



DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Author: GADFC

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Grantville & District Foreshore Reserve Committee of Management Incorporated (GADFC) is appointed as delegated managers of approximately 4 kilometres of coastal Crown land. The land comprises foreshore reserve from Broome Court, Grantville to Pioneer Bay in the North.

This management plan provides a comprehensive overview of existing conditions, identifies the vision for the Reserve and future directions. It also provides the foundation for decision making and resource requirements and will be reviewed and revised every 3 years.

The Vision for the Reserve is:

To improve the management of the foreshore reserve for the benefit of the broader community and the longer term conservation of the foreshore environment.

The objectives of the GADFC are to provide the community with the best possible reserve management, in accordance with the provisions of the Victorian Coastal Strategy 2008 and Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978, regulations and policies by:

- Improving public access and amenity
- Improving community awareness through increased consultation and information sharing
- Identification and removal of weeds
- Removal of unauthorized objects and litter from foreshore
- Removal of debris from collapsed sea wall
- Supporting strategic solutions to tackle erosion

These objectives were developed in accordance with the community's view on how they wanted the foreshore managed and what needed to be improved and/or what works needed to be undertaken.

High Priority Management Actions

- Seeking the removal of the old seawall rubble and illegal structures along the Malcolm Drive Foreshore. Alternatively, seeking the remodelling of the old foreshore rubble or re-shaping into a viable, safe and useful alternative structure
- Tackling erosion at Malcolm Drive and further north toward Pioneer Bay
- Weed identification and removal along the entire stretch of foreshore
- Fire Risk assessment of Grantville and Pioneer Bay Foreshore reserves
- Identification and improvement of foreshore access tracks from Stewart St and Malcolm Drive
- Identification and re-establishment of the access track from the Bass Highway and the Foreshore, between Bonney St and Kallay Drive.
- Re-vegetation of areas of foreshore reserve deemed necessary

Recent achievements

The GADFC has established consultation and information sharing with the community by:

- conducting a survey of community attitudes to the foreshore and its recreational use and management.
- producing a quarterly newsletter 'TIDAL TIMES' reporting on the GADFC activities and contact information
- regular presentations to the Grantville & District Residents and Ratepayers Association (GADRRA).
- The GADFC has developed a website to further inform the community of its activities, to provide a public face and as a means of receiving feedback from the community. www.gadfc.com.au the website features GADRRA presentations, Tidal Times Newsletters, the GADFC Aim and objectives, GADFC activities and contact details.

Other achievements include:

A \$1,000 CBI start up grant covered the costs of production of the Foreshore Committee “Tidal Times” newsletter. Five editions have been distributed since the CoMs appointment in November 2009.

The GADFC has become an incorporated body, obtained an ABN number and registered for GST.

A GADFC masthead and business card have also been produced to assist with identification of the committee and its activities.

A Port Philip & Westernport Catchment Management Authority grant for \$20,500 enabled weed eradication and access track repairs at Pioneer Bay and Frederick Drive. These works have been completed along with a survey of residents of both areas satisfaction with the works.

Two grants totalling \$42,000 were also obtained from the DSE for the installation of a Boardwalk and viewing platform on the Pioneer Bay foreshore and revegetation. This project has been completed, revegetation of the old access track completed and new signage installed.

Educational signage informing the community of the importance of the flora and fauna at this site has been installed along the Pioneer Bay boardwalk.

A risk mitigation grant for \$4,620 has been obtained to undertake removal of hazardous items amongst the old seawall rubble and some small illegal structures on the Malcolm Drive Foreshore.

PLAN METHODOLOGY AND CONSULTATION

Committees are advised to prepare Management Plans to assist in providing strategic direction and grant opportunities. Once approved by the Minister actions designated in this plan are an approved form of consent under the *Coastal Management Act 1995*.

This plan was prepared by the Grantville & District Foreshore Reserve Committee of Management to guide the future management, protection and development of the Reserve. An important process in developing this plan was a survey of community views on how they wanted their foreshore managed and what they thought was needed.

INTRODUCTION AND LOCAL CONTEXT

Land Status and Management Responsibilities

The *Grantville & District Foreshore Reserve* (the Reserve) is Crown land reserved for protection of the coastline purposes pursuant to the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978* (Government Gazette 1982 p3053). The GADFC need to adhere to a significant range of legislation, frameworks and policies outlined in Appendix 1. The Reserve reference number is 96B\PP2453 and it is made up of Crown allotment/s 96B (see over page)

The Reserve is managed by the *Grantville & District Foreshore Reserve Committee of Management* (GADFC). The Committee is appointed by the Minister for Environment and Climate Change to manage, improve, maintain and control the land for the purposes for which it is reserved.

The Committee was set up by the DSE in November 2009 with eleven members, elected by an expression of interest process, for a three year term expiring in November 2012. The GADFC were incorporated in July 2010 and officially appointed by the Minister for Environment and Climate Change on 24th March 2011. Delays in incorporation and appointment led to some original members resigning and the GADFC is currently made up of 6 members.

