

Victoria's Marine and Coastal Act, Policy and Strategy



SACCA Forum
28 September 2022



Outline

Marine and Coastal Act 2018 - broad over view

Marine and Coastal Policy 2020

- key policy reforms

Marine and Coastal Strategy 2022

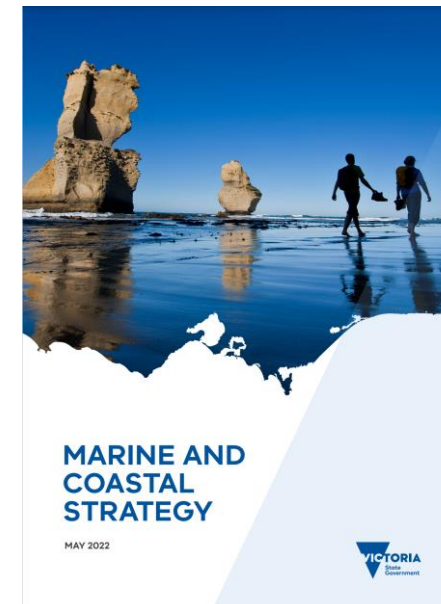
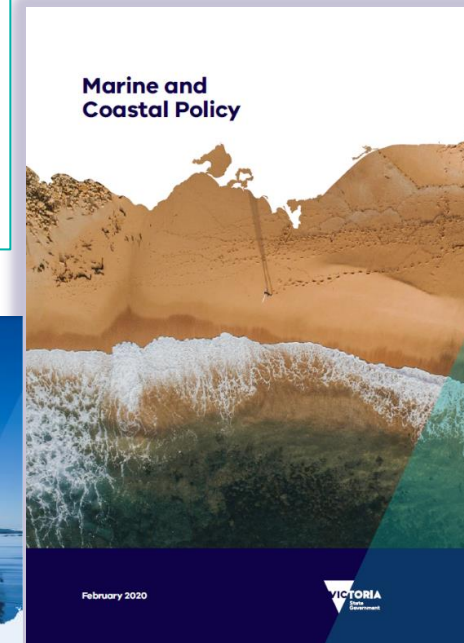
- Priority actions

Marine and Coastal Act 2018
No. of 2018

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Short History

Since 1995 Victoria has had legislation specifically for coastal management

Coastal Management Act 1995

- Established a hierarchy of planning tools
- Delivered 4 Victorian Coastal Strategies between 1998 and 2014

