

Our Coastal Future



Summary: Round 1 Engagement August 2024

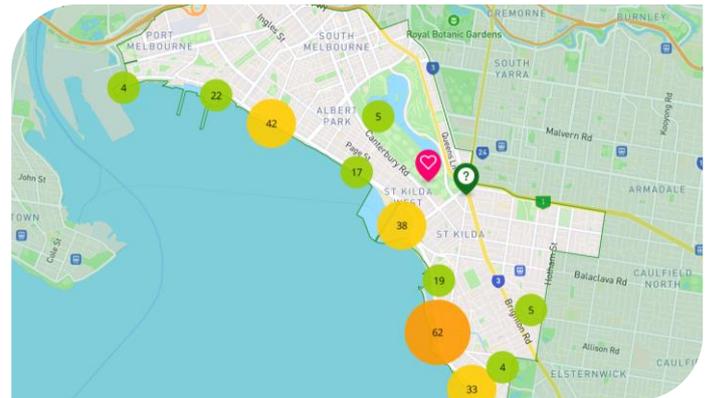
We're currently working on two key projects as part of *Our Coastal Future* program, which will shape how we manage our coastline and better prepare us for the future: a **Foreshore Management Plan (FMP)** and a **Coastal Adaptation Plan (CAP)**. To inform the plans, we have recently been engaging with community and visitors of the Port Phillip municipality.

How did we engage?

Our recent engagement activities and events ran from late April until the end of June 2024. We focused on sharing project information and learning more about important values and experiences our communities and visitors have relating to our foreshore and its surrounding areas.



Elwood foreshore



A series of interactive engagement activities and events have been undertaken over the last couple of months:



Values and experience survey: Targeted questions to hear views on values and uses of coastal areas, raise concerns, discuss experiences of coastal hazards and changes, and share ideas for the future.



Interactive map: An online mapping activity for people to share what they love, ideas for the future and memories of coastal change.



Pop-up events: In-person sessions in various locations across the municipality. Aided by wave tank demonstrations, we discussed current hazard concerns and desired outcomes for our coastal communities.



Photo competition: An opportunity to share personal values and connections with the coast through photography.

Are you an avid photographer? Our photo competition is open until the end of the year. Head to our project website to upload an entry.

What did we ask?

We asked questions of our communities centred on the following themes:

- How people **use and enjoy** the coastal and marine areas of the Port Phillip municipality
- What people specifically **value** about the coast
- Individual experiences of coastal **hazards** (inundation and erosion)
- **Memories and knowledge** of coastal change, and key drivers of that change
- **Aspirations** for the foreshore and surrounding areas, thinking longer term, of our future generations



Wave tank demonstrations helped our community learn more about coastal hazards

Who did we hear from?

Throughout the consultation period, we heard from and spoke to many community members from across the Port Phillip municipality. We also held discussions with broader project stakeholders.

The engagement process resulted in:



1,600 people visiting the *Our Coastal Future* website from April to June 2024.



5 community submissions shared on our coastal experiences forum.



Over 120 people contributing **almost 350 pins** on our interactive map.



Growing number of photos being submitted to our **photo** competition.



Conversations with more than **120 people at our 3 pop-up events**.



Lots of fun and questions as part of our **wave tank demonstrations** with people of all ages.



43 people signing up to the *Our Coastal Future* project mailing list.



Starting to engage with the **Bunurong Land Council** as the Registered Aboriginal Party for the region's foreshore areas.



Briefings and workshops with **stakeholders**, including Council staff.

Thanks to all who have participated and shared their perspectives so far. There will be more chances to contribute your thoughts and ideas as we progress with the project.

What We Heard

Key themes and feedback we heard from the community were centred around facilities, maintenance and management of the foreshore.

Facilities and accessibility

There were lots of ideas around facilities, amenities and access that could benefit our foreshore users – both on and offshore. Looking at existing and new facilities/services, ideas included:

- benches, toilets, showers, shade
- dog spaces and facilities
- playgrounds, recreational facilities
- footpaths and access improvements



Biodiversity and Habitats

Many expressed their love for local flora and fauna, especially marine wildlife such as dolphins, crabs, stingrays and penguins. Bioluminescent algae and native vegetation were also valued.

Some also raised concerns about deterioration of offshore conditions and the impacts of human activities on marine ecosystems.

Infrastructure networks

Well maintained and functional infrastructure networks (water, drainage and roads) were recognised as a critical part of managing our coastal areas.

Consideration of how these networks impact the beaches and health of the bay, with concerns raised about stormwater and water quality at various locations.



Coastal Adaptation and Resilience



Uncertainty and concern regarding the condition of the coast with sea-level rise and climate change were common. There were concerns about potential impacts on assets and ways to protect them, with some emphasis on utilising novel and resilient techniques, including nature-based solutions. Using resilient design in infrastructure was also seen as important.

Key words that came to individuals' minds when they thought of the Port Phillip foreshore were:



Frequently mentioned locations included Elwood Beach, Port Melbourne dog beach, St Kilda West Beach, alongside the famous Bay Trail and St Kilda Promenade.

Next steps

We're using all the information gathered from our recent discussions and community engagement to describe the values, issues and opportunities across the region. This is informing upcoming work of *Our Coastal Future*, including a summary of coastal values, issues and opportunities.

How can I get involved?

To ensure you keep up to date with the *Our Coastal Future* and upcoming events and activities, visit the project website:

haveyoursay.portphillip.vic.gov.au/our-coastal-future

On our page you can:

- **Learn more** about the project, coastal hazards and our coastal communities
- **Sign up** so that you receive progress updates and notifications
- **Take part** in future online activities.
- **Share a photo** in our online photo competition

Ask us a question – email our team at ourcoastalfuture@portphillip.vic.gov.au