and infrastructure which requires development to be coastal dependant, sustainable, accessible, equitable and meets community needs for coastal and water-based experiences.

Key issues that need to inform decision-making in relation to the future of the Ricketts Point Teahouse include:

- Investment in the existing building is not economically sustainable, and the building will require replacement in the medium term (5 – 10 years);
- The use of the building as a café provides an important income to Council;
- The use of the land for a café is an existing use that has been in place for more than 50 years. It supports the use of one of Port Phillip’s few fully accessible beaches;
- There is opportunity to explore the development of a multi-use facility. This could include the Marine Care Ricketts Point education function that is currently delivered at the Beaumaris Life Saving Club. This would provide a long term, purpose built facility supporting both the cafe and educational functions. It would also facilitate improved management of school visits to the site. An initiative of this nature requires significant investigation;
- There may be opportunity to expand the use of the facility for a range of other purposes, such as SCUBA gear hire;
- Appropriate cycling infrastructure (in the form of bicycle parking) needs to be addressed in any future expansion.

Key stakeholders who will need to be involved in determining the appropriate replacement for the Ricketts Point Teahouse include:

- Council as the owners of the asset, the committee of management, the responsible planning authority and funding agency.
- DSE as land managers, permit providers for coastal consent and funding agency.
- Parks Victoria as managers of the adjacent Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary.



- Aboriginal Affairs Victoria as representatives/coordinators of local indigenous interests.
- Potential tenants.
- Local Friends and conservation groups.

**Action:**

By 2015, develop an issues and options paper for consideration by Council and the State Government, in accordance with the principles established in the Victorian Coastal Strategy 2008, for the future of the Ricketts Point Teahouse which addresses:

- Indigenous cultural heritage issues;
- Likely effects of climate change;
- Impact of any redevelopment on biodiversity values of Ricketts Point and Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary;
- Appropriate/desired uses including café, education centre, equipment hire;
- Co-location of other complementary uses;
- Building envelope;
- Funding mechanisms;
- Accessibility.

## **6.2 Ricketts Point bio-retention system and car park realignment project**

Council is proposing two interconnected projects to the east of the Ricketts Point Teahouse and west of the Beaumaris Life Saving Club.

The two projects are:

1. Creation of a bio-retention system to process water from the stormwater system entering Ricketts Point from the Reserve Road stormwater catchment, which will allow the removal of an existing visually intrusive Council drain discharging into the Marine Sanctuary. This bio-retention system would be fully integrated into existing landscape, and may include a boardwalk for pedestrians to minimise damage to the bio-retention system and coastal dunes. Bayside would also take this opportunity to advise the community about sustainable water management.
2. Realignment and upgrading of car park B18 to optimise car parking spaces and provide for a coach and bus drop off/pick up facility.

This project aims to enhance the natural coastal character of the reserve and improve the experience of its many visitors and students and may be implemented in stages with these future aims:

- Protection and improvement of all vegetated areas and indigenous cultural heritage sites;

- Improvement of water quality through the interception of water from the stormwater system via a rain-garden/bio-retention system, consistent with best practise design;
- General improvements of access to the foreshore and surrounding reserve;
- Optimisation of the car park area.

The bio-retention system and associated drainage structures will replace the existing 600mm diameter drain protruding into the sea. The low flows, i.e. low intensity storms with a frequency of less than six months will be absorbed in the bio-retention lake using a combination of absorption and retention. The high flows i.e. high intensity storms will be discharged via a secondary retention/absorption basin and ultimately disbursed via a weir arrangement to the sea. The design will incorporate all these features in a landscaped environment adding another feature of interest at Ricketts Point.

The project is expected to cost in excess of \$1.2 million. Preliminary discussions in relation to sharing the costs of the project are currently underway with Melbourne Water, Parks Victoria and the DSE.

As part of the development of the draft Ricketts Point and Ricketts Point Management Plan, comments are sought from the community to inform the next stage of planning.

**Action:**

During 2012/2013:

- Prepare preliminary designs for the project in conjunction with community feedback (already funded);
- Secure project funding to implement the project from 2013/2014 onwards.

## 7 Implementation Plan

The implementation plan provides a summary of the draft Ricketts Point and Ricketts Point Landside Management Plan to guide decision-making and budgeting processes, and allow for ease of monitoring the plan.

### 7.1 Vision

Our vision is that Ricketts Point, as a coastal environment with unique and sensitive biodiversity and cultural values, is considered an exemplar of effective and sustainable management within the wider catchment of Port Phillip and Western Port, with access for all abilities.

The community can enjoy and learn about the environment and conservation values of Ricketts Point and the adjacent Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary through a variety of active recreation, ecotourism and educational opportunities, ensuring environmental sustainability of the landscape.

### 7.2 Consolidated Plan

Principles underpin the rationale of the draft Ricketts Point and Ricketts Point Beachside Management Plan, and are listed in priority order. Objectives are the goals that have been developed for Ricketts Point, grouped according to the Principle they relate to. Strategies are the decision-making tools that have been developed to assist with current and future capital and operational management of Ricketts Point. Actions are the specific tasks that will be budgeted for and implemented in order to achieve the Management Plan. Actions have been drafted as “SMART” actions, which means they are Specific, Measurable, Action focussed, Resourced and Timebound.

PRINCIPLES		OBJECTIVES		STRATEGIES TO GUIDE DECISION MAKING		SPECIFIC ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE MANAGEMENT PLAN	
One	Protect Environmental Values and Coastal Values.	1.0:	Impact of stormwater collected within the Port Phillip and Western Port water catchment on the Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary is minimised	1.1:	Encourage the diversion of stormwater from Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary through landside collection and reuse techniques within Ricketts Point and higher up in the water catchment system.	1A:	Develop a bio-retention system to enable removal of the stormwater pipe opposite Reserve Road. Refer to Section 6.2 for further information.
				1.2:	Reduce the velocity of stormwater entering the Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary.		
				1.3:	Cleanse and slow water collected through the stormwater system prior to it entering the Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary.		

PRINCIPLES		OBJECTIVES		STRATEGIES TO GUIDE DECISION MAKING		SPECIFIC ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE MANAGEMENT PLAN	
				1.4:	Apply Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) to landscape works programs to manage stormwater.		
				1.5:	Upgrade/remove stormwater outlets to improve and reduce water discharge into the Marine Sanctuary.		
		2.0:	Native flora is re-established and protected.	2.1:	Remove introduced species of flora.	2A:	Implement the actions outlined in the Ricketts Point Coastline, Beaumaris: Native Vegetation Works Program in line with the timelines specified.
				2.2:	Protect existing indigenous flora, including coastal dune grasslands.	2B:	Ensure protection of juvenile and semi-mature Banksia's through plant and pest management and fencing off where necessary to protect from trampling. (This will be achieved through an amendment to the contract for bushland management).
				2.3:	Revegetate Ricketts Point indigenous flora (except for the coastal dune grasslands seaward of the B18 car park)	2C:	Manage pest plants and vegetation vandalism on Ricketts Point Landside by:
				2.4:	Monitor vegetation at Ricketts Point.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring pest plants spread quarterly;</li> <li>Undertaking coordinated pest plant control as required in collaboration with neighbouring property owners;</li> <li>Educating the community about the values of remnant vegetation, impacts of dumped garden waste, impacts of clearing native vegetation and why planted exotic species will be removed from public land;</li> <li>Developing a vandalism action plan which includes installation of signs seeking witnesses to vandalism; view obstructing signs where trees/vegetation have been removed; prosecution process and publicity about vandalism events;</li> <li>Revegetating landslip prone areas within</li> </ul>
				2.5:	Appropriately enforce inappropriate activities such as removal of indigenous flora, and planting of weed species.		

PRINCIPLES		OBJECTIVES		STRATEGIES TO GUIDE DECISION MAKING		SPECIFIC ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE MANAGEMENT PLAN	
							<p>Ricketts Point;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council will apply enforcement measures on any instances of illegal encroachment.</li> </ul>
		3.0:	Tree vandalism is prevented	3.1:	Improve education about the value of Ricketts Point vegetation to discourage tree/vegetation vandalism.		
				3.2:	Enforce and prosecute any tree/vegetation vandalism.		
				3.3:	Ensure that vegetation values are understood before pruning for fire tracks to ensure no damage to rare or threatened plant species.		
				3.4:	Maintain and install fences to avoid creation of informal tracks, track widening and damage to vegetation.		
		4.0:	Native fauna is protected and encouraged.	4.1:	Maintain and improve the integrity of existing habitat.	4A:	<p>Manage pest animals in Ricketts Point Landside by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring pest animal activity annually;</li> <li>Undertaking coordinated pest animal control as required in collaboration with neighbouring property owners;</li> </ul>
				4.2:	Link habitat zones through establishment of habitat corridors.		
				4.3:	Identify and remove threats to native fauna including weeds, pest animals and litter.		
		5.0:	Significant geological and geomorphologic features are protected.	5.1:	Understand natural coastal processes before considering any beach renourishment proposals.		
				5.2:	Understand how any vegetation removal or development on the foreshore has the potential to contribute to, or initiate, erosion.		
				5.3:	Slow the velocity of stormwater entering Ricketts Point from higher up in the		



PRINCIPLES		OBJECTIVES		STRATEGIES TO GUIDE DECISION MAKING		SPECIFIC ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE MANAGEMENT PLAN	
					catchment.		
		6.0:	Dog access is managed to protect environmental values and coastal character.	6.1:	Consider the impact of dogs on the environmental values and coastal character of Ricketts Point.	6A:	Review dog access at Ricketts Point, in line with the following process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop options for dog access to Ricketts Point and Ricketts Point Landside;</li> <li>• Undertake random survey to understand relative values (both immediate and wider catchment);</li> <li>• General community consultation and identification of Council's preferred option;</li> <li>• Council decision on dog access, and associated implementation.</li> </ul>
				6.2:	Ensure dog owners are appropriately educated in relation to dog controls.		
		7.0:	Planning scheme controls are appropriate to protect environmental values and coastal character.	7.1:	Ensure planning controls applied to Ricketts Point address recognised environmental values, cultural heritage values, appropriate vegetation management and erosion control.	7A:	Amend the Bayside Planning Scheme to implement appropriate planning controls as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporation of the vision/principles for Ricketts Point in the Local Policy Planning Framework;</li> <li>• Rezone Ricketts point Landside to Public Conservation and Resource Zone (PCRZ) in line with the recommendations of the Bayside Open Space Strategy (2012);</li> <li>• Rezone Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary to Public Conservation and Resource Zone (PCRZ) after consultation with Parks Victoria and DSE.</li> </ul>
						7B:	Develop a suite of planning zone and overlay tools for Ricketts Point coastal land which allow for the use of land in accordance with the vision outlined for Ricketts Point, and provide adequate recognition and protection of the environmental values of and threats to the area. (This work will be undertaken through the development of the Bayside Coastal Management Plan).