Marine and Coastal Act 2018

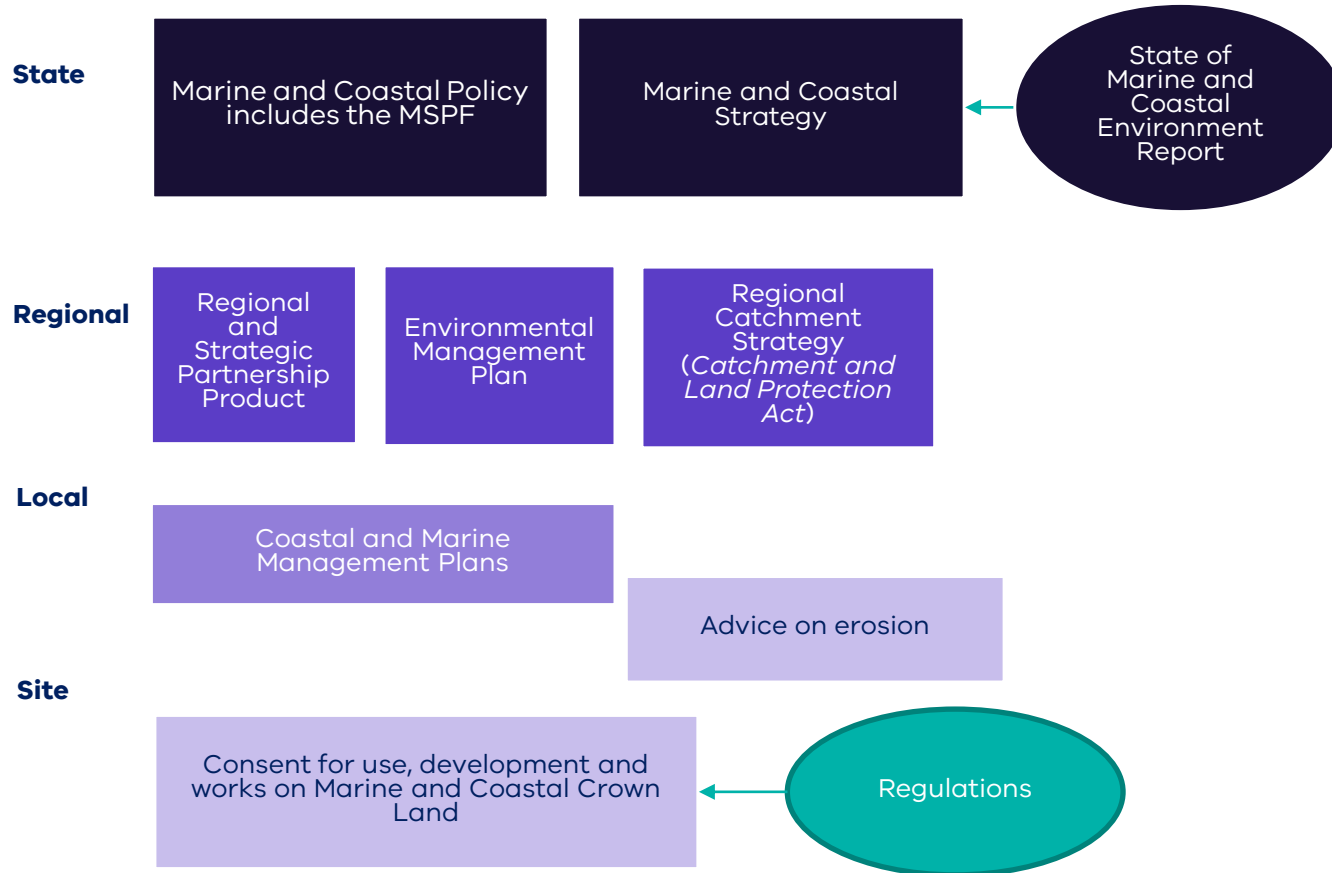
Builds on the strengths of the old Act

Separates the long term policy and short term 5 yearly action

Specifically addresses -

- Traditional Owners' rights, aspirations and knowledge;
- climate change; and
- planning for the marine environment.





Establishes a **whole of government approach** to protect and manage Victoria's marine and coastal environment

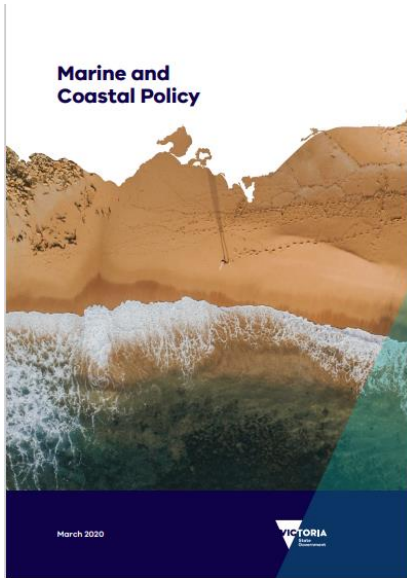
Integrates and co-ordinates policy, planning, management, decision-making and reporting across catchment, coastal and marine areas

Enshrines:

- nine **objectives** for planning and management
- seven **guiding principles**

These must be considered in all policies, strategies, plans and decisions made under the Act

Sets out a hierarchy of planning and management tools.