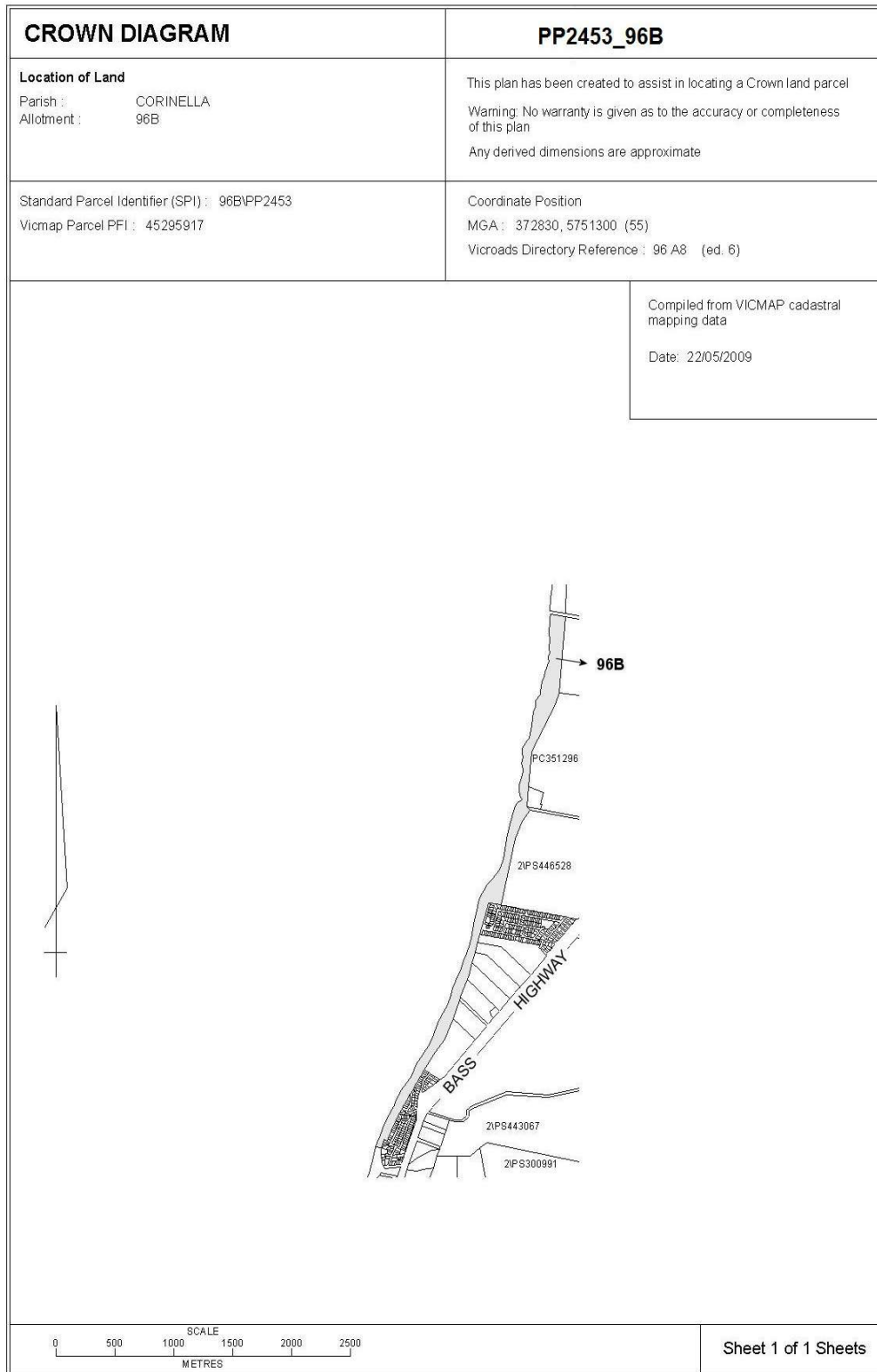
Reserve regulations were declared in 1982 (Government Gazette 1982 page 3053) and set out the powers of the Committee to:

- Manage and develop the reserve
- Undertake financial transactions, including borrowing money and entering contracts
- Negotiate leasing and licensing arrangements for all or part of the reserve
- Employ people
- Enforce regulations

The Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) acts as the landowner of Crown land and delegates the management responsibilities to committees of management. DSE provides advice and guidance to Committees and assists Committees to resolve issues and build relationships with their key stakeholders. Committees are eligible to apply to various

grants via DSE. Committees are required to provide financial or audited statements to DSE and can request assistance or advice as required.

Reserve regulations set out by the Bass Coast Shire regulate the behaviour such as prohibiting vehicles, bikes and horses from the foreshore and the restriction of camping, and the lighting of fires.



THE STUDY AREA

Grantville and Pioneer Bay are both townships which are located in the area managed by the Grantville & District Foreshore Reserve Committee of Management. These towns are located in the Bass Coast Shire and are referred to as the Waterline (Western Port townships) area.

