

# FORESHORE MANAGEMENT PLAN – SUMMARY



Elwood Beach



Port Melbourne



Middle Park



St Kilda



Sandridge



South Melbourne











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## WHAT IS THE FORESHORE MANAGEMENT PLAN?

The foreshore is Port Phillip's most outstanding natural and cultural asset and plays a very important social and recreational role for the local and wider population. Port Phillip's foreshore includes the beaches and adjoining paths, buildings, parks and open spaces.

The Foreshore Management Plan covers the 11 kilometres of coastline of the City of Port Phillip between Sandridge and Elwood. This includes the coastal Crown land reserved under the Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978 that the City of Port Phillip is the delegated Committee of Management.

The Foreshore Management Plan will guide how we protect, maintain and manage our coastline and foreshore.

The Plan will also help to inform Council's future management and budgeting for the foreshore. The Foreshore Management Plan is a public document adopted by Council and for approval by the Victorian Minister for Environment and Climate Change.

This booklet seeks to provide a summary of how the Foreshore Management Plan was developed, a summary of the range of community expectations and detail the 'high' value actions for different parts of the foreshore.

This summary document includes the full Foreshore Management Plan as an appendix.

## WHY HAS COUNCIL DEVELOPED THE FORESHORE MANAGEMENT PLAN?

Since the adoption of the previous 2004 Foreshore Management Plan a number of factors are having an impact on Port Phillip's foreshore. Some of these include:

**Ageing infrastructure** – Many of Port Phillip's paths, lights, playgrounds and other assets are ageing at an accelerated rate. The maintenance and replacement costs are significantly higher along the foreshore compared to other parts of the city due to the salty seaside conditions and increasing usage.

**Declining vegetation** – Our coastal vegetation, dunes and reserves are feeling the effects of drought, extreme weather conditions from climate change and the increasing population and usage pressures.

**Demands for upgraded facilities** – Several of Council's Life Saving Club buildings require major capital investment to support the community volunteers.

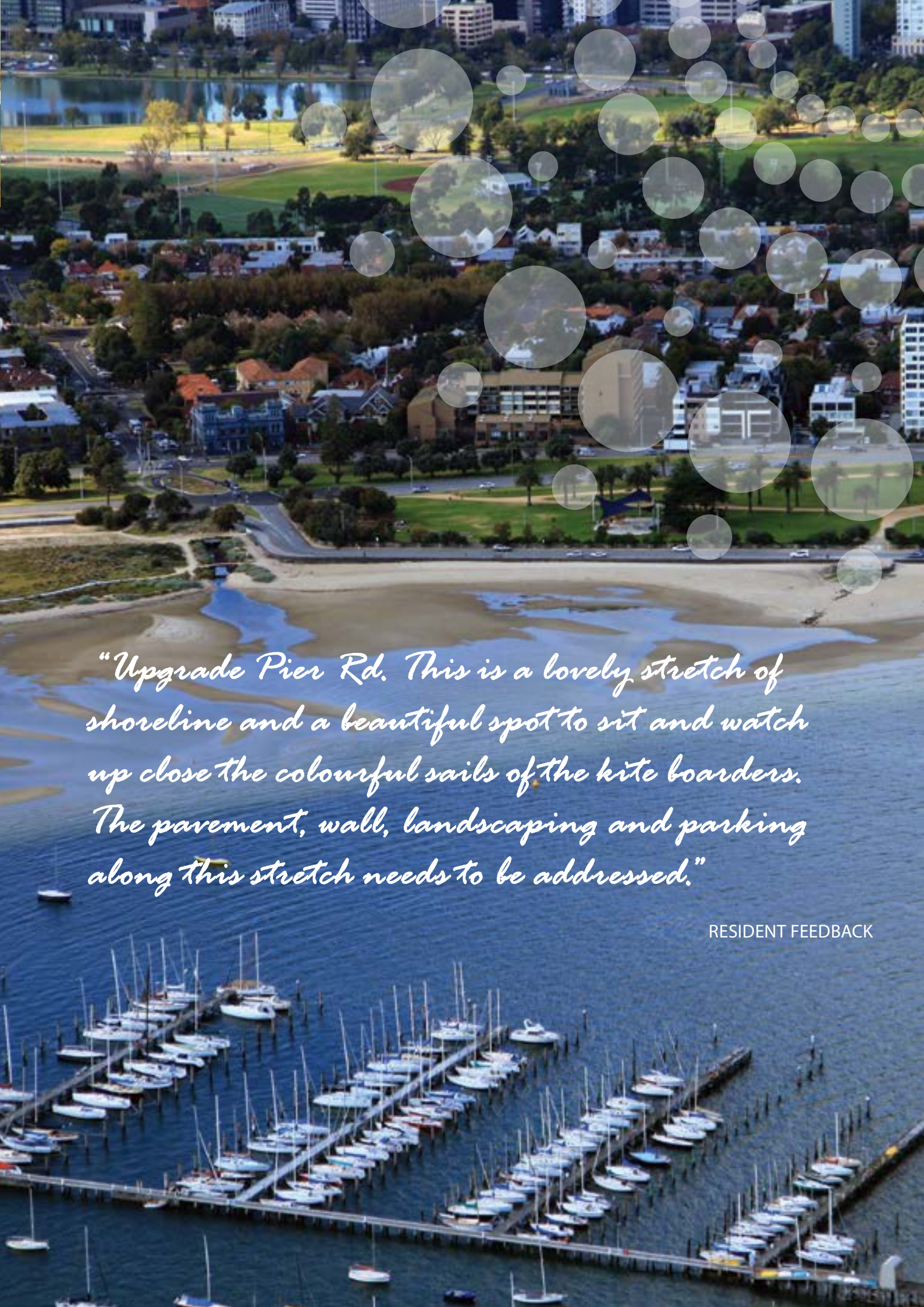
**Demands for additional facilities** – Population growth and increasing usage along the foreshore is resulting in rising demands for new facilities such as more toilets and beach showers.