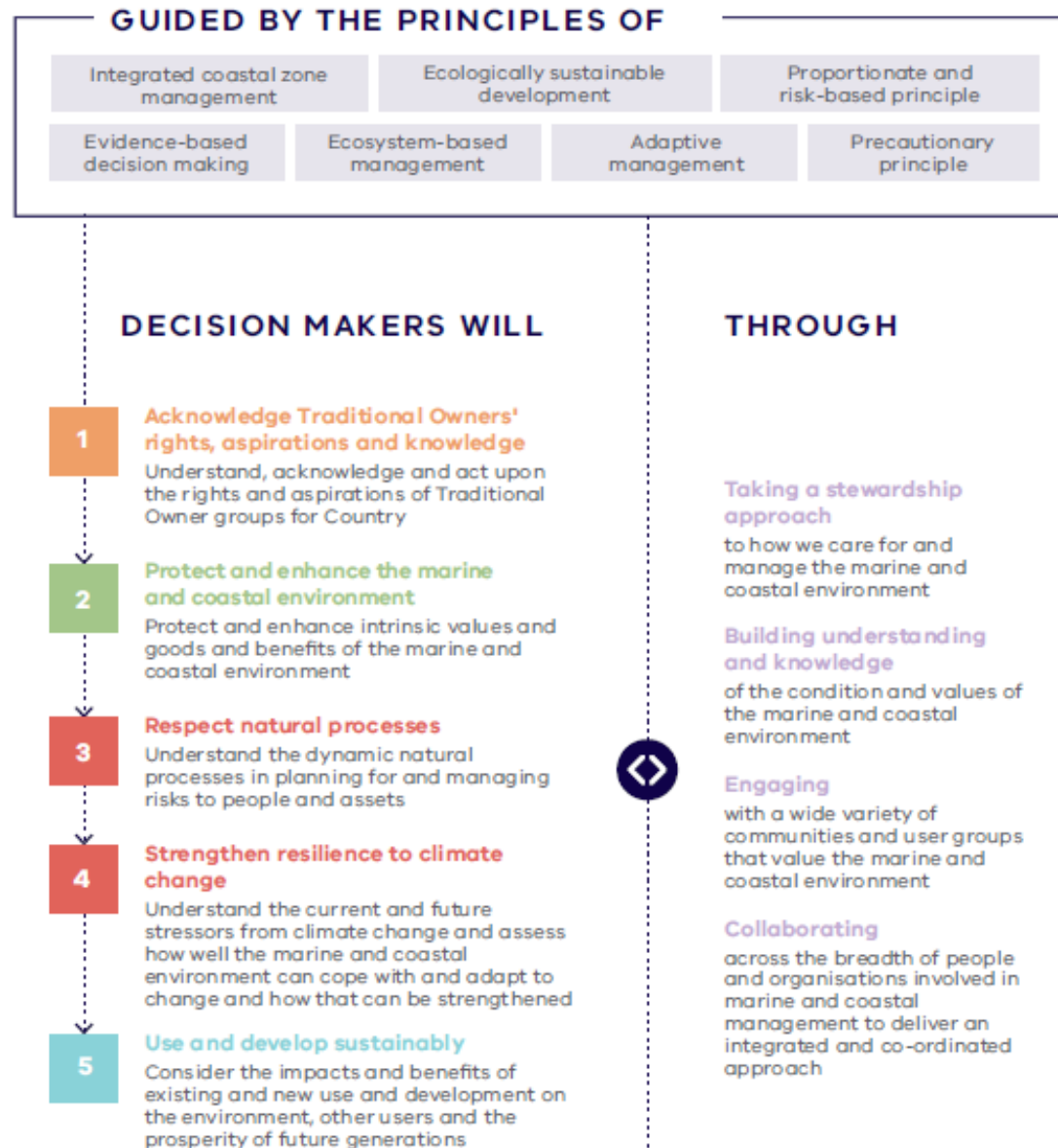
**Our vision –
is for a healthy dynamic and biodiverse marine
and coastal environment that is valued in its own
right and that benefits the Victorian Community
now and in the future.**

- Commenced 6 March 2020
- The Policy sets the vision and long term outcomes for the planning and management of our marine and coastal environment.
- Provides guidance to decision-makers to meet objectives and guiding principles of the *Marine and Coastal Act 2018* (the Act).
- Establishes a planning and decision pathway for consideration of the Act's objectives.
- **15 year life**

**Whole-of-government approach
to managing the marine and coastal
environment, approved by Ministers for:**

- Energy, Environment and Climate Change
- Water
- Planning
- Ports and Freight
- Fishing and Boating
- Agriculture
- Resources

Planning and Decision Pathway



Traditional Owners

Substantial new policy directions to:

- recognise **Traditional Owners' rights, aspirations and knowledge**
- Recognises Traditional Owners' enduring connection to Country.
- **supports a self determination model**

Protect and enhance the marine and coastal environment

Supports the **consistent application of ecosystem based management**

Enshrines the **ongoing public ownership of marine and coastal Crown land** for the benefit of all Victorians



Respect natural processes and strengthen resilience to climate change

Embeds **climate change adaptation as a core component of all planning** in the marine and coastal environment, and

Explicitly states possible adaptation actions that must be considered and in what order.

