Assessment of Victoria’s Coastal Reserves

Draft report for public comment

The Victorian Environmental Assessment Council (VEAC) is conducting an assessment of Victoria’s coastal reserves at the request of the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change. A draft report has now been released for public comment. A map of coastal public land use is provided over the page together with details of how to make a submission and how to obtain more information including online maps and a draft inventory of coastal reserves.

Surf Coast Shire

The Surf Coast Shire covers 156,000 hectares and has 73 kilometres of coastline. The main coastal population centres are Lorne, Aireys Inlet, Anglesea and Torquay. Lorne hosts a local port.

The Surf Coast’s population in 2016 was about 29,400 people and is projected to be 45,440 in 2036. Torquay is among the fastest growing coastal areas in Victoria and the area is a very popular visitor location.

Coastal land in Surf Coast

Large sections of public land adjoining and near the coast are protected in national parks and other parks and reserves listed on the National Parks Act 1975. These include Great Otway National Park, Point Addis Marine National Park and Eagle Rock and Point Danger marine sanctuaries.

The National Heritage-listed Great Ocean Road follows much of the coastline between Lorne and Torquay.

Several caravan and camping sites occur on coastal reserves.

Coastal reserves

Some 2,017 hectares of coastal reserves occur in this municipality, much of which extends offshore as protection of the following coastline reserves: Lorne, Anglesea-Lorne, Bells Beach and Torquay-Breamlea coastal protection reserves.

Some 76 per cent of the length of the coastline is coastal reserve for Surf Coast Shire.

Modelling prepared for DELWP’s Victorian Coastal Monitoring Program by Spatial Vision in 2017 provides a measure of coastline vulnerability to erosion. The analysis used attributes such as wave exposure, coastal character, and adaptive capacity (e.g. presence of protective structures).

More detail on this analysis can be found in chapter 7 of VEAC’s Coastal Reserves Assessment – Draft Report .

Within the Surf Coast Shire, just under half (43 per cent) of the coast has a very high or high vulnerability to erosion.

Additional information on predicted climate change effects is described in the Barwon Climate Projections 2019, available on DELWP’s website.
Do you want to know more about coastal reserves?

Detailed descriptions of the values and uses of coastal reserves as well as the reservation information is provided in the Assessment of Victoria’s Coastal Reserves Draft Report – for public comment available for download at www.veac.vic.gov.au.

In addition online interactive maps and a draft inventory of values and uses are also available for each coastal reserve land unit at www.veac.vic.gov.au.

Climate change threats to coastal reserves and the coastline are described in the report and summarised in the inventory.

Would you like to comment on the assessment?

Written submissions are invited on the draft report and associated information. You may make an online submission via VEAC’s website or send your written submission by email or post.

There is no required format for submissions, except that you must provide your name and your contact details.

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How can I keep up to date?

To keep informed about the progress of the assessment, check the VEAC website for updates or like us on Facebook. You can also register your interest by filling in the form on the VEAC website, sending an email or phoning VEAC.

We will email or post out bulletins at key stages during the assessment to inform you of progress and next steps.