

# SEMP ANNUAL REPORT 2019 - 20

Local Ports of Port Phillip, Western  
Port and Port Campbell

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# Chair's Foreword

In accordance with the *Port Management Act 1995* and the *Ministerial Guidelines: Port Safety and Environment Management Plans 2012*. I am pleased to present Parks Victoria's Safety and Environment Management Plan (SEMP) Annual Report for the 2019-20 financial year.

For Victoria this has been a very challenging period; particularly in managing the summer bushfires and the COVID-19 pandemic. I recognise and applaud the incredible efforts made by our people and our volunteers.

Throughout the fire season our people battled raging bushfires, managed incident control centres and rescued key species from the brink of extinction. The bushfires burned significant areas of parkland, particularly in the east of the state. Very sadly, we lost a highly valued staff member Bill Slade to these fires and celebrated his life at his funeral on 22 January 2020.

Following the fires, Parks Victoria commenced large-scale conservation and asset repair programs that are continuing.

From March 2020, many piers / jetties and other recreation facilities were restricted or closed as part of the Victorian Government's response plan to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Parks Victoria also continued to deliver services and support for licensed tour operators and businesses. This again required a major effort of behalf of our people that is ongoing. A large number of operational plans have had to be implemented to protect the Victorian public, while many of our people are working from home.

Every effort has also been made to also deliver our other priorities, including:

- ensuring the safety and well-being of our people
- furthering joint management with Traditional Owners
- extensive pest control and conservation works
- implementing environmental sustainability initiatives
- managing the financial impacts of these tragic events

I thank the members of the Parks Victoria Board, and our CEO Matthew Jackson and his team for their remarkable efforts through a challenging 2019-20.

In 2020-21, we will work to reopen, continue to repair and build our piers and jetties and promote visitation back into our ports and waterways, as soon as it is safe to do so. Victorians have never needed a high quality park network as much as now.



**Jeff Floyd**

Chair

# 1. Introduction

Parks Victoria is the Port Manager for the local ports of Port Phillip, Western Port and Port Campbell. As Port Manager, Parks Victoria, is required to annually inform the Minister and prescribed bodies of relevant Safety and Environment Management Plan matters.

This report covers the period of 12 months to 30 June 2020.

The Annual Report is presented in accordance with section 91HB of the *Port Management Act 1995*.

### 1.1.1. What we manage in local ports

Parks Victoria provides safe and convenient access to local ports, that supports commercial and recreational users. This includes commercial passenger, commercial fishing, recreational boating and tourism. The three local ports combined receive approximately 80.5 million visits<sup>1</sup> and have a total port management area of 2,610 km<sup>2</sup>. Approximately \$450 million of assets is managed and includes marine protected areas, channels, piers and jetties, moorings and aids to navigation.

Many assets within the local ports are managed by other agencies, such as boat ramps, marinas, aquaculture, fisheries reserves, seawalls, groynes, and jetties.

### 1.1.2. Economic contribution

Port Phillip and Western Port represent the busiest waterways in Victoria, with four out of five Victorians visiting these ports every year.<sup>2</sup> As of the 30 June 2020 in Victoria there are 422,000 boat license holders and 198,000 registered vessels.<sup>3</sup> This boating and recreational fishing sector contributes \$6.8 billion to the Victorian Economy.<sup>4</sup>

Cruise ship visits continue to deliver direct and indirect economic outputs to the

Victorian economy with visits increasing by a 113% this financial year. Western Port played a critical role in the support and facilitation of these visits.



### 1.1.3. Parks Victoria Strategic Plan – Shaping our Future

Parks Victoria’s long-term strategy ‘Shaping our Future’ consists of three service delivery themes: connecting people and parks, conserving Victoria’s special places and providing benefits beyond park boundaries which focus on what we will deliver to the community and government. A fourth theme, enhancing organisational excellence, describes how we will deliver these services as an organisation.

Parks Victoria’s port management performance will be discussed within the context of the ‘Shaping our Future’ themes.

## Overview of Port Phillip, Western Port and Port Campbell



<sup>1</sup> Visitor Number Monitor, Full Year Estimates (2018/19), Ipsos Public Affairs. Data not including Port Campbell Jetty.

<sup>2</sup> Discussion Paper, Management of Port Phillip and Western Port Boating Facilities, December 2019.

<sup>3</sup> On Deck, Maritime Safety Victoria Stakeholder update, July 2020.

<sup>4</sup> Boating Industry Association of Victoria, Strategic Plan 2018 - 2021, Victorian Fisheries Authority, Annual Report 2018 - 2019.

<sup>5</sup> Four boat ramps – Patterson River, Swan Bay, Kirks Point and Tankerton French Island are directly managed by Parks Victoria.

<sup>6</sup> Managed by Parks Victoria generally as a Committee of Management.

## 1.2. Connecting people and parks

*Improve the health and wellbeing of Victorians through the management of a parks estate that is valued by the community.*

### 1.2.1. Highlights

#### Provide and maintain quality infrastructure to support visitation:

- Portarlington, Kerferd Road and Seaford Pier, Cowes and Fishermans Jetty, energy efficient and solar powered LED lighting installed
- Middle Brighton Pier new low landing installed
- Mornington pier wave attenuators reinstated
- Rye Pier low landing replaced, with improved berthing space
- Rye Pier disability access ramp and scuba diving platform complete
- Frankston Pier head reconstructed with improved berthing opportunities and disability access ramp installed
- South Channel Fort Jetty, timber fenders replaced
- Chinaman's Hat new low landing installed
- Lagoon Pier and Black Rock Jetty outer lower landing replaced with mesh decking
- Werribee Jetty deck repair and replacement
- Portarlington Pier new hand railed walkway installed for Port Phillip Ferries' passengers
- 443 swing moorings brought under direct Parks Victoria management from former agents

- 30 new seasonal moorings installed to increase on water mooring capacity for the summer season.