PRINCIPLES		OBJECTIVES		STRATEGIES TO GUIDE DECISION MAKING		SPECIFIC ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE MANAGEMENT PLAN	
		8.0:	Breaches of legislation, regulations and local laws are effectively enforced.	8.1:	Ensure effective communication of relevant legislation, regulations and local laws through appropriate signage, brochures and website information.	8A:	Develop an agreement between Parks Victoria, Fisheries and Bayside City Council which identifies opportunities for shared responsibility of communication and enforcement of legislative requirements, regulations and local laws applying to Ricketts Point coastal reserve, Landside and Marine Sanctuary.
				8.2:	Actively and promptly enforce breaches.		
				8.3:	Promote interagency co-operation to ensure effective and efficient enforcement.		
Two	Manage the Impacts of Climate Change	9.0:	Ricketts Point is appropriately maintained to protect environmental values and coastal character.	9.1:	Allow seaweed to remain on beach to retain biodiversity values of the Marine Sanctuary.	9A:	Under Section 8, Clause 68 of Local Law 2, declare Ricketts Point coastal area a smoke free zone and promote and enforce as required.
				9.2:	Declare the Ricketts Point coastal area a 'Smoke Free Area', to reduce impact of cigarette butts on the Marine Sanctuary		
		10.0	Environmental, social and economic impacts associated with climate change are minimised	10.1:	Plan for sea level rise of not less than 0.8 m by 2100, and allow for the combined effects of tides, storm surges, coastal processes and local conditions when assessing risks and impacts.	10A:	Prepare a strategy to facilitate a safe and timely staged retreat from Ricketts Point as the impacts of climate change, particularly sea level rise, impact on the area.
				10.2:	Apply the precautionary principle to planning and management decision-making when considering the risks associated with climate change.		
10.3:	Ensure that climate change is not a barrier to investment in minor coastal public infrastructure provided the design-life is within the timeframe of potential impact.						
	10.4:	Ensure planning and management frameworks are prepared for changes in local conditions as a result of climate change and can respond quickly to the best available current and emerging science.					

PRINCIPLES		OBJECTIVES		STRATEGIES TO GUIDE DECISION MAKING		SPECIFIC ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE MANAGEMENT PLAN	
Three	Protect and Celebrate Cultural Heritage Values	11.0	Indigenous cultural heritage sites and values are identified, appropriately acknowledged, protected and preserved.	11.1	Nurture indigenous cultural lore relating to Ricketts Point.		
				11.2	Provide opportunities for people to learn about and understand the cultural and spiritual significance to Indigenous people.		
				11.3	Protect indigenous places and objects from disturbance and damage in partnership with Traditional Owners.		
				11.4	Maintain confidentiality in respect of indigenous cultural lore, places, objects and aspirations in accordance with the wishes of the Traditional Owners.		
				11.5	Ensure all management actions are in accordance with the Native Title Act 1993 (Commonwealth) and the Aboriginal Heritage Act (2006).		
Four	Manage the Built Environment	12.0:	Use and development is appropriate to the coastal environment.	12.1:	Ensure development on the coast is located within existing modified and resilient environments where the demand for development is evident and the impact can be managed.		
				12.2:	Encourage co-location of uses to enable multi-use of foreshore buildings.		
				12.3:	Apply the principles and guidelines within the Victorian Coastal Strategy (2008) when making decisions about buildings and infrastructure along the foreshore.		
		13.0:	Buildings and infrastructure along the foreshore are appropriate and in	13.1:	Consider all land use, buildings and facilities within the wider context of Ricketts Point as a sensitive coastal environment		

PRINCIPLES		OBJECTIVES		STRATEGIES TO GUIDE DECISION MAKING		SPECIFIC ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE MANAGEMENT PLAN	
			good condition.			13B:	Remove the exercise station at the rear of the Beaumaris Life Saving Club and revegetate the area.
		14.0:	Ricketts Point Teahouse is appropriately redeveloped.	14.1:	Explore the opportunities available for the redevelopment of the Ricketts Point Teahouse. There is an opportunity to explore the development of a multi-use facility. This could include the Marine Care Ricketts Point education function that is currently delivered at the Beaumaris Life Saving Club. This would provide a long term, purpose built facility supporting both the cafe and educational functions. It would also facilitate improved management of school visits to the site. An initiative of this nature requires significant investigation.	14A:	Develop an issues and options paper for consideration by Council and the State Government, in accordance with the principles established in the Victorian Coastal Strategy 2008 and the Bayside Coastal Management Plan (currently in development), for the future of the Ricketts Point Teahouse. See Section 6.1 for more detail.
		15.0:	Facilities and infrastructure provided are adequate, accessible and well located.	15.1	Rationalise the provision of facilities and infrastructure to minimise visual clutter and detriment to environmental values.	15A:	In conjunction with Parks Victoria, undertake an audit of signage within Ricketts Point and implement a signage plan that minimises the amount and impact of signage whilst still conveying necessary information clearly and consistently. Particular areas to address include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dog controls and restrictions;</li> <li>▪ Way-finding signage to key features and destinations;</li> <li>▪ Educational awareness of the impacts of trampling on sensitive areas.</li> </ul>
				15.2	Locate picnic tables, BBQ's, bench seats, rubbish bins etc. with consideration of convenience to users, comfort and safety from potential tree branch fall.		
				15.3	Ensure facilities and infrastructure are maintained to ensure they are safe to use and in reasonable condition for users.		
Five	Appropriate Access, Movement and Connectivity	16.0:	Ricketts Point is an Access for All Abilities destination of choice	16.1:	Incorporate Access for All features into all infrastructure where opportunity arises.	16A:	Develop an action plan to improve accessibility of Ricketts Point, buildings, facilities and infrastructure for people with disabilities.
		17.0:	Access to Ricketts Point is appropriate	17.1:	Encourage visitors arriving at Ricketts Point by bus or coach to advise Parks Victoria or	17A:	Develop a permitting system to control bus drop off and pick up car parking areas and identify

PRINCIPLES		OBJECTIVES		STRATEGIES TO GUIDE DECISION MAKING		SPECIFIC ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE MANAGEMENT PLAN	
			and safe.		Marine Care Inc of their planned visit time.		alternative venues for bus and coach parking, such as along Beach Road or in local school grounds during school holiday periods, particularly during busy periods.
				17.2:	Discourage buses and coaches from parking at Ricketts Point.		
				17.3:	Encourage increased patronage of sustainable modes of transport to Ricketts Point i.e. walk, bike, bus.		
		18.0:	Movement around Ricketts Point is appropriate and safe.	18.1:	Incorporate <i>Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design</i> principles into decision making for style and location of foreshore facilities and maintenance.	18A:	Review current provision of bicycle racks at destinations along the Ricketts Point foreshore including the Ricketts Point Teahouse, Beaumaris Yacht Club and Beaumaris Life Saving Club to ensure they are adequate to meet demand and install new bicycle parking facilities as required.
				18.2:	Manage bicycle parking at Ricketts Point Teahouse, particularly on weekends.		
Six	Facilitate Education, Partnerships and Community Involvement	19.0:	Shared vision based on an understanding of the environmental and cultural heritage values for Ricketts Point	19.1:	Build community ownership towards the conservation of Ricketts Point.	19A:	Explore use of information technology, such as phone apps, to further inform and educate the community and visitors to the values of Ricketts Point.
				19.2:	Facilitate the involvement in the local community in regeneration activities		
				19.3:	Install public art to suit the character and history of Ricketts Point.		
		20.0	Signage and way-finding tools provided are adequate, educational and well located.	20.1	Avoid unnecessary signage which causes visual clutter.		Refer to Action 15A.
				20.2	Use signage/way-finding techniques to create a clearer sense of arrival to Ricketts Point.		
				20.3	Use signage/way-finding as education and interpretive tools about the values of Ricketts Point.		
		21.0:	Interpretive and educational facilities promote learning	21.1:	Investigate the development of a multi-use facility that includes the Marine Education Centre at Ricketts Point.	21A:	In collaboration with key stakeholders, develop a strategic plan for the expansion of the Marine Education Centre at Ricketts Point. Consideration

PRINCIPLES		OBJECTIVES		STRATEGIES TO GUIDE DECISION MAKING		SPECIFIC ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE MANAGEMENT PLAN	
			about and respect for the exceptional coastal, environment and cultural values at Ricketts Point	21.2:	Support Ricketts Point as a centre for environmental education with a biodiversity focus.		should be given to the best location for the Marine Education Centre, provision of outside and inside space, management structure and funding options. Co-location of this facility with other coastal facilities is desirable.
		22.0:	Community groups are empowered and resourced to care for Ricketts Point.	22.1	Develop collaborative and positive relationships with Friends groups and volunteer land managers with an interest in Ricketts Point.		
Seven	Support Environmentally Sustainable Economic Development	23.0:	Economic development activities protect the environmental and coastal values of Ricketts Point.	23.1	Exclude economic activities that threaten environmental processes, including professional dog walking.	23A:	Introduce policy to exclude other economic activities that threaten environmental processes from Ricketts Point (for example, professional dog walkers).
				23.2	Monitor and manage recreationally based economic activities, such as personal trainers, to ensure minimal impact on the Ricketts Point environment.		
				23.3	Support education and research activities that build knowledge of local environmental and cultural values.		
				23.4:	Support ecologically coastal dependent focussed tourism.		



### 7.3 5 year action and resource plan

This Action and Resource plan supports the Consolidated Plan and is subject to normal Council budget processes.

Reference	Action	2013 - 2014	2015 - 2016	2017 - 2018	Capital Funding requirements	Responsibility (Lead in bold)
Action 1A:	Develop a bio-retention system to enable removal of the stormwater pipe opposite Reserve Road. Refer to Section 6.2 for further information.	●	●		\$\$\$ (>\$1.2million - see funding note 1)	<b>AM</b> ESOS
Action 2A:	Implement the actions outlined in the Ricketts Point Coastline, Beaumaris: Native Vegetation Works Program in line with the timelines specified.	●	●	●	\$\$\$ (\$100K)	<b>ESOS</b>
Action 2B:	Ensure protection of juvenile and semi-mature Banksia's through plant and pest management and fencing off where necessary to protect from trampling. (This will be achieved through an amendment to the contract for bushland management).	Ongoing			Operational	<b>ESOS</b>
Action 2C:	Manage pest plants and vegetation vandalism on Ricketts Point Landside by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring pest plants spread quarterly;</li> <li>Undertaking coordinated pest plant control as required in collaboration with neighbouring property owners;</li> <li>Educating the community about the values of remnant vegetation, impacts of dumped garden waste, impacts of clearing native vegetation and why planted exotic species will be removed from public land;</li> <li>Developing a vandalism action plan which includes installation of signs seeking witnesses to vandalism; view obstructing signs where trees/vegetation have been removed; prosecution process and publicity about vandalism events;</li> <li>Revegetating landslip prone areas within Ricketts Point;</li> <li>Council to apply enforcement measures on any instances of illegal encroachment.</li> </ul>	Ongoing as required			Operational	<b>ESOS</b>
Action 4A:	Manage pest animals in Ricketts Point Landside by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring pest animal activity annually;</li> </ul>	Ongoing as required			Operational	<b>ESOS</b>