Waterline is a mainly rural area, which includes the township of Grantville and other small townships. Grantville includes the localities of Adams Estate, Smiths Estate or Grantville North, Malcolm Drive and Queensferry. Pioneer Bay, The Gurdies and Jam Jerrup are both located to the north of Grantville.

Settlement of the area dates from 1826 when a military outpost was set up at Corinella. Permanent settlement did not occur until 1835 however with the land mainly used for grazing and timber harvesting. The population was minimal until the township of Bass was established in the 1860s.

Waterline communities (Westernport townships) are classified as 957.4 on the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Socio-economic Index for Disadvantage (SEIFA). A high score (over 1000) reflects lack of disadvantage not high advantage. eg an index of 1200 represents less disadvantage than areas with a value of 900. The SEIFA index is derived from attributes such as low income, low educational attainment, high unemployment, jobs in relatively unskilled occupations and variables that reflect disadvantage. High scores occur when the area has few families of low income and few people with little training and in unskilled occupations. Low scores occur when the area has many low income families and people with little training and in unskilled occupations.

Western Port is a listed Ramsar site protected under the FPBC Act and covered by the Ramsar Convention. The convention is an intergovernmental treaty dedicated to the conservation and 'wise use' of wetlands. The Convention's mission is: *'the conservation and wise use of wetlands by national action and international co-operation as a means to achieving sustainable development throughout the world'*.

Western Port is also a site of national zoological significance as a foraging area and high tide roosting site for migratory waders, as well as for its population of the endangered Orange-bellied Parrot. It is a site of national botanical significance for its extensive salt marsh communities and also had a number of sites of national and international geomorphologic significance.

The Foreshore reserve is XX hectares in size and is located on Western Port Bay between Broome Crt Grantville to Pioneer Bay. The Reserve is valued for recreational purposes such as fishing, walking, boating, canoeing, picnicking, sunsets, island views and appreciation of the remnant vegetation.

The surrounding land uses are residential, recreational and farming. It is in the municipality of the Bass Coast Shire.

The Reserves Three Precincts

In recognition of the diversity of the GADFC foreshore reserve, the vegetation and the expectations of the community and for the purposes of preparing management actions the CoM has divided the Reserve into three distinct precincts. The various precincts are:

- 1. Broom Court to Malcolm Drive precinct**
- 2. Malcolm Drive to Pioneer Bay precinct**
- 3. Pioneer Bay precinct**



Indigenous Heritage

The Bunurong (Boonerwung) people are the indigenous people from the Western Port area. The Bunurong people are one of five Aboriginal language groups, that make up the Kulin (Koolin) nation of peoples. Bunurong people prefer to be known as Kulin rather than Koori, which is a word from a different language.

There are five clans within the Bunurong territory. Western Port is part of the Mayone-Bulluk clan (top of the Mornington Peninsula and head of Western Port) and the Yallock-Bulluk clan (near the Bass River on the eastern catchment of Western Port).

The Bunurong people have two creation totems, *Bunjil* the Eaglehawk and *Waang* the Crow.

The Kulin were some of the first Aboriginal people in Victoria to make contact with European mariners and there are many documented accounts by these early mariners in archives all over the world. An example is the journals of Durmont D'Urville, commander of the French ship *L'Astrolabe*, who in 1826, records his visit to Western Port and reports seeing sealers, their Aboriginal wives and children.

European History

In 1798, after being forced inland whilst exploring Bass Strait, ship's surgeon George Bass was the first white man to sail into Western Port. His whaleboat entered the harbour with a crew of six sailors.

In his writings he said: "I have named the place from its relative situation to every other known harbour on the coast, Western Port? The land around Western Port is low but hilly. The grass and ferns grow luxuriantly and yet the country is but thinly and lightly timbered." His journey added evidence to the theory of the existence a strait between mainland Australia and Tasmania. He and Flinders proved it later in 1798.

Bass explored the area for two weeks until he came across the fresh waters of what is now known as the Bass River. In his report George Bass noted the vast seal colonies of the region and encouraged sealers into the area.

In the subsequent years other English and French vessels visited Westernport. By the 1820's there were camps of sealers on Philip Island and the other islands of Bass Strait.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Social context

Grantville

Grantville is a small highway service settlement on the Bass Highway 10 kilometres south of the intersection of the Bass and South Gippsland Highways.

The urban area is spread out and fragmented into four parts, but there are two main urban concentrations. The first, a residential subdivision to the northern entrance of the village on the western side of the Bass Highway, while the second is a commercial hub of the village, just south of Colbert Creek at the intersection of the Bass Highway and Glen-Alvie Road.

In 2006 Grantville had a total population of 454 people (231 males & 223 females). Eighty of these were children with 24 of the eighty less than 4 years of age. One hundred and ten of the adult population were between 65 and 84 years of age, with the remaining adults (263) between 18 and 64 years of age.

