

# Assessment of Victoria's Coastal Reserves

## Draft report for public comment

Fact Sheet – Q & As

October 2019

### Why have an assessment of coastal reserves?

The assessment was requested by the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, the Hon Lily D'Ambrosio, to provide information to assist the Victorian government's future planning and decision-making for Victoria's coasts and support the government's marine and coastal reforms.

### What is the purpose of the assessment?

The assessment and associated inventory will provide technical information on the extent and types of coastal reserves (land units), and existing uses and values, including values at risk from the impacts of climate change. See the full terms of reference on the next page.

The assessment does not recommend changes to current uses of coastal reserves.

### What are coastal reserves?

Most coastal Crown land is in national, state or coastal parks, nature reserves, wildlife and state game reserves. Of the remainder, most are coastal reserves of various types, with some others designated for specific uses such as ports.

Coastal reserves are usually narrow strips of Crown land along the shore used for a range of community uses such as recreation and camping. Coastal reserves are managed by DELWP/Parks Victoria, local government or public committees of management. They may be known locally as foreshore reserves, parklands or campgrounds.

Coastal reserves often retain natural values and may contain buildings, facilities or coastal infrastructure.

### Are the Gippsland Lakes considered to be coastal reserves?

Yes, the Gippsland Lakes are generally included for the purposes of this assessment. However some reserves around the lakes such as wildlife and state game reserves or national and coastal parks are not classified as coastal reserves and are excluded.

### What other areas are excluded from the assessment?

Most marine areas are excluded from the assessment except where a coastal reserve includes an offshore portion.

All areas under the *National Parks Act 1975* are excluded.

A list of all exclusions is in appendix 1 of the draft report.

### Where can I get a copy of the draft report, maps and inventory of land units?

The draft report, maps for each coastal municipality and inventory are available online at [www.veac.vic.gov.au](http://www.veac.vic.gov.au).

### Where does the information used in the inventory come from?

VEAC has collated information from a range of data sources. Further details on data sources used to prepare the inventory is available in Coastal Reserves Inventory: Key Datasets and Information Sources available at [VEAC's website](http://www.veac.vic.gov.au).

### How do I make a submission?

Written submissions are now invited on the draft report and associated mapping and inventory. You may make an online submission via [VEAC's website](http://www.veac.vic.gov.au) or send your written submission to VEAC by post or by email (see contact details on the next page).

Submissions will be published on the VEAC website after the close of the submission period. All submissions will be acknowledged.

Submissions close on **Monday 11 November 2019**.

### How can I find out more?

VEAC is holding [information sessions and workshops](#) on the assessment and draft report across the state in mid to late October 2019.

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### What is the consultation process?

Stakeholder consultation is a key part of VEAC's work, tailored to the nature and specific requirements of each investigation or assessment.

For this assessment, the consultation process includes targeted stakeholder consultation on technical information, and one formal submission period on the draft report.

### What is VEAC?

VEAC provides the Victorian government with independent advice on matters related to public land.

VEAC carries out its investigations and assessments and provides advice at the request of the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change. Together the Act and terms of reference provided by the Minister describe how an investigation or assessment must be conducted, including the number of reports to be prepared, matters to be taken into account, timeframes and public consultation.

VEAC is a five-person council appointed by the Victorian government. The members are Ms Janine Haddow (Chairperson), Ms Joanne Duncan, Ms Anna Kilborn, Dr Charles Meredith and Dr Geoffrey Wescott.

### Terms of Reference

Pursuant to section 26B of the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council Act 2001, the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change hereby requests the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council (the Council) to carry out an assessment of Victoria's coastal reserves.

The purpose of the assessment is to:

- a) review the number and types (reservation status) of coastal reserves in Victoria;
- b) identify reserves with high environmental, cultural heritage, social and economic values and identify values at risk from the impacts of climate change;
- c) identify current and emerging uses of the coastal reserves; and
- d) compile an inventory, including spatial distribution, of values and uses of the coastal reserves.

As a first step, the Council is required to publish a definition of coastal reserves to be used in the assessment, including a diagrammatic representation and map of Victoria's coastal reserves.

The assessment and associated inventory will assist the Victorian Government's future planning and decision-making for Victoria's coasts.

The Council must take into account relevant agreements under the Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010.

As part of the assessment, the Council must produce a draft report and seek public comment on it.

The Council must report on the completed assessment by 6 December 2019.

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<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of this assessment, Victoria's coastal reserves include any Crown land along Victoria's coast (including the coast of any bay, inlet and estuary and the Gippsland Lakes) that is:

- a) reserved under section 4(1)(ze) of the Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978 for the protection of the coastline or is otherwise reserved under that Act and is landward of low water mark; or
- b) unreserved Crown land under the Land Act 1958 that is landward of low water mark.

For clarity, Victoria's coastal reserves do not include any Crown land described as a park or marine sanctuary in Schedule 2, 2B, 3, 4, 7 or 8 to the National Parks Act 1975 or any unreserved Crown land from low water mark to the outer limit of Victoria's coastal waters (mostly 3 nautical miles).

### Contact details

Victorian Environmental Assessment Council  
Level 39, 2 Lonsdale St  
GPO Box 527  
Melbourne, Victoria, 3001  
Phone (03) 9637 9902 or  
1800 134 803 (toll free from landline)  
Email [veac@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:veac@delwp.vic.gov.au)

### How can I keep up to date?

To keep informed about the progress of the assessment, check the VEAC website for updates, like us on Facebook or 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 of the assessment to inform you of progress and next steps.