Reference	Action	2013 -	2015 -	2017 -	Capital Funding requirements	Responsibility (Lead in bold)
		2014	2016	2018		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertaking coordinated pest animal control as required in collaboration with neighbouring property owners;</li> </ul>					
Action 6A:	<p>Review dog access at Ricketts Point, in line with the following process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop options for dog access to Ricketts Point and Ricketts Point Landside;</li> <li>Undertake random survey to understand relative values (both immediate and wider catchment);</li> <li>General community consultation and identification of Council's preferred option;</li> <li>Council decision on dog access, and associated implementation.</li> </ul>	●			\$ (\$10K)	<b>AP</b> ESOS, RESD
Action 7A:	<p>Amend the Bayside Planning Scheme to implement appropriate planning controls as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incorporation of the vision/principles for Ricketts Point in the Local Policy Planning Framework;</li> <li>Rezone Ricketts point Landside to Public Conservation and Resource Zone (PCRZ) in line with the recommendations of the Bayside Open Space Strategy;</li> <li>Rezone Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary to Public Conservation and Resource Zone (PCRZ) after consultation with Parks Victoria and DSE.</li> </ul>	●			\$\$ (\$50K)	<b>US</b>
Action 7B:	Develop a suite of planning zone and overlay tools for Ricketts Point coastal land which allow for the use of land in accordance with the vision outlined for Ricketts Point, and provide adequate recognition and protection of the environmental values of and threats to the area. (This work will be undertaken through the development of the Bayside Coastal Management Plan).	●			Refer to development of Bayside Coastal Management Plan	<b>ESOS</b> US
Action 8A:	Develop an agreement between Parks Victoria, Fisheries and Bayside City Council which identifies opportunities for shared responsibility of communication and enforcement of legislative requirements, regulations and local laws applying to Ricketts Point coastal reserve, Landside and Marine Sanctuary.		●		Operational	<b>AP/PV/DPI</b> ESOS, DSE
Action 9A:	Under Section 8, Clause 68 of Local Law 2, declare Ricketts Point coastal area a smoke free zone and promote and enforce as required.	●			Operational	<b>AP</b>
Action 10A:	Prepare a strategy to facilitate a safe and timely staged retreat from Ricketts Point as the impacts of			●	\$	<b>ESOS</b>

Reference	Action	2013 - 2014	2015 - 2016	2017 - 2018	Capital Funding requirements	Responsibility (Lead in bold)
	climate change, particularly sea level rise, impact on the area.				(\$10K)	AM, CS
Action 13A:	Audit coastal facilities and buildings and develop an integrated program to rationalise the number of facilities, co-locates complimentary uses and if warranted, upgrade ageing assets.		●		\$ (\$10K)	<b>CS</b> ESOS, AM
Action 13B:	Remove the exercise station at the rear of the Beaumaris Life Saving Club and revegetate the area.			●	\$ (\$2K)	<b>CW</b>
Action 14A:	Develop an issues and options paper for consideration by Council and the State Government, in accordance with the principles established in the Victorian Coastal Strategy 2008 and the Bayside Coastal Management Plan (currently in development), for the future of the Ricketts Point Teahouse. See Section 6.1 for more detail.	●	●		\$\$ (\$15K shared with Action 21A – see funding note 2)	<b>CS</b> ESOS, RESD, PV, US
Action 15A	In conjunction with Parks Victoria, undertake an audit of signage within Ricketts Point and implement a signage plan that minimises the amount and impact of signage whilst still conveying necessary information clearly and consistently. Particular areas to address include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dog controls and restrictions;</li> <li>▪ Way-finding signage to key features and destinations;</li> <li>▪ Educational awareness of the impacts of trampling on sensitive areas.</li> </ul>	●	●		\$\$ (\$80K to implement)	<b>US/PV</b> ESOS, RESD, AP
Action 16A:	Develop an action plan to improve accessibility of Ricketts Point, buildings, facilities and infrastructure for people with disabilities.		●		Operational	<b>AM</b> ESOS, CS
Action 17A:	Develop a permitting system to control bus drop off and pick up car parking areas and identify alternative venues for bus and coach parking, such as along Beach Road or in local school grounds during school holiday periods, particularly during busy periods.			●	Operational	<b>AM</b>
Action 18A	Review current provision of bicycle racks at destinations along the Ricketts Point foreshore including the Ricketts Point Teahouse, Beaumaris Yacht Club and Beaumaris Life Saving Club to ensure they are adequate to meet demand and install new bicycle parking facilities as required.		●		Operational	<b>RESD,</b> US, AM

Reference	Action	2013 - 2014	2015 - 2016	2017 - 2018	Capital Funding requirements	Responsibility (Lead in bold)
Action 19A:	Explore use of information technology, such as phone apps, to further inform and educate the community and visitors to the values of Ricketts Point.			●	Operational	<b>US</b> CCS, ESOS
Action 21A:	In collaboration with key stakeholders, develop a strategic plan for the expansion of the Marine Education centre at Ricketts Point. Consideration should be given to the best location for the Marine Education Centre, provision of outside and inside space, management structure and funding options. Co-location of this facility with other coastal facilities is desirable.	●	●		\$\$ (15K shared with Action 14A – see funding note 2)	<b>ESOS</b> CS, PV, MC
Action 23A	Introduce policy to exclude other economic activities that threaten environmental processes from Ricketts Point (for example, professional dog walkers).	●			Operational	<b>RESD</b>

#### Funding notes:

- 1 The bio-retention system (Action 1A) will require funding in excess of \$1.2 million. Discussions have commenced with Melbourne Water, Department of Sustainability and Environment and Parks Victoria to contribute to this funding.
- 2 Cost savings can be made by exploring the future options for Ricketts Point Teahouse and the future expansion of the Marine Care Inc. education facility in the same report. (Actions 14A and 21A)

## 7.4 Roles and responsibilities

There are a range of Council departments who will be required to take lead responsibility on the actions identified in the Management Plan. In addition there are a range of Council departments, Friends Groups and external agencies that will need to work with Council to implement the Management Plan.

### (i) Council departments:

AP = Amenity Protection

AM = Asset Management

ESOS = Environmental Sustainability and Open Space

US = Urban Strategy

CS = Commercial Services

F = Finance

RESD = Recreation, Events and Social Development

CCS = Communications and Customer Service

**(ii) Other Agencies:**

FG = Friends Groups

MC = Marine Care Incorporated

DPI = Department of Primary Industries

PV = Parks Victoria

DSE= Department of Sustainability and Environment

## **7.5 Funding Sources**

Most projects within this plan will be funded by Council subject to normal budgeting processes. As well as normal rate revenue, Council based sources of funding include:

- Open Space Levies generated under the Subdivision Act 1988 (subject to successful incorporation into the Planning Scheme);
- Revenue generated through enforcement activities related to Local Law No. 2.
- Revenue generated though car parking fees at Ricketts Point.

There may be opportunity for some of the other projects identified in this plan to be funded to other agencies and bodies subject to negotiation and availability of funding.

Potential sources of funding include:

- Melbourne Water and the Port Phillip and Western Port Catchment Management Authority for projects related to the bio-retention system;
- VicRoads for improvements to Beach Road pedestrian, cycling and car parking management and control;
- State and federal government grant programs for improvements and projects identified in this plan, particularly relating to climate change mitigation and cultural indigenous heritage initiatives.

- Parks Victoria and Department of Sustainability and Environment to co-fund improvements to signage;
- Lessees for improvements to buildings and infrastructure.



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# **Appendix A: Draft Ricketts Point and Ricketts Point Landside Management Plan Map**



# Vision

Our vision is that Ricketts Point, as a coastal environment with unique and sensitive biodiversity and cultural values, is considered an exemplar of effective and sustainable management within the wider catchment of Port Phillip and Western Port, with access for all abilities.

The community can enjoy and learn about the environment and conservation values of Ricketts Point and the adjacent Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary through a variety of active recreation, ecotourism and educational opportunities, ensuring environmental sustainability of the landscape.

- Principle One**  
Protect Environmental Values and Coastal Character
- Principle Two**  
Manage the Impacts of Climate Change
- Principle Three**  
Protect and Celebrate Cultural Heritage Values
- Principle Four**  
Manage the Built Environment
- Principle Five**  
Facilitate Appropriate Access, Movement and Connectivity
- Principle Six**  
Encourage Education and Community Involvement
- Principle Seven**  
Support Environmentally Sustainable Economic Development

## Draft Ricketts Point and Ricketts Point Landside Management Plan February 2013







# Appendix B: Policy Context

## (i) Legislative Framework

The following legislation and regulations are relevant to Ricketts Point:

- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth legislation)
- Coastal Management Act 1995
- Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988
- National Parks Act 1975
- Marine Regulations 2009
- Aboriginal Heritage Act (2006) and Aboriginal Heritage Act Regulations (2007)
- Planning and Environment Act 1987
- Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994
- Environment Protection Act 1970
- Fisheries Regulations 2009

## (ii) State Strategies and Policies

### Victorian Coastal Strategy, 2008

The Victorian Coastal Strategy (VCS) 2008, prepared by the Victorian Coastal Council (VCC) provides a comprehensive integrated management framework for the Victorian coast. It is established under the *Victorian Coastal Management Act 1995*. The Act directs the VCS to provide for long-term planning of the Victorian coast for the next 100 years and beyond.

The purpose of the strategy is to provide:

- A vision for the planning, management and use of coastal, estuarine and marine environments.
- The government's policy commitment for coastal, estuarine and marine environments.
- A framework for the development and implementation of other specific strategies and plans such as Coastal Action Plans, management plans and planning schemes.
- A guide for exercising discretion by decision-makers, where appropriate.
- A hierarchy of principles sets the foundation of the VCS and guides planning and decision-making about land use and development on coastal private and Crown land, as well as in estuarine and marine waters.

Decision-making should be consistent with the hierarchy of principles, which are:

- Provide for the protection of significant environmental and cultural values.
- Undertake integrated planning and provide clear direction for the future.
- Ensure the sustainable use of natural coastal resources.
- When the above principles have been considered and addressed:
- Ensure development on the coast is located within existing modified and resilient environments where the demand for development is evident and the impact can be managed.

With relevance to the study area, the following actions from the VCS should be considered:



- Ensure any development proposed near or on coastal acid sulphate soils (CASS) demonstrates that it will avoid any disturbance of CASS.
- Consider a precautionary principle approach to planning in the coastal environment when considering risks associated with climate change.
- Consider management responses and adaptation strategies to vulnerable areas as a result of climate change impacts within the Bayside municipality. These may include whether to protect, redesign, rebuild, elevate, relocate or retreat buildings and infrastructure on coastal Crown land.
- Apply the Criteria for use and development on coastal Crown land (as set out in the VCS).
- Restore, rehabilitate and nurture coastal biodiversity and vegetation under regionally and locally determined priorities.
- Improve, reduce and upgrade all discharge outlets to marine and estuarine environments.
- Identify and protect Aboriginal and post-contact cultural heritage on the coast and underwater.
- Implement programs to address risk from aging infrastructure, aquatic safety, access and emergency events.
- Develop a strategic plan to deliver sustainable boating facilities and infrastructure via Coastal Action Plans (see Boating Coastal Action Plan (BCAP) 2007).

### **Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary Management Plan, November 2005**

Prepared by Parks Victoria under the *National Parks Act 1975* the plan provides the basis for the future management of Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary. It was finalised following consideration of 307 submissions received on the Draft Management Plan. The plan is a strategic guide for future management of the Marine Sanctuary aiming to provide sustainable opportunities for visitor enjoyment and appreciation of the Sanctuary while maintaining and protecting Sanctuary values.

Management directions for the Sanctuary are summarised below:

- maintain habitat and protect natural processes
- undertake and encourage scientific research
- recognise and reflect the Traditional Owners
- maintain and promote opportunities for marine education
- promote opportunities for visitors to enjoy the foreshore and marine environment
- manage activities within the Sanctuary sustainably with minimal impact
- interpret and promote the Sanctuary's values, recreational and tourism opportunities and foster community appreciation and awareness
- support and encourage Friends and volunteer groups
- work collaboratively with agencies, community and other stakeholders to assist in the Sanctuary's management

### **Victoria's Native Vegetation Management: A Framework for Action 2002**

'The framework' is the State Government's strategy to protect, enhance and revegetate Victoria's native vegetation. The main goal of 'the framework' is to achieve a reversal across the entire landscape of the long-term decline in the extent and quality of native vegetation,

ultimately leading to a net gain. In applying the policy, there are three key steps for land managers and owners to address when considering vegetation clearing:

1. **Avoid** adverse impacts, particularly through vegetation clearance;
2. If impacts cannot be avoided, **minimise** impacts by careful planning, design and management; and
3. If clearing must occur, the clearing must be **offset**.