Grantville is currently undergoing increasing development with a number of recent sub-divisions of residential land resulting in the sale of more than 70 blocks in less than a two month period. This development is expected to continue for sometime and will result in the need for an increase in infrastructure and an increase in the recreational use of the foreshore.

Current key features of the Grantville and Pioneer Bay area include:

- Jetty used for recreational fishing by locals and visitors to the area
- Boat ramp used by locals and visitors
- Seating area at the end of Pier Rd and also at Colbert Creek with views over Western Port and French Island. Spectacular sunsets.
- Transaction Centre and Memorial Park
- Caravan Park used by permanent residents and tourists
- Electric BBQ facilities used by locals and visitors to the area
- Gravel walking path attracts a large number of locals and visitors using it for recreational use and exercise
- Sandy Beach at Colbert Creek and Deep Creek St extensively used by locals and visitors to the area for swimming, picnicking, boating, jet skis, canoeing, kite flying and fishing off the beach
- Views over Western Port and French Island
- A mobile library
- V-Line bus services

Existing key infrastructure located in the Grantville area

- Seawall
- Gravel walking path between Jetty and Colbert Creek and leading into the recreation hall
- Bridge across Colbert Creek
- Steps leading down to the foreshore
- Jetty

- Boat ramp
- BBQ facilities and Gazebo
- Two car parks
- Toilet block in the Pier Rd carpark
- Storm water pipe
- A mobile library – Grantville recreational hall
- V-Line bus services
- Caravan park

Adjoining infrastructure

- Shopping centre and garage
- Transaction centre and Memorial Park which includes toilet facilities, childrens' playground and BBQs

Strengths

- Grantville foreshore has a high volume of recreational use by both the local community and visitors to the area
- Shopping centre precinct is highly used by tourists and passers by. This shopping strip is the only such facility on the main highway between Wonthaggi and Tooradin and Tooradin and San Remo.
- Ability to hold a range of activities and events at the transaction centre and also the recreational hall
- Market held at the Grantville Recreational Hall every third Sunday of the month

Pioneer Bay

Pioneer Bay village is located on the Bass Highway 4 kilometres north of Grantville. Three hundred and sixty seven people (178 males & 189 females) resided in Pioneer Bay in 2006. Twenty two of the eighty children were less than four years old and 58 were between 5 and 17 years old. The majority of adults (253) were between 18 and 64 years of age and 36 were over 65 years old.

Key features

- Electric BBQ facilities used by locals and visitors to the area
- Boardwalk access to the foreshore
- Views over Western Port and French Island from boardwalk viewing platform
- Established salt marsh and mangrove colony

Existing key infrastructure

- Boardwalk and viewing platform
- BBQ facilities, gazebo and playground

Adjoining infrastructure

- None

Strengths

- Pioneer Bay Progress Association
- Ability to hold a range of activities and events at the recreational reserve

Strategic Planning for Coastal Environments

The Victorian Coastal Strategy 2008 provides a comprehensive integrated management framework for the Coast of Victoria. The strategy is established under the Coastal Management Act 1995 and provides for the long term planning of the Victorian Coast for the next 100 years and beyond (Victorian Coastal Strategy 2008 page 5).

The Act recognises that Victorians have affiliation with the Coast and uses the public areas for recreation, exercise or to unwind. The Coastal Strategy recognises that all people need access to the coast and facilities should cater for different needs.

The Coastal Strategy also recognises that climate change, thus sea level rise and increased storm activity, rising temperatures, will have an impact on marine vegetation, the coast and its communities.

Tourism

The Grantville town centre and its foreshore provide facilities for residents of the area, passing visitors and holiday makers. In recent years there has been a large increase in the number of tourists visiting and holidaying in the area.

The surrounding land although primarily residential includes holiday accommodation (caravan park, several Bed and Breakfast establishments and a holiday lodge). Shops in the town centre include a bank, pharmacy, post office/newsagent, hairdresser, bakery, hardware, liquor store, petrol station and food outlets.

There are also a large number of tourist attractions in the area. These include a nature park, mini golf, tennis courts, recreational hall, playground, BBQ facilities, wineries, B & Bs, caravan park, a toy museum, wildlife park and the foreshore reserve.

Visitors to the area and passing traffic are an important component of the economy and viability of the Grantville businesses. One of the Policy Directions in the Victorian Coastal Strategy (page 5) is to improve and enhance tourists and visitors experience and understanding of the coast, while protecting sensitive areas.

Grantville has a high number of holiday homes and consequently weekends, holidays and over the summer period the population increases considerably. Recently there has also been an increase in demand for properties in the area and the number of fulltime residents.

Land Use Planning

Bass Coast Shire Council plans and manages land use in Grantville and Pioneer Bay. In recent years, the Council has prepared a number of strategic documents, which establish the structure for growth in this area.

Grantville and Pioneer Bay design Framework

The Bass Coast Planning Scheme C53, C93 and C98 amendments recommend no further rezoning for residential use occur in the area north of Grantville and west of the Bass Highway. There is an existing area of R1Z in north Grantville that was sub-divided some years ago and is fully developed approximately 40-50m from the shoreline.

