

The image is a full-page background featuring an underwater scene. The top half shows the surface of the water with ripples. The middle section is a dark horizontal band containing white text. Below this, a large underwater photograph shows various marine life, including a prominent orange sea fan, a red sea fan, and other coral structures. The bottom of the page is a solid teal color with white text and logos.

# Point Addis Marine National Park Point Danger Marine Sanctuary Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary

Management Plan October 2005

This Management Plan for Point Addis Marine National Park, Point Danger Marine Sanctuary and Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary is approved for implementation. Its purpose is to direct all aspects of management of the areas until the plan is reviewed.

A Draft Management Plan for the areas was published in November 2004. Eighteen submissions were received and have been considered in preparing this approved Management Plan.

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### **Copies**

This plan may be downloaded from the Parks Victoria website [www.parkweb.vic.gov.au](http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au). Copies of the plan may be purchased for \$8.80 (including GST) from:

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86 Polwarth Road  
Lorne VIC 3232

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**POINT ADDIS MARINE NATIONAL PARK**

**POINT DANGER MARINE SANCTUARY**

**EAGLE ROCK MARINE SANCTUARY**

**MANAGEMENT PLAN**

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Cover: Sponge garden at a depth of around 35m, Point Addis Marine National Park, 2005. Photo: Parks Victoria and the Co-operative Research Centre for Coastal Zone, Estuary and Waterway Management.

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Acknowledgement of *Country*: In their rich culture, Indigenous Australians are intrinsically connected to the continent — including the area now known as Victoria. Parks Victoria recognises that the park is part of *Country* of the Traditional Owners.

Parks Victoria is grateful to all those organisations, agencies and individuals who have contributed to this Management Plan. Special thanks go to members of the Surf Coast Marine Protected Areas Management Plan Advisory Group, Reg Abrahams, Steve Cameron, Ian Edwards, Beck Hull, Nicole Maher, Craig McKiernan, Michael Noelker, Marg O'Toole, Tracey Pennington, Alan Ray, Paul Rebbechie, Kate Robertson, Graeme Stockton, Neil Tucker and John Turner.

Note: Technical terms used in this plan are explained in the **Glossary** at the end of the plan.

## Disclaimers

This plan is prepared without prejudice to any negotiations or litigated outcome of any native title determination applications covering land or water within the plan's area. It is acknowledged that any future outcomes of native title determination applications may necessitate amendment of this plan; and the implementation of this plan may require further notifications under the procedures in Division 3 of Part 2 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cwlth).

The plan is also prepared without prejudice to any future negotiated outcomes between the Government/s and Victorian Aboriginal communities. It is acknowledged that such negotiated outcomes may necessitate amendment of this plan.

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this plan is accurate. Parks Victoria does not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence, which may arise from you relying on any information in the publication.

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## FOREWORD

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Point Addis Marine National Park, Point Danger Marine Sanctuary and Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary are some of Victoria's newest parks. Each of these areas is unique but also forms an important part of Victoria's system of Marine National Parks and Sanctuaries.

These areas protect a range of marine habitats and provide visitors with the opportunity to experience and discover marine environments. Point Addis Marine National Park includes large areas of reef and sand habitats as well as the world famous Bells Beach. Point Danger Marine Sanctuary contains an accessible, fascinating and diverse intertidal reef. Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary is simply spectacular, above and below the water.

Indigenous communities, particularly the Wathaurong, have an ancient connection to this sea *Country* and aspire to maintain and build on this cultural connection.

Preparation of a scientific foundation for management is now underway however the long term protection of these areas will also need the support of all those who live and play on the Surf Coast.

The people of Aireys Inlet, Anglesea, Torquay and surrounding communities have been actively involved in the development of this management plan. I wish to thank the Surf Coast Marine Protected Areas Management Plan Advisory Group and other members of the community for their valuable contribution and I look forward to the community's ongoing support for the management of the park and sanctuaries.

Hon. John Thwaites MP  
Minister for Environment

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## APPROVED MANAGEMENT PLAN

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This Management Plan has been prepared under section 17D of the *National Parks Act 1975* (Vic.) and is approved for implementation.

The plan provides the basis for the future management of Point Addis Marine National Park, Point Danger Marine Sanctuary and Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary.

It was finalised following consideration of the 18 submissions received on the Draft Management Plan.

PROF LYNDSEY NEILSON  
Secretary to the  
Department of Sustainability and Environment

MICHONNE VAN REES  
Acting Chief Executive  
Parks Victoria

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## INTRODUCTION TO THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT

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Victorians are custodians of some of the most remarkable, diverse, and culturally important marine environments on Earth. These include deep open water, shallow embayments, rocky reefs, canyons, seagrass meadows, tidal sandflats and mudflats, and estuaries, and they support more than 12 000 known species. Around 90% of these marine species are found only in the waters of southern Australia.

Broadly speaking, Victoria has responsibility for the waters which extend off-shore to three nautical miles and cover around 70 000 square kilometres. Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries make up about 5% of this area, but protect a range of significant species and important habitats, as well as maritime artefacts and evidence of past Indigenous occupation and use.

The vast three-dimensional marine environment has characteristics that are very different from those of the land and atmosphere. The fundamental physical properties — pressure, temperature, salinity, density and availability of nutrients and gases — are all very different. There are also great differences in the types of substrates, and the physical and biological processes that occur, such as tides, currents, light penetration, erosion, sedimentation, oxygen uptake, life cycles and even the food chains.

The organisms that occupy the marine environment are different as well. On land vascular plants dominate, but in marine habitats they are very rare, occurring only in very shallow water on sheltered coastlines. In most marine environments their ecological roles in photosynthesis and oxygen production are undertaken by algae, which range in size from giant kelps to minute single-celled species. Other single-celled organisms such as diatoms, cyanobacteria, dinoflagellates and forams, together with invertebrate larvae and marine fungi, make up most of the abundant marine plankton that is the basis of all marine food chains.

As on land, invertebrates, including molluscs (e.g. octopus, abalone, snails), crustaceans (e.g. crabs, lobsters, tiny amphipods) and echinoderms (e.g. sea cucumbers, sea stars and

sea urchins), dominate the marine fauna. But insects — the most abundant invertebrates on land — are almost absent. The dominant vertebrates are fish, although mammals and reptiles also inhabit the marine environment and many birds inhabit both realms.

Although they are very different physically and biologically, the land, atmosphere and marine environments are interconnected. Water and gases are transferred between oceans and the atmosphere. There are animals with both marine and freshwater life stages, and some species breed in estuaries where fresh water from the land mixes with oceanic salt water. Fresh water and sediments from catchments far inland are dispersed into coastal waters, bringing with them nutrients needed to maintain inshore marine ecosystems but also pollution from human activities.

The sea interconnects marine habitats over great distances. Tides and currents move sediments, plankton and organic matter into and through habitats, along with flotsam, jetsam, ballast water and oils from catchments or inshore waters, released from ships on the open seas or washed from the shores of other countries. Many marine animals migrate long distances, passing freely into and out of Victorian waters and spending much of their lives in the open ocean.

### **A vision for Victoria's system of Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries**

*'A world-class system of Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries that conserves the diversity of Victoria's marine environments, protected and enjoyed by Victorians and visitors, forever.'*

This vision for Victoria's system of Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries is detailed in the *Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries Management Strategy 2003–2010* (Parks Victoria 2003). It is described in the following extract:

'The vision for Victoria's system of Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries is to maintain marine ecosystems in their natural state, enjoyed by visitors and protected from the effects of inappropriate activities. The

system will safeguard representative examples of undisturbed natural marine habitats, respect cultural heritage values, and be a place of inspiration, enjoyment and renewal for all people. The system will complement our world-class national parks system on land.

This vision aims to preserve the diversity of our marine environment, its flora and fauna, its natural beauty, and the diversity of activities that may be enjoyed there. It is a vision that invites all Victorians to become involved, to take pride in our Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries, and to share in their stewardship.

### **Contribution of the park and sanctuaries to the statewide system**

Point Addis Marine National Park, Point Danger Marine Sanctuary and Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary each make an important contribution to the statewide system. Point Addis Marine National Park contains sandy beaches and offshore reefs with abundant marine life. Point Danger Marine Sanctuary has an extensive intertidal reef, and a variety of invertebrates, including some significant sea slug species. Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary includes a spectacular rock stack, shore platforms, pools and fissures providing a variety of habitats for sponges, algae and invertebrates.

### **Implications for management**

The differences and connections in the marine environment mean that Victoria's Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries must be managed somewhat differently from land

environments. Natural, recreational and cultural values may be affected by the use of both land and marine areas some distance away, over which park and sanctuary managers have no direct control. Impacts on one marine habitat can quickly affect another, and human activities and natural events on land and in the atmosphere can have widespread consequences for the marine environment. Boundaries in the ocean can be difficult to define, and the effects of human activities can be hidden from view. Like the atmosphere, but in contrast to land, the marine environment is a common resource which is rarely in private ownership, and there are few natural or artificial barriers to movement. Many of the strategies used to concentrate the impacts of recreational activities in terrestrial parks (e.g. the creation of walking tracks and picnic areas) are not feasible in the marine context.

Conserving cultural places is also a challenge because it is difficult to identify an underwater place or monitor activities that take place on the open sea or under water. Sea *Country*, and cultural association to, or past use of, underwater places which were exposed before the sea level rose, must also be considered.

The long-term protection of the Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries relies on the support and goodwill of the community, together with the help of coastal managers and government agencies. The plan seeks to foster a strong sense of custodianship of the park and sanctuaries and to strengthen their protection while respecting cultural and community associations with the areas.



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## SUMMARY

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This Management Plan encompasses three marine protected areas located on Victoria's Surf Coast, west of Geelong;

- Point Addis Marine National Park (4 600 ha)
- Point Danger Marine Sanctuary (25 ha)
- Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary (17 ha).

Point Addis Marine National Park protects representative samples of subtidal soft sediments, subtidal rocky reef, Rhodolith beds and intertidal rocky reef habitats. The park also provides habitat for a range of invertebrates, fish, algae, birds and wildlife.

Point Danger Marine Sanctuary and Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary are small, accessible sites that enable people to see marine life and learn about Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries.

Indigenous tradition indicates that the planning area is part of the *Country* of the Wathaurong people and that Indigenous people had a long association with this region.

Many cultural sites along this retreating coastline are now submerged or damaged by natural processes, but the spiritual relevance of sea *Country*, the coast, and marine life is of fundamental importance to the Indigenous people of the area.

Wrecks of European and American vessels within the planning area were part of the international shipping which sailed in these waters during the 19th century.

The park and sanctuaries will be managed as world-class marine protected areas for conservation and appropriate recreation consistent with their status. They contribute to the overall maintenance of marine biodiversity in the Central Victorian Marine Bioregion, protecting a range of threatened marine mammals, shorebirds and associated habitats.

The park and sanctuaries offer opportunities for visitors to enjoy the coastal scenery of the Great Ocean Road, explore rock pools and underwater scenery or undertake water sports.

The world-famous surfing destination of Bells Beach is within Point Addis Marine National Park.

Future management will seek to protect the overall biodiversity of the marine ecological communities within the park and sanctuaries. This will require a sound basis of scientific knowledge. Management will also be based on a foundation of ongoing community support, including agency partnerships.

Major management directions for the park and sanctuaries include the following:

- Baseline information about marine biodiversity, marine habitats, threatening processes and management requirements will be progressively developed.
- Bells Beach will remain a surfing icon, protected and accessible for recreational and competitive surfers.
- Increased awareness of the park and sanctuaries in the community will ensure that their locations and values become well known.
- Visitors will enjoy opportunities to observe marine life, enjoy water sports and learn about the park and sanctuaries.
- Indigenous cultural lore, interests in and aspirations for the planning area will be acknowledged, respected and reflected in planning and management, in cooperation with relevant Indigenous communities.
- Community and interest groups, including Indigenous communities, will be encouraged and supported to become actively involved in areas of park and sanctuary management that relate to their interests.

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

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## 1.1 Location and planning area

The planning area comprises Point Addis Marine National Park, Point Danger Marine Sanctuary and Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary. These are on the Victorian Surf Coast, about 100 km south-west of Melbourne (figure 1).

Point Addis Marine National Park (4600 ha) is about 25 km south-west of Geelong. It extends offshore from high water mark along 10 km of coastline east of Anglesea, around Point Addis to the eastern end of, and including, Bells Beach, and offshore approximately three nautical miles to the limit of Victorian waters (figure 2). The park includes all waters within these boundaries and extends 200 metres beneath the sea bed.

Point Danger Marine Sanctuary (25 ha) is 20 km south-west of Geelong, close to the township of Torquay and nearby Jan Juc (figure 3). It extends from the high water mark at Point Danger offshore for approximately 600 metres east and 400 metres south, encompassing an offshore rock platform.

Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary (17 ha) is about 40 km south-west of Geelong, close to Aireys Inlet (figure 4). The sanctuary extends from high water mark around Split Point between Castle Rock and Sentinel Rock. It extends offshore for about 300 metres and includes Eagle Rock and Table Rock.

## 1.2 Creation of the park and sanctuaries

Point Addis Marine National Park, Point Danger Marine Sanctuary and Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary form part of the system of 13 Marine National Parks and 11 Marine Sanctuaries in Victorian waters. The selection of these areas was based on more than 10 years of research, investigation and community consultation by the former Land Conservation Council (LCC) and Environment Conservation Council (ECC), summarised in the *Marine, Coastal and Estuarine Investigation Final Report* (ECC 2000). The recommendations of the ECC accepted by government (Government of Victoria 2002) included reservation of the new park and sanctuaries under the *National Parks Act 1975* (Vic.).

Point Addis Marine National Park was included on Schedule 7 of the National Parks Act and Point Danger Marine Sanctuary and Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary were included on Schedule 8 on 16 November 2002 (appendix 1).

When created, much stronger penalties were applied for all forms of fishing, including shellfish collection in Marine National Parks or Marine Sanctuaries, than apply for taking or damaging fauna, plants or objects from these areas.

The park and sanctuaries include areas between the high and low water mark that were formerly included in coastal reserves.

## 1.3 Plan development

This first Management Plan for the park and the sanctuaries was prepared by Parks Victoria, with significant input from the Surf Coast Marine Protected Areas Management Plan Advisory Group and other stakeholders. It takes into account existing information, reports and research findings that relate to the planning area and is informed and supported by a range of best practice management systems.

Public forums at Torquay, Anglesea and Aireys Inlet during the development of the plan were conducted to inform and involve interested residents. Many meetings were undertaken with interested individuals and government agency representatives. The Draft Management Plan was circulated among a large group of individuals, government agencies and stakeholders. ‘Have your say’ posters explaining the management plan were also displayed on local community noticeboards.

The strategies outlined in this plan have been guided by the statewide *Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries Management Strategy 2003–2010* (Parks Victoria 2003a).

The plan is a strategic guide for future management of the park and the sanctuaries. As a public document, the plan establishes how Parks Victoria will protect the natural and cultural values of the park and sanctuaries, and describes the services and facilities that will be

provided to help visitors to enjoy, appreciate and understand the park and sanctuaries in ways that are consistent with this. The plan also serves to inform and encourage cooperative land management and participation in community-based programs between Parks Victoria and the managers of areas adjacent to the park and sanctuaries.

As a working document for the park and sanctuaries, the plan informs Parks Victoria's development of Corporate Plans, serves as a framework for subsequent detailed planning and governs management activities.

This Final Plan was published as a Draft Plan for public comment in 2004, and a total of 18 submissions were received (appendix 2).

Additional information and comments received were carefully considered and where necessary, further consultation with the community and stakeholders was undertaken. Issues raised in submissions related to access to Eagle Rock, dog access and a number of matters of detail requiring further clarification, including implementation of the plan. Where appropriate, the final plan was amended in

response to comments received. Key changes from the draft to the final plan include:

- maintaining access to the base of Eagle Rock for walking and exploring rockpools
- establishing mechanisms to better manage and monitor visits by schools groups and monitor trampling impacts at Point Danger
- permitting appropriate Defence Forces training activities
- greater detail about plan implementation, reporting, performance measuring and evaluation at the end of the plan
- clarification of the role of Parks Victoria and other government agencies.

The Final Plan has also been updated in relation to the creation of the proposed Great Otway National Park.

When approved by the Secretary to DSE and the Minister for Environment, the final management plan will direct future management of the park and sanctuaries, until reviewed.

### 2.1 Regional context

Point Addis Marine National Park, Point Danger Marine Sanctuary and Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary form part of a representative system of 21 other Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries in Victoria, established within the broader context of the National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas (NRSMPA). The NRSMPA contributes to the establishment of a global representative system of marine protected areas (TFMPA 1998).

The park and sanctuaries are three of eight marine protected areas in the Central Victorian Marine Bioregion identified by the Interim Marine and Coastal Regionalisation for Australia (IMCRA). This regionalisation identifies 60 marine bioregions, five of which apply to Victorian waters (ANZECC 1998).

The Central Victorian Marine Bioregion extends from Cape Otway to west of Wilsons Promontory. It does not include Port Phillip Bay and Western Port, or the offshore waters of Bass Strait. It is characterised by steep to very steep offshore gradients, sandy beaches and cliffs. Sea surface temperatures are representative of Bass Strait waters, and wave energy is moderate (ANZECC 1998).

Indigenous tradition indicates that the planning area is part of the *Country* of the Wathaurong people and that Indigenous people had a long association with this region.

The park and sanctuaries adjoin the Corangamite Catchment and are within the Corangamite Catchment Region, which is overseen by the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority. There are several minor estuaries and creeks nearby. Land use within the Corangamite catchment is predominantly agricultural, although urban development is rapidly expanding.

The area surrounding the park and sanctuaries, known as the Surf Coast, is typified by a spectacular coastal landscape of forests, heathlands, coastal headlands, beaches and surf. The Great Ocean Road is an internationally recognised touring route that starts on the Surf Coast and is the major land

access route for each of the parks and sanctuaries. A series of lookouts along the Great Ocean Road introduces people touring along the Great Ocean Road to the park and sanctuaries. Coastal views, sandy beaches and numerous surf breaks are major attractions.

The park and sanctuaries and the adjacent foreshore are within the Surf Coast Shire. The Surf Coast Walk follows the coast, linking Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary to Point Addis Marine National Park and Point Danger Marine Sanctuary. The proposed Great Otway National Park adjoins Point Addis Marine National Park.

The planning area is within Tourism Victoria's Great Ocean Road product region. A range of camping and other accommodation is available close to the park and sanctuaries at Torquay, Anglesea and Aireys Inlet and surrounding areas. In 2004 there were 4.9 million day visitors, 2.6 million overnight visitors and 160 000 international visitors to the Great Ocean Road Region (Tourism Victoria 2003). Tourism accounts for 53% of all employment in the Surf Coast Shire (Essential Economics 2002).

This region is increasingly recognised for offering attractive lifestyles centred on beaches, parks, a healthy marine environment and a relatively undeveloped coastline. The region is around two hours' drive from Melbourne and has been a popular weekend destination for Victorians for many years.

The planning area protects approximately 25% of the coastline between Torquay and Aireys Inlet, and is complemented by a number of nearby parks, including the proposed Great Otway National Park which will incorporate Angahook–Lorne State Park, and Anglesea Heath, as well as a range of other natural attractions such as flora reserves, foreshore reserves, beaches, estuaries and the open ocean.