**A changing climate** – The average sea level within Port Phillip Bay has already risen over 3cm during the 1990's with a rise of no less than 80cm predicted by 2100\*. Storm surges and stormwater flows are also expected to increase the risk of flooding to several parts of our highly valued foreshore. Development approvals along the foreshore are increasingly being tested against sea level rise modelling and are required to demonstrate 'coastal dependency'.

**24 hour culture over summer** – The competing demands for improved residential amenity, passive recreation and more active recreational opportunities continue to grow. The expectation for improved swimming safety and long term education programs is also rising in Port Phillip.

\* Source: CSIRO





*“Upgrade Pier Rd. This is a lovely stretch of shoreline and a beautiful spot to sit and watch up close the colourful sails of the kite boarders. The pavement, wall, landscaping and parking along this stretch needs to be addressed.”*

RESIDENT FEEDBACK





## HOW WAS THE PLAN DEVELOPED?

The beaches, bay and foreshore environment is highly valued by the Port Phillip community. It was therefore important that Council consulted the community, so that their values and interests influence the future management of our foreshore. Initial community consultation occurred during October and November 2010.

In order to ensure that a representative number of individuals, groups and opinions were captured, Council sought information from the community and business through a variety of mediums. This included:

- Online discussion forum.
- 380 telephone surveys with residents.
- Video interviews conducted along the foreshore.
- 202 on-site surveys along the length of the foreshore.
- Foreshore Management Plan Community Reference Committee.
- 80 participants at the 'Your Bay Your Say' public consultation event on November 17, 2010.
- 32 attendees at two separate workshops from agencies, community groups and businesses.

The final stage of public consultation on the draft Plan involved:

- Advertisements in local newspapers.
- 28 on-site signs along the length of the foreshore.
- Email to over 700 residence, clubs, businesses, agencies and other stakeholders with an interest in the foreshore.
- Updated online discussion forum and individual emails.

Each type of consultation identified different opinions and competing needs associated with managing the foreshore. Refer to Section 2 of the Foreshore Management Plan for more details of the consultation activities undertaken.

The Foreshore Management Plan was adopted by the City of Port Phillip in March 2012.



## WHAT ARE THE COMMUNITY'S EXPECTATIONS FOR PORT PHILLIP'S FORESHORE?

Ten major themes were identified during the analysis of the consultation activities and background review. The following major themes informed the development of the Foreshore Management Plan:

**Community participation and support** – Opportunities were sought to increase and better coordinate the support for non-profit foreshore community volunteer activities, such as the beach cleaning, sporting and environmental groups. It was noted some areas of foreshore vegetation lacked the support from dedicated community groups to care for and assist in the protection and enhancement of the significant coastal environment. Improved communication and public awareness actions were also consistently raised to increase community understanding of coastal processes, native vegetation and level of public investment on the foreshore.