The shire argue that given the evidence that significant erosion has already occurred in this area it is appropriate that no further rezoning for residential use is proposed.

Activities on the GADFC managed Reserve

The GADFC seeks to provide access for all members of the community to the coast. The following activities occur in precincts of the Reserve:

Recreation – Active

- Community and local walking groups use the foreshore
- Boating
- Kayaking/canoeing
- Kite flying
- Swimming
- Fishing

Recreation – Passive

- Bird watching
- Viewing of sunsets and waterline
- Photography of birdlife and sunsets/skyline/water
- Seating/ picnicking

Infrastructure

Existing infrastructure in the *Grantville & District Foreshore* Reserve includes several foreshore access tracks.

Adjoining the Reserve is infrastructure not directly managed by the Committee but used by people who access the reserve. These include a jetty, a recreational hall, two car parks, a boat ramp, BBQ facilities. The Bass Coast Shire is responsible for the management of this infrastructure. There are also Storm Water drains which are the responsibility of Bass Coast Shire.

Risk analysis

A Risk Audit of coastal Crown Land was commissioned by the DSE and GHD was engaged in 2008

North and South of the Grantville township – managed by DSE

Six hazards were identified in the areas managed by DSE north and South of the Grantville township. Half of these hazards were in the Structural Category and then one in each of the Erosion, Beach condition and Other categories.

The most common Hazard type identified was 'Posts in shallow water', accounting for two of the three hazards in the Structural Category. Both of these hazards related to what appeared to be posts from old jetties remaining erected in shallow water.

Two key risks were identified at this location. One Key Risk was in the Structural Category, had Human Consequences and related to the failing rock wall at North Grantville. The other Key Risk was in the Erosion Category, had Environmental Consequences and related to erosion of the foreshore around Queensferry Jetty Road and therefore not in the jurisdiction of the GADFC.

The Structural Key Risk was rated as Low, while the Erosion Key Risk was rated Medium with impacts being the degradation or loss of private land.

Only one of these risks is located in the area managed by GADFC.

Grantville - managed by Bass Coast Shire

Twelve hazards were identified at Grantville. While these hazards were spread relatively evenly across all Hazard Categories, Visitor Facilities category had the most with a total of four hazards. Three of these hazards related to the boat ramp and the fourth involved the jetty.

Five Key Risks were identified at Grantville, with three in the Visitor Facilities Category and two in the Erosion Category. Four of the Key Risks had Human consequences due to impacts from slips, trips and falls and one had Asset consequences due to degradation of the boat ramp.

Three of the Key Risks identified were rated Medium and two rated Low. No High Key Risks were identified.

Geology

The geology of southern Victoria is composed of a number of sedimentary basins separated by bedrock 'highs'. Basins along the Victorian coast include the Gippsland Basin, the Port Phillip Basin and the Western Port Basin.

The Port Phillip and Westernport basins are two of the Cainozoic depressions that comprise the Central Coastal Basins. They can be considered northern extensions of the Otway, Torquay and Bass basins, with onshore margins constrained by the Southern Uplands. Major lineaments such as the Rowsley and Selwyn faults bound the main sunklands of Port Phillip Bay and Westernport Bay. These faults have been intermittently active during the Quaternary.

Port Phillip and Westernport basins share similar Quaternary depositional histories to those of the larger Otway and Gippsland basins, which lie to their west and east respectively. They contain sequences of thin marginal-marine, beach, dune and alluvial deposits and basaltic volcanics that are conformable across the Plio-Pleistocene boundary. The Quaternary covers the time span of glaciations classified as the Pleistocene, and includes the present interglacial period, the Holocene. The 2.6 million years of the Quaternary represents the time during which recognizable humans existed.

The Westernport Bay Sunland is broadly defined by a series of N-NW trending faults. The Holocene marine transgression drowned Tertiary river systems in the depression, forming the embayment. Minor E-W faulting has produced the slightly elevated French and Phillip Islands.

Much of the basin, including the submarine areas, is occupied by Tertiary basalts (Older Volcanics) and the Pliocene Baxter Formation. These are weathered and overlain by sediment that has accumulated since submergence (Rosengren, 1984b). Holocene sediments include the freshwater deposits of the Koo-wee-rup and associated swamps, modern floodplain sediments and coastal delta, dune, beach and lagoon deposits. There are a number of low cliffed coastal stretches along the margin of Westernport Bay fringed by gravel or siliceous sand beaches. Some areas have extensive mangrove mudflat deposits.

www.earthsci.unimelb.edu.au/~mlcopper/Chapter_11.pdf Quaternary ice ages — environments of change: M. L. Copper and S. White (Coordinators) and J. L. Neilson

Several areas of the coastal strip are very low-lying and subject to waterlogging. This area has also been designated as an area vulnerable to sea-level rise.