### 2.2 Park and sanctuary significance and values

Point Addis Marine National Park, Point Danger Marine Sanctuary and Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary make a valuable

contribution to Victoria's parks system, which aims to protect viable representative samples of the State's natural marine and terrestrial environments. Parks and sanctuaries also provide opportunities for visitors to enjoy and appreciate natural and cultural values, and many make important contributions to tourism.

Point Addis Marine National Park is assigned the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) Category II (National Parks) of the United Nations' List of National Parks and Protected Areas. Category II areas are managed primarily for ecosystem protection and recreation.

Point Danger Marine Sanctuary and Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary are assigned the IUCN Category III (Natural Monument). Category III areas are managed primarily for conservation of specific natural features.

In recognition of the area's outstanding values and its heritage importance, the coastline between Aireys Inlet and Urquhart Bluff, including the intertidal zone within Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary, is listed on the Register of the National Estate. The Bells Beach Surfing Reserve and the adjacent beach within Point Addis Marine National Park are listed on the Register of the National Estate in recognition of their cultural significance to surfing.

The area included in the park and sanctuaries is significant to many people in the community. As a part of *Country*, the area is of particular significance to the Traditional Owners and other Indigenous communities. Particular places may be intrinsic elements of *Country* and of critical importance to the welfare of Traditional Owners connected to the area by cultural lore.

Seascapes associated with the planning area, as well as middens and geographic features nearby, are culturally and spiritually important.

The park and sanctuaries also have special significance to other communities, particularly local residents and the surfing community.

Parks Victoria respects the tradition and customs that connect community groups to the park and sanctuaries, particularly those of Indigenous and local communities.

Important values of the park and sanctuaries are listed below.

#### **Natural values**

- Sandy beaches, subtidal soft sediments, subtidal rocky reefs, Rhodolith beds and intertidal reefs.
- Several prominent reefs, including the Ingoldsby system within Point Addis Marine National Park.
- Eagle Rock, a rock stack of geological significance.
- A high diversity of algal, invertebrate and fish species.
- A high diversity of sea slug and other invertebrate communities within Point Danger Marine Sanctuary.

#### **Cultural values**

- Evidence of a long history of Indigenous use, including many Indigenous places and objects adjacent to the park and sanctuaries near dunes, headlands, estuaries and creeks.
- Surf breaks, including those at Bells Beach, which are culturally important to many people associated with surfing.
- Coastal seascapes of significance for many who live in the area or visit.

#### **Recreational and tourism values**

- Numerous surf breaks, including the internationally recognised Bells Beach.
- Spectacular underwater scenery for snorkelling and scuba diving.
- Intertidal areas for exploring rock pools.
- Opportunities for a range of recreational activities.
- A spectacular seascape complementing well-known visitor experiences on the Great Ocean Road.



## 2.3 Evidence of past use

The coastline adjoining the park and sanctuaries contains many middens, remnants of campsites used by Indigenous people, who have a long association with the area (section 5.1).

Surfing and other water sports have long been associated with the area.

Access to the coast improved in the 1930s with the completion of the Great Ocean Road. Several coastal towns on the Surf Coast have since become established holiday destinations, and fishing, sight-seeing and boating have become more popular. Beach activities, surfing and other water sports have become much more popular since the 1970s.

Rock lobster and abalone have been the main traditional commercial species in the area. Mesh netting for fish has also been undertaken on a small scale. Recreational fishing has included surf fishing, boat-based fishing and abalone diving.

During the 1800s many emigrant and commercial ships from Great Britain sailed near or through the area after negotiating the treacherous Southern Ocean and passing Cape Otway, bound for Melbourne. There are two known shipwrecks in Point Addis Marine National Park and one in Point Danger Marine Sanctuary (section 5.2). The Split Point Lighthouse, adjacent to Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary, was an important navigational beacon.

A jetty at Jarosite Reef was used to load ships with mineral jarosite after it was mined and processed on shore, adjacent to Point Addis Marine National Park. The area around Point Addis was also used by the RAAF as a gunnery and rocketry range from 1942 to 1960.

Local committees of management formerly managed some intertidal parts of the park and sanctuaries. The people serving on the committees have a long association and strong connection with these areas. Past managers include:

- Point Addis Marine National Park — Anglesea Foreshore Committee of Management, Surf Coast Shire and the Department of Sustainability and Environment.

- Point Danger Marine Sanctuary — Torquay Public Reserves Committee of Management.
- Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary — Aireys Inlet Foreshore Committee of Management.

## 2.4 The park or sanctuary visitor

The Surf Coast is a thriving community and is a significant and growing tourist destination based around the Great Ocean Road. Traditionally visitation has peaked in the holiday period between January and March, but it has become less seasonal in recent years (Tourism Victoria 2003).

The townships of Torquay, Jan Juc, Anglesea and Aireys Inlet make up a significant portion of the Surf Coast Shire, which has a population of 19 600. The population of the Shire has grown by 3.2 % per annum over recent years, making it one of the fastest growing shires in Victoria (ABS 2000).

The *Regional Tourism Development Plan – Great Ocean Road 2003–2007* (Tourism Victoria 2004) is a blueprint for future tourism needs in the region. Geelong Otway Tourism provides programs to support tourism development in the region. Key challenges for the region include protecting the environment, maintaining visitor satisfaction, ensuring community acceptance, maintaining targeted and sustainable industry growth and industry profitability, and improving the efficiency of energy consumption.

There are several popular tourism attractions within or adjacent to the park and sanctuaries, including Point Danger, Bells Beach, Point Addis and Split Point. These destinations are generally not associated with areas of special conservation value such as national parks.

Many visitors participate in vehicle-based sightseeing, walking on beaches, surfing and other water sports and beach activities. There are also opportunities also exist for scuba diving, snorkelling and exploring rock pools.

Point Addis Marine National Park attracts surfers to Bells Beach, spectators to major surfing competitions such as the Rip Curl Pro, vehicle-based sightseers and beachgoers. The beach and adjacent Surf Coast Walk are popular with locals and visitors to the area.

Point Danger Marine Sanctuary attracts vehicle-based sightseers and visitors who walk onto the reef at low tide to walk, play in the shallows or explore rock pools. Under favourable conditions the sanctuary is used for kite surfing, sailboarding, surfing and sea-kayaking.

Scenic lookouts at Split Point above Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary are a popular stop-off point for travelling tourists. The beach and adjacent Aireys Inlet Cliff Walk and other walking tracks are popular with locals and visitors to Aireys Inlet.

## 2.5 Legislation and ECC recommendations

### Legislation

Point Addis Marine National Park, Point Danger Marine Sanctuary and Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary are reserved and managed under the National Parks Act. The Act requires the Secretary to DSE to preserve and protect the natural condition of the park and sanctuaries and their natural and other features and, subject to this, to provide for the use of the park and sanctuaries by the public for enjoyment, recreation and education. Appropriate research activities are also provided for under the Act.

The National Parks (Park) Regulations 2003 apply to the park and sanctuaries. All forms of extraction, including recreational and commercial fishing and shellfish collection, are prohibited within the park and sanctuaries under the National Parks Act and regulations. A Statewide Compliance Strategy and a Regional Compliance Plan have been developed in partnership with the Fisheries Victoria – Department of Primary Industries to manage compliance with the no-fishing provisions within the park (section 8.3).

The objects and provisions of the National Parks Act set the framework for the management of the park and sanctuaries (appendix 1). Specific legislation and ECC recommendations accepted by government also govern particular aspects of management of the park and sanctuaries, as described below and in subsequent sections of the plan.

The *Coastal Management Act 1995* (Vic.) applies to the use and development of the whole of the planning area.

The *Archaeological and Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act 1972* (Vic.) and the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984* (Cwlth) apply to the park and sanctuaries and protect all Aboriginal cultural heritage values, including places and objects (section 5.1).

The *Native Title Act 1993* (Cwlth) applies to the management of the park and sanctuaries.

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cwlth) applies to the whole of the planning area with respect to actions that have, will have or are likely to have significant impact on matters of national environmental significance.

The *Parks Victoria Act 1988* (Vic.) enables management services for the park and sanctuaries to be provided by Parks Victoria on behalf of the Secretary to DSE.

### ECC recommendations

The ECC's *Marine, Coastal and Estuarine Investigation* (ECC 2000) recommended the creation of the park and sanctuaries, and management in accordance with the general recommendations for Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries. Point Addis Marine National Park was recommended as one of two marine national parks in the Central bioregion and for the world famous Bells Beach. Point Danger Marine Sanctuary was recommended for the ecological values of the intertidal area, particularly the diversity of sea slugs (opisthobranchs). Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary was recommended for the opportunities it provides to observe marine life.

The ECC recommendations, accepted by Government in 2002 (Government of Victoria 2002), included specific recommendations (R38A and R38B) with respect to uses and activities that should be permitted and prohibited in Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries and broader recommendations, including the following:

- R3 Planning and management relating to traditional interests and uses in coastal marine areas to be based on recognition and respect for the traditional relationship of Aboriginal people with the land and sea.

R13 Further research to be undertaken on biological community composition and structure, both within and external to marine protected areas, with an emphasis on assessing the impacts of harvesting marine fauna.

R14 Assessments to be made and strategies developed for protection of vulnerable or threatened marine species and communities, using the provisions of the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (Vic.) as appropriate.

R18 Measures to be implemented by responsible agencies to reduce the risk of marine pest species arriving in Victoria, and to ensure a rapid and effective response in the event of an introduction.

R26 Public land and waters continue to be available for a wide range of tourism and recreational uses. Development should not preclude public access to foreshore and offshore areas, other than to meet safety and security requirements that cannot be achieved in other ways.

R34 Priority be given to establishing monitoring programs for marine national parks to determine the extent to which these areas are meeting their objectives.

## 2.6 Policies and guidelines

The planning area is also managed in accordance with Parks Victoria's operational policies and, as appropriate, with other relevant policies and guidelines, including:

- *Victoria's System of Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries Management Strategy 2003–2010* (Parks Victoria 2003a)

- *Indigenous Partnerships Strategy: Draft for Discussion* (Parks Victoria 2004a)
- *Victoria's Biodiversity Strategy* (NRE 1997)
- *National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development* (COAG 1992)
- *National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity* (ANZECC 2001)
- *Heritage Management Strategy* (Parks Victoria 2003b).

The planning area is also managed within the broader context of a number of other plans and strategies, including:

- *Nature Based Tourism - Directions and Opportunities for Victoria 2000–2003* (Tourism Victoria 2000)
- *Policy for Sustainable Recreation and Tourism on Victoria's Public Land* (NRE 2002)
- *Victorian Coastal Strategy* (VCC 2002)
- *Corangamite Regional Catchment Management Strategy* (Corangamite CMA 2003)
- *Regional Development Plan Great Ocean Road 2004–2007* (Tourism Victoria 2004)
- *The Great Ocean Road Region Strategy* (DSE 2004c)
- *Victorian Heritage Strategy — Shipwrecks 2005* (Heritage Victoria 2000).

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## 3 STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

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### 3.1 Park vision

A future visitor to Point Addis Marine National Park, Point Danger Marine Sanctuary or Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary will discover a seascape of timeless beauty, scenic and unspoilt beaches, spectacular surf and magnificent underwater scenery. The park and sanctuaries are recognised and celebrated as the finest marine environments on the Surf Coast.

A sound scientific basis for management helps protect and conserve marine biodiversity in and around these areas. Research and monitoring programs have created a depth of knowledge to guide management. The regional marine environment has benefited from the creation of the park and sanctuaries, so that it remains in excellent condition and is full of life.

The park and sanctuaries are places to discover and learn. People of all ages are amazed at the abundance and diversity of marine life and are captivated by fascinating interpretive programs within the parks and at facilities outside them.

Many surfers enjoy Bells Beach, which retains its natural character and remains Australia's premier surf break. Point Addis Marine National Park has become synonymous with recreational and competitive surfing in Australia. The cooperative management program at Bells Beach is a model for sustainable, high-level use of marine protected areas, and introduces new generations of surfers to the benefits of natural resource conservation.

Friends groups and other community groups actively support the management of the park and sanctuaries through education, community awareness programs, monitoring and other activities. Local communities work cooperatively with Parks Victoria and are staunchly protective of these areas, and illegal activities are rare. Innovative, local, community-driven action in pollution abatement, education and public awareness reflect a broadening and ongoing commitment

to the protection of a much-loved marine environment.

Partners in management include the Surf Coast Shire, the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority, Barwon Water, the Department of Sustainability and Environment and the Department of Primary Industries. Cooperative projects span administrative boundaries and provide clear, coordinated and integrated management of the coastal zone.

Natural processes within the park and sanctuaries continue without significant intervention. Ecosystems remain undisturbed and are a secure haven for local marine flora and fauna.

Local residents and coastal management partners are proud of their park and sanctuaries, and look confidently towards passing on a protected and enhanced marine environment to the next generation.

### 3.2 Zoning

A park management zoning scheme is normally used to define areas where various types and levels of use are appropriate. However, management zones do not need to be defined in Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries because the management aims for these areas are clearly outlined in the National Parks Act and are consistent across all Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries (section 2.5 and appendix 1).

Two special management overlays are used to highlight areas requiring special protection or special management.

- Point Addis Marine National Park — Addiscot Beach Prescribed Nudity Area
- Point Danger Marine Sanctuary — Point Danger Marine Sanctuary Sail-powered Only Area.

The overlay characteristics are listed in table 1. The boundaries of the overlays are shown in figures 2 and 3.

**TABLE 1 MANAGEMENT OVERLAYS**

OVERLAY	AREA / LOCATION	VALUES	GENERAL MANAGEMENT AIM
Sea-use designation			
- Addiscot Beach Prescribed Nudity Area	Approximately 10 ha at Addiscot Beach, < 1% of Point Addis Marine National Park.	Natural area for recreation.	Provide for use of the area for optional dressing in accordance with the <i>Nudity (Prescribed Area) Act 1983</i> (Vic.).
- Point Danger Sail-powered Only Area	Approximately 10 ha, which is 40% of the Point Danger Marine Sanctuary area.	Area for sail-powered recreational activities.	Provide for water sports in the gazetted area in accordance with section 15 of the <i>Marine Act 1988</i> (Vic.).

### 3.3 Management directions

Major management directions for the park and sanctuaries are outlined below.

#### Natural values conservation

- Natural processes, including disturbance, recruitment, predation and competition, will be protected to ensure an overall benefit to the biodiversity and the variety of ecological communities in the park and sanctuaries.
- The roosting and feeding habitat value of the intertidal areas in the planning area and in particular Eagle Rock will be maintained as habitat for shorebirds.
- The seagrass areas will be maintained, subject to natural ecological processes.
- Compliance with legislated provisions that prohibit extractive activities, including fishing and shellfish collection, will be ensured through education, information, community support, and adequate surveillance and enforcement.
- Research and monitoring to improve the scientific basis for management, including baseline data collection, marine habitat mapping and threat assessment, will be undertaken as outlined in the statewide Management Strategy (Parks Victoria 2003a) and through collaborative research links.
- Parks Victoria will cooperate with Barwon Water, the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority and the Surf Coast Shire in the management of catchment derived impacts.

- Identified threats to the park and sanctuaries will be minimised through ongoing risk assessment and, where feasible, complementary adjacent, coastal and catchment management.

#### Cultural values conservation

- Indigenous places and objects will be protected from interference or damaging activities.
- The relevant Indigenous communities' cultural lore, interests, rights and aspirations relating to the planning area will be respected, promoted and reflected in all planning and management, in accordance with legislation and policies.
- Shipwrecks and relics will be conserved by protecting them from damaging or inappropriate activities.

#### The park and sanctuary visit

- Surf breaks, including those at Bells Beach will remain, protected and accessible for recreational and competitive surfers.
- Visitors' enjoyment and understanding will be enhanced by appropriate management of recreational activities.
- Recreational opportunities will be permitted in accordance with table 2.
- Visitors will be encouraged to adopt minimal impact techniques and to adhere to industry-developed standards appropriate to their activity.

**TABLE 2 SUMMARY OF RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>PARK/ SANCTUARIES</b>	<b>POINT DANGER SAIL-POWERED ONLY AREA (40% OF POINT DANGER MARINE SANCTUARY)</b>	<b>ADDISCOT BEACH PRESCRIBED NUDITY AREA (&lt; 1% OF POINT ADDIS MARINE NATIONAL PARK)</b>
Anchoring	Y (section 6.3)	Y	Y
Bait collecting	N	N	N
Bird watching	Y	Y	Y
Boat launching	Y (section 6.3)	Y	Y
Camping	N	N	N
Cycling	N	N/A	N/A
Diving & snorkelling (including wreck diving)	Y	Y	Y
Dogs on lead	Y (section 6.6)	Y	Y
Education / guided activities	Y (section 6.10)	Y	Y
Feeding wildlife	N	N	N
Fires on beaches	N	N	N
Fishing (all forms)	N	N	N
Fossil collection	N	N	N
Horse riding	N	N	N
Kite surfing / wind surfing	Y	Y	Y
Launching hang-gliders or para-gliders	N	N	N
Landing hang-gliders or para-gliders	Y* (section 6.8)	N	Y
Licensed tours	Y (section 6.10)	Y	Y
Mooring	N	N	N
Motorised boating (including PWCs / Jetskis)	Y (section 6.3)	N	Y
Motor vehicles on beaches	N	N	N
Nature observation (exploring beaches and rockpools)	Y	Y	Y
Nature photography etc.	Y	Y	Y
Non-motorised boating	Y (section 6.3)	Y	Y
Nude bathing	N	N	Y
Picnicking	Y	Y	Y
Powered aircraft, sea planes, ultralights – launching and landing	N	N	N
Prospecting and metal detecting	N	N	N
Rockclimbing / abseiling	N	N/A	N/A
Sailing	Y	Y	Y
Scenic viewing	Y	Y	Y
Sea-kayaking	Y (section 6.3)	Y	Y

Table 2 (contd.)

ACTIVITY	PARK/ SANCTUARIES	POINT DANGER SAIL- POWERED ONLY AREA (40% OF POINT DANGER MARINE SANCTUARY)	ADDISCOT BEACH PRESCRIBED NUDITY AREA (< 1% OF POINT ADDIS MARINE NATIONAL PARK)
Shell collecting	N	N	N
Surfing	Y (sections 6.7 & 6.9)	Y	Y
Swimming	Y	Y	Y
Walking (beach/rockpools)	Y	Y	Y

## KEY:

Y Yes, subject to overlay prescriptions and conditions prescribed by legislation, permits or elsewhere in the plan as indicated.

N Not permitted.

N/A Not applicable.

\* Landing permitted only in Point Addis Marine National Park

- Sustainable regional tourism initiatives that are compatible with management objectives for the park and sanctuaries will be supported.

**Community awareness and involvement**

- Friends, volunteers, Indigenous and community groups will be encouraged and supported to participate in areas of park management that relate to their interests.
- An awareness and understanding of the park and its management, and a sense of ownership and custodianship, will be encouraged among local communities and visitors.
- Strong relationships will be further developed and maintained with people, communities and groups with strong associations with or interests in the park and sanctuaries, as a basis for encouraging their participation in aspects of the management of the park and sanctuaries, as appropriate.

- A strong collaborative relationship will be further developed with relevant Indigenous communities to facilitate the reflection of Traditional Owners cultural lore and interests, rights and aspirations for the park and sanctuaries, in its planning and management.
- Collaborative partnerships will be established with relevant agencies to ensure ongoing compliance and future protection of the planning area.
- There will be ongoing opportunities for individuals, communities and government agencies to discuss aspirations and issues of mutual concern relating to the park and sanctuaries.