These are – 1. Non – intervention, 2. Avoid, 3. Nature based methods, 4. Accommodate, 5. Retreat, 6. Protect.

Clarifies roles and responsibilities for managing climate hazard risk.

- that the state will prioritise actions strategically and use a risk-based approach to protect public values.

- that the state and Crown land managers do not have obligations to manage marine and coastal Crown land or coastal processes for the primary purpose of protecting private property.

Maintains the planning benchmark to **plan for not less than 0.8m SLR by 2100**. Noting that this will be revised alongside development of the Strategy in line with the latest IPCC reports.



Sustainable use and development

Provides direction for strong strategic planning for **sustainable use, development and access** to the marine and coastal environment

Stewardship, Knowledge, Engage and Collaborate

Supports the coordination of marine and coastal land management to ensure that the capacity and capability of managers can effectively meet current and future challenges.

Articulates that funding is a shared responsibility of all levels of government, beneficiaries and users.



Marine Spatial Planning Framework

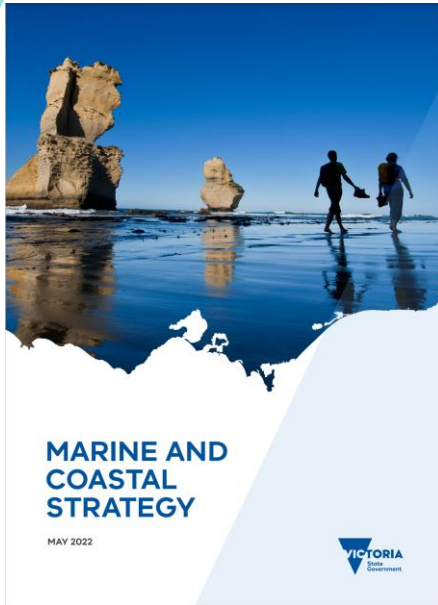
Delivers Victoria's first marine spatial planning framework for achieving integrated and coordinated planning and management of the marine environment.

Part A – Guidance

Part B - Process for:

- determining where and when marine spatial planning is required
- initiating, approving and undertaking marine spatial planning.





- **First of 3 strategies to implement the Marine and Coastal Policy 2020**
- **6 priority actions critical to achieving the vision and intended outcomes of the Policy**
- **Actions delivered through 54 activities - timeframes and responsibilities for delivery over next 5 years**

Action 1	Traditional Owners determine how their rights and obligations are embedded into planning and management of the marine and coastal environment
Action 2	Improve the condition and ecological connectivity of habitats and respect and care for our marine and coastal areas
Action 3	Adapting to impacts of climate change
Action 4	Support sustainable use and development of the marine and coastal environment
Action 5	Implement the Marine Spatial Planning Framework
Action 6	Identify resource needs for sustainable marine and coastal management

Whole-of-government approach to managing the marine and coastal environment, approved by Ministers for:

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- Agriculture
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Includes an important message drafted by coastal Traditional Owners

'The time is now — to speak, listen and act with courage; to make decisions together and transparently that are in the interests of our oceans, coastlines, connected landscapes and waterways for generations to follow... We must forge a future together to make things better...'

Highlights for delivery in the first 12 months

Action 1 Traditional Owners determine how their rights and obligations are embedded into planning and management of the marine and coastal environment

- Support for Traditional Owners to lead implementation of priority activities in the Marine and Coastal Strategy based on their self-determined needs

Action 2 Improve the condition and ecological connectivity of habitats and respect and care for our marine and coastal areas

- Implement the Port Phillip Bay Environmental Management Plan.
- Scoping a framework for blue carbon market opportunities and mapping blue carbon potential in priority areas.
- Support Coastcare Victoria and volunteer participation, engagement and action on local needs.