**Management** – Expectations of both maintenance and management of the foreshore was identified as a major theme. This included issues relating to Council presence, integrated planning, litter collection and prevention, open space and beach maintenance.

**Vegetation and biodiversity** – Improvements were sought in the condition and coverage of vegetation along the foreshore with particular emphasis on increased shade and habitat values.

**Recreation** – There was range of expectations seeking a balance between active and passive recreational pursuits. Actions were also sought to reduce swim safety risks.

**Accessibility** – There were consistent expectations for Council to improve accessibility and connectivity to and along the foreshore. This included water access for mobility challenged as well as directional and information signage for pedestrians and bike riders. Improved traffic management around Pier Road and Station Pier was also identified.

**Infrastructure** – There were numerous expectations relating to improvements to infrastructure along the length of the foreshore. This included items such as drinking fountains, waste bins, bike rider and pedestrian paths, litter traps, stormwater drainage, lighting, buildings and playgrounds. Major upgrades to Life Saving Club buildings, toilets and stormwater infrastructure were seen to be of significant importance for the Port Phillip community.

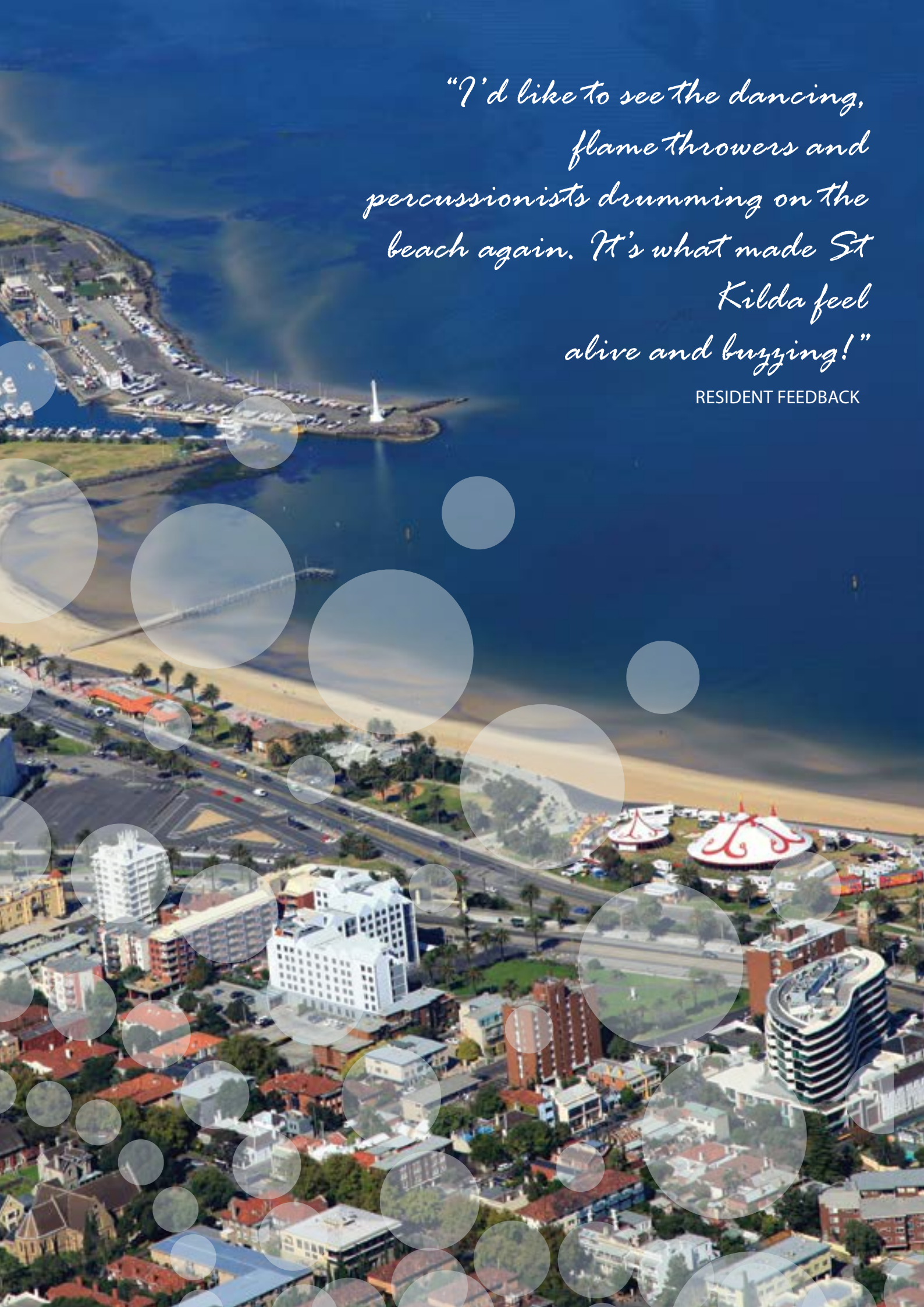
**Diversity of activities** – There was support for a wide range of foreshore activities including permitted events. Expectations highlighted the need for maintaining the diversity of leisure, cultural and sporting activities and balancing the differing values of foreshore users.