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## 4 STRATEGIES FOR NATURAL VALUES CONSERVATION

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### 4.1 Geological and geomorphological features

Geological processes have shaped the characteristics of the sea floor, such as the location and composition of reefs and sediments. During periods of lower sea levels, rivers helped shape the area, while in more recent times the area's high-energy wave action has progressively eroded the coast and underwater features. The seabed of the Surf Coast is characterised by a shallow plain sloping gently up from depths of approximately 60 metres, and intertidal reefs composed mostly of limestone.

Limited hydrogeographical data is available for this area, which the Australian Hydrographic Service has classified as being inadequately surveyed. The geological features of the park and sanctuaries are key determinants of the habitats available for benthic biota (section 4.4). Depth, the compositions of substrates and locations of reefs may also be important in managing threatening processes such as pollution.

Coastal modifications, such as stormwater infrastructure, have the potential to impact on geological values through changes to natural patterns of erosion and deposition.

#### Point Addis Marine National Park

The deeper waters of the park contain sand sediments in the east, with lower-profile reef and cobble towards the west. Ingoldsby Reef is one of the longest shallow offshore reefs in Victorian waters. It runs parallel with the coast for almost 5 kilometres and ranges from sea level to depths of about 9 metres. Limestone reefs throughout the park contribute to excellent surfing conditions and diverse habitats, including caves and fissures.

Inshore from the reef are the remnants of the receding Demons Bluff and Jarosite cliffs, in the form of harder ironstone low-level reef. These cliffs occasionally deposit significant volumes of sediment into the park (section 4.2).

Bathymetry data collected as a part of the habitat mapping program (section 4.4) indicates the presence of old coastal landforms

on the sea floor of the park, including an old river course, a lake and old shore lines.

There are no known sites of geological or geomorphological significance in the park.

#### Point Danger Marine Sanctuary

Point Danger Marine Sanctuary is adjacent to the prominent limestone headland of Point Danger. At low tide the large limestone platform that makes up most of the Sanctuary's area is completely exposed. There are no known sites of geological or geomorphological significance in the marine sanctuary.

#### Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary

Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary is characterised by a spectacular landscape setting encompassing the prominent Eagle Rock. Rock platforms, caves, fissures and boulder fields create a diverse and equally spectacular underwater environment.

The cliffs around Aireys Inlet and Split Point, including Eagle Rock, are of State geological or geomorphological significance (Buckley 1993). Eagle Rock's location makes it largely inaccessible and unsafe for rock-climbing, and this activity could cause damage to the rock.

Many geomorphological features are intrinsic elements of the *Country* of the Indigenous people in accordance with their tradition.

#### Aim

- Protect significant and fragile geological and seabed features in the park and sanctuaries.

#### Management strategies

- *Minimise the impacts of visitors on significant or fragile geological features.*
- *Do not permit rock climbing on Eagle Rock (section 6.11.).*
- *Encourage the collection of additional hydrographical data for the park and sanctuaries.*
- *Identify geomorphological features of special significance to the Traditional Owners and protect them from damaging or inappropriate activities in cooperation*



with those communities (sections 5.1 and 8.2).

- Consider the significance of landforms to Indigenous communities in interpreting features and implementing management (sections 4.5, 5.1 and 6.1).

## 4.2 Catchment and water quality

The park and sanctuaries are an integral part of the Otways Coast Basin which covers an area of 389 919 ha (Corangamite CMA 2003). Water from a relatively small catchment (approximately 100 000 ha) within the eastern section of the basin flows into the ocean in the vicinity of the park and sanctuaries through numerous coastal streams. The breakdown of land uses in this eastern section of the basin is: 1% urban, 11% nature conservation, 22% forestry and 66% agriculture. Although land use is predominantly agricultural, urban development is rapidly expanding (Corangamite CMA 2003).

Water composition within the park and sanctuaries is complex and extremely dynamic. Continuous mixing of water on this coastline generally minimises cumulative pollution impacts, but events at sea such as an oil spill, or processes on land such as erosion, littering or wastewater outfalls, could have intensive impacts. The underwater impacts of pollution are often obscure and may be difficult to detect. For example, the presence of underwater litter or bioaccumulation in the park and sanctuary organisms is largely unknown.

### Estuaries and creeks

Estuaries and other watercourses carry water into the park and sanctuaries from higher in the catchment, but this fresh water is not known to have a significant influence on natural values. Estuaries are an important link between marine and land ecosystems and provide important habitat for many species. Water from estuaries, rivers and streams may be a source of litter, sediment or nutrients. Estuaries in the vicinity of the park and sanctuaries include:

- Anglesea River — discharges adjacent to Point Addis Marine National Park
- Spring Creek — discharges near Point Danger Marine Sanctuary

- Painkalac Creek — discharges adjacent to Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary
- Barwon River — discharges significant flows 20 km north-east of Point Danger Marine Sanctuary.

Eight intermittent creeks also flow into Point Addis Marine National Park from an agricultural and urban catchment (Western Coastal Board 2002).

The park and sanctuaries are within the Corangamite Catchment. The *Corangamite Catchment Management Strategy* (Corangamite CMA 2003) sets out a strategic management framework for the protection of assets within the catchment, including marine values. The *Draft Corangamite River Health Strategy* (Corangamite CMA 2001) identifies values, condition and threats to waterways and provides a framework for improving the health of waterways in the catchment.

Anglesea River is classified as being in good ecological condition, Spring Creek in moderate condition and Painkalac Creek in marginal condition (Corangamite CMA 2003).

A detailed study of the biological characteristics of these and other estuaries in Western Victoria has helped to explain the dynamic relationship between the estuaries and the local marine environment (Western Coastal Board 2002). These estuaries are classified as creeks or small rivers and are typified by a relatively small catchment and the presence of a sand bar at the mouth.

Sudden estuary-derived impacts may occur following the opening of closed river mouths. Protocols for river mouth openings in south-western Victoria have been developed in partnership with relevant agencies. Arrangements for the opening of Anglesea River and Painkalac Creek are set out in a licence issued to the Surf Coast Shire by the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority. Decisions about river mouth opening need to consider impacts on the park and sanctuaries as well as a sound estuary management.

### Marine pollution

Marine pollution, especially oil spills, is a significant threat to natural values, aesthetics and public safety. The risk of oil pollution has been identified as a major threat to this

coastline (Victorian Channels Authority 1998). Response to pollution at sea is guided by the *National Plan to Combat Pollution of the Sea by Oil and other Noxious and Hazardous Substances* (AMSA 1998).

As the manager of around 70% of Victoria's coastal areas, Parks Victoria plays a significant support role in the response to marine incidents (section 8.3). Responses to marine incidents often require a diverse range of skills and resources, involving coordination between multiple agencies, including Parks Victoria and members of the community. The *Victorian Marine Pollution Contingency Plan* (VICPLAN) (MSV 2002a) outlines broad response arrangements to marine pollution in Victorian waters. Under VICPLAN the park and sanctuaries are within the Port Phillip Region.

Pollutants may also enter the marine environment via estuaries, intermittent creeks or stormwater systems. Potential impacts on marine flora and fauna include:

- smothering and light reduction caused by sediments
- changes in algal composition as a result of nutrient enrichment with nitrogen and phosphorus
- entanglement in and ingestion of litter, particularly thin plastics, by marine fauna.

### **Wastewater & stormwater outfalls**

Barwon Water provides water and sewerage services to the region. The Anglesea treatment plant currently discharges into the ocean to the south of Point Addis Marine National Park.

Predominant currents may cause pollutants to flow into the park. Barwon Water is required to comply with the requirements of the State Environment Protection Policy — Waters of Victoria, and the EPA's Waste Discharge Licences. In accordance with these requirements, Barwon Water monitors the wastewater quality and environmental impact of the wastewater discharge, and uses a range of strategies to reduce the volume of effluent discharges from Anglesea, including public education about wastewater reduction and community involvement in water quality monitoring through the Waterwatch Program.

Stormwater from adjacent urban areas enters the marine environment via creeks, estuaries and outfalls, including an outfall near Point Danger. Stormwater has the potential to transport pollutants and is likely to increase in volume with urban expansion. The Surf Coast Shire manages storm water systems which seek to minimise environmental impacts.

### **Litter**

Littering is illegal within and outside the park and sanctuaries. Potential sources of litter include:

- litter from urban areas carried to the ocean by stormwater systems and waterways
- litter from vessels within in or near the park or sanctuaries
- dog droppings and rubbish left on beaches and adjacent areas
- flotsam and jetsam from vessels elsewhere (section 4.3).

Common forms of litter include plastic bags, food and drink packaging, bait bags and ice bags. Removal of litter from beaches and nearby estuaries is required to prevent injury to visitors and wildlife, and recirculation into the marine environment. Mechanical clean-up of litter from beaches has the potential to remove biological material which can provide food or shelter for marine organisms or help to sustain biological processes.

### **Aims**

- Minimise the impact of threatening processes derived from the catchment, estuaries and other watercourses.
- Maintain water quality in the park and sanctuaries.
- Prevent and minimise the impact of pollution on park and sanctuary values.

### **Management strategies**

- *In partnership with Barwon Water, the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority and Surf Coast Shire, encourage community water quality monitoring in the Anglesea River, Spring Creek and Painkalac Creek.*
- *Encourage research that increases knowledge of estuarine values, processes*

*and potential impacts on the marine environment, to improve the understanding of impacts on the planning area (section 8.3).*

- *Ensure that the decision support tool for river mouth openings adequately considers potential impacts on the park and sanctuaries.*
- *Identify and communicate potential impacts of catchment management activities on park and sanctuary values to relevant agencies.*
- *Liaise with the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority, Surf Coast Shire and the community to quantify and minimise the impact of pollution from estuaries and creeks on the park and sanctuaries.*
- *Encourage the development and implementation of stormwater management plans within the Surf Coast Shire for Aireys Inlet, Torquay, Jan Juc and Anglesea that minimise impacts on the planning area.*
- *In conjunction with Barwon Water, develop and integrate appropriate Marine National Park protection themes into water conservation education programs.*
- *Encourage prevention and management of pollution in the marine environment through cooperation with the Barwon Regional Waste Management Group and the Anglesea Neighbourhood Environment Improvement Plan.*
- *As appropriate, manually remove accumulated litter from the park and sanctuaries to protect public health and natural values, in conjunction with adjoining land managers (section 5.2). Encourage participation of community groups where appropriate.*
- *Do not permit the mechanical clean-up of beaches below high water mark unless necessary for public safety or as part of an emerging response such as an oil or chemical spill.*
- *Integrate existing litter prevention messages into Parks Victoria educational programs.*

- *In accordance with the Port Phillip Region Marine Pollution Contingency Plan, report oil spills in and near the planning area, and respond accordingly.*

### 4.3 Hydrodynamics

The park and sanctuaries are within the Central Victorian Marine Bioregion. The average surface water temperature is 15.5 °C. The coastline faces generally south-east towards the open, shallow waters of Bass Strait.

The West Wind Drift is the most prominent influence on water movement, causing a north-westerly current through the park and sanctuaries towards Port Phillip Heads. The East Australian Current also influences the waters of Bass Strait.

On many occasions the predominant south-west swells pass between King Island and Cape Otway, producing excellent surfing conditions. Storms and larger swells sometimes cause significant sand movement and cliff erosion. Sand movement is often noticeable on the intertidal reef at Point Danger. Cliff erosion sometimes results in large sediment plumes being carried north-west on currents through Point Addis Marine National Park.

The West Wind Drift carries litter from vessels and from as far away as the South Atlantic Ocean to the park and sanctuaries. Other pollution sources, such as oil or chemical spills, may be derived from south and south-west of Cape Otway. Port Phillip Bay is a potential source of pollution, but the park and sanctuaries are well protected by prevailing southerly currents (section 4.2).

Because human-induced changes to local hydrodynamic processes could affect the values of the park and sanctuaries, any proposals for new infrastructure such as artificial reefs will generally be inappropriate in Marine National Parks or Marine Sanctuaries. Natural hydrodynamic events such as storm surges and regular sand erosion or deposition are considered to be ongoing natural processes.

There is no existing infrastructure in the park or sanctuaries. Marine infrastructure in the vicinity consists only of groynes and a seawall near Point Danger Marine Sanctuary.

**Aim**

- Minimise impacts on park and sanctuary values from human-induced changes to local hydrodynamics.

**Management strategies**

- *Encourage research on local hydrodynamics that facilitates improved understanding and protection of park and sanctuary values.*
- *Do not permit the construction of new infrastructure in the park and sanctuaries.*
- *Provide advice on planning applications for developments that could affect park or sanctuary hydrodynamic processes, where appropriate (section 7.2).*

**4.4 Habitats and communities**

The parks and sanctuaries provide protection for examples of inshore and inner shelf ecosystems. These inshore and inner shelf waters are areas of high primary productivity and diversity but are also subject to many human pressures.

Marine plants and animals in the planning area are significant to Traditional owners who have particular connections to certain marine species (Pascoe 2003).

All forms of extraction, including recreational and commercial fishing, are prohibited within the park and sanctuaries. The feeding of animals, including fish and birds, is not permitted within Marine National Parks or Marine Sanctuaries.

Current research and ongoing monitoring is targeted at collecting baseline biological information that will be used to understand long-term changes in populations, abundances, community structures and ecological processes during the life of this plan. Long-term intertidal reef monitoring sites are established at Point Addis and Point Danger. Subtidal reef monitoring sites are established at Ingoldsby Reef (section 4.1) and The Olives within Point Addis Marine National Park, and at Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary. Where appropriate, research and monitoring compares areas outside the park and sanctuaries with those inside. This work will assist in identifying indicator species and habitats. The results, available on Parks Victoria's website, will

enable an assessment of the ecological condition of the parks and sanctuaries to be made.

**Marine fauna**

An inventory of accessible knowledge about environmental values is available for the park and sanctuaries (Plummer et al. 2003). Comprehensive scientific studies of fauna in the park and sanctuaries have not been undertaken, but many local anglers, scientists and naturalists have a good knowledge of prominent local species.

In Point Addis Marine National Park, intertidal invertebrate fauna surveys at Ingoldsby Reef found an intertidal invertebrate community of moderate species richness that included many molluscs as well as echinoderms, seastars and sea urchins (Porter 1997). Barnacles, crabs, sea anemones and polychaetes were found during a Point Addis survey (Handreck & O'Hara 1994).

Subtidal overhangs at Ingoldsby Reef are dominated by ascidians, gorgonians, hydroids and sponges. Lower reefs contain sponges, bryozoans, colonial ascidians, abalones and rock lobsters (Porter 1997). Vast sponge gardens are associated with moderately deep reefs. Urchins, seapens and sponge-hydroid colonies are scattered in some of the park's deepest waters (Parks Victoria & Coastal CRC 2005).

Common fish in Point Addis Marine National Park include leatherjackets, toadfish, Blue-throated Wrasse, Saddleback Wrasse, sweeps and stingrays. Many other species pass through the park, including Yellowtail Kingfish and species of salmon. Scott's Weedfish is thought to be at its westerly limit in Point Addis Marine National Park (Plummer et al. 2003).

Point Danger Marine Sanctuary has a high diversity of sea slugs (Handreck & O'Hara 1994; Tsernjavski 1995). This value contributed to the recommendation of the area as a marine sanctuary. The crab *Hexapus granuliferus* and snail *Tuberculiopsis septaplia* are thought to have their westernmost distribution in the vicinity of Point Danger Marine Sanctuary. Common fish include leatherjackets, toadfish, Blue-Throated Wrasse and stingrays. There have been no specific surveys for subtidal invertebrate fauna in the sanctuary.

Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary provides opportunities to view marine life. The crab *Amarinus paracalacustris* and the snail *Belloliva leucozona* are thought to be at their westernmost limit in the sanctuary. Common fish include leatherjackets, toadfish and stingrays.

All species recorded within the park and sanctuaries listed as threatened or protected by international agreements (e.g. JAMBA, CAMBA) are either birds or marine mammals. This reflects the current vertebrate focus of threatened species management. Environmental management within the planning area takes a habitat-based, rather than a species-based approach. Management of marine ecological communities, rather than threatened species, is more likely to lead to a higher level of success in protecting and enhancing threatened species populations. Whole-of-habitat management may also result in the protection of species not yet identified, due to their rarity, cryptic nature or lack of search effort.

The *Victorian Cetacean Contingency Plan* (NRE 1999c) details the response arrangements for cetacean strandings or entanglements.

*A Response Plan to Deal with Wildlife Affected by an Oil Spill, Port Phillip Area* (CNR 1994) guides the rescue and treatment of injured or oiled wildlife. Parks Victoria generally provides staff and resources for specialised roles such as shore-line clean-up and wildlife rescue.

### Marine flora

No threatened marine flora have been recorded in the park and sanctuaries, but many organisms such as phytoplankton are critical for ecological processes. A large variety of flora and algae species have been recorded and many others are likely to be found in the future.

The seabed in Point Addis Marine National Park is consists largely of subtidal soft sand sediments and subtidal rocky reef. Rhodolith beds in the park were discovered recently during habitat mapping (Parks Victoria & Coastal CRC 2005). These mobile beds of spherical boulder like objects are formed by red coralline algae and cover several square kilometres in waters around 20-35 m. The

shoreline has a mixture of sandy beaches and intertidal rocky reef. A survey at Ingoldsby Reef found 114 species of algae (Beanland 1985).

Shallow subtidal reefs are dominated by Bubble Weed, and there are other species of brown and red algae. At depths of 24 metres brown algae are dominant, but they are replaced by encrusting coralline algae at depths beyond 30 metres. Seagrass beds are found between subtidal reefs and sand sediments at depths of 1 to 6 metres.

Point Danger Marine Sanctuary contains a mixture of subtidal and intertidal reef. It also contains a small area of subtidal soft sand sediment. On the Point Danger Marine Sanctuary intertidal reef, 15 algae species have been recorded (Tsernjevski 1995). Common species include Neptune's Necklace and Sea Lettuce. The subtidal flora has not been recorded.

Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary contains intertidal and subtidal reef interspersed with subtidal soft sediments. The reefs are derived from basalt and limestone, with potholes, gulches, bommies, rock pools and caves. The shoreline has a mixture of sandy beaches and rocky reef.

A survey of the intertidal reef at Eagle Rock Marine sanctuary found that the dominant algae were Neptune's Necklace, Sea Lettuce and red coralline algae (Braley et al. 1991). Subtidal reefs are dominated by Bubble Weed, Common Kelp and fleshy red algae.

### Marine ecological communities

The park and sanctuaries protect a number of communities and habitats (Plummer et al. 2003). Sandy beaches are important habitat for many seabird species and inconspicuous invertebrates. Sand movement and wave action are an important aspect of coastal dynamics, and can affect associated habitats. Sandy beaches may be susceptible to pollution, removal of vegetation, and changes in hydrodynamics.

Victorian subtidal sediments are among the most biologically diverse habitats known. Small changes in physical structure can result in significantly different species composition. Larger species such as stingrays and shrimps are associated with the sediment surface. The

water-filled cavities between the sand grains provide habitat for countless species such as nematodes and flatworms. Subtidal sediments are particularly susceptible to hydrodynamic change from human impacts, mechanical disturbance, and changes in sediment deposition patterns and water quality.