Maintaining good quality native vegetation is vital to conserve plants and animals and to maintain the environment of Victoria in good condition. A vegetation quality assessment, developed by DSE provides a standard approach for estimating the quality of an area of vegetation.

Appropriate vegetation offsets are determined on a case-by-case basis. In some cases, revegetation nearby will be appropriate.

### **Boating Coastal Action Plan 2007**

Under the framework outlined in the *Coastal Management Act 1995*, Boating Coastal Action Plans (BCAP) provides strategic regional boating policy. Management of the foreshore sits under the CAP to provide localised management and decision-making guidance for a smaller geographic area. Together with a series of guiding principles and specific policies, the BCAP identifies immediate priorities for upgrading and managing existing boating facilities and a planning framework for new boating facilities. The primary outcome from implementation of the BCAP will be a network of boating facilities in 2030 that provides a level of service that reflects the needs of the community.

Ricketts Point fits into the 'North Port Phillip Boating Area' BCAP precinct in which specific actions to address boating issues are outlined. Within the study area the BCAP identifies the following boating facility:

Name	Type	Current Role	Future Role
Beaumaris Yacht Club	Yacht Club	Local	Local

This indicates that the level of services and facilities provided at this boating facility now is not expected to increase significantly over the period to 2030 (this does not prohibit ongoing maintenance and facility renewal).

### **Parks Victoria Boating and Swimming Zones**

Parks Victoria is implementing new boating and swimming zones for Port Phillip and Western Port.

The new boating and swimming zones are being introduced in stages with new aids to navigation and clear signage being installed prior to each new zone coming into effect.

Ricketts Point has been identified in Stage 3, currently underway. The recommended new boating and swimming zones for the study area are:

- '5 Knot Boating Zone' from Beaumaris Yacht Club to southern end of Beaumaris Life Saving Club
- 'No Boating Zone' to 200m off shore from Beaumaris Life Saving Club to Dalgetty Road

These changes will see clearer zones and designated spaces for recreational activities.

### (iii) Bayside Planning Scheme

#### Local Policy Planning Framework

##### Clause 21.02-1 Bayside Key Issues and Strategic Vision

*'Bayside has significant areas of open space ranging from the coastal foreshore to significant bushland, extensive golf courses, sporting grounds and passive recreational parks, which not only provide for a range of recreational activities but also contain significant bushlands/heathlands which range from State to Local significance. Not only do these areas provide important habitat, but they also contribute to the landscape quality of the municipality and are highly regarded by the community.'*

##### Clause 21.02-2 Key Influences

Of relevance to Ricketts Point and Ricketts Point Landside, the key influences on the Bayside municipality are:

- 'Environmentally significant' areas.
- The coastal foreshore.
- Environmental risks associated with flooding, stormwater management and climate change.
- The local economy, including future development opportunities.
- Tourism and its associated opportunities and impacts.
- Areas and sites of heritage significance, both aboriginal and European.
- A variety of open space opportunities.
- Transport, both in the public and private realm.
- Infrastructure to meet the needs of the existing and future community.
- Environmental performance of buildings.'

##### Clause 21.02-3 Key Issues

Of relevance to Ricketts Point and Ricketts Point Landside, the key issues facing Bayside include:

###### *'Environmental Values:*

*The protection and enhancement of the foreshore as a natural, environmental and cultural resource is key to the ecological and economic viability of the Bayside municipality.*

*The need to balance protection of the natural environment and recreational opportunities and demand presents a challenge, particularly along the coast.*

###### *Environmental Risks:*

*The need to manage the impacts of drainage associated with urban consolidation on water quality within Port Phillip Bay.*

###### *Built Form and Heritage:*

- The need to protect vegetation within the urban environment, both on public and private land.
- The need to protect areas and places of heritage significance.

###### *Open Space:*

- The need to provide open space and recreational opportunities that meet the changing needs of the community.
- The protection and enhancement of open space is key to the economic and environmental viability of the municipality.

*Transport and Access:*

- The need to provide integrated transport options to reduce the reliance on the car.
- The need to address the shortage of car parking in Activity Centres and the foreshore.'

Clause 21.04 Environmental and Landscape Values

Clause 21.04-1 Biodiversity objective:

*'To assist the conservation of biodiversity through retention of native vegetation, protection of habitat and control of pest plants and animals.'*

Clause 21.04-2 Foreshore objectives:

*'To recognise the coast as a dynamic natural environment comprising eleven distinct precincts.'*

*Assess the need for additional controls over landform and vegetation within the coastal reserve.'*

Clause 21.05 Environmental Risks

Clause 21.05-1 Flooding and Stormwater objective:

*'To provide a drainage system that promotes the on-site retention and re-use of stormwater run-off, regulates overland flow to prevent flooding and improves water quality, particularly in terms of run-off to the Bay.'*

Clause 21.06 Built Environment and Heritage

Clause 21.06-1.4 Coastal Design objective:

*'To strengthen and reinforce the role of Beach Road/The Esplanade as a scenic boulevard.'*

Clause 21.07 Economic Development

Clause 21.07-3 Tourism objective:

*'To minimise the impact of tourism on the natural environment and inherent character of an area.'*

Clause 21.08 Open Space

Clause 21.08 Open Space objectives:

*'To ensure open space facilities reflect the needs and desires of the current and future Bayside community.'*

*To maintain and enhance the landscape and environmental quality of open space in a sustainable manner.'*

*To improve links between the foreshore and inland reserves.'*

Clause 21.09 Transport and Access

Clause 21.09-2 Car Parking and Loading objectives:

*'To provide adequate car parking facilities in and around shopping centres, employment areas and in appropriate locations along the coast.'*

## **Zones**

Ricketts Point coastal reserve and Ricketts Point Landside is located within a Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ). The purpose for this zoning as outlined in Clause 36.02 of the Bayside Planning Scheme is:

- 'To recognise areas for public recreation and open space.
- To protect and conserve areas of significance where appropriate.
- To provide for commercial uses where appropriate.'

## **Overlays**

### **Design and Development Overlay – Schedule 1 (DD01) Building Height Control - Coastal**

The DD01 covers the extent of Ricketts Point coastal reserve. The DD01 design objectives include:

- 'To protect and enhance the foreshore environment and views of Bayside from Port Phillip Bay.
- To relate the scale and form of any new development to the landform of the coast.
- To maintain a pedestrian scale along Beach Road.
- To maintain consistency with urban design and development objectives in the Bayside Coastal Strategy 1997 and the Victorian Coastal Strategy 2002.
- To protect the foreshore from overshadowing.
- To manage the increased pressure for higher buildings along the coast.

### **Erosion Management Overlay – (EMO)**

The Erosion Management Overlay covers the extent of Ricketts Point coastal reserve. The purpose of the Erosion Management Overlay, as outlined in Clause 44.01 of the Bayside Planning Scheme, is:

- 'To protect areas prone to erosion, landslip or other land degradation processes, by minimising land disturbance and inappropriate development.'

### **Vegetation Protection Overlay – Schedule 1 (VPO) Coastal Areas**

The Vegetation Protection Overlay covers the extent of Ricketts Point coastal reserve. The objective of the Vegetation Protection Overlay is:

- 'To maintain the quality of the remaining fauna habitat in Bayside and to create additional *habitat*.'

## **Heritage Overlay**

The Heritage Overlay (HO705) covers an area of *Coast Banksia* growing within the road reserve, opposite 423 Beach Road, Beaumaris. The overlay is for protection of these trees, applying tree controls through the planning scheme.

A Heritage Overlay (HO704) applies to the whole of the site for the purpose of protecting '*Coast Banksia, Sallow Wattle, Coast Tea Tree and Drooping She-Oak in Remnant Bushland between Haydens and Reserve Roads*'.

## **Other provisions**

Clause 52.06 – Car parking

Clause 52.14 – Native vegetation

### **(iv) Council strategies and policies**

#### **Bayside Coastal Strategy 1997**

The purpose of the Bayside Coastal Strategy 1997 was to provide broad direction for the Bayside municipality foreshore. The strategic actions for Ricketts Point include protection for cultural heritage, flora and fauna including the marine environment, enhancement of the landscape, and use and management priorities of the foreshore buildings. A review of the strategy was carried out in 2004. A further review of the strategy has been identified to be undertaken in 2012/2013.

#### **Bayside Open Space Strategy, 2012**

Prepared by Bayside City Council, the purpose of the Open Space Strategy is to establish Council's policy direction on the guidance of planning, management and development of open space, including a vision, principles, strategic priorities and strategies.

Six principles guide the strategic decision making in relation to Bayside's open space network. The six principles are:

1. Accessibility
2. Appropriateness
3. Affordability
4. Environmental Sustainability
5. Connections
6. Communication

The Open Space Strategy uses a classification system for open spaces which identifies a catchment and a prime function for each of open spaces. Ricketts Point coastal reserve's prime function is identified as 'Beach Based Recreation'. Whereas Ricketts Point Landside's function is classified as a 'Conservation Reserve',

This classification system is to assist Council with determining the level of resources that should be allocated to various open spaces, to manage conflict and make transparent decisions in regard to the management of various spaces.

Of relevance to the Draft Ricketts Point and Ricketts Point Landside Management Plan, the Open Space Strategy principles aim to be achieved in the following ways:

- Rezone the parcel of land Ricketts Point Landside from PPRZ to PCRZ in the Bayside Planning Scheme.

#### **Accessibility:**

- Work towards an equitable distribution of a range of spaces across the municipality.
- Ensure there is no net loss in the amount of accessible open space in Bayside.



- Plan open spaces to be accessible in accordance with, or better than, the relevant Australian Standard and in line with Council’s current Disability Strategy and Action Plan.
- Focus on enhancement of existing open spaces recognising the difficulty in acquiring new open space for the network.

**Appropriateness:**

- Develop an open space network that can accommodate a wide range of current and future demands.
- Avoid the development of spaces for specific uses that exclude other uses.
- Encourage activities and developments that relate to the defined prime function of the open space.
- Optimise other activities where they can be accommodated without undermining or conflicting with the defined prime function of the open space.
- Ensure open spaces are safe and fit for purpose.

**Affordability:**

- Recognise improvements (renewal and acquisition) to the open space network will be funded in the context of Council’s Asset Management Policy and Strategy.
- When capital improvements to the open space network are made, ensure adequate operational funding is available to manage the asset over its life.
- Require public open space contributions from developers for improvements to the open space network.
- Ensure that standards of maintenance of the open space network are a realistic balance between the available operational funding, and community expectations, and that adequate operational funding is allocated to meet these standards.
- Develop procedures and standards to optimise the financial investment made by Council in the open space network.

**Environmental Sustainability:**

- Manage and restore our natural assets to maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecological processes.
- Incorporate environmentally sustainable design and management techniques to reduce water and energy use, and generation of waste.
- Implement actions to minimise the impacts of climate change and population growth on the open space network.

**Connections:**

- Better connect open spaces and key community destinations to encourage walking and cycling.
- Enhance the connectivity of the open space network to provide habitat corridors.
- Improve landscaping along streets to create an attractive, green and connected suburban environment.