**Place/Character** – Comments related to the protection and enhancement of each foreshore areas unique values. Expectations in regard to cultural heritage, public art, public views, foreshore dependant developments compatibility with the surrounding landscape and improved amenity were of particular importance.

**Sustainability** – The community identified consistent issues seeking improved environmental sustainability of our bay, beaches and buildings including responses to predicted climate change impacts.

**Economic** – Economic development to achieve a balanced use of the foreshore public land for both residents and visitors was the final theme identified as part of the consultation.





*"I'd like to see the dancing,  
flame throwers and  
percussionists drumming on the  
beach again. It's what made St  
Kilda feel  
alive and buzzing!"*

RESIDENT FEEDBACK





# PORT PHILLIP'S FORESHORE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The development of the Foreshore Management Plan involved a number of steps which were founded on the community's input. The steps range from the 'vision' which is the overarching aspiration for the Port Phillip foreshore to the 'actions' that provide the specific measurable detail for implementation. Figure 1 describes the Plan's components.

FIGURE 1 FORESHORE MANAGEMENT PLAN COMPONENTS







## VISION STATEMENT

The vision for Port Phillip foreshore has been developed through the community and stakeholder engagement process and the detailed background analysis undertaken. The vision aims to reflect the aspirations of the community, key stakeholders and Council. The vision for the Port Phillip foreshore is:

*“The Port Phillip foreshore is a vibrant, inspiring, accessible and connected open space destination that provides a wide range of experiences for local, national and international visitors. It is renowned for its unique local character, significant vegetation and its rich cultural history.”*

## PRINCIPLES TO MANAGING THE FORESHORE

The following guiding principles update the previously adopted foreshore principles and are based on the current stakeholder and community expectations as well as the policy and legislative direction relating specifically to the Port Phillip foreshore.

These principles are not presented in any priority order. The guiding principles for the Port Phillip Foreshore Management Plan are:

| Principle  | Principle explanation  |
|--|--|
| Principle 1:<br>Public Access and Positive Community Benefit           | Ensure that new and ongoing use and development make a positive contribution to the coast. To do this it should provide a positive community benefit based on public access and coastal dependence or supporting use.  |
| Principle 2:<br>Public Open Space, Recreational Activities and Events  | The foreshore is public open space managed for a range of public use opportunities. The foreshore should be promoted as an important social and recreational destination with a variety of active and passive recreational uses that are coastal dependent and attract both residents and visitors.  |
| Principle 3:<br>Coastal Sustainability, Vegetation and Heritage Values | Protect and enhance the natural environmental and cultural values of the foreshore and ensure its sustainability.  |
| Principle 4:<br>Climate Change and Adaptation Strategies               | Plan for the environmental, social and economic impacts associated with climate change to implement adaptation strategies to deal with beach erosion, flooding, storm surges and sea level rise. Consider the ‘carbon cost’ to help mitigate further climate change.   |
| Principle 5:<br>Diversity of Foreshore Environments and Character      | Manage the foreshore having regard for a diversity of landscapes and areas with a unique sense of place, including natural, manmade and cultural aspects that contribute to the character of the local area and overall coastal character of the foreshore. The Port Phillip foreshore reserve should not be managed as a uniform, single environment. |
| Principle 6:<br>Safe and Equitable Use                                 | Provide a safe foreshore environment with a predominance of free and accessible use for all foreshore users.   |
| Principle 7:<br>Community Participation and Support                    | Provide opportunities for ongoing community participation and support community initiatives to progress a range of foreshore management issues.  |
| Principle 8:<br>Connectivity to Activity Centres and Public Transport  | Promote safe and attractive pedestrian linkages, cycle and disabled access between the foreshore environment, urban activity centres and public transport of Port Phillip.   |
| Principle 9:<br>Buildings and Car Parking                              | Aspire towards foreshore buildings that are multi-purpose in design to encourage shared-use and fulfil a range of community uses and needs. Increases in building footprints or increases to the foreshore car park net footprint will not be allowed. There should be no loss of open space.  |
| Principle 10:<br>Economic Sustainability                               | Recognise the economic value and contribution of the foreshore and only encourage investment in foreshore activities that will provide long-term economic sustainability, balanced use of foreshore public land and net community benefit.   |