Intertidal reefs such as the one at Point Danger are interesting and accessible habitats. Rock pools are an important habitat for many species. Intertidal species are adapted to survive environmental extremes and high wave energy. The highest rocks may be encrusted with cyanobacteria, algae and lichens, and small gastropods, isopods and amphipods shelter under moist rocks. Rocks provide habitat for barnacles, limpets and mussels. Intertidal reefs are susceptible to changed tidal patterns, pollution, trampling, or collection for bait or food. Parks Victoria has commissioned a report to improve understanding of uses, impacts of users and how to manage these sensitive habitats (Porter in review).

Subtidal reefs are dominated by algae, which provide habitat for an abundance of sessile invertebrates such as gastropods, seastars, ascidians, hydroids, sponges and crustaceans. Seagrass beds and subtidal reefs are susceptible to damage from sedimentation and other forms of pollution.

Rhodolith beds create a diverse benthic habitat, and are thought to provide nursery grounds for many species. These areas are susceptible to physical disturbance and hydrological change.

### Aims

- Protect natural habitats, ecological communities and indigenous flora and fauna in the park and sanctuaries.
- Improve knowledge of the park and sanctuaries, including habitats, indigenous species and threatening processes.

### Management strategies

- *Continue to undertake long-term habitat monitoring in the park and sanctuaries as part of the relevant statewide marine habitat monitoring programs.*
- *Map habitats at scales suitable for management purposes, in accordance with statewide habitat mapping programs.*

- *Encourage research into new habitats and communities identified during habitat mapping, key threatening processes and major knowledge gaps.*
- *Encourage research which increases knowledge of opisthobranchs at Point Danger Marine Sanctuary and their management requirements.*
- *Undertake regular risk assessment to assess the major threats to the park and sanctuaries. Review risks to values and management prescriptions on completion of habitat mapping.*
- *Manage visitor activities to minimise impacts on communities, flora and fauna, particularly in relation to impacts from trampling at Point Danger and compliance with no-fishing provisions (section 8.3).*
- *Respond to cetacean incidents in accordance with the Victorian Cetacean Contingency Plan (NRE 1999c) (section 8.3).*
- *Encourage reporting of whale or dolphin strandings to the Strandings Hotline.*
- *Encourage research into Indigenous cultural lore relating to flora and fauna of the park and sanctuaries, and reflect outcomes in the management in accordance with Parks Victoria's policies (sections 5.1, 6.1 and 8.2).*

## 4.5 Landscape and seascape

The spectacular landscape and visual values of the Surf Coast and Great Ocean Road Region make an important contribution to local lifestyles and the local tourism industry. The natural beauty of the park, sanctuaries and coast are a major attraction for most visitors.

Visitors enjoy land and seascapes from the Great Ocean Road, the Surf Coast Walk, boats, or beaches and lookouts adjacent to the park and sanctuaries. The waters of the park and sanctuaries are a key element of these landscapes and seascapes.

People see the park and sanctuaries from different perspectives. Many see them from an emotional or spiritual perspective. Many people, particularly surfers, have a strong connection to places such as Bells Beach, and find the landscape and seascape inspirational.

Many boat users also have a strong affinity with the coast and seascapes. Divers and snorkellers see the park and sanctuaries as part of an underwater wonderland encompassing a beautiful array of marine life.

The ocean, surf, beaches, prominent headlands and rocky shores create a unique landscape.

Key visual experiences include:

- soft coastal panoramas where the land meets the sea
- a vast ocean merging with the sky on the horizon
- majestic swells rolling and breaking in lines around beaches and rocks
- an array of underwater colour and diversity
- subtle patterns and colours on windswept beaches, rocks and coastal vegetation.

The appeal of many of these experiences is the absence of human development. Unmodified landscapes contribute to a sense of remoteness and are an important retreat for many visitors.

The Surf Coast Shire Planning Scheme (Surf Coast Shire 2000), which includes a significant landscape overlay on the adjoining coastal strip, sets out a framework for assessing proposals for developments that could impact on the landscapes associated with the park and sanctuary (section 7.2).

The *Great Ocean Road Region Landscape Assessment Study* (DSE 2004b) was prepared as a component of the *Great Ocean Road Region — Land Use and Transport Strategy* (DSE 2004c). The assessment of seascapes associated with the park and sanctuaries were not within the scope of the study. However, it does identify the protection and management of key views, including Bells Beach South and Point Addis, as an important issue.

Landscape setting types have been established to broadly characterise different landscapes and seascapes (VCC 1998a). Point Addis Marine National Park and Point Danger Marine Sanctuary are categorised as Landscape Setting Type 9: Lower Coastal Plains with Features.

Special considerations for this landscape setting include:

- planning to ensure that future development does not adversely affect coastal values
- use of defined access points to beaches and revegetation of dunes to maintain stability.

Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary is within Landscape Setting Type 8: Great Ocean Road / Cape Patton. Special considerations for this landscape setting include:

- the desire to enhance the coastal landscape and address linear development and inappropriate development
- concentration of development at existing nodes, and appropriate planning controls.

The Victorian Coastal Council's *Siting and Design Guidelines for the Victorian Coast* (VCC 1998b), which aim to protect coastal landscape values, apply to the park and sanctuaries and adjacent land, including landscapes and seascapes associated with the park and sanctuaries. Coastal or marine infrastructure, including the visual impact of signs and litter, could adversely affect those values.

The landscape and seascape are intrinsic elements of the *Country* of Indigenous communities in accordance with tradition.

### Aims

- Protect landscape and seascape values.
- Minimise the visual impact of signs, infrastructure and management activities associated with the park and sanctuaries.

### Management strategies

- *Provide input into any landscape character assessments to ensure recognition of landscape and seascape values within, and associated with, the park and sanctuaries.*
- *Consider landscape elements of special importance to Traditional Owners and involve them in protection and appropriate interpretation (section 6.1).*

- *Liaise with adjacent coastal managers to minimise the visual impact of infrastructure.*
- *Ensure that signs and boundary markers do not impact on landscape values, key views and special visual experiences. In particular, ensure that signs or boundary markers are not placed on rock stacks in Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary (section 6.1).*

#### 4.6 Marine pests

Around 100 exotic marine species are known to have become established in Victorian marine waters (Hewitt et al. 1999). Some have become marine pests. Twenty introduced pests have been found in the Port of Geelong (Currie et al. 1998). At present there is little information available about marine pests in the park and sanctuaries. Several marine pests of concern, such as the Northern Pacific Sea Star, are now established in Port Phillip Bay. The park and sanctuaries are only 20 km from the bay, but the likelihood of translocation is reduced by the volatility of the coastline.

Marine pests can have a devastating impact on Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries. The introduction of marine pests into Victorian marine waters is listed as a potentially threatening process on Schedule 3 of the Flora and Fauna Guarantee (FFG) Act. Victoria's management priorities are set out in the relevant FFG Action Statement (NRE 1999a).

Prevention of marine pest invasions is the most effective management option. Prevention involves reducing the risk that a pest will be introduced to the park or sanctuary. In a very limited number of cases, with specific criteria, control measures may be attempted for established pest populations generally as part of coordinated regional or national response. However, experience elsewhere has shown that proposals to control established marine pests need to consider fully their likely effectiveness. The interconnectedness of the marine environment and the ability of many marine pests to migrate over long distances mean that control measures may be feasible only in limited circumstances. For example, using techniques that are successful on land, such as physical removal by hand, might make the situation worse, as some marine pests

regenerate fully from fragments dislodged during removal. Where implemented, control measures will meet national guidelines for managing marine pests. Because of the possibility of misidentifications or exacerbating the pest problem, control measures will need to be part of authorised programs. In some cases, further nationally coordinated research is required into control measures.

Victorian marine pest emergency management arrangements (*Interim Victorian Protocol for Managing Exotic Marine Organisms Incursions*, NRE 1999b) will form the basis for responding to new introductions and existing incursions of marine pests. The adoption of the *Waste Management Policy (Ships' Ballast Water)* (EPA 2004) for all Victorian waters will help reduce the risk of marine pest incursions from ships' ballast water. Emergency responses to marine pest outbreaks in Victoria are managed as a part of agreed national arrangements for marine pest emergencies. The Consultative Committee for Introduced Marine Pests Emergencies provide national oversight. Parks Victoria actively supports the protocol, by adopting best practice within the organisation and educating and informing the community about prevention measures.

Vessel cleaning and maintenance guidelines to help prevent the spread of marine pests (DSE 2004a) aim to reduce the risk of spreading marine introduced pests by providing practical solutions for vessel operators for cleaning gear and hulls. Supporting initiatives include *Cleaner Marinas: EPA Guidelines for Protecting Victoria's Marinas* (EPA 1998).

Parks Victoria rangers, Fisheries Victoria Fisheries Officers, community-based organisations (e.g. dive clubs), and visitors play an important role in the monitoring and early detection of marine introduced pests in the planning area.

#### Aims

- Minimise the risk of introduction by human activities, and subsequent establishment of, marine pests in the park and sanctuaries.



- Establish arrangement for the detection of new incursions within the planning area in support of Victorian marine pest management arrangements.
- Implement national or Victoria-wide control arrangements as they relate to the planning area.

#### **Management strategies**

- *Support DSE in educating rangers, Fisheries Victoria officers and the community to identify marine pests.*
- *Ensure that any new marine infrastructure within the park and sanctuaries is treated to remove any marine pests.*
- *Encourage community groups, researchers licensed tour operators and contractors to integrate the identification of marine pests into their activities and to report any sightings.*
- *Avoid translocation or new introductions of pests by promoting boat-cleaning and maintenance protocols for all recreational boats and contractors (section 6.3) in accordance with the DSE brochure 'Aquatic pests: treat 'em mean — keep your boat clean'.*
- *Ensure that management vessels operating in the planning area are maintained according to Victorian Government boat-cleaning protocols (DSE 2004a).*
- *Include boat-cleaning protocols in contracts, licences or permits for contracted vessels, research vessels, and commercial and licensed tour operator vessels operating in the planning area.*
- *Manage all pest incursions in accordance with the Interim Protocol (NRE 1999b) (section 8.3).*
- *Liaise with the DSE to encourage boat-cleaning protocols to be included in licence agreements issued for vessels involved in commercial activities such as gas exploration in nearby Victorian waters.*
- *Undertake authorised programs to control or eradicate pest populations only where research indicates that eradication is feasible and likely to be effective or as part of a coordinated regional or national response.*
- *Ensure that the detection of marine pests is reported in accordance with Victorian pest management arrangements and recorded on Parks Victoria's Environmental Information System and other relevant databases.*

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## 5 STRATEGIES FOR CULTURAL VALUES CONSERVATION

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### 5.1 Indigenous cultural heritage

Indigenous communities have a long association with the coastline of the planning area, with its plentiful food and other resources. The presence of numerous *minne* (middens) along the coast demonstrates the cultural significance of the coast and sea to Indigenous communities.

Indigenous tradition indicates that the planning area is part of the *Country* of the Wada wurrung or Wathaurong people and that Indigenous people had a long association with this region. The Wathaurong people are a part of the Kulin Nation surrounding Port Phillip and Western Port Bays. The Wathaurong were composed of at least 25 family-based clans that controlled specific areas of land (Clark 1990). The Maamart clan belong to the land and waters, including Point Danger Marine Sanctuary and Point Addis Marine National Park (Pascoe 2003). The Tjuraalja clan belong to the *Country* between Anglesea and the Painkalac Creek, including Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary (Pascoe 2003). The Painkalac creek formed the boundary between the Wathaurong people and the Gadubanut people (Clark 1990).

There are no registered Indigenous places within the park and sanctuaries, but there are *minne* in the vicinity of Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary and Point Addis Marine National Park. Many other *minne* adjacent to the park and sanctuaries have not yet been surveyed but are likely to be of significance.

There is some likelihood that Indigenous places are present within the planning area but are now underwater as a result of sea level rise. As the coastline is eroding and retreating, sites in and on cliffs and dunes may have been washed into the ocean.

Resources along the coast provided a reliable source of food for the Wathaurong. A variety of fish species were speared and netted particularly along tidal flats and estuaries (Pascoe 2003). *Eugarie* (pippi shell), *Koonderoo* (abalone), *Tjorriong* (rock lobster) and *Warrener* (Turbot shell) are some of the foods cooked in *minne* (Pascoe 2003). Consequently, many of the middens are on

dunes and headlands adjacent to the coast, park and sanctuaries. Middens typically contain fireplace stones, charcoal, and the shells of these species.

Coastal flint washed onto this coastline from other regions, attached to the holdfasts of Bull Kelp, was used for tool manufacture. Caves within Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary may also have cultural significance. *Tal-an* (fish traps) are known to have been used in the area.

Soils on the planning area coastline are particularly prone to erosion. Wave action, rabbit disturbance and physical human disturbance are adversely affecting cultural sites (R. Abrahams pers. comm.). Visitor access infrastructure and informal tracks also have the potential to affect these sensitive cultural sites. Many artefacts may already have been washed away by erosion or wave action.

All Indigenous places and objects are protected under the Archaeological and Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act. It is an offence to damage, interfere or endanger an Aboriginal site, place or object without obtaining prior written consent from the scheduled Aboriginal community. Issues relating to the protection of such cultural heritage and the involvement of the scheduled Aboriginal community are approached in accordance with these Acts. Under the Commonwealth Act, the Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative Ltd is the scheduled Aboriginal Community.

Issues relating to Native Title are dealt with according to the Native Title Act (section 2.5).

Parks Victoria respects Indigenous people's cultural lore, interests and rights in the land, and aspirations for *Country* and seeks to reflect these in planning and management (Parks Victoria 2004a).

#### Aims

- Protect Indigenous cultural values from interference or damaging activities.
- Nurture Indigenous cultural lore relating to the park and sanctuaries.

## Management strategies

- *Protect Indigenous places and objects from disturbance and damage in partnership with the Traditional Owners and in cooperation with the scheduled Aboriginal community and AAV (section 8.3), and in accordance with:*
  - *relevant legislation, including the Archaeological and Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act*
  - *Parks Victoria's Guidelines for Working with Aboriginal Communities and Protection of Cultural Sites.*
- *Respect Indigenous cultural lore and the Traditional Owner's aspirations for Country and in collaboration with them and scheduled Aboriginal Communities and in accordance with Parks Victoria's operational policies, reflect the Traditional Owners' cultural lore, interests and rights in all planning and management (sections 4.1, 4.4, 6.1 and 8.2).*
- *Involve the Traditional Owners in relevant aspects of management and the development of Indigenous cultural heritage management protocols for the planning area particularly Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary and Point Addis Marine National Park.*
- *Maintain confidentiality in respect of Indigenous cultural lore, places, objects and aspirations, in accordance with the wishes of the Traditional Owners (sections 6.1 and 8.2).*
- *Ensure that all management activities are in accordance with the Native Title Act.*
- *Encourage research into the Indigenous cultural heritage relating to the planning area in collaboration with the relevant Indigenous communities and in liaison with AAV (section 7.2). Use results to target protection and other management.*
- *Encourage the managers of adjacent land to redesign and modify park and sanctuary visitor access infrastructure where this is affecting cultural values (section 6.1).*

- *Where appropriate, incorporate cultural themes and language into marine interpretive and educational materials relating to the park and sanctuaries (section 6.1).*

## 5.2 Maritime and other cultural heritage

The coastline between Cape Otway and Port Phillip Heads has been a busy shipping route since the early 1800s. Shipwrecks and associated artefacts have important maritime cultural values and offer important insights into Victoria's history.

The Historic Shipwreck Discovery Trail incorporates shipwrecks along the Great Ocean Road and complements other visitor attractions on the Great Ocean Road.

Point Danger Marine Sanctuary contains the wreck of the *Joseph H. Scammell*, a wooden sailing ship that ran aground in 1891 (figure 3). Although the ship quickly broke up, sections of the wreck have recently been found on nearby beaches, and artefacts are also visible in the sanctuary. Its North American cargo makes an interesting comparison with those of British wrecks.

Point Addis Marine National Park contains the wreck of the *Inverlochy*, a steel sailing barque that ran aground on Ingoldsby reef in 1902 (figure 2). The wreck and artefacts are visible from the surface in calm conditions. The *Naiad*, a wooden cutter, was beached at Point Addis in 1881, but there are no known relics (Anderson & Carr 2003).

These historic shipwrecks are all of State significance on the Victorian heritage register. Heritage Victoria has primary responsibility for the management of shipwrecks within the park and sanctuaries. Parks Victoria has established a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which identifies respective roles and responsibilities with regard to maritime heritage protection, compliance and interpretation of shipwrecks, shipwreck artefacts and other archaeological sites within the planning area.

There are the remains of old cars beneath cliffs at Southside, in Point Addis Marine National Park. Any clean up activities in the planning area need to consider any heritage value of objects before removal.

Bells Beach is synonymous with surfing in Australia and holds a special place in the history of surfing. In 1960, a local surfer constructed a track to Bells Beach. Since then the outstanding surf of Bells and nearby breaks has become legendary in the world of surfing. Bells Beach is listed on the Victorian Heritage Register as a site of historical significance and in 1971 was declared the world's first Surfing Reserve. Around these humble beginnings evolved a surfing ethos, lifestyle and industry.

### **Aims**

- Protect significant maritime and other cultural places, objects and places associated with the park and sanctuaries.
- Increase awareness of the maritime and other cultural values of the park and sanctuaries.

### **Management strategies**

- *Manage places of historic and cultural significance in accordance with The Australian ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance (The Burra Charter), Parks Victoria's Heritage Management Strategy, Victoria's Shipwrecks 2005 Heritage Strategy and the Heritage Act 1995 (Vic.).*
- *In accordance with the MOU, monitor shipwrecks and support Heritage Victoria's maritime heritage protection and research programs. Consult Heritage Victoria about management activities that might affect known wrecks or artefacts.*
- *Integrate stories relating to the 'Shipping along the Coast' theme and artefact and wreck protection messages into educational and interpretive materials for the park and sanctuaries (section 6.1).*
- *Liaise with Heritage Victoria and the local community to identify and document heritage values of the planning area in Parks Victoria's Asset Management System.*
- *In conjunction with surfers, surfing groups and/or other interested people or groups, include information about the heritage values of the parks and sanctuaries, including surfing at Bells Beach, into existing interpretive and educational information (section 6.1).*
- *As a part of any clean up programs ensure that any heritage values of objects such as car wrecks is considered prior to removal.*
- *In conjunction with Heritage Victoria investigate opportunities to further develop the interpretation of shipwrecks in the park and sanctuaries as part of the Historic Shipwreck Discovery Trail.*

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## 6 STRATEGIES FOR VISITORS

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### 6.1 Information, interpretation and education

Parks Victoria delivers information and interpretation to visitors by various means, including its website ([www.parkweb.vic.gov.au](http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au)), Marine Notes, tourism brochures and other publications, displays, regulatory information and interpretative signs, licensed tour operators and rangers. These services are often developed and provided in collaboration with other agencies, and communicate messages designed to present pre-visit information, orientate and inform visitors on arrival, and increase visitors' enjoyment and satisfaction by helping them to experience, understand and appreciate the planning area's special natural and cultural values. Some messages are designed to enhance visitors' safety, raise their awareness of the values of the park and their support for protection of those values, and build their understanding of management activities and of natural environments in general.