**Communications:**

- Work with other stakeholders to find innovative ways to enhance the open space network and individual sites.
- Develop efficient and appropriate systems to manage and maintain the open space network.

- Encourage the use of the open space network through promoting the range of spaces, connections and attractions offered.
- Have respectful discussion with the community in relation to changes to open space.

### **Black Rock – Beaumaris Foreshore Masterplan, 2000.**

The Black Rock-Beaumaris Foreshore Masterplan 2000 aims to embed the existing qualities of the Black Rock-Beaumaris foreshore with new recommendations. With relevance to the study area, a number of the actions from the Masterplan have been implemented. Outstanding actions include managing access to the inter-tidal platforms, management and use of foreshore infrastructure, improving pedestrian access to the foreshore, and protection and restoration of the natural environment.

The Black Rock-Beaumaris Foreshore Masterplan aims to establish an approach that embeds the existing qualities with new recommendations for Black-Rock Beaumaris foreshore. Developed with a variety of consultation processes including public meetings and community workshops the Masterplan builds on the philosophies of Bayside Coastal Strategy.

The Masterplan identified the study area for this project, including ‘Landside’, and named it ‘Precinct 10’.

Specific actions of relevance to ‘Precinct 10’ and the Ricketts Point Management Plan are as follows. (Note a number of these actions have been implemented since the Masterplan has been adopted):

- Lobby for the area between Quiet Corner and Ricketts Point and 1 km out to sea be designated a Marine Sanctuary Zone. (IMPLEMENTED)
- Protect and restore the land, reef and inter-tidal and roosting environments by controlling fossicking, trampling and disturbance by humans and dogs.
- Dog management at Ricketts Point to protect the marine sanctuary, limit dog access to ‘on-leash’ year round between the disabled ramp to Table Rock Point. Maintain no dog access during the summer between 10:00am-7:30pm. To offset this restriction, permit off-leash dog access all year (except over summer between 10:00am-7-30pm) between Quiet Corner (Central Avenue) and the disabled ramp.
- Establish a system to restrict/control access to the inter-tidal platforms ie. permit system.
- Establish an information and interpretation facility within an existing building ie. Beaumaris Life Saving Club (BLSC). (IMPLEMENTED)
- Restore measured mile beacons. (IMPLEMENTED)
- Toilet block facilities and locations: remove the toilet block south of the BLSC and incorporate public toilets, with capacity for large school groups, within the BLSC building, and make open for public use.
- Maintain the Exceloo with further landscaping.
- Prohibit boat launching at Ricketts Point (IMPLEMENTED).
- Consider use of BLSC facilities by other community groups (ONGOING).
- Improve pedestrian access across Beach Road in the vicinity of Reserve Road (IMPLEMENTED).

- Install barriers/fencing to limit vehicle access onto the beach. (IN PROGRESS)

### **Ricketts Point Coastline, Beaumaris: Native Vegetation Works Program 2012 by Ecology Australia Pty Ltd**

Ecology Australia prepared a Native Vegetation Works Program for Ricketts Point. The Stage 1 assessment for the works program was based on field surveys, and desktop analysis of vegetation classification.

Stage 2 Management prescriptions are included within, however the Stage 2 final report is in progress.

The Ricketts Point Coastline Native Vegetation Works Program provides management actions with associated outcome for undertaking recommendations to manage weed species at Ricketts Point Landside.

A timeline for a works program is included in the 'Ongoing Management Actions' within specifying actions that include weed control, revegetation planting, fencing, and setting up monitoring plots. The works program actions are ordered in priority for undertaking.

### **Ricketts Point Fauna Survey 2011-2012: Reserve fauna habitat assessment and management recommendations by Practical Ecology**

This report provides fauna management recommendations based on fauna habitat surveys, a review of existing literature and analysis of existing fauna data records of the Ricketts Point foreshore area.

The Ricketts Point fauna habitat assessment and management include the following recommendations for:

- Domestic and feral animal management
- Weed / pest plant management
- Fauna Habitat
- Litter Control

The specific actions are outlined within at Section 6 – 'Ongoing Management Actions'.

### **Bayside Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009-2013**

The focus of the City of Bayside's Health and Wellbeing Plan is the improvement of the health and wellbeing of the Bayside community.

The plan was developed using a social model of health which considers causes of disease and lack of wellbeing on an holistic basis by addressing social, cultural, biological, environmental, political and economic determinants of health.

Five key priority action areas are identified which to achieve the aims of the plan. Proposed strategies to meet these actions, with relevance to the management plan are summarised below:

Socially connected and inclusive communities:

- provide and support facilities and services that enable community participation for all ages and abilities
- embrace and strengthen partnerships and networks

Sustainability and climate change adaptation:

- adopt sustainable practice in managing Council's assets
- increase community awareness and ability to adapt to climate change
- encourage sustainable transport opportunities

Being active, eating well:

- provide well connected and accessible open spaces
- provide sporting and community facilities that support an active lifestyle

Protection of public and environmental health:

- encourage residents to share the urban environment harmoniously and to show respect for the health and amenity of their neighbourhoods

Safe environments for all:

- increase the safety of roads and public places
- enhance the perception of safety through the maintenance of infrastructure and community amenities

### **Bayside Disability Strategy 2010-2013**

The Disability Strategy provides a framework for Council to encourage positive change in creating a more accessible and inclusive community. The strategy will support development of a new Disability Action Plan in which actions are to be integrated into Council's annual and service planning processes.

With relevance to Draft Ricketts Point and Ricketts Point Landside Management Plan, the proposed objectives of this strategy include:

- improve access to the built environment such as buildings (public, and where possible influence private), parks, open spaces, signage, roads and footpaths.
- promote participation in and continue to engage people with disabilities in health and wellbeing activities through social connectedness.
- ensure that Council facilities and events meet accessibility standards and demonstrate best practice in access and inclusion.

### **Ageing Well in Bayside Strategy 2008-2018**

Prepared by Council, the outcome of the project is a ten year strategy to provide direction for Council to respond to the needs and opportunities created by an ageing population.

The issues and opportunities affecting the community, as the population in Bayside ages have been identified and have contributed towards establishing the priorities or strategic objectives to be included in the strategy.

A strategic objective of the Ageing Well in Bayside strategy, which has specific relevance to the study area, is:

- promote good urban design, well-maintained infrastructure and transport systems to enable older people to participate fully in community life.

The associated strategies proposed to meet this objective are:

- encourage design of commercial and public spaces that facilitates access for all.
- maintain and improve the quality of public infrastructure.
- facilitate initiatives and program that maintain mobility for older residents.

## Appendix C: Record of community consultation

The table below outlines the key issues and findings arising from consultation with agencies, community groups/clubs and businesses that are considered the key stakeholders involved in the development of this Plan. Consultation with these stakeholders occurred during the period from August to November 2011.

Theme	Comment
Accessibility & Connectivity	Traffic management lacking, particularly at the bus parking turn around area in B18 car park.
	Parking and access turning points for buses in the unsealed parking area needs consideration for future management.
	Significant parking issues are looming due to expected demand for parking.
	No designated car parking in the unsealed car parking area (B18). Cars are knocking the bluestone fencing forward. Parking delineation and wheel stops are required.
	Place a restriction on number of cars parking in the unsealed parking area (B18).
	Grade the unsealed parking area and leave, don't upgrade! Bitumen is unnatural!
	Over summer all sealed car parks are full by 10:00am. Residential side streets are being used for parking flow-on. Suggest Council provide some free parking in sealed car parking areas or free up parking along Beach Road.
	Teahouse staff often can't get parking on the foreshore.
	Limited formal pedestrian access points on to beach from car parking areas.
	Upgrade to Bluestone toilet block adjoining wheelchair beach ramp will enable disabled divers greater accessibility to marine sanctuary.
	Negative effect in loss of on street parking and the increase in cyclists on Beach Road.
	Ricketts Point is a great beach for pre-schoolers with its safe, shallow beach, away from car danger but it is an area that works too well and in the recent past some groups have stopped using Ricketts Point as a venue because it is overused (too many people).
	Review should be undertaken on the supply of bus parks when bringing groups (schools, aged care, Probus) to marine sanctuary. Larger buses may have to move on after disembarking then return later for pick up. Further the increase in buses crossing Beach Road is becoming dangerous.
	Paid car parking is beneficial and desirable.
	Prefer no increases to car parking areas.
	Install traffic calming measures within the car parking areas to slow vehicles.
	Loss of car parking on Route 33 is resulting in more people using the parking at Ricketts Point car parking areas, resulting in increased demand for the car parks.
	Access onto the rock platforms disturbs birds. Ban dogs and manage school visits better, use the Parks Victoria guidelines.
	Need to prohibit all casual passing boat traffic from the marine sanctuary, including Personal Water Craft.
	Better public transport links to Ricketts Point are required. Suggest bus collects visitors from nearest railway station travels to Ricketts Point and returns to station at several times over the day, particularly during warmer periods.
	Parking is necessary at the southern end of unsealed car parking area (B18) for use by the volunteer life savers particularly over weekends, public holidays during summer.
	Concept design for the B18 car park is currently in development. Key points to consider in the design include: runoff effect if asphalted, community opinion if asphalted, traffic management such as number of buses, buses turning, pedestrian path between car park and foreshore, upgrade of stormwater pipe, Aboriginal site, to incorporate a landscape concept design.
	Increasing traffic on Beach Road is impacting on local residents being able to safely cross Beach Road to access their local beaches.
	To mitigate risks of crossing Beach Road, one strategy adopted by local residents is to no

Theme	Comment
	longer walk to their local beach. Instead they are driving to other nearby local beaches (some with already congested parking) resulting in additional motor vehicles on Beach Road and further contributing to air and noise pollution.
	Support Bayside Council petitioning State Government for a reduction in the speed limit on Beach Road to 50km/h.
	Install a controlled crossing across Beach Road to allow safer access to the beach.
	B18 car park unsurfaced area is preferred over bitumen for a number of reasons, they being: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ unsealed surface maintains local character of the foreshore area, matches the surrounding landscape and creates a sense of removal from urban scenes</li> <li>▪ resurfacing works could potentially destroy midden sites in this area</li> <li>▪ resurfacing works could impact on habitat values of adjoining bushland which provides habitat for sensitive bush bird species such as Blue Wrens</li> <li>▪ resurfacing works conflicts with proposed plans for developing a part of the site as a wetland and regeneration of a former frog habitat.</li> </ul>
	Control visitor access within Ricketts Point in order to preserve areas of the natural environment.
	The marine sanctuary is being detrimentally impacted by all visitors, including dogs, to the foreshore.
	Limit the amount of visitation on Middle Reef to protect from further impacts.
	Ricketts Point is overused by human activity; measures should be implemented to control/cap the usage of Ricketts Point.
	Increasing traffic on Beach Road resulting in significant increases in noise pollution and conflict on the road between users.
	Address access to foreshore areas at high risk sites ie. Beach Road
	Leave car park unsurfaced to enable protection of aesthetics, including Aboriginal and post-contact cultural heritage. Further develop natural values and visitor experience through the provision of a wetland in this area.
Anti-social behaviour	Vandalism and graffiti are reported as a low risk activity at Ricketts Point.
Climate Change / Sea Level Rise	Inundation from storm surges and high tides must be considered for protection of the foreshore.
	Consider future potential loss of access to property through roads and car parks being under water.
	Innovative approaches will be necessary for consideration of sea level rise. Suggest re-engineer areas that may be inundated as marine sanctuary blocks of the future.
	Consider protection measures for habitat due to potential impacts from sea level rise.
	Consider how to access the rock platforms with potential rises in sea level.
	Plan for coastal retreat so birds have protection and adequate feeding and roosting areas, including sea grass beds.
	Consider drought impacts on the natural environment.
Community Participation and Support	Disabled Diving Association with support from Marine Care Ricketts Point Inc. seeks to establish a 'World Centre of Excellence', with office facility, for disabled divers at Ricketts Point.
	Local foreshore and sea country volunteer groups are provided with focus, engagement, budgets and direct Council support.
	Need to up the focus to encourage the community to use Ricketts Point more. Get to the parents through their children. Slogan could be 'Come back to Bayside'.
	The friends groups provide huge social capital for Ricketts Point. With an ageing demographic it will be a big loss without the volunteer work these groups contribute. These groups also provide community connection.
	Common vision is needed for friends groups to work together; bring together the aspirations of the different groups.
	Council could provide opportunities for the community to assist in building groups that care and advocate for Ricketts Point. Facilitating integration by Council. Need for a common