*"We love our foreshore and look forward to having input into policies which will shape the way we live and play."*

RESIDENT FEEDBACK





# FORESHORE MANAGEMENT HIGH VALUE ACTIONS

The key foreshore management issues that emerged from the community consultation and background review were grouped into the following ten general themes:

|  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. Community participation and support | 6. Infrastructure          |
| 2. Management                          | 7. Diversity of activities |
| 3. Vegetation and biodiversity         | 8. Place / character       |
| 4. Recreational                        | 9. Sustainability          |
| 5. Accessibility                       | 10. Economic               |

Objectives and actions relating to each theme were developed in order to provide strategic direction. Full details of the all the Foreshore Management Plan objectives and actions are provided in Section 4 of the Foreshore Management Plan.

The following tables summarise the themes and related 'high' value actions relevant to the entire foreshore area, followed by the high value actions relevant to just specific locations. Refer to Section 4.2 of the Foreshore Management Plan for full details of the 'value' criteria.

## As at January 2024

### THEME 1: COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND SUPPORT – HIGH VALUE ACTIONS

#### Community Participation and Support – High Value Actions

- ✓ 1. Support 'friends' and other 'Coastcare' type community groups to assist in the care of the foreshore environment.
- ✓ 2. Provide support to community groups through various Council financial initiatives and educational programs i.e. 'Small Poppy Grants Program'; environmental building retrofit program.

### THEME 2: MANAGEMENT – HIGH VALUE ACTIONS

#### Management – High Value Actions

- ✓ 1. Provide an annual summer public education program on beach litter, recycling, heatwaves, expected behaviours, foreshore events and promotion of community group's activities.
- ✓ 2. Provide opportunities for a coordinated management and investment of the foreshore with neighbouring authorities such as Bayside City Council and Port of Melbourne Corporation, DSE, Parks Victoria and Melbourne Water.
- ✓ 3. Review the beach cleaning operations, frequency and quality to implement updated service specifications that respond to peak usage, increasing storm impacts and reduce seaweed stockpiling.
- ✓ 4. Proactively plan and coordinate the preparation and management of key foreshore sites attracting large crowds in busy periods.
- ✓ 5. Provide annual summer education programs with Beach Rangers.
- ✓ 6. Review the level of regulatory foreshore patrols to manage animals, parking, events and other local laws.
- ✓ 7. Continue to liaise with Victoria Police as the primary agency for delivering community safety to reduce anti-social behaviour including New Years Eve and extreme weather events.
- ✓ 8. Continue to liaise with Parks Victoria and Water Police to reduce infringements by PWC operators and increase the safety amenity of swimmers and other users of the foreshore.
- ✓ 9. Develop and implement an upgrade program for high demand public toilets.
- ✓ 10. Schedule independent assessments of the pedestrian and bike path condition against current national standards and usage trends.
- ✓ 11. Review and implement improved asset life management and renewal programs of foreshore infrastructure. **Underway.**

### THEME 3: VEGETATION AND BIODIVERSITY – HIGH VALUE ACTIONS

#### Vegetation and biodiversity – High Value Actions

- ✓ 1. Develop and implement a Vegetation Management Plan to protect and enhance vegetation along the foreshore including dune areas.
- ✓ 2. Implement strategies that achieve high quality ecological values, shade and use of drought tolerant species including relevant actions within the:
  - Park Tree Planting Program
  - Greening Port Phillip Street Tree St
  - Catani Gardens and Southern Foreshore Management Plan.**Underway.**
- ✗ 3. In line with local master plans, provide shade species along the foreshore including high use areas such as playgrounds, BBQ and seating areas.