Having a representative system of Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries in Victoria presents a unique opportunity to educate visitors and the broader community about the features and benefits of a statewide system of protected areas. At the same time, a range of information, interpretation and education products that are specific to the key features of the park and sanctuaries will be provided.

Key orientation, visitor and regulatory information is available:

- in boat ramp signage
- via shore-based boundary markers (section 7.2)
- via signage at beach access points and along walking tracks (figures 2, 3 and 4).

Community involvement in the design of signs and other interpretive infrastructure enhances the quality and community acceptance of such projects.

Because of their small size and geographical prominence, Point Danger Marine Sanctuary and Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary are easy to

demarcate from boats. Shore-based markers in Point Addis Marine National Park has limited offshore visibility, making orientation more difficult for mariners. Practical limitations, such as the high wave energy on the coast, also make comprehensive marking of the boundaries difficult. Global positioning systems (GPS) offer a reliable method for identifying the position of a boat in relation to park boundaries, but many visitors would not have this equipment.

On land, visitors can access the park and sanctuaries by many walking tracks from adjacent beaches (section 6.2). This makes the comprehensive provision of visitor orientation signage difficult.

High profile sites such as Bells Beach and surfing events such as the Rip Curl Pro, provide opportunities to promote Point Addis Marine National Park and other marine parks and sanctuaries (section 6.9) and increase community awareness and participation in their management.

Point Danger Marine Sanctuary and Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary have the potential to become focal points for interpretation and education on the Surf Coast. Interpretation is often delivered in collaboration with Coast Action/Coastcare, other natural resource managers and licensed tour operators. Working together ensures consistent message delivery and non-duplication of services.

Important topics to be integrated into information, interpretation and education programs include:

- locations and activities permitted
- the diverse natural values (section 4.4) and significant cultural values and Indigenous cultural lore related to the parks and sanctuaries (sections 5.1 and 5.2)
- human impacts on the parks and sanctuaries and their management.

The Surf Coast attracts a potentially large audience that is receptive to marine protection messages. Key interpretive themes include:

- Point Danger Marine Sanctuary — the fascinating and diverse life on the

intertidal reef helps us to understand human impacts on the ocean

- Point Addis Marine National Park — beneath the waves is another world that surfers can help to protect
- Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary — the spectacular views, geologically interesting rock stacks and diversity of marine habitats.

Local schools and groups visiting nearby school camps have created a steady and growing demand for marine and coastal interpretation and education, particularly about intertidal reefs. However, intertidal activities could adversely affect these delicate ecosystems through trampling (section 6.5). Park Victoria has developed Minimal Impact Guidelines (available on its website) in partnership with providers of education to help manage these activities and works with the Department of Education to encourage schools to notify Parks Victoria (on 13 1963) of any intended school group visits. Prior notification will allow teachers to obtain relevant education materials and advice on suitable sites, and will enable Parks Victoria to monitor the number and timing of visits.

Professionally managed educational and recreational activities outside the park and sanctuaries can complement those within them without any impact on the natural values of the planning area. Schools, camps and nearby educational centres such as the Marine Discovery Centre at Queenscliff, Surf World at Torquay and the Environment and Fishing Education Centre at Stoney Creek offer off-site opportunities for education.

### **Aims**

- Promote and encourage visitors' discovery, enjoyment and appreciation of the park and sanctuaries' natural and cultural values in a safe and appropriate manner through information, interpretation and education.
- Encourage public support for parks and park management practices.
- Promote an awareness of Indigenous culture.

### **Management strategies**

- *Liaise with relevant land managers to place appropriate visitor orientation, risk and regulatory messages and minimal impact information at key visitor access sites in accordance with table 3. Where feasible, encourage community involvement.*
- *In conjunction with land managers, investigate opportunities for developing interpretive displays that are sympathetic to the coastal landscapes with strong community involvement at Bells Beach, Point Addis, Point Danger and Split Point in accordance with table 3.*
- *Promote the need for schools to notify Parks Victoria (on 13 1963) of any intended visits by school groups.*
- *Continue to allow sustainable educational use by school and community groups. Ensure that school and formal interpretive groups adopt the minimal impact guidelines.*
- *Develop relationships with education providers and local schools, and continue to deliver and support educational activities that encourage appropriate use and visitation.*
- *Promote greater public understanding and appreciation of, and respect for, Indigenous culture by incorporating information about Indigenous cultural lore, places and objects in information, interpretation and education programs, in collaboration and accordance with the wishes of the Traditional Owners (sections 5.1 and 8.2).*
- *Continue to liaise with Coast Action/Coastcare, and deliver joint interpretive program initiatives for the park and sanctuaries.*
- *Continue to support appropriate and relevant information, interpretation and education programs implemented by other agencies and volunteer groups.*
- *Liaise with Geelong Otway Tourism to investigate partnership opportunities for innovative alternatives to interpret the park and sanctuaries at locations outside the planning area.*

**TABLE 3 MANAGEMENT OF SIGNAGE AT VISITOR ACCESS SITES**

ACCESS SITE	MANAGER	ACTION
Torquay boat ramp	Torquay Boat Club	Upgrade signage to clarify Point Danger Marine Sanctuary boundary locations.
Point Roadnight boat ramp	Surf Coast Shire	Maintain signage for Point Addis Marine National Park and integrate with existing signage.
Urquhart Bluff boat ramp	Surf Coast Shire	Maintain signage for Point Addis Marine National Park and integrate with existing signage.
Bells Beach	Surf Coast Shire	Maintain signage for Point Addis Marine National Park and integrate with existing signage.  Investigate opportunities for developing an interpretive display about the park with the land manager and Bells Beach Advisory Group
Southside	Surf Coast Shire	Maintain signage for Point Addis Marine National Park and integrate with existing signage.
Point Addis access stairways	DSE	Maintain signage for Point Addis Marine National Park and integrate with existing signage.  Investigate opportunities for developing an interpretive display about the park and following establishment of Great Otway National Park enhance the sense of arrival to the park at the Point Addis car park.
Point Danger access stairways	Great Ocean Road Coast Committee	Upgrade signage to clarify Point Danger Marine Sanctuary boundary locations.  Investigate opportunities for developing an interpretive display about Point Danger Marine Sanctuary with the land manager.
Split Point	Great Ocean Road Coast Committee	Investigate opportunities for developing an interpretive display about Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary with the land manager.
Step Beach Car Park	Great Ocean Road Coast Committee	Upgrade signage to clarify Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary boundary locations.

- *Liaise with local tourism and marketing organisations, including Geelong Otway Tourism and Great Ocean Road Marketing to encourage inclusion of consistent messaging and promotion of the parks and sanctuaries in their information material.*
- *Provide Park Notes for distribution at the Torquay Visitor Information Centre and regularly liaise with staff to ensure a general awareness of the park and sanctuaries.*
- *Undertake standardised monitoring of impacts of trampling on high-use intertidal areas in Point Danger Marine Sanctuary with a view to determining appropriate carrying capacities.*

## 6.2 Access

Major roads give excellent vehicle access to the Surf Coast, and the nearby Great Ocean Road connects the park and sanctuaries to this busy touring route (figure 1). The Surf Coast Walk runs parallel with the coast and allows walkers to access the park and sanctuaries.

Car parks, paths and stairs offer excellent access to the park and sanctuaries from adjacent land (section 7.2). Visitor infrastructure is located at traditional access points outside the park and sanctuaries.

Stairs, paths and lookouts are designed and located to minimise impacts on nearby cultural sites and coastal vegetation that are susceptible to disturbance (section 5.1). Access near cliffs

and unstable slopes is managed to minimise erosion and ensure public safety (section 6.11). The presence of many access points means that it is difficult to convey access information and warnings through signs alone. Close cooperation with the managers of adjacent land, including the Surf Coast Shire (Bells Beach) and the Great Ocean Road Coast Committee, is essential to ensure safe visitor access to the park and sanctuaries (section 8.3).

The adjacent cliffs generally make beaches in the park or sanctuaries inaccessible for launching boats. Access to the parks and sanctuaries by trailable vessels is from boat ramps outside the park and sanctuaries, at Point Roadnight, Torquay, and Urquhart Bluff (figures 1 and 2). The Torquay boat ramp is managed by the Torquay Boat Club, and other boat ramps are managed by the Surf Coast Shire.

There are no formal restrictions on access to beaches, reefs or dive sites in the park or sanctuaries by boat. There are restrictions on boating within the sail-powered-only area in Point Danger Marine Sanctuary. Landing of aircraft is not permitted except by hang-gliders and para-gliders in Point Addis Marine National Park (section 6.8).

### **Point Addis Marine National Park**

Point Addis Marine National Park has formal access points to the beach at Bells Beach, Southside and Point Addis (figure 2). These locations attract large numbers of visitors, most of who come to enjoy spectacular views and beach access.

Stairways, lookouts, paths and boardwalks around Point Addis allow excellent access down steep cliffs into the park. Management of this infrastructure at Point Addis will transfer from the Great Ocean Road Coast Committee to Parks Victoria when the proposed Great Otway National Park is proclaimed.

The Surf Coast Shire manages infrastructure at Bells Beach Surfing Reserve. A detailed master plan for infrastructure at this site is currently being prepared. The master plan addresses emerging environmental and visitor pressures through a modified layout for car parking, lookouts and pedestrian access.

### **Point Danger Marine Sanctuary**

Visitors generally access Point Danger Marine Sanctuary from the Point Danger Car Park and viewing area or from adjacent beaches (figure 3).

The Great Ocean Road Coast Committee manages car parks, paths, stairways, viewing platforms and a war memorial adjacent to the sanctuary. During warmer holiday periods many visitors walk around the point onto the intertidal reef from Torquay Back Beach or Cozy Corner Beach. The Committee is currently finalising a master plan for infrastructure at this site.

### **Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary**

The Split Point Lighthouse overlooks the sanctuary and is an established landmark and visitor destination. There is no public access into the lighthouse however the Surf Coast Shire is currently investigating this. Visitors can enjoy spectacular views of the coast and rock stack from the Aireys Inlet Cliff Walk and nearby lookouts adjacent to the sanctuary. Visitors may access the sanctuary down stairs from the lighthouse visitors' car park onto Step Beach, or from the Painkalac Creek Car Park by walking past the creek mouth (figure 4). The Great Ocean Road Coast Committee manages this infrastructure.

### **Aim**

- Support and manage the provision of appropriate and safe access to the park and sanctuaries.

### **Management strategies**

- *Provide advice to the Great Ocean Road Coast Committee and the Surf Coast Shire in the management of infrastructure on adjacent land provided for park and sanctuary visitors, as required.*
- *In conjunction with adjoining land managers, seek to develop integrated signage plans for Bells Beach and Point Addis (Point Addis Marine National Park), Point Danger (Point Danger Marine Sanctuary) and Split Point (Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary). These plans should upgrade and consolidate signage (table 3), ensure consistent style and information, and enhance a sense of arrival to the park and sanctuaries.*



- *Upgrade information signs in accordance with table 3 to ensure clear visitor orientation for visitors.*

### 6.3 Recreational boating and surface water sports

The waters within and around the park and sanctuaries are suitable for a range of recreational boating activities, but there are hazards associated with recreational boating and sea conditions can change quickly (sections 6.11 and 8.3). The park and sanctuaries are used for sailing, sightseeing and touring, while recreational and commercial vessels traverse the park to reach fishing areas in adjacent waters. Vessels are permitted to pass through the park and sanctuaries, and normal boating regulations and safety guidelines apply in these waters.

Personal watercraft (PWCs) are frequently seen on the Surf Coast. They are sometimes used to 'tow in' surfers to larger surf at Bells Beach and at Point Danger. Regularly favourable conditions at Point Danger Marine Sanctuary make this a popular site for kite-surfing and sailboarding. Surf kites, sailboards and personal watercraft are classified as vessels and are subject to boating regulations.

People from nearby towns, Geelong, Melbourne and further afield enjoy boating in Point Addis Marine National Park and surrounding waters, particularly during warmer months and weekends. Boating in the Point Danger Marine Sanctuary and Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary is less frequent. Many boat users have extensive knowledge, local maritime experience and a long association with the waters within the park and sanctuaries. Many people come to fish in areas outside the park and sanctuaries, and share a strong interest in the marine environment and its protection.

A sail-powered-only area was established at Point Danger before the creation of the sanctuary to prevent accidents between sail-powered craft and powered vessels (section 3.2 and table 1). All powered vessels, including personal watercraft, are prohibited within the Point Danger Sail-powered Only Area. Shore-based lead marks and signs delineate this area, but these boundaries are easily confused with the sanctuary boundary and are unclear for visitors.

As in all Victorian coastal waters, a speed limit of 5 knots applies in specified circumstances in the parks and sanctuaries (MSV 2002b).

State Environment Protection Policies prohibit vessel operators from discharging sewage, oil, garbage, sediment, litter or other wastes to surface waters in any Victorian State waters. While the EPA has primary responsibility for pollution management (section 4.2), Parks Victoria supports the provision of waste-receiving and pump-out facilities at marinas, ports and other suitable sites.

Parks Victoria undertakes land-based patrols of the park and sanctuaries. Department of Primary Industries Fisheries Officers undertake regular water-based patrols and work closely with recreational boat users. These patrols present an opportunity for boat users to learn about the park and sanctuaries.

Generally, recreational boating has a minimal impact on park values, but infrequent incidents such as oil spills, collisions with commercial shipping (section 7.1), discharges of sewage or other pollutants, introduction of marine pests and disturbance to wildlife could be significant. Moorings are not appropriate or practical in the park or sanctuaries. Smaller vessels usually anchor near the coast. The potential for anchor damage from recreational boating to habitats along this high energy coast is likely to be low.

#### Aim

- Provide for boating activities in the park and sanctuaries consistent with management objectives.

#### Management strategies

- *Permit a range of boating activities in the planning area in accordance with:*
  - *the existing sail-powered-only area*
  - *the 5 knot speed restriction within 200 metres of the shore, 100 metres of a vessel or buoy with a diver below signal and 50 metres of a swimmer*
  - *table 2.*
- *Continue to permit anchoring in the planning area. Monitor use and take appropriate action to reduce any impacts on natural values.*

- *Liaise with recreational boat users during patrols within the park and sanctuaries to ensure compliance with relevant legislation and guidelines.*
- *Encourage kite-surfers, sailboarders and personal water craft operators to abide by regulations and safe operating guidelines relevant to their activity.*
- *Liaise with angling and sailing clubs concerning awareness of the park and sanctuaries and participation in their management.*
- *Liaise with Marine Safety Victoria to assist with recreational boating safety (section 8.3).*
- *In conjunction with the Great Ocean Road Coast Committee, Surf Coast Shire, Victoria Police and Marine Safety Victoria, investigate the clarification of signage and / or, realignment of the boundary of the Point Danger Sail-powered Only Area with the sanctuary boundary.*

## 6.4 Diving and snorkelling

Diving and snorkelling are ideal ways to experience the underwater life and scenery of the park and sanctuaries, but divers in the region, aware of the dangers posed by the changeable conditions, usually prefer dive sites in Port Phillip Bay. Under favourable conditions with slight offshore northerly to westerly winds, some excellent dive areas are easily accessible within the park and sanctuaries.

Although quite exposed, Point Danger Marine Sanctuary is a good shore dive or snorkelling site. Diving around the edge of the rock platform at low tide is particularly interesting.

Point Addis gives good access to a variety of shore dive or snorkelling sites. Generally, conditions are best at low tide. There is a series of off-shore reefs in Point Addis Marine National Park, suitable for diving under ideal conditions. Deeper off-shore reefs and the shallower Ingoldsby Reef are particularly interesting. Divers often visit the wreck of the *Inverlochy* at Ingoldsby reef.

Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary is an ideal site for snorkelling and diving, offering diverse underwater scenery at depths of up to 8 metres.

Current levels of diving and snorkelling are relatively low but may increase. The park and sanctuaries are considered unsuitable for underwater dive trails because of wave energy and the associated movement of sand.

Community involvement in programs such as Reef Watch would be valuable for participants and for the park and sanctuaries (section 8.2).

Potential impacts from diving include fin disturbance to sensitive sediments, intertidal trampling, anchor damage and illegal collection.

Educating divers and snorkellers about minimal impact practices, particularly those new to these activities, will help minimise impacts and assist with park and sanctuary management. Divers should refer to the Dive Industry Victoria Association (DIVA) *Code of Practice for Commercial Providers of Recreational Snorkelling & Scuba Diving Services in Victoria* (DIVA 2004) or the Scuba Divers Federation of Victoria (SDFV) *Codes of Practice, General Operating Guidelines for Recreational Scuba Diving and Related Activities* (SDFV 2005). Snorkellers should refer to the *Snorkelling, scuba diving, and wildlife swims—Adventure Activity Standards 2004* ([www.orc.org.au](http://www.orc.org.au)).

Divers and snorkellers can assist in the early detection of marine pests in the planning area (sections 4.6 and 8.2) and the detection of unrecorded cultural places and objects.

### Aim

- Provide opportunities for diving and snorkelling that are consistent with the protection of the values of the park and sanctuaries.

### Management strategies

- *Manage diving and snorkelling to minimise impacts on the park and sanctuaries.*
- *Promote compliance of snorkellers and recreational scuba divers with relevant codes of practice and Adventure Activity Standards.*
- *Support dive clubs and industry representatives to develop a code of practice that promotes environmentally responsible diving practices.*

- *Encourage boat based divers to check anchor location at the start of a dive to prevent unnecessary damage to reef communities.*

## 6.5 Swimming and shore-based activities

Beaches and other intertidal areas within the park and sanctuaries are popular locations for swimming, nature study, walking and relaxing.

Point Addis Marine National Park has a number of wide sandy beaches, including Southside, Addiscot Beach and Bells Beach, which are used for a variety of beach activities.

Unstable cliffs in some areas may make shore-based activities in the vicinity unsafe (section 6.11).

At low tide the reef at Point Danger Marine Sanctuary is exposed and accessible to visitors on foot. The intertidal rockpools are a focus for educational activities. Although many visitors take precautions to minimise their impact, trampling by increasing numbers, particularly over the summer months, appears to be having a visible impact on intertidal species diversity (C. Porter, pers. comm.). Although fewer people visit intertidal areas within Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary and Point Addis Marine National Park, reef areas in the park and sanctuary may also be affected by trampling. Encouraging visitors and groups to visit with a licensed tour guide and locating interpretive material outside the park and sanctuaries could encourage learning and help lessen impacts on sensitive reefs (section 6.1).

When required, accumulated rubbish will be removed from the accessible intertidal areas of the park and sanctuaries (section 4.2).

Lighting fires on beaches within Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries will not be permitted.

### Aim

- Provide opportunities for appropriate shore-based recreation activities that are consistent with the protection of park and sanctuary values.

### Management strategies

- *Permit recreational activities in accordance with table 2.*

- *Undertake regular patrols of intertidal areas within the park and sanctuaries during high visitation periods to encourage appropriate visitor use.*
- *Encourage visitors, and groups in particular, to access intertidal areas in Point Danger Marine Sanctuary under the guidance of a licensed tour operator (section 6.10).*
- *Encourage visitors to adopt safe and minimal impact practices, as identified in the brochure 'Living Between the Tides'.*
- *Review management of Point Danger intertidal reef subject to the results of long-term monitoring (section 6.1). If necessary, consider controlling public access during certain periods.*

## 6.6 Dogs and horses

Many local residents and other visitors enjoy walking and exercising their dogs on beaches in the park and sanctuaries. Dog-walking (both on- and off-lead) was permitted in specified areas at specified times within the planning area before the proclamation of the park and sanctuaries.