Action 3 Adapting to impacts of climate change

- Extend the roll out of Victoria's Resilient Coast — Adapting to 2100+ statewide adaptation framework and guidelines.
- Continue the Inverloch, Cape to Cape Resilience Project (RASP).
- Expand the Victorian Coastal Monitoring Program.

Action 4 Support sustainable use and development of the marine and coastal environment

- Support coastal managers to develop Coastal and Marine Management Plans
- Implement strategic asset management approach that identifies priority assets for maintenance, replacement or removal, and respond to coastal erosion events.
- Deliver Coastal Public Access and Risk grants.
- Implement the Victorian Recreational Boating Strategy, Sustainable Local Ports framework and the Victorian Commercial Ports Strategy
- Implement the Victorian Offshore Wind Strategy

Action 5 Implement the Marine Spatial Planning Framework

- Determine mechanisms, governance and funding approach for MSP
- Commence first marine spatial planning process in a priority area.
- Update Victoria's Marine and Coastal Knowledge Framework and CoastKit.

Action 6 Identify resource needs for sustainable marine and coastal management

- Understand existing funding sources and systems for sustainable marine and coastal management.



In general the policy applies to the entire marine and coastal environment, across both public and private land.

Where a particular policy references marine and coastal Crown land, the policy applies to that area only.

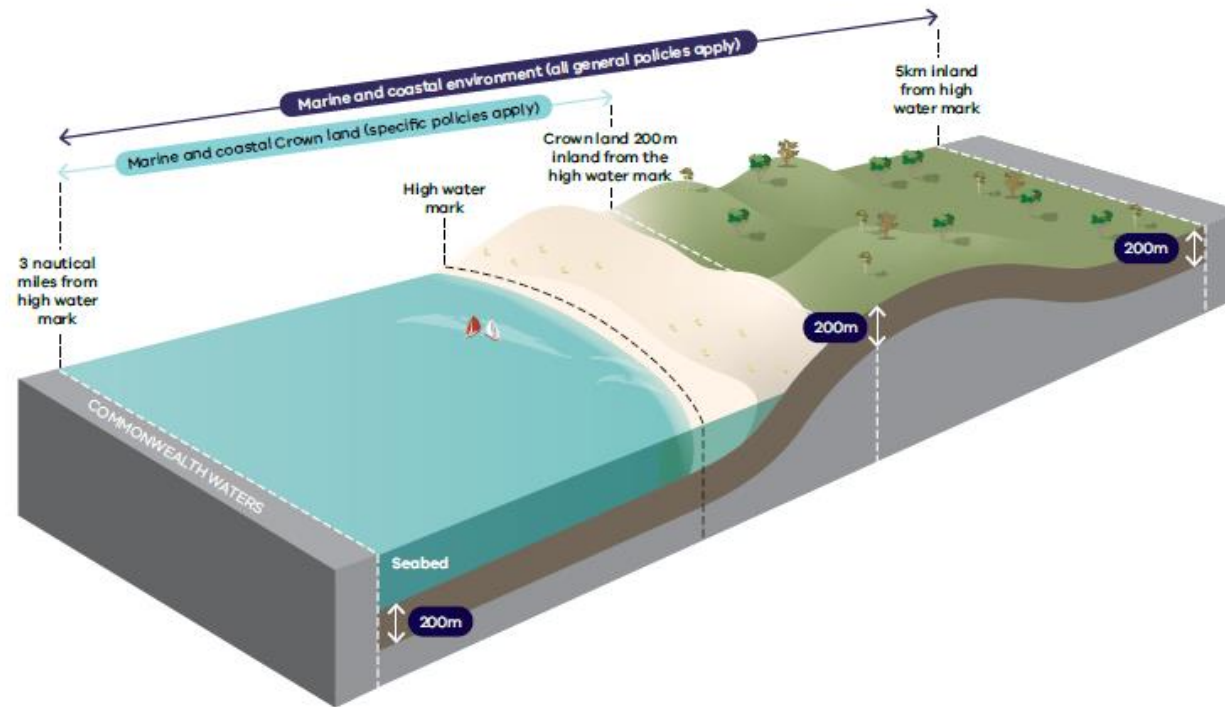


Figure 1: Areas where the Marine and Coastal Policy applies