### THEME 4: RECREATIONAL – HIGH VALUE ACTIONS

#### Recreational – High Value Actions

- ✓ 1. Maintain existing areas of organised sports and individual recreational activity.
- ✓ 2. Review consistency of policies to manage competing demands of on-water and land activity areas i.e. kiteboarding areas and swimming/boating zones near activity centres.
- ✓ 3. Continue monitoring of dog owner compliance in approved dog leash/off leash beach areas.
- ✓ 4. Upgrade amenities to support increased demand for recreational activities i.e. seating, bicycle and pedestrian paths, bicycle racks, signage, mains power supply for community events etc.
- ✓ 5. Review and maintain sustainable levels of foreshore commercial recreation consistent with the Principles and Council's Commercial Recreation Policy.
- ✓ 6. Maintain ongoing investment towards swim safety education programs and Life Saver training, including Cultural and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities.

## THEME 5: ACCESSIBILITY – HIGH VALUE ACTIONS

### Accessibility – High Value Actions

- ✖1. Implement Council's Sustainable Transport Strategy, Walk and Cycle Plans to improve foreshore accessibility and connectivity from adjoining activity centres and public transport, including access across Beaconsfield Parade, Pier Road and Ormond Esplanade.
- ✔2. Improve access to the sand and water for people with disabilities or limited mobility. **Underway.**
- ✔3. Continue the installation of swim safety signage as recommended in 'Coastal Risk Assessment and Treatment Plan – City of Port Phillip 2010'.

## THEME 6: INFRASTRUCTURE – HIGH VALUE ACTIONS

### Infrastructure – High Value Actions

- ✔1. Maintain foreshore buildings to be fit for purpose and meet or exceed relevant environmental standards. New buildings/refurbishments should be high quality urban design in keeping with coastal environment, local character and multi-use and will not increase the net footprint or cause any loss of open space.
- ✔2. Upgrade and standardise the design, location and labelling of all foreshore general waste and recycling bin housings and wheelie bins.
- ✔3. Provide additional exercise stations and drinking/water bottle refill stations at appropriate locations.
- ✔4. Develop a renewal program for aging infrastructure. **Underway.**
- ✖5. Upgrades and provision of new infrastructure designed and located to adequately consider climate change risk, including coastal hazard vulnerability assessments.
- ✖6. Relocate stormwater drainage outlets from the sand and filter stormwater pollutants from entering the Bay.
- ✖7. Upgrade ageing stormwater drainage infrastructure and litter traps with consideration to climate change and increasing storm flows.

## THEME 7: DIVERSITY OF ACTIVITIES – HIGH VALUE ACTIONS

### Diversity of Activities – High Value Actions

- ✔1. Maintain coastal dependent commercial activities that benefit the diversity of foreshore users in accordance with the guiding Principles.

## THEME 8: PLACE / CHARACTER – HIGH VALUE ACTIONS

### Place / Character – High Value Actions

- ✔1. Implement the specialist maintenance program to ensure ongoing maintenance and upgrade of foreshore monuments.
- ✔2. Maintain areas of cultural identity.

## THEME 9: COASTAL SUSTAINABILITY – HIGH VALUE ACTIONS

### Coastal Sustainability – High Value Actions

- ✔1. Plan for a sea level rise of not less than 0.8m by 2100 and allow for the combined effects of tides, storm surges, coastal processes and location conditions, such as topography and geology when assessing risk and impacts associated with climate change. **Underway.**
- ✖2. Consider the results of Council's Coastal Hazard Vulnerability Assessment (CHVA) to develop 'coastal action' and 'structure' plans to integrate drainage and manage climate impacts along the foreshore.
- ✔3. Implement Council's Climate Adaptation Strategy and Community Climate Plan to manage the impact of climate change along the foreshore. **Underway.**
- ✔4. Work with Melbourne Water to improve the water quality in Port Phillip Bay. **Underway.**
- ✔5. Increase the total area covered by litter traps and filtering of stormwater to improve water quality in line with Council's Water Plan. **Underway.**
- ✔6. Implement the Council's Environmental Building Improvement Program to improve the energy and water efficiency of Community Club buildings.
- ✔7. Increase the use of coastal vegetation planting to improve natural shade and increase green spaces along the foreshore. **Underway.**

## THEME 10: ECONOMIC – HIGH VALUE ACTIONS

### Economic – High Value Actions

- ✔1. Support and enhance sustainable commercial uses that achieve a balanced use of foreshore public land and net community benefit in accordance with Principles 9 and 10.