Dogs can have serious impacts on bird populations and other wildlife. Their presence, scent and noise may disturb birds and prevent roosting and feeding, leading to reduced species numbers, lower numbers of returning birds and low weight in migratory birds. Dogs can also disturb seals that occasionally come ashore in the park and sanctuaries. Some visitors, particularly small children, may be annoyed or intimidated by unrestrained dogs. Droppings are a potential source of pollution (section 4.2). It is an offence for a dog to harass or injure people or wildlife under the *Feral and Nuisance Animals Act 1994* (Vic.) and the Wildlife Act.

Dogs are considered incompatible with the aims and objectives of areas managed under the National Parks Act such as the park and sanctuaries, and are generally prohibited from these areas. However, a number of parks have areas set aside to allow dog walking, provided dogs are leashed, under control and restrained from causing annoyance to people and wildlife or damage to property.

An integrated approach to dog regulation with the adjacent proposed Great Otway National Park and beach managers is desirable to prevent public confusion (section 8.3). Future dog access for Great Otway National Park will be considered during plan development. The Surf Coast Shire implements seasonal restrictions for dog-walking and exercising on beaches other than those within the park and sanctuaries. These restrictions are currently under review. Future dog access to beaches within the park and sanctuaries may be varied in line with the planning for Great Otway National Park and the Shire's review.

Horse riding on park and sanctuary beaches is not permitted, consistent with arrangements prior to proclamation of the park and sanctuaries. Horse riders can access nearby bush tracks, which are ideal for this activity.

### **Aims**

- Provide opportunities for walking dogs where compatible with the protection of natural values.
- Minimise conflicts with other visitors and impacts on park and sanctuary values from dogs and horses.

### **Management strategies**

- *Continue to permit the walking and exercising of dogs on all beaches in the park and sanctuaries provided they are on leads, unless access is restricted as a result of community consultation.*
- *Support a review of dog access in the planning areas as part of a broader review of dog-walking and exercising on beaches by the Surf Coast Shire involving consultation with local communities. Ensure protection of park and sanctuary values, appropriate recreation opportunities and complementary management of adjacent beaches, where feasible.*
- *Implement changes to areas or times when dogs are permitted in accordance with the outcomes of planning for the proposed Great Otway National Park and the review with the Surf Coast Shire.*
- *Encourage and support development and implementation by the Surf Coast Shire of*

*regulatory information and a responsible dog owner education program that incorporates the park and sanctuaries.*

- *Require dog owners to remove faeces left by their dog from the park and sanctuaries.*
- *Allow dogs throughout the planning area if confined to a vessel and under control.*
- *Provide information to visitors about dog access and regulations through Marine notes, information signs and ranger patrols (section 6.1).*
- *Consistent with management of horses on adjacent land, do not permit horses in Point Addis Marine National Park, Point Danger Marine Sanctuary or Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary.*

## **6.7 Surfing**

Surfing is one of the most popular and well-known recreational activities in Point Addis Marine National Park, and is also undertaken in Point Danger Marine Sanctuary. The sanctuary is also a popular location for kite-surfing and sailboarding (section 6.3).

The world-famous Bells Beach is within Point Addis Marine National Park. Bells Beach is a long right-hand point break, beginning on the outer reef known as 'Rincon' and continuing to 'Bells Bowl'. Bells Beach is the site of several high-profile surfing events, including the Rip Curl Pro (section 6.9).

A beautiful and largely natural setting is appealing to most surfers, and many are actively involved in coastal and marine conservation groups, such as Surfers Appreciating Natural Environments (SANE), the Surfrider Foundation and Coast Action / Coastcare. Close and regular contact with the water at Point Addis Marine National Park in particular means that surfers are well placed to detect any environmental changes such as pollution or visitor management issues.

Surfing has minimal impact on environmental values and most surfers exercise surfing etiquette designed for safety and to avoid conflicts with other users. However, some activities associated with accessing the water could impact on the park or sanctuaries through loss of intertidal habitats, litter, or loss of adjacent vegetation.

**Aim**

- Provide opportunities for surfing that are consistent with the protection of park and sanctuary values.

**Management strategies**

- *Continue to permit recreational surfing activities in accordance with table 2.*
- *Liaise with surfing groups and the Bells Beach Advisory Committee on park management issues affecting surfers, including events, water quality and safety.*
- *Increase awareness in the surfing community of park and sanctuary conservation values (section 6.1).*

**6.8 Hang-gliding, para-gliding and other aircraft**

The Surf Coast is popular for air sports, including hang-gliding, para-gliding and gliding because of the favourable weather and air currents. There are launch sites adjacent to Point Addis Marine National Park, and some beaches within the park are suitable for landing these types of aircraft. Landing aircraft in Point Addis Marine National Park is generally not permitted, but landing hang-gliders and para-gliders in the park is unlikely to conflict significantly with other visitor activities.

Commercial and private joy flights regularly operate along the coast, particularly during weekends and summer holiday periods. Aircraft noise, particularly from low-flying aircraft, may be annoying to park and sanctuary visitors and could disturb shorebirds.

**Aims**

- Provide for landing of hang-gliders and para-gliders where safe and appropriate.
- Minimise the disturbing effects of aircraft on park and sanctuary visitors.

**Management strategies**

- *Permit only hang-gliders and para-gliders to land on beaches within Point Addis Marine National Park, in accordance with Parks Victoria operational policy.*
- *Do not permit hang-gliders, para-gliders or other aircraft to take off or land within Point Danger Marine Sanctuary and Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary.*

- *Liaise with the Civil Aviation Safety Authority and local aircraft operators to investigate the development of a 'Fly Neighbourly Agreement' covering the park and sanctuaries.*

**6.9 Events**

Several major surfing events take place each year in Point Addis Marine National Park at Bells Beach. The park and sanctuaries are also suitable for sailing and kite-surfing competitions, which have occasionally occurred in the past.

Since 1973 Bells Beach has been home to the Rip Curl Pro, which is the longest-running professional surfing event in the world. Over Easter weekend each year the Rip Curl Pro becomes the international focus for professional surfing. During major surfing events, images of Bells Beach and other parts of Point Addis Marine National Park reach a world-wide audience.

The surfing component of the event takes place within Point Addis Marine National Park; however, most of the associated infrastructure and commercial activities are located in the adjacent Bells Beach Surfing Reserve (section 7.2). In the past, DSE and the Surf Coast Shire have issued permits, but a permit is now also required under the National Parks Act.

Surfing events in Point Danger or Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuaries will be considered on merit and are also subject to an event permit.

Commercial and larger competitive surfing events require exclusive access for competition, resulting in ongoing concern about restrictions to public surfing access to Bells Beach during these events. The Bells Beach Surfing Reserve Advisory Committee, which includes event managers, Surf Coast Shire and community representatives, developed an events policy which provides for balanced levels of access for all users. The policy sets a limit of six Surfing Victoria sanctioned events per year, including the Rip Curl Pro.

The Rip Curl Pro event is an ideal opportunity to increase awareness of the park (section 6.1). Careful and cooperative management is required to ensure that it does not impact on the environmental values and visitor

experiences of the park and sanctuaries (section 8.3).

### Aim

- Manage surfing and other events in accordance with the National Parks Act and regulations and minimise their impact on park and sanctuary values.

### Management strategies

- *Continue to permit surfing events in Point Addis Marine National Park, including the Rip Curl Pro, consistent with Parks Victoria's operational policies and Bells Beach Surfing Recreation Reserve Surfing Events Policy (Surf Coast Shire 2002).*
- *Liaise with the Surf Coast Shire and DSE to coordinate the issue of permits for surfing events at Bells Beach Surfing Recreation Reserve and Point Addis Marine National Park.*
- *Permit events other than surfing in Point Addis Marine National Park consistent with Parks Victoria operational policies.*
- *Permit surfing and other events in the sanctuaries in accordance with Parks Victoria operational policies.*
- *Liaise with, and monitor activities of, event managers, and compliance with permit conditions.*
- *Ensure that any relevant adventure activity standards are integrated into permits for surfing and other events.*

## 6.10 Tourism services

The dramatic coastal scenery and high numbers of visitors, in particular to Bells Beach, are attracting increasing interest from commercial operators in establishing a variety of visitor services such as take-away food vans at Bells Beach, mainly on the adjacent reserve (section 7.2).

Licensed tour operators facilitate access for visitors who may not otherwise have the opportunity to visit the park. They also help to promote park values and appropriate use, and encourage appropriate tourism and recreation.

Currently there are several licensed tour operators offering surfing and sea kayaking in Point Addis Marine National Park.

Environmental education operators undertake rock pool rambles and other activities, particularly at Point Danger Marine Sanctuary and Point Addis Marine National Park.

Licences for tour operators, which are issued by Parks Victoria, include conditions that detail access, permitted activities and site-specific restrictions. Licensed tour operators must also adhere to industry standards for safety (section 6.11).

### Aim

- Encourage the provision of appropriate commercial visitor services while minimising impacts on natural and cultural values.

### Management strategies

- *Ensure that all tour operators using the park and sanctuaries are licensed.*
- *Encourage and assist licensed tour operators to offer a range of appropriate activities compatible with the protection of park values.*
- *Work with licensed tour operators to minimise impacts from groups on intertidal sites, particularly at Point Danger Marine Sanctuary, by implementing Minimal Impact Guidelines, ensuring that group sizes do not exceed 25, coordinating their activities, and varying sites, especially during high use periods 6.1).*
- *Ensure that all licensed tour operators have appropriate training and accreditation.*
- *Monitor impacts of activities and use of intertidal area by licensed tour operations to ensure compliance with permit conditions. Review group sizes and frequency, particularly at Point Danger Marine Sanctuary, if necessary.*
- *Encourage and support Indigenous communities to provide licensed tour operator services.*

## 6.11 Public safety

Visitors are exposed to a number of natural hazards when they visit the park and sanctuaries, particularly if they are unaware of local conditions.

Visitors need to be aware of risks to ensure that they enjoy a safe visit. Recreational vessel operators need to be aware of swimmers, snorkellers and divers in the water, and commercial vessels in a shipping route through Point Addis Marine National Park. Caution should be exercised when diving some wrecks (including only where relevant) as currents may create hazardous diving conditions. Many sites are best dived at slack water and in good weather.

Public information and education programs are one of the most effective ways to promote safety. Safety messages are presented to visitors via signs, Marine Notes, at Parks Victoria's website and through a range of other approaches, such as ranger patrols (section 6.1).

Commercial masters and operators of powered recreational vessels in State waters are required to have a current licence. The *Victorian Recreational Boating Safety Handbook* (MSV 2002b) contains most necessary information for recreational boating. Marine Safety Victoria also conducts safety and awareness programs.

Industry-developed adventure activity standards are being produced for a range of adventure activities that can be undertaken in the park and sanctuaries. Parks Victoria encourages compliance with these standards to help ensure visitor safety.

The responsibilities for responding to emergency incidents in Victoria and Victorian waters are outlined in the *Emergency Management Act 1986* (Vic.). Parks Victoria is not the lead agency for most emergency response situations. Instead it supports other agencies, including the Department of Sustainability and Environment, Marine Safety Victoria, the Country Fire Authority, the State Emergency Service and Victoria Police, in emergency incidents such as search and rescue or oil spill, where required (section 8.3).

All Victorian beaches were surveyed in 1996 and their safety rated as being in one of four hazard categories; safest, moderately safe, low safety and least safe (Short 1996). Beaches in Point Addis Marine National Park and Point Danger Marine Sanctuary were given a

moderately safe rating and beaches in Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary were given a low safety rating (Short 1996).

There are no patrolled beaches in the park or sanctuaries, but Life Saving Victoria runs seasonal, volunteer beach patrols at beaches adjacent to Point Danger Marine Sanctuary. There are no patrolled beaches adjacent to Point Addis Marine National Park or Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary.

Some cliffs adjacent to Point Addis Marine National Park and Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary are unstable and regularly subside. The areas around these cliffs may be unsafe for rock climbing and other shore-based activities (section 4.1).

### Aims

- Promote visitor safety and awareness of safety issues and risks within the park and sanctuaries associated with access and use.
- Promote and observe safe practices, and cooperate with emergency services.

### Management strategies

- *Present information to visitors of the inherent dangers associated with the park and sanctuaries, and encourages them to adopt safe operating guidelines appropriate to their activity (section 6.1).*
- *Develop an Emergency Management Plan for the park and sanctuaries and review this plan annually and ensure that staff and licensed tour operators are aware of the plan.*
- *Cooperate with and support responsible agencies in emergency responses, and ensure that park staff are adequately trained in emergency procedures.*
- *Liaise with the Surf Coast Shire to ensure that Municipal Emergency Response Plans make adequate provision for likely incidents in the park and sanctuaries, and that they identify Parks Victoria's roles.*

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## 7 STRATEGIES FOR AUTHORISED AND ADJACENT USES

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### 7.1 Authorised uses

A number of uses and activities may be permitted in the planning area subject to specified conditions to minimise impacts.

An area of approximately 10 hectares at Addiscot Beach has been prescribed as an area to which the provisions of the Nudity (Prescribed Areas) Act apply (table 1). Nudity within this area is not an offence. There has been a history of visitor conflict associated with the site and the remoteness of the area makes it difficult for police to respond quickly in any incident.

Vessels of all types are permitted to travel through the park and sanctuaries. A major shipping route runs parallel to the Surf Coast, through Point Addis Marine National Park and close to Point Danger Marine Sanctuary and Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary. This busy route carries predominantly freight traffic between Melbourne and other southern Australian ports.

There are no Inshore Traffic Zones, navigational beacons, safe anchorages, public utilities or occupancies in the park and sanctuaries.

Petroleum extraction, exploratory drilling, mineral exploration and mining, and invasive searching for or extraction of stone and other materials, are prohibited in the planning area under the National Parks Act. Petroleum exploration, such as seismic survey from an aircraft or from a vessel that is carried out in a manner which does not detrimentally affect the seabed or any flora or fauna of the park may be allowed with the consent of the Minister. However the Government has announced that it will not release any further areas in Victoria that contain Marine National Parks or Marine Sanctuaries for petroleum exploration. There is no petroleum exploration permit over the park or sanctuaries. Construction of pipelines or seafloor cables may be permitted with the consent of the Minister in some circumstances.

Construction of pipelines or seafloor cables may be permitted with the consent of the Minister in some circumstances.

Adventure training and field navigation exercises by Defence Force units, may be undertaken subject to permit outlining conditions to ensure minimal impacts on the planning area.

All research and monitoring for a Marine National Park or Marine Sanctuary by external organisations or individuals requires a research permit under the National Parks Act. Permits are issued by DSE.

Parks Victoria recognises the significant role that filming and photography industry plays in the social and economic well-being of the community and in providing for these activities seeks to ensure protection of the natural and cultural values of the planning area. This is achieved through a permit system for all filming or photography conducted as part of a trade or a business. Amateur photographers or people taking film or video for personal or hobby interest do not require a permit.

#### Aims

- Manage authorised uses and permitted activities in accordance with the National Parks Act.
- Minimise the impact of authorised uses and permitted activities on park and sanctuary values.

#### Management strategies

- *Review all uses of the park and sanctuaries that do not conform with the objectives of the National Parks Act, including private uses and public service activities. Allow uses to continue only in accordance with authorisations that are consistent with legislation, and include conditions that effectively minimise the impacts of uses on the park and sanctuaries.*
- *Monitor authorised activities to ensure that conditions of authorisations are met. Assess the effectiveness of conditions of authorisations in protecting the park and sanctuaries and seek review of authorisations, if necessary, to arrest impacts.*



- *Permit authorised uses in accordance with Parks Victoria's operational policy and liaise with authorised users to ensure that conditions have been met and uses have minimal impact on park and sanctuary values.*
- *In conjunction with relevant authorities, seek to review the appropriateness of the Point Addis Prescribed Nudity Area and its location.*
- *Permit Defence Force training activities and field navigation exercises in accordance with Parks Victoria's operational policy.*
- *Permit commercial photography and film-making in accordance with Parks Victoria's operational policy.*

## 7.2 Boundaries and adjacent uses

Shore-based boundary markers define where the park and sanctuary boundaries intersect the coastline. Two shore-based triangular yellow signs, aligned on the bearing of the boundary, are generally used to mark this boundary.

These markers allow near-shore boat operators and land-based visitors to orient their location in relation to the boundary.

All locations where boundaries intersect the coast have at least one marker. It is not possible to have two markers at all locations because of the difficult topography, the presence of sensitive landscapes, unstable soils and limited visibility from vessels at sea. There are no markers located at sea to mark offshore boundaries. Signs are also important to convey boundary locations (section 6.1).

Point Addis Marine National Park adjoins:

- the proposed Great Otway National Park which will include part of the coastal reserve currently managed by the Great Ocean Road Coast Committee
- Bells Beach Surfing Reserve at Bells beach, which is Crown land managed by the Surf Coast Shire as a committee of management (figure 2)
- Commonwealth waters to the south of the park, which are managed by the Commonwealth Government
- waters at either side of the park, from low tide to 200 m to sea which are part of the

coastal reserve managed by the Great Ocean Road Coast Committee

- State waters, which are the responsibility of DSE.

Point Danger Marine Sanctuary and Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary adjoin:

- coastal reserve, which extends 200m to sea, managed by the Great Ocean Road Coast Committee
- State waters, which are the responsibility of DSE.

State waters and the underlying seabed adjoining the park and sanctuaries are currently mostly unreserved Crown land. The Government accepted the ECC's recommendation that a Coastal Waters Reserve be established under the Crown Land (Reserves) Act for the major proportion of Victoria's marine area not otherwise designated for a particular purpose, to provide for a diverse range of activities that are compatible with long-term sustainable use (ECC 2000).

Abutting the seaward boundary of Point Addis Marine National Park is a 'Broad Area of Interest' within which a marine protected area has been proposed by the Australian Government. This site has been identified as part of the National Oceans Office's South East Regional Marine Planning process (NOO 2004).

The ECC recommended that the adjacent coastal reserve be zoned either a Coastal Protection or Coastal Recreation Zone (ECC 2000) as indicated in the Victorian Coastal Strategy (VCC 2002). The reserve areas adjacent to the sanctuaries are zoned Coastal Recreation Zone.

Cooperation with all adjacent managers is desirable to facilitate a coordinated approach to management, especially operational matters. In particular, management should be integrated with the relevant master plans for Bells Beach (Surf Coast Shire 2004) and Point Danger (Torquay Public Reserves Committee of Management 2003) (sections 6.1, 6.3 and 6.3).

The *State Planning Policy Framework* (DSE 2003), in conjunction with the *Surf Coast Planning Scheme* (Surf Coast Shire 2000), provides a framework for development

proposals adjoining the park and sanctuaries. The planning scheme is administered by the Surf Coast Shire and encompasses an area which extends 600 metres offshore. Under the scheme, Point Addis Marine National Park is zoned 'Public Conservation and Resource Zone' to 600 metres offshore. All of Point Danger and Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary are currently zoned 'Public Conservation and Resource Zone'. General and particular provisions, as well as overlays, identify provisions that must be met by a development application. The planning scheme may need to be amended to ensure that it supports the protection of park and sanctuary values.

#### **Aims**

- Effectively communicate the location of the park and sanctuary boundaries.
- Participate in planning processes that could affect park and sanctuary values.