Soils (incl contamination)

Potential acid sulfate soil (PASS) is the general term applied to soil and sediment containing oxidisable, or already oxidised, sulfides. If the material remains covered and saturated in a reduced state so no sulfide oxidation occurs, it is referred to as PASS. PASS occurs where naturally occurring iron sulfides are stored in sediments. These sulfides oxidise when exposed to air producing sulfuric acid in soil and forming actual acid sulfate soils (AASS). This changes the soil pH, generally lowering it to approximately pH 2, which is acidic. AASS causes the soil to become hostile to organisms, and the acidity can contaminate other systems through runoff and flood discharge.

The accumulation of sulfides is associated with submergence of coastal lowlands by rising sea levels during the Holocene. In eastern Australia, such accumulations are greatest in coastal lagoons and estuaries with small freshwater catchments and a large volume of tidal exchange. While active sulfide accumulation is confined to sediments of the coastal region, sulfides can be preserved in coastal deposits from former higher sea levels or in areas that have been tectonically uplifted and now distant from the coast.

Many small estuaries (such as Powlett River) now have a different configuration than earlier in the Holocene, as a result of both natural system changes and human intervention. PASS may occur at the lower Powlett River and around the north and east coast of Western Port between Jam Jerrup and Cardinia. This is a small area extending from west of Lang Lang to the Yallock Creek channel south-east of Koo Wee Rup, where traces of abandoned stream channels are evident and the sector includes several drains including the Lang Lang Cut Drain and the Yallock Drain. The lowest-lying surfaces adjacent to these drains include potential acid sulfate soils.

www.water.vic.gov.au/.../Volume-4-Chapter-5.0-Geology,-geomorphology-and-soils.pdf

Erosion

Malcolm Drive foreshore and north of Malcolm Drive

Drainage

The management of storm water rests with the Bass Coast Shire and it has developed a storm water Management Plan.

Storm water drain pipe at Deep Creek St is in very bad repair and poses a threat to small children and animals.

Vegetation Assessment and Weed Control

Ecological Vegetation Classes

Berm Grassy Shrubland, Coastal Saltmarsh, Woodland, Swamp scrub

Flora

Berm Grassy Shrubland:

Common Boobialla	<i>Myoporum insulare</i>
Tussock-grass	<i>Poa labillardierei</i>
Coast Tussock Grass	<i>Poa poiiformis</i>
Knobby Clubrush	<i>Ficinia nodosa</i>
Small leaved clematis	<i>Clematis microphylla</i>

Woodland:

Swamp Paperbark	<i>Melaleuca ericifolia</i>
Coast Banksia	<i>Banksia integrifolia</i>

Coastal saltmarsh:

Coast saltbush	<i>Atrilex cinerea</i>
Karkalla	<i>Carobrotus rossii</i>
Rounded Noon Flower	<i>Disphyma crassifolium</i>

Pest Plants

Gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>
Blackberry	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>
Mirror bush	<i>Coprosma repens</i>
Watsonia	<i>Watsonia meriana</i>
Bridal Creeper	<i>Asparagus asparagoides</i>
Pampass Grass	<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>
Agapanthus	<i>Agapanthus praecox</i>
Cape Ivy	<i>Delairea odorata</i>
Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>

Fauna

Common wombat
 Common and Ringtail Possums
 Echidnas
 Flying fox
 Microbat

Reptiles:

Tiger snakes
 Red belly black snakes
 Copperhead snakes
 Blue tongue lizards
 Skinks

Birds:

Superb Fairy-Wren	<i>Malurus cyaneus</i>
Willy wagtail	<i>Rhipidura leucophrys</i>
Yellow-faced Honeyeater	<i>Lichenostomus chrysops</i>
Red Wattlebird	<i>Anthochaera carunculata</i>
Grey Butcherbird	<i>Cracticus torquatus</i>
Australian Magpie	<i>Cracticus tibicen</i>
Magpie-lark	<i>Grallina cyanoleuca</i>
Little Raven	<i>Corvus mellori</i>
Australian White Ibis	<i>Threskornis molucca</i>
Masked lapwing	<i>Vanellus miles</i>
Pacific Gull	<i>Larus pacificus</i>
Silver Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae</i>
Little Pied Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax melanoleucos</i>
White-faced heron	<i>Egretta novae-hollandiae</i>
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Pelican	<i>Pelecanus conspicillatus</i>
Black swan	<i>Cygnus atratus</i>

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
Galah
Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo
Eastern Rosella
Crimson Rosella
Rainbow Lorikeet

Cacatua galerita
Eolophus roseicapillus
Calyptorhynchus funereus
Platycercus eximius
Platycercus elegans
Trichoglossus haematodus

Pest Animals

Rabbits

Foxes

KEY FEATURES OF THE RESERVES' THREE PRECINCTS

Precinct 1: Broome Court to Malcolm Drive Grantville



Key features

- Views over Western Port and French Island
- Foreshore swimming beach
- Access tracks at Stewart St and Malcolm Drive
- Recreational activities: swimming, fishing, canoeing, boating, walking and birdwatching