✔ 37 out of 43 = 86% of High Value Actions Completed/Underway



*"We should have more activities that add to a community feel, bring people together for the planet and pride in our beaches."*

RESIDENT FEEDBACK



# PORT PHILLIP FORESHORE AREAS

To assist with identifying and locating specific strategic objectives and actions throughout the Port Phillip foreshore, a geographic approach has been adopted whereby five foreshore areas have been identified. These are:

|                                    |             |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Sandridge                       | 4. St Kilda |
| 2. Port Melbourne                  | 5. Elwood   |
| 3. South Melbourne and Middle Park |             |

An area description with existing conditions, values and challenges plus 'high' value actions for each of these five foreshore areas is provided in Section 5 of the Foreshore Management Plan. The local area 'high' value actions are:

## SANDRIDGE – HIGH VALUE ACTIONS

### High value actions for Sandridge:

- ✳1. Develop a long-term management agreement for PoMC land at Perce White Reserve and Webb Dock Trail.
- ✓2. Install dunal fencing where appropriate to manage pedestrian access, drainage, beach cleaning and habitat values.

## PORT MELBOURNE – HIGH VALUE ACTIONS

### High value actions for Port Melbourne:

- ✓1. As part of the Port Melbourne Urban Design Framework, progress traffic management solutions to reduce congestion at Station Pier and improve connectivity to the light rail reserve shared path.
- ✓2. Install dunal fencing where appropriate to manage pedestrian access, drainage, beach cleaning and habitat values.
- ✳3. Advocate for the appropriate use and development of Princes Pier to balance recreational, visitor and residential needs.
- ✓4. Develop and implement an upgrade program for high demand public toilets. **Underway.**
- ✳5. Provide more shade in high use areas and along the foreshore.
- ✓6. Install new beach showers and drinking/water bottle refill stations at Port Melbourne.
- ✳7. Upgrade the Life Saving Club building.

## SOUTH MELBOURNE AND MIDDLE PARK – HIGH VALUE ACTIONS

### High value actions for South Melbourne and Middle Park:

- ✓1. Install dunal fencing where appropriate to manage pedestrian access, drainage, beach cleaning and habitat values.
- ✓2. Work with the Life Saving Club and LSV to provide a new building.
- ✓3. Install new beach showers and drinking/water bottle refill stations.
- ✳4. Provide more shade in high use areas and along the foreshore.

## ST KILDA – HIGH VALUE ACTIONS

### High value actions for St Kilda:

- ✳1. Install new beach showers and drinking/water bottle refill stations at West Beach, St Kilda and Marina Reserve.
- ✓2. Support appropriate plans for the redevelopment of St Kilda Pier, sailing boat harbour and construction of the separated penguin boardwalk to match stakeholder aspirations with clear public benefits. **Underway.**
- ✓3. Develop and implement an upgrade program for high demand public toilets.
- ✓4. Work with the Life Saving Club and LSV to provide new accommodation.

## ELWOOD – HIGH VALUE ACTIONS

### High value actions for Elwood:

- ✓1. Develop vegetation management plan for the Elwood foreshore reserves.
- ✓2. Provide shade species along the foreshore in line with Elwood Masterplan. **Underway.**
- ✓3. Develop and implement an upgrade program for high demand public toilets.

✓14 out of 20 = 70% of Location Based Actions Completed/Underway

Approx. 81% of the Foreshore Management Plan Completed/Underway



# FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information please contact Council via:

Web: [www.portphillip.vic.gov.au](http://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au)

Email: [ospace@portphillip.vic.gov.au](mailto:ospace@portphillip.vic.gov.au)

Or

In writing to: David Hehir  
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The information in this booklet is provided by the City of Port Phillip.

On behalf of the City of Port Phillip, the Council pays its respects to the people and elders, past and present, of Yalukit Wilam and the Kulin Nation. We acknowledge and uphold their relationship to this land.

Please contact Council's ASSIST Service Centre on 9209 6777 if you require a hearing loop or a large print version of this booklet.

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