#### **Management strategies**

- *Maintain and upgrade existing boundary markers and signs in accordance with table 3 that identify and effectively communicate boundaries.*
- *Ensure that the installation of any new boundary marker or sign is authorised by the appropriate land manager.*
- *Investigate options for increasing the visibility of boundary markers in the park and sanctuaries.*
- *In conjunction with DSE and the Surf Coast Shire, investigate the design of environmental significance overlays with provisions to assist in the protection of the park and sanctuaries from particular impacts associated with developments adjoining them. If appropriate, amend the planning scheme to incorporate this overlay.*

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## 8 STRATEGIES FOR COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND INVOLVEMENT

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### 8.1 Community awareness

Raising the community's awareness of the values of the park and sanctuaries is an essential step in developing its sense of custodianship for the park and sanctuaries and engagement in the area's management. The community is more likely to develop a sense of custodianship for the area if its views and values are respected and park-related social networks are encouraged and supported. A strong connection with the park and sanctuaries among visitors and in the local and wider community assists in broader public education, raising awareness and reaching others in the community.

Parks Victoria aims to communicate the benefits of a healthy parks system and its contribution to the health of individuals and society through the 'Healthy Parks Healthy People' program.

Many volunteers and environmental groups on the Surf Coast are committed to increasing community awareness of environmental issues, including those relating to Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries (sections 6.1 and 8.2).

A number of organisations have a significant involvement in raising community awareness of Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries, including:

- Coast Action/Coastcare
- the Marine Discovery Centre (Queenscliff)
- the Marine and Coastal Community Network.

#### Aims

- Increase community awareness and understanding of park and sanctuary values and management activities.
- Build a sense of shared ownership and custodianship for the park and sanctuaries among community groups and individuals.

#### Management strategies

- *Focus on increasing awareness about the location and special values of the park and sanctuaries as well as the importance of the Victorian system of Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries.*
- *Build the awareness of local Surf Coast communities of the opportunities to become directly involved in the management of the park and sanctuaries.*
- *Promote the achievements of community groups and volunteers in the support of park and sanctuary management through local media.*
- *Promote the benefits of assisting park and sanctuary programs to community groups in line with 'Healthy Parks Healthy People' objectives.*
- *Ensure that the planning area is incorporated into statewide initiatives to raise awareness and understanding of the Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries system.*
- *Use local events, particularly those within the park or sanctuaries such as the Rip Curl Pro, to promote the park and sanctuaries.*
- *Encourage the development of audio-visual resources which help to promote the park and sanctuaries and community involvement in them.*

### 8.2 Community participation

The participation of community groups and individuals in the planning area's management is pivotal in effective long-term planning, use and care of its values.

Volunteers and community groups make valuable contributions to park management projects. They bring diverse and valuable information, knowledge, skills and experience to the park that may not otherwise be available to managers. Volunteers also bring considerable enthusiasm and add valuable resources to assist with the care of parks.

The interests of community groups in the park often overlap but may or may not be complementary. There can be considerable mutual benefits where such groups work together and with Parks Victoria to achieve common goals. There is already considerable interest in establishing Friends groups for the park and/or the sanctuaries.

Other groups, such as local historical societies, naturalist groups and individuals, can provide important resource information. Volunteers introduce increased capacity, diversity in skills and enthusiasm to the planning, use and care of Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries.

The park and sanctuaries also offer opportunities for tertiary students. Students can give valuable assistance in park management and gain important on-site experience in natural resource management.

Building local community ownership and connection with the park and sanctuaries is important for long-term management. To be successful, it requires an understanding of community views and needs, the development of skills within the community, respect for local culture and the development of social networks. Strong community ownership assists in broader public education and awareness, the early detection of threats and a partnership approach to management.

The health of the Marine National Park, Marine Sanctuaries and the adjacent local environments could be improved through the implementation of a Neighbourhood Environment Improvement Plan (NEIP). NEIPs are action plans developed in partnership by all parts of the community and administered by EPA under the Environment Protection Act. The development of an Anglesea NEIP by Anglesea residents commenced in 2005 to deal with urban sustainability issues. This approach offers a model for community involvement, and could significantly reduce risks to the values of Point Addis Marine National Park.

Management of the park and sanctuaries will be enhanced by involving groups with a close connection to the park and sanctuaries, including:

- the Traditional Owners, which have a strong connection to the sea and coast (section 5.1)
- the Anglesea community, which is actively involved in minimising threats to the park through the Neighbourhood Environment Improvement Plan
- local schools, which are involved in education, increasing awareness and fostering appreciation of the park and sanctuaries within the broader community (section 6.1)
- the Australian Marine Conservation Society (Great Ocean Road Branch), which is involved in improving public awareness of marine conservation and has undertaken marine research and monitoring
- the Jan Juc Coast Action/Coastcare Group, which participates in coastal conservation projects, including activities around Point Danger Marine Sanctuary
- the Aireys Inlet Coast Action/Coastcare Group, which participates in coastal conservation projects, including activities around Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary
- Great Ocean Road Coast Committee which manages much of the land adjoining the park and sanctuaries.
- ANGAIR (Anglesea and Aireys Inlet Society for the Protection of Flora and Fauna), which participates in a variety of conservation projects in the area.
- angling clubs, which are involved in education of recreational boat users and reporting incidents
- Surfers Appreciating Natural Environments (SANE), and the Surfrider Foundation (Surf Coast Branch), which participate in conservation and environmental awareness projects, including activities associated with Bells Beach.

#### **Aims**

- Support and encourage community groups and volunteers to actively participate in the management of the park and sanctuaries.

- Inform and strengthen management with cultural lore of the Traditional Owners.
- Encourage, and provide opportunities for, volunteers to undertake work experience and research that is consistent with park and sanctuary management aims, and encourage tertiary students to participate.

### Management strategies

- *Conduct an annual Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries forum on the Surf Coast to review progress in the implementation of the management plan and to facilitate community participation.*
- *Continue to strengthen and maintain relationships with relevant Indigenous communities. In particular, seek to further develop a close inclusive working partnership with the Traditional Owners and cooperation with the scheduled Aboriginal community.*
- *Support implementation of the Anglesea NEIP of direct benefit to the planning area and actions that will improve awareness and protection of the park and sanctuaries.*
- *Support the development, in conjunction with the local communities at Aireys Inlet, and Torquay and Jan Juc, of NEIPs for Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary and Point Danger Marine Sanctuary and the adjacent catchments.*
- *Liaise with the local community and Surf Coast Shire to enhance community understanding of responsible pet ownership and problems associated with marine pests.*
- *Regularly liaise with community groups to offer members opportunities to learn about, and participate in, ongoing management of the park and sanctuaries.*
- *Encourage the formation of Friends and Reef Watch groups for the park and sanctuaries, recognise and encourage volunteer involvement in park management from existing environmental and community groups.*
- *Identify opportunities for user groups to assist in the management of the park and sanctuaries.*

- *Identify projects that will facilitate volunteer involvement in the management of the park and sanctuaries.*
- *Encourage visitors to assist with compliance management by reporting illegal fishing and other offences to the relevant authorities.*

### 8.3 Agency partnerships

Although Parks Victoria is responsible for the overall management of the park and sanctuaries, other agencies are responsible for the planning, managing or regulating certain activities in all or part of the park and sanctuaries.

It is necessary to ensure that all activities that relate to the park and sanctuaries and are carried out by Parks Victoria or other agencies accord with all legislation and government policy, and as far as practical are consistent with agencies' policies and guidelines. To ensure that this occurs, it is necessary for park staff to maintain close liaison with staff of relevant agencies and to collaborate in implementing activities where appropriate.

DSE establishes parks, and provides strategic direction and policy advice for the management of the park and sanctuaries, including marine flora and fauna values and threatening processes. Parks Victoria is a support agency for responses to oiled wildlife (section 4.2) and cetacean stranding or entanglement (section 4.4), operating at the direction of DSE.

As part of agreed service delivery arrangements, Fisheries Victoria – Department of Primary Industries has primary responsibility for enforcement to ensure compliance with the no-fishing provisions of the National Parks Act. Parks Victoria will continue collaborate with Fisheries Victoria in activities such as cooperative Ranger and Fisheries Officer patrols and support arrangements in accordance with the *Regional Compliance Plan* (Parks Victoria 2004b). On beaches that share a boundary with an adjacent reserve, cooperation with the adjacent land managers will be needed.

The Western Coastal Board provides direction and policy advice to facilitate sustainable development of the south-west coast of Victoria through the implementation of the

Victorian Coastal Strategy (VCC 2002). The Corangamite Catchment Management Authority is responsible for ensuring the protection and sustainable development of land, vegetation and water resources within the Corangamite catchment, including the preparation of a regional catchment strategy to address the impacts of land use and management on the catchment (section 4.2).

The Victorian Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has primary responsibility for environmental protection of all waters in Victoria. EPA is responsible for the administration and enforcement of the *Environment Protection Act 1970* (Vic.), including all activities relating to the discharge of litter and waste to the environment (section 4.2). EPA also develops State Environment Protection Policies (SEPP) for state waters. EPA facilitates the development of Neighbourhood Environment Improvement Plans (NEIPs) which enable communities to work towards achieving local environmental improvements.

Parks Victoria is a support agency for Marine Safety Victoria at a state-wide and regional level for marine pollution incidents, contributing on-site incident response and incident management as well as technical advice. The Port of Melbourne Corporation is responsible for the initial response, and then the coordination of the response, to pollution incidents in the planning area. Incident response arrangements are set out in the *Port Phillip Region Marine Pollution Contingency Plan* (Victorian Channels Authority 1998).

The Surf Coast Shire has a key role in administering the planning scheme for land adjacent to the sanctuaries and part of the park, including assessing developments that could have an impact on park and sanctuary values. Parks Victoria provides input into planning applications to ensure that park and sanctuary values are protected.

Through Aboriginal Affairs Victoria (AAV), the Department of Victorian Communities (DVC) has responsibility for administering the Victorian Archaeological and Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act and the Commonwealth Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act (sections 2.5 and 5.1). These acts provide blanket protection for all Aboriginal cultural heritage values,

including places and objects. It is an offence to damage, interfere or endanger an Aboriginal site, place or object without obtaining prior written consent from the scheduled Aboriginal community. AAV and the South West Cultural Heritage Unit advise Parks Victoria on Indigenous affairs, the promotion of knowledge, and understanding about Indigenous people of the area and the wider community.

Heritage Victoria (DSE) is the central government agency that provides information and advice about places listed on the Victorian Heritage Register and Archaeological Inventory. It supports the Heritage Council through research, recommends additions to the Register and issues permits for alterations to heritage places.

The Minerals and Petroleum Division (Department of Primary Industries) is responsible for the sustainable development of the extractive, oil and gas, pipelines, geothermal energy, minerals exploration and mining industries in Victoria, through the provision of policy advice, regulation and promotion.

Tourism Victoria is the state government authority responsible for developing and marketing Victoria to Australian and international travellers.

Victorian agencies work cooperatively with the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Heritage on the management of regional ecosystem conservation issues.

### **Aim**

- Enhance park and sanctuary management by collaborating with other agencies to ensure that they give appropriate consideration to park values in planning and implementing activities that relate to the park and sanctuaries.

### **Management strategies**

- *Work collaboratively with all agencies to implement the plan vision and directions. In particular work with:*
  - *DSE regarding future planning and management, including protection of marine flora and fauna from potentially threatening processes*

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- *Fisheries Victoria to implement the fishing prohibition and the Regional Compliance Plans*
  - *Western Coastal Board on future plans and strategies that relate to the park and sanctuaries*
  - *Corangamite CMA to reduce the impacts of land use and management of the catchment on the planning area, and on the development of appropriate actions in the Regional Catchment Strategy*
  - *EPA to minimise impacts associated with discharge of waste into the environment, particularly those from stormwater outlets, adjacent estuaries and the Anglesea waste water outfall and assist local communities to develop a NEIP if deemed appropriate for the planning area*
  - *the Port of Melbourne Corporation and EPA to minimise impacts associated with discharge of pollution and waste into the environment*
  - *AAV and South West Cultural Heritage Unit on Indigenous affairs relating to the planning area*
  - *Heritage Victoria on heritage management arrangements within the planning area, and ensuring compliance with the Heritage Act*
  - *Tourism Victoria and Geelong Otway Tourism on appropriate promotion of the park and sanctuaries in regional visitor information centres and in regional tourism strategies*
  - *Marine Safety Victoria to help maximise visitor safety and compliance with boating zone and other regulations*
  - *Surf Coast Shire on administration of the planning scheme, including input into adjacent or nearby developments that may impact on the planning area*
  - *Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Heritage on the management of regional ecosystem conservation issues.*
  - *Update contingency plans for marine pollution incidents, such as oil and chemical spills, and cetacean/wildlife incidents as require, and communicate arrangements to staff, relevant agencies and interested parties.*
  - *Maintain communication with Minerals and Petroleum Victoria (MPV), the petroleum industry and other agencies with respect to petroleum activities near the park and sanctuaries.*
  - *Work supportively with adjoining land managers to develop a coordinated approach to management issues that includes:*
    - *response arrangements for compliance management on beaches with more than one tenure*
    - *response arrangements for rangers and Council or Committee of Management Authorised Officers who observe unauthorised activities or incidents within or adjacent to the park and sanctuaries*
    - *provision of advice and input into planning and management of visitor access infrastructure and signage.*

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## 9 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

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### 9.1 Delivery and reporting

A range of approaches will be used to implement strategies in this plan. Some will be undertaken as part of routine management activities such as ranger visits; others will be addressed as part of regional programs undertaken across the State each year.

A priority list of all the strategies in the plan will be used to guide routine management, and identify strategies to be proposed for inclusion in annual regional programs. The selection of strategies for regional programs varies from year to year depending on available resources and government priorities. Once regional programs are approved strategies and where necessary detailed actions will be included in works programs for the park and sanctuaries.

At the end of each year, progress towards implementing strategies in the plan will be reviewed and the priority list updated. Staff report internally against 'on time and within budget' delivery of regional programs and whether the completed strategy has achieved the objective. Parks Victoria reports annually to Government on the overall delivery of regional and divisional programs. This broader reporting on management performance is available in annual reports prepared on the National Parks Act and Parks Victoria.

During implementation of the plan Parks Victoria will consult with Traditional Owners and the scheduled Aboriginal community. On-going collaborative activities with the relevant Indigenous communities, interested members of the community, scientists and agencies in realising the vision and management directions for the park and sanctuaries will be especially important as outlined in previous sections of the plan.

Implementation of the plan will be consistent with Parks Victoria's commitment to sustainable practices, which involves the delivery of operations, services and facilities in an ecologically and socially responsible manner with minimal use of expendable resources and minimal generation of waste.

In implementing the plan, management will respond to monitoring and research

information as it emerges. Parks Victoria's environmental management framework makes this possible. Based on the International Standard for Environmental Management Systems (ISO 14001), the framework ensures that the future condition of values is considered in identifying threats and developing actions to ameliorate them. Over time the success of actions is reviewed against set objectives to ensure ongoing learning and refinement of management. The selection of actions and treatments of threats are guided by the precautionary principle. Management options are evaluated on the basis of least impact on the environment. Treatment of threats with a potential for serious damage that is not addressed in the plan will not be postponed for lack of information.

Parks Victoria will use a variety of means to report to the community about the progress of implementation of the plan. The primary means will be through routine liaison between Parks Victoria, interested groups and individuals from the local community and relevant government agencies. In addition to giving regular updates, there will be opportunities for input by interested members of the community into annual priority setting and feedback on management performance. Community and volunteer forums will offer opportunities for reporting and discussions about annual programs.

The results of monitoring and research work will continue to be available to the community as technical reports available on Parks Victoria's website [www.parkweb.vic.gov.au](http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au).

Parks Victoria will also report on evaluation of the plan (section 9.3) at the start of the new or revised plan, through routine liaison and community forums and in the subsequent draft plan.

Future reporting on the Statewide Strategy (Parks Victoria 2003) and State of the Parks reports, which will be available on the Parks Victoria's website [www.parkweb.vic.gov.au](http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au), will also include information on management performance in the park and sanctuaries.



## 9.2 Plan amendment

During the 10 year life of the plan, amendments to the plan may only be made by the Secretary to DSE, following an authorised process which includes community consultation.

Circumstances that might lead to amendment of the plan include:

- the results of monitoring or research, management experience or new information (such as greater understanding of new threatening processes) which indicate the need for a change in management direction
- significant changes in visitation or use
- a change in policy that calls into question plan objectives
- new legislation (such as significant boundary changes).

The plan may also be amended if an activity, development or use which conflicts with the provisions of the plan is approved by government (such as native title outcomes).

## 9.3 Evaluation and review

Periodically through the life of the plan Parks Victoria will assess overall progress towards implementing the strategies in the plan and also assess progress towards achieving the plan vision and directions. These evaluations will inform a decision about whether a new or revised plan is required. The achievements of the plan will be assessed by considering performance areas such as:

### Protecting natural values

- Overall improvement in biodiversity

- Compliance with no-fishing provisions and park regulations
- Timely management intervention to minimise threats
- Minimal impact of permitted uses

### Protecting cultural values

- Timely management intervention to minimise damaging activities and threats

### Managing recreation and visitor use

- Managing impact from visitors, including individuals and school and tour groups
- Meeting community expectations in relation to Parks Victoria's management of the park and sanctuaries
- Improving community and visitor awareness

### Providing for research and promoting understanding

- Improving understanding of the composition and distribution of habitats and ecological processes
- Ongoing community participation
- Clear identification of major knowledge gaps.

Methods for evaluating the benefits of the plan are likely to be refined over time. Parks Victoria has partnered with external research agencies to establish benchmarks and indicators for major communities and habitats. By using sound monitoring and assessment methods this monitoring and research work will strengthen the basis for comparing management performance over time.

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## GLOSSARY

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**Algae (seaweed)** – plant-like organisms which use light energy to create food. Unlike plants, not differentiated into roots, stems and leaves.

**Ascidian (sea squirt)** – common solitary or colonial marine animal. Closest common invertebrate relative to humans in the ocean.

**Ballast water** – water carried in a ship's tanks for stability; normally discharged to the sea when the ship is loaded, and can be contaminated with pollution or exotic organisms.

**Bioaccumulation** – The process by which the concentration of contaminants such as heavy metals increases in the body tissues of higher order predators through predation.

**Biodiversity** – the natural diversity of all life: the sum of all our native species of flora and fauna, the genetic variation within them, their habitats and the ecosystems of which they are an integral part.

**Bioregion** – an area with particular underlying environmental and ecological features.

**Bommie** – small free-standing rocky reef.

**Bryozoan (lace coral)** – common small colonial marine animal, flat or upright, many colours.

**Catchment** – the area of land that drains to a watercourse or estuary.

**Coast** – the area of land and water along the land / sea boundary; in Victoria generally accepted to be within 200m of the high water mark inland and all of Victoria's marine jurisdiction out to three nautical miles offshore.

**Coastal Action Plan (CAP)** – a plan endorsed under Part 3 of the Coastal Management Act. A CAP identifies strategic directions and objectives for use and development in a region of the coast and provides for detailed planning.

**Committee of Management** – refers to a committee appointed under Section 14 of the Crown Land (Reserves) Act to manage land reserved under that Act.