Existing infrastructure

- None

Adjoining infrastructure

- None

Strengths

- Views over Western Port and French Island
- Deep Creek St and Malcolm Drive foreshore beach and access tracks
- Significant remnant vegetation
- High recreational use

Weaknesses

- Extensive rubble on beach from old seawall ruins
- Illegal structures
- Illegal removal of native vegetation
- Erosion
- Weed infestation
- Dumping of hard rubbish and green waste
- Access tracks poorly maintained
- No access track signage
- Collapsing storm water drain

Opportunities

- Removal of seawall rubble
- Strategic solution to utilise rubble as per Doug Oldfield concept design
- Removal of illegal structures
- Identification and improvement of access tracks
- Revegetation of areas of foreshore reserve
- Identification and removal of weeds
- Identification and documentation of flora and fauna
- Extend access tracks to link with Pioneer bay boardwalk extension

Threats

- Weed infestation (pittosporum, mirror bush, blackberries, gorse, non native tussock grass, bridal creeper, exotics, ivy, pampass grass, lilies)
- Vegetation removal
- Illegal structures/safety issues
- Risk of injury from old sea wall rubble
- Fire risk due to non removal of mirror bush cuttings

Precinct 2: Malcolm Drive to Pioneer Bay



Key features

- Views over Western Port and French Island
- Recreational usage: fishing/walking/canoeing/boating

Existing infrastructure

- None

Adjoining infrastructure

- None

Strengths

- Views over Western Port and French Island
- Berm grassy shrub land area providing habitat for flora and fauna
- Large stands of native vegetation
- Sandy beach

- Significant salt marsh vegetation

Weaknesses

- Poor access
- Private drain entering foreshore
- Weed infestation

Opportunities

- Utilisation of fallen trees as an erosion barrier
- Extension of Pioneer Bay Boardwalk through bushland area to improve access to Grantville and enhance locals enjoyment/recreational use of the area
- Identification and improvement of access track to enhance locals enjoyment of the area
- Identify and re-instate access track between Bonney St and Kallay Drive from Bass highway to the foreshore
- Identify and document flora and fauna

Threats

- Weed infestation (pampass grass, blackberry)
- Possible encroachment from private properties
- Erosion
- Trampling of native vegetation

Precinct 3: Pioneer Bay



Key features

- Large established mangrove colony with extensive salt marsh vegetation
- Views over French Island and across to Stockyard Point

Existing infrastructure

- Boardwalk and viewing platform

Adjoining infrastructure

- None

Strengths

- Large established mangrove colony with extensive salt marsh vegetation
- Habitat for Orange-bellied Parrot
- Known Pelican nesting site
- Berm Grassy shrubland provides habitat for a variety of fauna

Weaknesses

- Poor access to adjoining foreshore to the south
- Poor ability for recreational use and local communities enjoyment of their foreshore reserve

Opportunities

- Extend boardwalk to Grantville to provide access at high tide, enhance the communities recreational use of the area and to protect the significant salt marsh vegetation
- Increase salt marsh vegetation

Threats

- Trampling of salt marsh vegetation
- Water inundation when King tides and storm surge events occur simultaneously
- Weed infestation (blackberry, pampass grass, gorse)
- Dumping of hard rubbish on foreshore reserve

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

The GADFC have identified that in 5 years they would like:

- A community of foreshore residents and users that is well informed, supportive and interested in improving and conserving the reserve
- A clean foreshore, free of litter and illegal structures
- The relevant authority remodels or redesigns the sea wall or removes any debris from the beach
- Reserve which is free of weeds and exotic vegetation with the gaps in the bushland replanted
- Well signed and maintained official access tracks to the beach all the way from mouth of Deep Creek to Pioneer Bay
- The Committee has a record of good financial management and record keeping, necessary to maintain the confidence of our funders and the community

Actions/Goals for Entire Reserve

The following table (table 1) summarises the GADFC goals at the time of writing. However, it must be noted that GADFC has no recurrent source of income to fund its task '*...to manage, improve, maintain and control the land for the purposes for which it is reserved.*' This is in contrast to many other similar Committees of Management which have regular income sources such as: fees and charges from caravan parks, boat ramps and the like. Individual grant applications are thus the only avenue available for GADFC to fund any of these works.

The weakness in the funding being grant based is broadly twofold. Firstly; applications can often be unsuccessful as the granting bodies may have different priorities to those of GADFC or funding is limited and other applicants' projects are preferred. Secondly; planning becomes less strategic and more about doing '*what we think we can get a grant for.*'

Table 1: Actions and goals for entire reserve

Management aim	Management action	Priority
<p><u>Precinct 1: Broome Court to Malcom Drive</u> Remove weeds and revegetate foreshore reserve between Broome Court and Malcolm drive</p>	Map vegetation and EVC types and divide area into zones based on vegetation type and quality.	High
<p>Old, failed sea wall; removal of remnant rubble or reshaping, remodelling of materials into a viable, safe and useful alternative structure</p>	Consider the findings of study being conducted and lobby for a coherent resolution	High
<p>Identify and improve all the official access-to-beach paths along Stewart St and Malcolm Dr including signage</p>		High
<p><u>Precinct 2: End Malcom Drive to Pioneer Bay</u> Identify the reserve's boundaries in consultation with landowners</p>	Map vegetation and EVC types and divide area into zones based on vegetation type and quality.	Medium
<p>Identify and remove illegal structures</p>		Medium
<p>Remove weeds and revegetate the reserve where necessary</p>		Medium/low
<p>Verify site of the access track/government road between the foreshore and Bass Highway and determine its feasibility as a walking track</p>		High/Medium
<p><u>Precinct 3: Pioneer Bay</u> Extend Pioneer Bay Boardwalk</p>		Medium
<p><u>In General</u> To continue informing and advising the community re the need to conserve and improve foreshore area</p>		High and continuous

Financial overview since GADFC commencement

A series of grants and small donations were received by GADFC commencing on the 12th December 2009. The end of financial year cash position for 2009/2011 was \$3,933.77 and for 2010/2011 was \$10,146.77.

Projected expenditure

For the reasons described above projections cannot be made. GADFC will pursue all relevant funding opportunities to support the aims and actions described above.

Potential grant sources

A number of websites list potential funding sources. The following is a list of useful sites that may provide funding for capital works:

<http://www.grantslink.gov.au/>

<http://www.grants.dvc.vic.gov.au/>

<http://www.communitywatergrants.gov.au/>

http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/funding/grant_main.jsp

<http://www.dse.vic.gov.au>

<http://www.landcareonline.com.au>

http://www.ppwema.vic.gov.au/funding_calendar.htm

APPENDIX 1 DETAILS OF LEGISLATION, FRAMEWORKS AND POLICIES

The following is an overview of the key legislation, frameworks and policies that directly affect and direct the management of the Reserve.

Commonwealth

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* delineates areas of Commonwealth and State responsibility for the natural environment. This Act defines the Commonwealth's role in managing the environment as limited to matters of national environmental significance, such as Ramsar wetlands. The Act aims primarily to provide for the protection of the environment, promote ecologically sustainable development and promote the conservation of biodiversity. This Act applies to the GADFC Reserve due to its protection under the Ramsar Convention 1971.

The *Western Port Perspective* was prepared in 2000 and looked at the entire bay and any land that contained activities that could affect the Western Port environment. The report looks at the methods for placing values on the attributes within the Port and the risks to those values posed by various human and environmental problems. These risks are analysed and prioritised for the study area with specific management directions and actions.

Although many of the risks listed in this document are associated with Port activities, risks that are of relevance to the Reserve include pest plants and animals, coastal erosion and urban stormwater. Management actions for the overall management of Western Port include:

- Protect native flora and fauna (including management of pest plants and animals);
- Focus on appreciating the natural environment;
- Revegetate and stabilise degraded sites to prevent soil erosion;
- Protect sites of environmental and cultural significance; and,
- Inform and educate the public and local community on the natural values of Western Port and how they can be protected and enhanced.

State

The *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978* provides for the reservation of Crown land for a variety of public purposes, the appointment of committees of management to manage those reserves and for leasing and licensing of reserves for purposes approved by the Minister for Environment and Climate Change.

The *Environment Protection Act 1970* provides the legal framework by which environmental objectives, regulations and goals are established throughout the State for industry, commerce and the general public. The Act reflects the precautionary principle, the protection of intergenerational equity, the polluter pays principle, and the protection of biodiversity. It puts the responsibility for sound environmental management on Victorian businesses, communities and individuals. The Act aims to achieve greater environmental performance through shifting to collaboration and co-regulation as opposed to the traditional 'command and control'.

The *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* provides the legal framework to conserve Victoria's native plants and animals. Its broad aim is to prevent the extinction of any

more plants and animals and to ensure that native flora and fauna survive, flourish and retain their potential for evolutionary development in the wild.

The Wildlife Act 1975 was passed to establish procedures in order to promote the protection and conservation of wildlife, the prevention of taxa of wildlife from becoming extinct, the sustainable use of and access to wildlife and to prohibit and regulate the conduct of persons engaged in activities concerning or related to wildlife. Permits to keep wildlife are issued pursuant to this Act.

The ***Planning and Environment Act 1987*** establishes State planning and land use processes including provisions for planning schemes for individual council areas. A planning scheme is a statutory document which sets out objectives, policies and provisions relating to the use, development, protection and conservation of land in the area to which it applies. A planning scheme regulates the use and development of land through planning provisions to achieve those objectives and policies. Every planning scheme includes the State Planning Policy Framework. This Framework consists of general principles for land use and development in Victoria and specific policies dealing with settlement, environment, housing, economic development, infrastructure, and particular uses and development. The Local Planning Policy Framework sets a local and regional strategic policy context for a municipality including Crown land. It comprises the Municipal Strategic Statement and specific local planning policies.