Theme	Comment
	vision!
	Invest in Bayside's human capital around natural and cultural values. Develop and implement actions to capture and store local knowledge and the history and works of individual friends groups.
	Increase community pride of Ricketts Point. Aspire to having whole of community, even newcomers to the area, aware and proud of the uniqueness of the area.
Cultural Heritage	Currently no specific cultural heritage plan for Ricketts Point exists.
	Adhoc placement of public art is questioned! State Government have no policy direction regarding more Memorials being installed. VCS doesn't address this matter.
	Interpretation sign for 'Boon Wurrung Blossom' needs addressing to make clearer to the visitor.
	Art work set into the concrete pathway is well received.
	Further assessment of Aboriginal heritage within Ricketts Point may be required.
	Ricketts Point Teahouse has a strong cultural value historically.
Dog Control	Concern for habitat of marine sanctuary due to dogs being allowed off-leash on the beach.
	If dog laws for Ricketts Point are changed the dog owner group may request another area to go to exercise dogs. While the Banksia Avenue Football Park is an off-leash area this at times sees conflict with sporting groups versus dogs.
	Increase dog restrictions ie. no off-leash areas on foreshore.
	Other Bayside municipalities in metro Melbourne do not allow dogs to have as much access to the beach as what Bayside does!
	Dog owners could be more responsible, rather than Council restricting dogs on beach.
	Dogs allowed on beach are considered a way of encouraging more people to come to the beach.
	No dogs should be in the marine sanctuary due to impacts they cause on foreshore fauna and flora.
	Suggestion for simplified dog controls is to designate an area north of the yacht club as a off-leash area. No dogs should be on beach adjacent to the reef, and definitely not during bird roost times.
	Dogs on foreshore signage is too complicated and often poorly placed in orientation.
	Implement a blanket municipal bylaw – Dogs permitted on Bayside beach and foreshore areas on leash at all times between March and November and prohibited during November to March between 10:00am to 7:00pm. On leash at all other times in this period.
	Preventing dog owners allowing their dogs in the Teahouse has resulted in less community interaction with the foreshore and the Teahouse.
	More uniform signage and appropriate bylaws required around dog control.
Economic	Since the car parking conditions on Beach Road have changed, the provision of free parking in the sealed car parking areas has reduced considerably. This has negatively impacted on the Teahouse.
	Consider provision for visitors to be able to hire marine equipment (snorkels, flippers, kayaks, etc.) somewhere within Ricketts Point.
	Economic contribution derived from the marine sanctuary should be monitored. Monitor balance of impacts of increased visitation and economic gain.
	Monitor the economic impact on the Teahouse. Liquor licence may increase revenues for both Teahouse lessee and Council. Liquor licence as part of Ricketts Point Teahouse operations has been submitted to Council.
	Is the type, form and function of the Teahouse being best used? Could the Teahouse be better operated; is it reaching its potential! Undertake further study to gain an understanding of what the community want in the Teahouse.
	Relocate the Life Saving Club education facility to the Teahouse. Food and drink are not available at the Life Saving Club building. This would provide a service for visitors and further economic stability for the Teahouse.
	Develop strategies to engage local businesses in promoting and providing interpretative information about the natural and cultural values of Ricketts Point environs and recreational

Theme	Comment
	amenities, including proposed tours and self-guided trails.
Education	Suggest Bayside Council and Parks Victoria develop and implement an education program to promote the natural values of Ricketts Point.
	As a secondary user of the Life Saving Club building, Marine Care Ricketts Point (MCRP) has no firm future tenure for the club. MCRP would like to develop the marine education centre into a higher level, self funding, 7 day a week public facility. Would like to secure own premises or section of premises.
	Potential of the MCRP education centre is under-utilised, and not well known about. Suggest run facility by Parks Victoria. Bookings made through MCRP. Council provide funding.
	Educate the public on protection of the natural environment through signage. Further the message the marine education centre is delivering.
	Develop and enhance partnerships with existing event coordinators and friends' groups activities, to facilitate broader community engagement.
	Develop a series of flagship Bayside events to foster 'coastal community pride' towards building sustainable community cohesion and identity for Ricketts Point.
	Instead of installing a barrier around Tea House Reef in an attempt to protect it from the effects of trampling, raise community sensitivity and understanding to the natural and cultural values of the marine environment through engagement.
	Treatment of stormwater runoff could be integrated within the education program of the marine sanctuary.
	Investigate conducting programs on the foreshore such as 'Summer by the Sea' with Coastcare facilitators, and Gould League initiatives, for educating visitors and the community on the natural values of the area. Promote the programs in school newsletters.
	Aim to return an Aboriginal heritage element to the foreshore area ie. Indigenous guided tours, welcome to country etc.
	Enrich visitor experience of Ricketts Point through direct communication with locality managers in the form of guided tour opportunities and self-guided educational tours supported by 'take away' interpretative materials.
	Provide a central location for the dissemination of informational material and a point of connection to the site through contact with on-site personnel.
	There is a view that the MCRP proposed foreshore indigenous coastal plant interpretative trail could have the same outcome as previous installed coastal bushland signage which was destroyed through either natural events or human activities.
	A view is to continue to preserve and support coastal trails however; educational and interpretative objectives are better integrated with the conservation of natural and cultural values by strategic educational opportunities and materials.
Erosion	Stability of Beach Road is vulnerable at Dalgety Road due to coastal processes undermining the road.
	Erosion of the cliffs is a risk issue. The erosion prevention works Council undertake around the cliffs has the potential to alter the ecology of the area.
	Implement protection measures of foreshore areas but not loose other areas ie. cliff erosion.
	Pro-active management needed for coastal erosion and reef protection; studies need to be undertaken to understand management of impacts.
Infrastructure	Wheelchair beach access ramp: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ricketts Point is considered a centre of excellence in enabling mobility impaired divers to access the Marine Sanctuary</li> <li>▪ occasionally additional repairs are necessary for the ramp due to storm events and when the mechanical beach cleaner runs over it and causes damage</li> </ul>
	Beaumaris Yacht Club stores the 'Mobi-chair' on behalf of Council.
	Should the Beaumaris Yacht Club continue to be sited within a marine sanctuary?
	Old concrete benches are currently being phasing out however, the aluminium sidings on the new benches are failing after only 10 years, expected due to salt corrosion.
	Design of outdoor furniture, rubbish bins, signage etc. needs to be standardised and designed to fit better within a foreshore context. For example the existing rubbish bins are

Theme	Comment
	an eye sore.
	Inconsistent foreshore furniture pallet throughout the study area.
	Additional shade near BLSC building is required provided it does not impact on life saver guards ability to see people in the water, and not out of context with the foreshore ie. visually unsightly.
	Either remove or upgrade the Exercise Station. Currently there is no signage to find and use it, and the access to it is confusing with vegetation growth obscuring the path.
	Need to consider unsealed car parking (B18) layout as part of the removal of the stormwater outfall.
	Beaumaris Yacht Club (BYC) would like to improve access to building for people with low mobility, with preference for installation of a lift. Current building access limits hiring out of building while a ramp would require extending the building footprint. Council disability policy framework directs improving access.
	BYC lease expires 2025. The club intends to seek a lease extension on expiration of lease.
	BYC would like lessee to install a water tank and upgrade the external appearance of the club building.
	Provide a marine discovery education centre that educates and informs the visiting public on Ricketts Point. Currently to view the display provided by MCRP is only by appointment. Site additional marine education centre in a safe environment, without causing damage to the existing flora and fauna through careful urban design treatment to encourage use of certain areas while discouraging access in other areas.
	Leave marine sanctuary display in the Life Saving Club building.
	Improve the utilisation capacity of the existing foreshore buildings.
	Increase multi-use of foreshore infrastructure.
	There is a need for more sea vista coffee houses at Ricketts Point, like at Half Moon Bay.
	More public toilets are required at Ricketts Point. Perhaps portable style and/or self-composting.
	Upgrade existing public toilet facilities.
	Teahouse lessee submitted application to Council for upgrade to building (kitchen upgrade, provide disabled access, additional toilet facilities). Lessee waiting over 18 months for Council response.
	Council should invest more in the foreshore facilities ie. improve condition of the foreshore buildings.
	Improve condition of the BYC building.
	Teahouse could better reflect that it is located within a Marine Sanctuary environment. Make the experience compatible with coming to Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary, for example underwater mural painted on wall.
	Increase the size of the Teahouse, subject to car parking requirements.
	Upgrade the Rotunda at Black Rock as an interpretation centre ( <i>note: rotunda is located beyond the study area boundary for this management plan</i> ).
	Provide more facilities at Ricketts Point ie. bike racks, equipment to use the marine environment ie. snorkels etc. to increase visitation participation.
	Prefer no more built structure, including boardwalks across the rocky platforms. Maintain as a natural environment.
	Consider minimising the artificial lighting which affects wildlife.
	Exceloo toilet is not visually pleasing in context of where it is sited.
	Ensure firm controls are adhered to over the extent and appearance of the foreshore buildings, as outlined in the VCS design guidelines.
	Develop existing recreational sites by improving the existing built environment and related footprint, rather than structural extensions.
	Condition of the Beaumaris Life Saving Club building is a concern.
	MCRP share the Life Saving Club building with Beaumaris Life Saving Club. 2 to 3 years ago MCRP proposed to set up an education centre in the building. Handshake agreement understood to share the building. Funds received are shared between the Life Saving Club, MCRP and a joint funds account to mitigate wear and tear on building, upgrade equipment

Theme	Comment
	and operating expenses.
	Preference for shade sails to provide more shade on the foreshore.
	Ensure consultation with the community is held prior to making a decision on design replacement for the removal of the stormwater pipe.
	Protect reef platform, provide underwater viewing and disabled access to marine sanctuary.
	There is a view that the MCRP proposed marine boardwalk and platform would: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ interference with sandstone substrate is known to accelerate its erosion, having potential to undermine any rock platform, ultimately impacting on ecosystem</li> <li>▪ not compatible with <i>Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary Management Plan 2005</i> and other coastal management strategies</li> <li>▪ subsequent erosion of rock substrate would destabilise platform</li> <li>▪ boardwalk longevity and integrity vulnerable to tidal and storm events, and future predicted sea level rises</li> </ul>
	There is a view that the MCRP proposed underground viewing facility has potential to result in severe impact on physical environment and natural values from significant engineering and structural development required.
	There is a view that the MCRP proposed open air amphitheatre may: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ remove a grassy area that adjoins bushland, which may interfere with natural values</li> <li>▪ impact on access and logistics for Beaumaris Life Saving Club</li> <li>▪ result in a large smooth surface providing an appealing canvas for graffiti artists</li> </ul>
Maintenance	Improve maintenance schedules, which include rubbish collection, toilet cleaning, and beach cleaning.
	Upgrade of fencing between dunes and car park is proposed for the B18 car park area. This area is very open with no formal access on to the beach.
	Cleaning of the sanded beach areas is to just above the high water mark, leaving seaweed for natural processes of the marine sanctuary. Rest of rubbish is picked up by hand. Sharps are cleaned up after rainfall events.
	Sandbag protection installed due to high tides scouring out pathway. May need to install further sandbag protection in the future.
	Some beach users would like increased maintenance of the beach, while others prefer the more natural values.
	Concern lack of maintenance of vegetation surrounding the BYC building and boat sheds will further spread weed seed and be a greater fire risk.
	Water seepage from the Bluestone toilet block should be addressed. A grimy/wetness on boardwalk and odour has been noticed.
	Stormwater runoff from the streets could be diverted to provide water for establishment of a frog pond to the south of the Teahouse, in an ex-wetland area.
	Rain events result in areas flooding around the Teahouse, causing water damage to the building. Better servicing of the outdoor area around the Teahouse is required.
	Dead and overhanging vegetation is impacting on Teahouse ie. leaves in guttering; branches falling on vehicles.
Management	Valued and supportive relationship found with Bayside Council, seems to be unique in Victoria. The goodwill is profound! Overall relationships with all institutional stakeholders are excellent.
	Define the quality of experience surrounding the site in order to sustain the existing natural, cultural and aesthetic values of Ricketts Point.
	Improve existing opportunities for visitors and recreational experiences without impacting on the natural, cultural and aesthetic values of Ricketts Point. Set limitations around recreation and visitation.
	Apply the condition that the beauty and ecology of the area will take priority over public uses.
	Develop a long range plan to manage the site beyond 2020, particularly in view of increasing population pressures. Identify realistic carrying capacities and land use limits to avoid conflict between user groups.
	Plan for predicted population growth by identifying other suitable activity sites within

Theme	Comment
	Bayside to accommodate the growing need for coastal recreation.
	Increased usage and demand on the coast will require an increase in management resources and cost.
	Ricketts Point considered as a 'missed potential' in terms of being a significant area within Bayside.
	Provide more assistance for Marine Care Ricketts Point, in terms of support and resources.
	Address the conflict of interest in allowing dog access within a marine sanctuary.
	Ricketts Point is relatively uncluttered however, with the natural environment gradually disappearing in the wider context, Ricketts Point needs strong protection.
	Unused land between the boat sheds to the north of BYC could be utilised by the yacht club as a hardstand for boat storage.
	Crown land responsible authorities need to be more supportive rather than dogmatic over who is responsible for what within the foreshore, and then better police/control over regulations ie. dog access.
	Better controls required to avoid/reduce conflicts between the differing users of Beach Road ie. vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians.
	Management of visitors to Ricketts Point is required for protection of the natural values. Suggest identify areas of use which are suitable for visitation, and other areas which need higher protection from visitation impacts ie. access control.
	Undertake investigation of reefs to understand access impacts. Suggest isolate southern arm of Teahouse Reef and monitor access and impacts to the rock platform. Within a balance so as to not upset the community.
	Carrying visitor capacity of Bayside municipality needs consideration in terms of increased visitation to Ricketts Point. Consider maintaining nuances of the area. Watch spill over of the study area in to adjoining beaches.
	While the local community wish to preserve the status quo of Ricketts Point, visitor increases is certain to happen, community needs to accept this fact.
	Need for whole of beach planning and management strategy.
	Consider specialist Council/public group (under PV and DSE ambit) committed to overview of the foreshore for example a steering committee for coast care. At least commit a dedicated Ranger to Ricketts Point.
	Improve integration of all associated foreshore stakeholders and their activities. Create a Reference Group.
	Suggest Council should work closer with Parks Victoria.
	Improve community and agencies comprehension of underwater environment via the use of the term 'Sea Country'.
	Ricketts Point is under-interpreted. Council should increase understanding of the area; make it more widely known both in terms of educating on the natural environment and its uniqueness to the wider area.
	Attempt to measure the contribution from school trips visiting the marine sanctuary against impacts on the environment, both locally and the wider area.
	Provide visitors to the marine sanctuary with education notes that are currently supplied for the school programs. Make these available for pick up at the Teahouse.
	Monitor visitor profile to provide appropriate facilities.
	Maintain and enhance the peaceful nature of the area, despite pressures for commercialisation ie. remove car parking at Ricketts Point.
	Incorporate within the <i>Victorian Coastal Strategy 2008</i> the zoning recommendation for Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary, as proposed in the ' <i>Marine Coastal and Estuarine Investigation 2000</i> ' by Environment Conservation Council.
	Employ an onsite Ricketts Point Ranger to manage and administer Ricketts Point and its environs. Align activities with the other government agencies.
	Engage visitors and the community through direct contact rather than through static displays and signage.
	Manage Ricketts Point sustainably by zoning sites for specific uses according to ecological value and sensitivity, recreational and amenity value and aesthetic and cultural significance.

Theme	Comment
	The Ricketts Point Management Plan presents both opportunity and has a requirement, if it is to be a meaningful local management tool, to address future risks to Ricketts Point and its environs from mounting issues, in particular Beach Road as the major access route to the Bayside foreshore.
	It would be beneficial for schools to notify Parks Victoria or Bayside Council when they are visiting Ricketts Point. This would provide an understanding of visitation numbers to the area this information and would assist in informing future management priorities and strategies.
	Dalgetty Beach is a 'No Boating' zoned area however, monitoring of this zoning should be increased as windsurfers frequent this beach.
	Why is the Ricketts Point Management Plan study area not including the whole of the marine sanctuary area?
	Impact on delicate sandstone reefs in the marine sanctuary needs to be considered in the management plan.
	Consider how to interpret visitor information when the interest is at and under the water level.
	Fish poaching responses totally inadequate from Fisheries government department due to understaffing.
	Recreational fishing, including the illegal taking of protected marine species within marine sanctuary ie. Abalone – occurring within a 'No Take / No Fishing' regulatory area.
	Future management of Ricketts Point green space is to be considered in a landscape management plan.
	Investigate opportunities through local businesses to inform and enrich visitors and resident experiences as well as promote, support and protect the natural, cultural, aesthetic and recreational values of Ricketts Point.
Place / Character	Increasing impacts on Ricketts Point is creating a disconnection for some local residents, resulting in locals going away from the area.
	Pressures may increase to further develop the built footprint on the foreshore ie. additional bathing boxes, boat sheds, toilets, commercial buildings, etc.
Ricketts Point Landside (reserve landward side of Beach Road)	Classified, noxious weeds such as privet are sprayed within the 'Landside' reserve. Weeds are also sprayed at request of residents bordering the reserve. Also not spraying some introduced flora that residents have planted in the reserve, at their request.
	Metropolitan Fire Brigade have requested Council maintain a fire break through existing cleared zones, within the 'Landside' reserve.
	Northerly end of 'Landside' reserve has the most degraded vegetation quality.
	Large revegetation program was successfully undertaken a few years ago to rid the southerly end of the 'Landside' reserve of Boxthorn and other introduced species.
	Residents with properties bordering 'Landside' show a sense of ownership of the reserve, revealed through extended gardens. Access to some properties is gained through the reserve.
	Ricketts Point Landside management issues include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ at time of writing report, local laws investigation was underway regarding vegetation clearing and private property boundary encroachment</li> <li>▪ a few private properties off Point Avenue are encroaching on the reserve</li> <li>▪ Banksias are failing (collapsing)</li> <li>▪ noxious weeds in steep areas; difficult to remove</li> <li>▪ stormwater draining from a property into the reserve</li> <li>▪ gates / fences opening on to the reserve</li> <li>▪ retaining walls encroaching in to reserve</li> <li>▪ runoff from resident property is seeping through retaining wall into reserve</li> <li>▪ installed stairs providing access into the reserve from private properties</li> <li>▪ Foxes are found in the reserve; traps are laid to catch</li> <li>▪ redundant fencing located within reserve</li> </ul>



Theme	Comment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ tree fall; health &amp; safety liability</li> <li>▪ CityWide maintain access between elderly house owner property and Beach Road (legacy request)</li> </ul>
	Need to continue to provide vehicle access to a number of properties off Beach Road as the only way to access these properties is through the 'Landside' reserve.
	Establish more car parking for visitors to Ricketts Point within the 'Landside' of Beach Road. Suggest a pedestrian tunnel be built under Beach Road for accessing the beach.
Recreation	What do the community desire in terms of health and fitness facilities within Ricketts Point? Is the designated 'Outdoor Exercise Training Area' meeting community needs? What is the view of DSE?
Signage	Signage on the foreshore is confusing, in particular dog regulation signage. This is mainly due to overlap of differing authorities signage.
	Confusing signage between Parks Victoria and Council regarding dog regulation on the foreshore
	Car park signage needs rationalising. Currently too many signs, visually distracting, and has potential for confusion.
	Interpretative signage should include how to use the foreshore. Signs need to be appropriately located and provide information on how to access areas along the foreshore without causing impacts to natural environment.
	Signage out of control – too many signs on the foreshore. Make human impact on beach more discreet!
	Signage review should ensure purpose of sign is actually met.
	Minimise signage to improve vistas and experience while at foreshore.
	Consider installing marine sanctuary entry signs.
	Interpretation signs are poor; no incentive to stop; not user friendly or engaging. Should inform visitors what and where is in the area.
	Provide information on the Banksias and other indigenous vegetation; include how Indigenous peoples used the native flora.
	Provide information on how to use the BBQ's (current setup assumes everyone knows how to work these facilities).
	Draw on information technology to provide visitor information ie. phone 'apps'.
Vegetation and biodiversity	Keep improving the natural environment – no more built development!
	Recent risk management works have included arborist management of old Banksia's on foreshore.
	Threats to Ricketts Point natural environment include: degradation by trampling, compaction, erosion and loss of habitat corridor.
	Management of Banksia's has dictated placement of picnic tables, not necessarily in most desirable place for usage. Landscape management plan may address this.
	Landscaping required to formalise beach access points; minimise desire lines.
	Consider developing vegetation management plan for the indigenous flora located above Beaumaris Life Saving Club building.
	Natural environment around the Beaumaris Life Saving Club requires revegetation and dune fencing to protect the sand dunes. Access on to beach in this area needs formalising.
	Inter-tidal rock area is highly valued.
	Arctic Tern, migratory seabird, has been known to nest in the inter-tidal area at Ricketts Point.
	Seek to maintain the new plantings in the management plan.
	Encourage sea bird safety and greater visitations from birds, penguins, seals etc.
	Maintenance and preservation of Ricketts Point natural environment is considered very important to the community.
	Preserve the remnant sand dunes ie. install further sand bag protection.
	Recognise Ricketts Point is the best site for migratory shorebirds protected by CAMBA and JAMBA international treaties (not to compare with western sites on Port Phillip Bay).