**Coralline algae** – algae that contain calcified components. Can take a variety of forms.

**Country** – use all of nature, culture and spirituality relating to an area.

**Crown land** – land belonging to the State.

**Cultural lore** – (folklore under the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act) tradition and oral history that are or have been connected with the cultural life of people (includes songs, rituals, ceremonies, dances, art, customs and

spiritual beliefs) and are significant to the people in accordance with their tradition.

**Customs** – observances and practices of people (includes land management and resource use) in accordance with their tradition.

**Estuary** – an inlet or river mouth that is influenced by tides and freshwater inputs from the catchment.

**Exotic marine organism / species** – refer to Pest.

**Foreshore** – generally, the land between a coastal road and the low water mark.

**Geomorphology** – the scientific study of landforms and geological formations and the processes that shape them.

**Gorgonian** – soft coral fan, generally found in high flow areas. Many colours.

**Gulch** – a ravine or narrow rocky gully.

**Habitat** – dwelling place of a species or community, providing a particular set of environmental conditions.

**Heritage** – place, activity, cultural way of life, structure or group of structures that has aesthetic, historic, scientific or social value for past, present or future generations.

**High water mark** - the landward boundary of high water mark is the average of the highest tides (spring and neap).

**Hydroid** – small tentacled animal related to corals and sea-jellies. Common but often overlooked.

**Indigenous cultural heritage** – cultural lore, places and objects of significance to Indigenous people in accordance with tradition.

**Infrastructure** – physical structures that facilitate the human use of an area (e.g. roads, paths and toilet blocks).

**Intertidal** – the area between low and high tide levels, which is subject to daily changes in physical and biological conditions from tide movements.

**Invertebrate** – an animal without a backbone at any stage of development (e.g. worms, sponges).

**Koori** – Aboriginal people from New South Wales and Victoria.

**Marine National Park** – in Victoria, highly protected areas reserved and managed under Schedule 7 of the National Parks Act that represent the range of marine environments in Victoria, and in which no fishing, extractive or damaging activities are allowed.

**Marine protected area** – a marine area that has some form of protection and is managed for conservation objectives.

**Marine Sanctuary** – in Victoria, a small, highly protected area reserved and managed under Schedule 8 of the National Parks Act to protect special values, and in which no fishing, extractive or damaging activities are allowed. These areas complement Marine National Parks.

**Matters of National Environmental Significance** – defined by the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act to include: World Heritage Properties; Ramsar wetlands; nationally threatened species and communities; migratory species protected under international agreements; the Commonwealth marine environment; and, nuclear actions.

**Midden** – a mound or deposit containing the remains of shellfish eaten by Indigenous people. Coastal shell middens can consist of the shells and other remains from a single meal or many different meals eaten in the same location over many years. Middens can also contain other cultural items such as stone and bone artefacts.

**Mollusc** – broad group of animals, including snails, sea slugs, squid, octopus, cuttlefish and mussels.

**Neap tides** – tide occurring twice every month between spring tides, but slightly lower.

**Outfall** – a place where sewage is discharged to the ocean.

**Pest** - exotic organisms (plants, animals or pathogens) that, if introduced outside their natural or previous distribution, they cause significant changes to habitats, food chains, ecosystems or human health by feeding on or competing with native species. Can refer to either terrestrial or marine species.

**Relevant Indigenous communities** – includes the Traditional Owners, and the scheduled Aboriginal community for areas included in the planning area.

**Scheduled Aboriginal community** – body/s scheduled as the Local Aboriginal Community under the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act relating to the planning area.

**Rhodolith** – unattached, coralline red algae.

**Sediment** – insoluble material suspended in water, consisting mainly of particles derived from rock, soil and organic material.

**Sessile** – growing attached to any underwater surface (e.g. pier, seabed, pile).

**Sewerage** – the system that facilitates the collection, transport, treatment and discharge of sewage.

**Spring tides** – occur twice every month at new and full moon, and are the highest tides.

**Sponge** – multicellular filter-feeding animal with a range of life-forms. Sponges are the simplest form of invertebrate life.

**Tradition** — the body of knowledge, belief and customs that is passed from generation to generation.

**Traditional owners** – the Wathaurong people that reasonably assert an association with the area that is based on direct descent from the original Indigenous custodians and is in accordance with Indigenous tradition.

**Translocation** - the transfer of pests from one area to a new area.

## Abbreviations

**AAV** – Aboriginal Affairs Victoria

**CSIRO** – Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation

**DSE** – Department of Sustainability and Environment

**ECC** – Environment Conservation Council

**EPA** – Environment Protection Authority

**NRE** – former Department of Natural Resources and Environment.

**NRSMPA** – National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas.

## **APPENDIX 1 MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES FOR MARINE NATIONAL PARKS AND MARINE SANCTUARIES**

Management objectives for Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries included on Schedule 7 or 8 of the National Parks Act are in Sections 4 and 17D of the Act as listed below. For an up-to-date copy of the National Parks Act, refer to Victorian Acts on the Victorian Legislation and Parliamentary Documents website [www.dms.dpc.vic.gov.au](http://www.dms.dpc.vic.gov.au).

### **4. Objects of the Act**

The objects of this Act are –

- (a) to make provision, in respect of national parks, State parks, marine national parks and marine sanctuaries –
  - (i) for the preservation and protection of the natural environment including wilderness areas and remote and natural areas in those parks;
  - (ii) for the protection and preservation of indigenous flora and fauna and of features of scenic or archaeological, ecological, geological, historic or other scientific interest in those parks; and
  - (iii) for the study of ecology, geology, botany, zoology and other sciences relating to the conservation of the natural environment in those parks; and
  - (iv) for the responsible management of the land in those parks;
- (c) to make provision in accordance with the foregoing for the use of parks by the public for the purposes of enjoyment, recreation or education, and for the encouragement and control of that use.

### **17D Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries**

(3)(a) The Secretary, subject to this Act will ensure that each marine national park and marine sanctuary is controlled and managed in accordance with the objects of this Act in a manner that will –

- (i) preserve and protect the natural environment and indigenous flora and fauna of the park and any features of the park which are of geological, geomorphological, ecological, scenic, archaeological, historic or other scientific interest; and
  - (ii) promote the prevention of the introduction of exotic flora and fauna into the park; and
  - (iii) provide for the eradication or control of exotic flora and fauna found in the park; and
- (b) subject to paragraph (a) –
- (i) provide for the use, enjoyment and understanding of Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries by the public; and
  - (ii) promote and understanding of the purpose and significance of Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries; and
- (c) prepare a plan of management in respect of each marine national park and each marine sanctuary.

## APPENDIX 2 SUBMISSIONS ON DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN

A total of 18 submissions were received on the draft plan (Nov 2004 – February 2005), from the following organisations and individuals.

Note: Eight submissions are included which related to all Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries and no submissions were marked confidential.

Organisation	Submission No.
<b>Submissions from groups</b>	<b>11</b>
Aboriginal Affairs Victoria, Gippsland#	18
Birds Australian & Victorian Wader Study Group	10
Coast Action / Coastcare	12
Department of Defence, Commonwealth#	14
Department of Sustainability and Environment, Gippsland#	17
Environment Protection Authority#	16
Fisheries Victoria, Department of Primary Industries#	13 & 9
Surfers Appreciating Natural Environment	7
Scuba Divers Federation of Victoria (SDFV)#	8
Tourism Victoria#	15

Individual	Submission No.
<b>Submissions from individuals</b>	<b>6</b>
Matt Edmunds#	1
Ian & Janet Leslie	4
Roger Peverill	5
Lachlan Richardson	3
Craig & Katrina Simpson	2
Brian Williams	6

# Denotes submissions relating to all Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries.



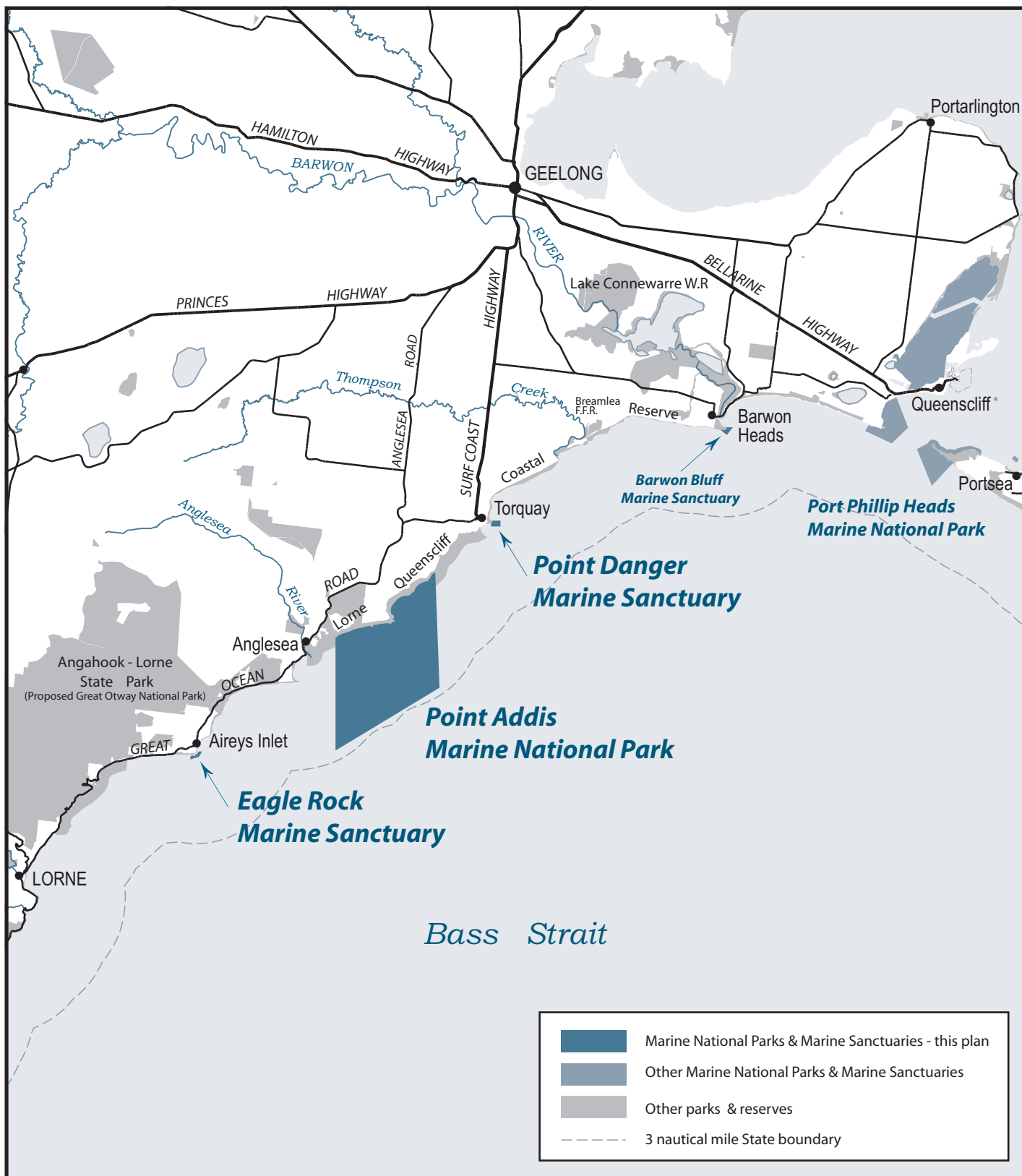


Figure 1 LOCATION

## Point Addis Marine National Park , Point Danger Marine Sanctuary and Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary

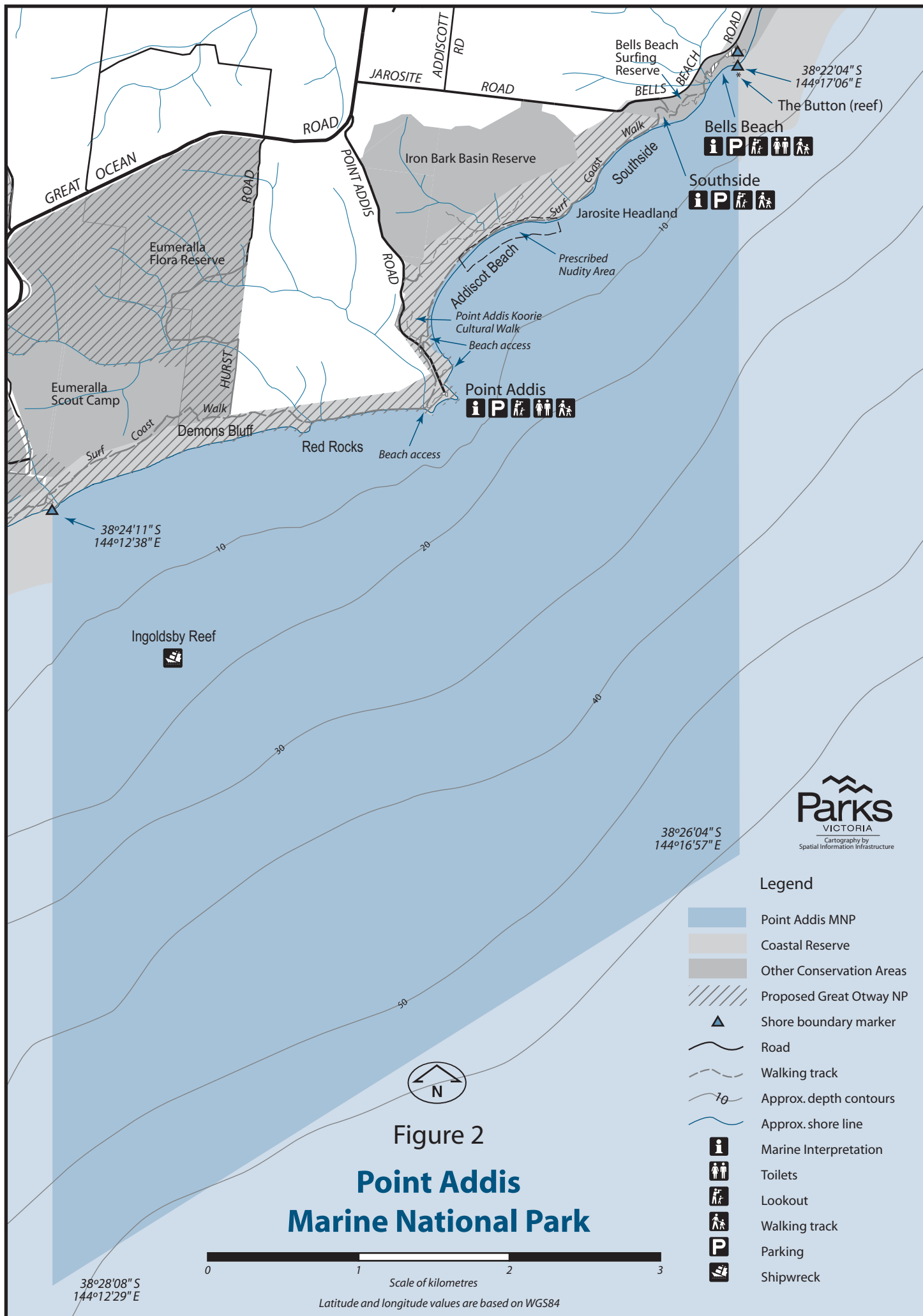


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**Parks**  
VICTORIA  
Cartography by  
Spatial Information Infrastructure



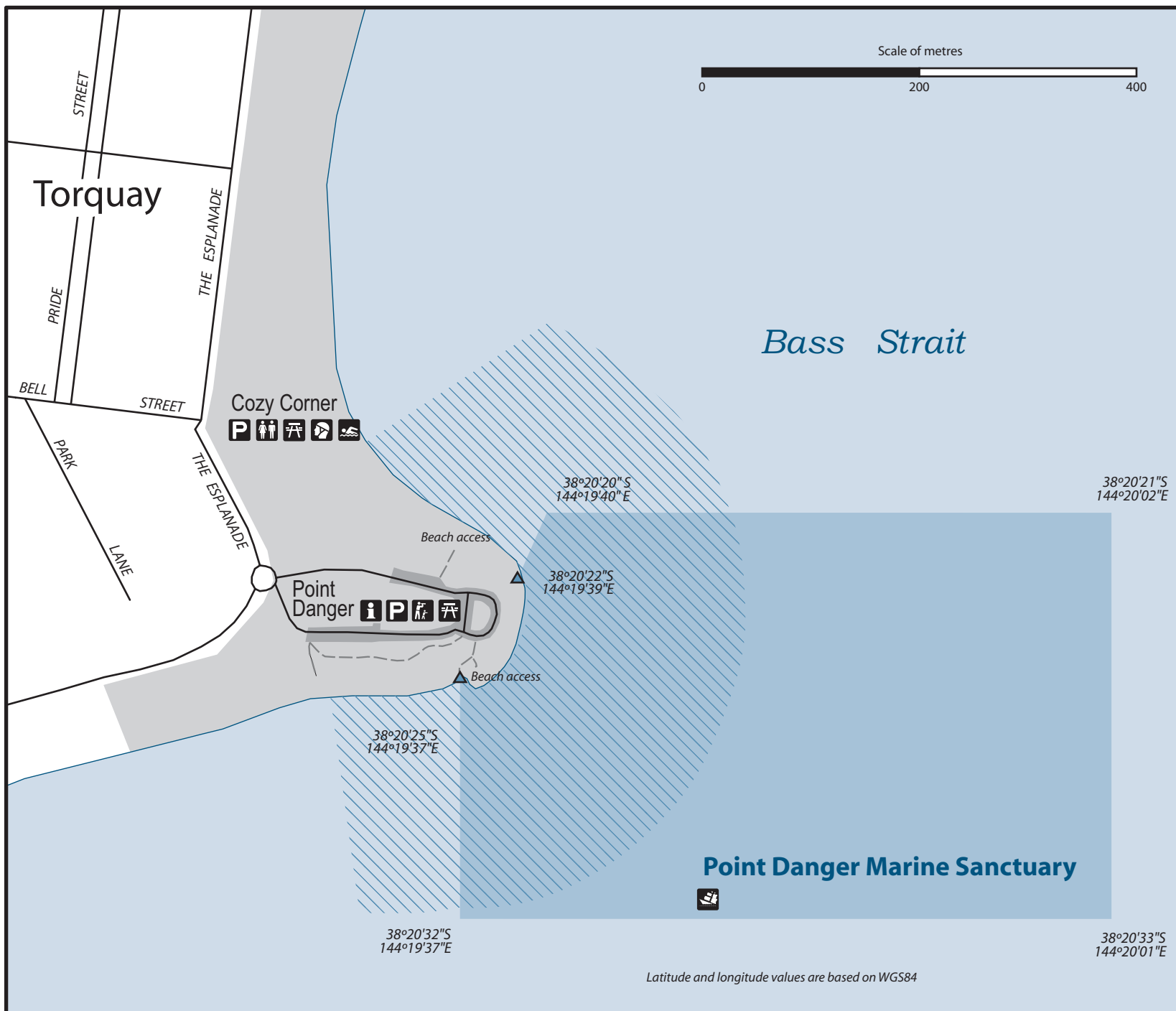


Figure 3

## Point Danger Marine Sanctuary



- Point Danger Marine Sanctuary
- Sail Powered Only Area (approximate location)
- Torquay Foreshore Reserve
- Shore boundary marker
- Road
- Walking track
- Approx. shore line
- Marine Interpretation
- Picnic area
- Toilets
- Lookout
- Patrolled beach
- Swimming
- Parking
- Shipwreck

Figure 4

## Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary