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Comment</b>
	Retain trees with hollows, even if dead, for fauna habitat.
	Continue the battle against weeds.
	Stormwater drain near the 'triangle' rock platform has been used by Rakali (Australian Water Rat); if drain is shortened and/or removed the rats will need access to this or another shelter.
	Remove groundcover at appropriate areas to provide bare sandy patches on the ground for native bees to nest.
	Continue regeneration/revegetation to encourage indigenous coastal plants for food and shelter for fauna.
	Protect animal habitats including insect habitat and the salt marsh plants on the rock platforms.
	Impacts to fauna include disturbance by dogs and rats, and predation from foxes.
	Development of a wetland and frog habitat would contribute significantly to the natural values of Ricketts Point, enhancing visitor experience. Further, the wetland would add value to MCRP's marine and coastal education program.
Water Quality	Stormwater outfalls increase nutrients in the Bay which affects water quality. Removal of stormwater runoff from the marine sanctuary is desired.
	Removal of stormwater outlet to be incorporated with planning of improving the car parking area (B18). Potential to integrate the treatment of stormwater with existing marine education program.
	Stormwater outfalls must be re-directed or treated.
	Council should work with Melbourne Water and DSE to improve stormwater pollutant traps.
	Consider bio-retention as replacement stormwater outlet.

# Appendix D: Submissions by Marine Care Ricketts Point Inc.

Marine Care Ricketts Point Inc (MCRP) made a submission to Council in relation to the Ricketts Point Master Plan in 2010. As outlined in the Bayside City Council Ordinary Meeting of Council Meeting, dated 16 March 2010, the following points are extracts of those in response to the MCRP submission.

Council noted the principles of MCRP are consistent with Parks Victoria *Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary Management Plan 2005*, however, a number of the stated suggestions within the submission may not necessarily meet the management plan objectives, and furthermore not meet the strategic directions and guidelines of the *Victoria Coastal Strategy 2008*.

Specific infrastructure improvements outlined in the submission, within Council’s responsibility of management, would be considered in the Ricketts Point Management Plan such as improvement to signage and car parking, and a designated area for outdoor education.

Management of land and water below the mean high watermark would not be considered in Ricketts Point Management Plan as they are under the authority of DSE and Parks Victoria. Therefore the marine boardwalk and underwater marine viewing facility are the responsibility of Parks Victoria as these initiatives fall below the mean high watermark. However, building of infrastructure within the marine sanctuary is not consistent with the Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary Management Plan 2005 and would therefore not likely be supported by DSE. Were they to proceed, Council’s involvement would be to ensure that any land based implications, such as increased parking demand, are properly considered and addressed.

Redevelopment of the Beaumaris Life Saving Club for a permanent marine educational centre would be the responsibility of the Beaumaris Life Saving Club. Under the conditions of the Beaumaris Life Saving Club property lease, any works to the Beaumaris Surf Life Saving Club is the responsibility of the Club as owner of the building. Any redevelopment of the building would be the responsibility of the Club and subject to consent from Council and DSE.

## How the Draft Ricketts Point and Ricketts Point Landside Management Plan responds to the MCRP submission.

This response is formed for the submission demonstrating consistence with the strategic directions and guidelines of the *Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary Management Plan 2005* and the *Victorian Coastal Strategy 2008*.

Proposed Suggestions	Management Plan response
<p><b>Gateway signage</b> Install overhead or archway signs at the two major car park entrances.</p>	<p>Strategies and actions to improve signage have been identified including Action 15A to which includes the development and implementation of a consolidated signage strategy for Ricketts Point with other stakeholders (including Parks Victoria). It is unlikely that overhead or archway signage would be a responsible signage response for Ricketts Point given the vision and principles that have been established; however this can be</p>

Proposed Suggestions	Management Plan response
	reviewed at the time that the signage strategy is developed.
<p><b>Marine boardwalk and platform</b></p> <p>Install a boardwalk with diving platform crossing over shallow open water linking the two rocky platforms at Ricketts Point. To include disabled access. Potential benefit may see reduction in trampling damage by enabling interesting access to the reefs.</p>	<p>Decision is the responsibility of Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) and Parks Victoria as the delegated Committee of Management responsible for the management of land and waters below the mean high watermark.</p> <p>Although the intended aim of this suggestion is for a positive outcome ie. reduced impacts to the reefs, a fixed structure to the rocky platforms may create unintended impacts to the reefs, and this is not consistent with the strategic directions and guidelines of <i>Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary Management Plan 2005</i>, therefore this suggestion is unlikely to be supported.</p>
<p><b>Foreshore indigenous coastal plant interpretative trail</b></p> <p>Locate foreshore trail close to Beaumaris Life Saving Club (BLSC) to link with the proposed marine boardwalk (as above) and the Marine Education Centre. To provide an opportunity to communicate coastal land management issues, erosion processes and potential climate change impacts on coastal environments.</p>	<p>The Management Plan proposes that educative and interpretive information be provided through both development of an appropriate signage strategy in conjunction with Parks Victoria. This initiative can be further supported by the proposed further development of the existing phone apps for Ricketts Point.</p>
<p><b>Open Air Amphitheatre</b></p> <p>Proposed for the existing grassed area adjoining BLSC. Incorporate indigenous plantings for shade.</p>	<p>The development of an open air ampitheatre has not been specifically identified in the Ricketts Point Management Plan. However three actions (13A: Audit of coastal facilities and buildings, 14A: Issues and options paper for the future of Ricketts Point Teahouse and 21A: Expansion of the Marine Education Centre) provide the opportunity to further explore this suggestion.</p>
<p><b>Underwater Marine Viewing Facility</b></p> <p>An underwater viewing facility including permanent structures and glass-bottomed boats or semi-submersible. Allow for people with limited mobility to view underwater environment.</p>	<p>Decision is the responsibility of DSE and Parks Victoria as the delegated Committee of Management responsible for the management of land and waters below the mean high watermark.</p> <p>However, any permanent structure fixed to the reef would not be consistent with the strategic directions and guidelines of <i>Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary Management Plan 2005</i>.</p>
<p><b>Permanent Marine Education Centre</b></p> <p>Redevelop BLSC building by expanding the existing facility without increasing current footprint or impact on adjoining land owners visual amenity.</p>	<p>A permanent education centre next to the Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary is supported in the Management Plan and an action to progress this has been identified (Action 21A).</p> <p>The Management Plan recommends that the Marine Education Centre be colocated with other complimentary uses in shared facilities.</p>
<p><b>Safe Bus/Coach Turn Around Loop</b></p> <p>Upgrade Ricketts Point southern car park (B18) to allow for adequate service of additional visitors to the marine sanctuary.</p>	<p>The City of Bayside is currently developing a landscape plan for the unsealed car park (B18). Accessibility improvements and an upgrade of the stormwater discharge infrastructure to Port Phillip Bay are highlighted for inclusion within the plan.</p>

# Appendix E: Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC) maps

Rickett's Point Coastline, Beaumaris: Native Vegetation Works Program



Figure 2 Ecological Vegetation Classes and Habitat Zones (HZ) identified at Rickett's Point Foreshore, Beaumaris, December 2011.

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Bayside Native Vegetation Works Program - Stage 2

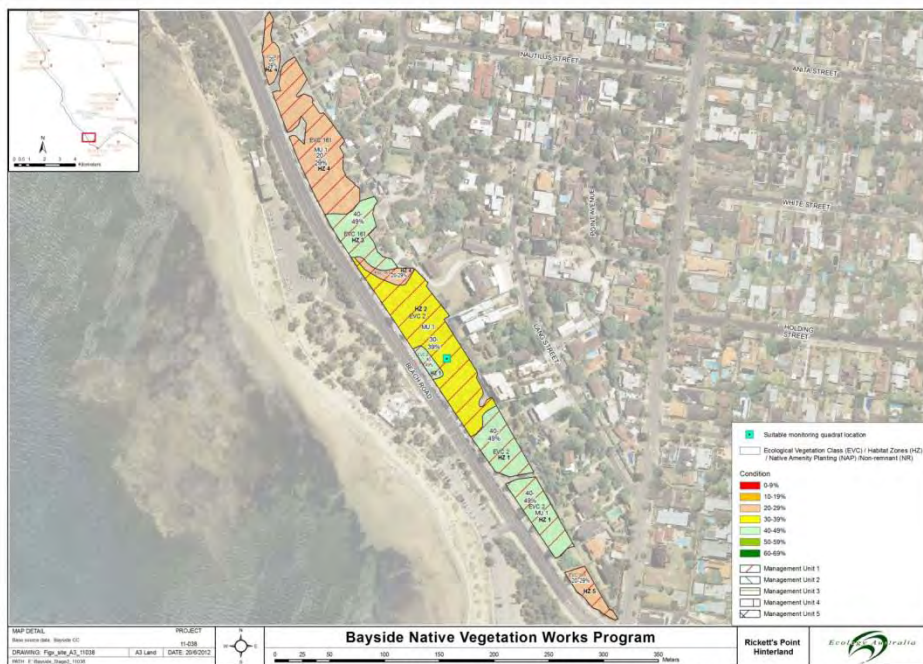


Figure 15 Management Units (hatching), Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVC number), Habitat Zones (shaded by quality categories) and suitable permanent monitoring quadrat locations at Rickett's Point Hinterland, Beaumaris. EVC 2: Coast Banksia Woodland, EVC 161: Coastal Headland Scrub.

Final

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## Appendix F: Recommendations from strategic documents in relation to dog control

The following records dog control recommendations relevant to the study area from strategic documents that have been reviewed in the development of the Draft Ricketts Point and Ricketts Point Landside Management Plan. These recommendations are as follows:

### **Parks Victoria Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary Management Plan 2005**

#### 6.6 Dogs

- *‘Continue to permit walking and exercising of dogs in the sanctuary from 1 April to 31 October, and from 7:30pm to 10:00am from 1 November to 31 March, provided they are:*
  - *on a lead*
  - *on sandy intertidal beach area, including adjacent sandy areas with shallow water.*
- *Allow dogs in the sanctuary if confined to a vessel. Exclude dogs from the sanctuary (except those confined to a vessel):*
  - *from 10:00am to 7:30pm from 1 November to 31 March (as for existing adjacent foreshore dog access arrangements)*
  - *from the intertidal reef and seagrass beds at all times to protect roosting and feeding migratory and resident shore bird and sensitive nursery habitats.*
- *Require people in charge of dogs to remove faeces left by their dog from the sanctuary.*
- *Provide information to visitors regarding dog access and regulations through Marine Notes, information signs and ranger patrols.*
- *Liaise with Bayside City Council to encourage an integrated approach to dog management in the adjacent foreshore reserve.’*

### **Ricketts Point Fauna Survey: Reserve fauna habitat assessment and management recommendations 2011-2012**

- *‘Establish dog off-leash areas to provide pets and their owners with sufficient space for exercise/play away from areas of significance as fauna habitat.*
- *Establish dog exclusion zones, and ensure the exclusion of dogs in these areas is actively enforced by Local Laws/Council Officers particularly during September-April, when there are more migratory shorebirds present along the Victorian coastline.’*

### **Black Rock-Beaumaris Foreshore Masterplan 2000**

- *‘In order to protect and preserve this area for future generations and for the area to continue to play an important habitat role, a recommendation of this Masterplan is to limit dog access to ‘on-leash’ 12 months of the year between*

*the ramp for disabled access to Table Rock Point, whilst maintaining no access during the summer period: 1 November–31 March between the hours of 10.00am–7.30pm.*

- *To offset a perceived loss of opportunities for dogs to be exercised off-leash, it is proposed that dogs be permitted to be exercised off-leash all year, except during the summer period: 1 November–31 March between the hours of 10.00am–7.30pm, between the ramp for disabled access to Quiet Corner (Central Avenue).'*