#### Completed asset inspections

- Black Rock Jetty, tier 2 assessment and tier 3 diving inspection<sup>7</sup>
- Cowes jetty, tier 2 visual assessment and tier 3 concrete investigation
- Middle Brighton Pier, tier 3 detailed concrete testing
- Gem Pier, tier 3 condition assessment and design works
- Tier 3 diving inspection on Mornington Fishermans Jetty, Stony Creek Walkway, Mornington, Tankerton, Hampton, Sorrento and Portsea Pier
- Rye Pier and Flinders jetty, tier 2 above deck inspection
- Frankston Pier, tier 2 certified drawings finalised
- Tooradin Jetty, tier 2 condition assessment
- Patterson River Overpass, tier 2 visual inspection
- Port Campbell electrical inspection.

#### Navigation aids:

- Quarterly night audits of navigational lights in Port Phillip and Western Port
- Ex HMAS Canberra navigation aid report and refurbishment of navigational aids
- Upgrade navigation lanterns to 65 GSM to provide remote monitoring capability of lantern functionality



- 100% achievement in delivering Maritime Safety Victoria's (MSV) standard in navigation aid reliability, against all categories.<sup>8</sup>

Category	MSV Standard*	2019-20
1 - Vital	At least 99.8%	99.84 %
2 - Important	At least 99%	99.95%
3 - Necessary	At least 97%	99.99%

\* Percentage of Aids to Navigation that meet Safety Victoria's *Standards for aids to navigation on Victorian state waters 2012*.

#### Community and commercial connection:

- 13 cruise ship visits, a 113% increase on previous financial year, with approximately 33,400 passenger visits to Western Port
- The 4<sup>th</sup> edition e-Newsletter was sent to a total of 234 stakeholders<sup>9</sup> via email and displayed on the Parks Victoria website. The Port Phillip Recreational Boating Guide received the most visits

<sup>7</sup> Tier 2 – technical visual condition inspection, Tier 3 – technical detailed inspection, includes material testing, load testing or other detailed investigation.

<sup>8</sup> SEMP Key Performance Indicator with a target of 100%.

<sup>9</sup> Data sourced from Campaign Monitor.

- Parks Victoria employed 7 seasonal rangers funded by the environment portfolio, to support field staff in providing visitor, park and waterway management services in the local ports. Three were penguin rangers based at St Kilda Pier
- 12,193 volunteer hours for Port Phillip and Western Port, with 72% of these hours contributed by Earthcare St Kilda Penguin Guides
- Dromana Pier concept plan stakeholder workshop completed (pending public release)
- Altona Pier concept plan opened for community feedback
- 624 people participated in Parks Victoria - led educational activities, targeted at public, junior rangers (young children) and school / educational pupils.

**Dredging:**

- As part of Parks Victoria dredging maintenance program, 4 sites in Port Phillip and 1 in Western Port, were serviced a total of 18 times



- A total of 179,312 m<sup>3</sup> of sand was removed from local port navigation channels and relocated back into the marine environment as follows

Site	Volume dredged m <sup>3</sup>
Queenscliff entrance	103,214
Patterson River entrance	51,198
Mordialloc Creek entrance	5,656
Hampton Jetty	8,589
Tankerton jetty	10,655
<b>Total</b>	<b>179,312</b>

- Delivered a 27% increase in dredged material or 38,512 m<sup>3</sup> in comparison to last year
- Port Phillip and Western Port Maintenance Dredging contract released invitation for tender
- Sandringham Harbour / Hampton Pier and beach black sludge removed and beach profiled, funded by the environment portfolio
- Portarlington harbour hard material dredged with an increased channel width and depth.

**Permits:**

- 22 works permits were issued for works in 2019 to 2020. Permits included Corinella boat ramp upgrade and

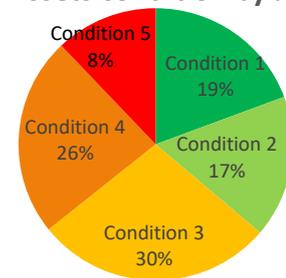


**Geelong Waterfront Safe Harbour Precinct**

- Before the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, Parks Victoria issued 101 event permits in the local ports to facilitate community and commercial events, filming and photography. Major events included Festival of Sails (100,000 attendance) and the Frankston Waterfront festival (18,000 attendance).

**1.2.2. Challenges**

**Assets condition by %**



- For Port Phillip and Western Port, the percentage of assets in average to excellent condition (Condition 1, 2 and 3) for the 2019 / 20 reporting period is 66%. This is below Parks Victoria performance measure “Built bay assets managed by Parks Victoria rated in average to excellent condition”- target of 80%. Performance is below target due to the ageing of assets and storm impacts. Contractor availability also deferred works planned for 2019 to 2020. Parks Victoria is working with the Department of Transport to develop a strategic investment plan for the Local Port of Port Phillip and Western Port which will assist future funding prioritisation. Parks Victoria is receiving funding for maintenance and capital replacement of a number of piers as part of the Victorian Government Building Stimulus program, which will address some poor condition assets
- A significant focus was placed on actions in our parks in support of Chief Health Officer directions to keep the community safe. This included restricting access to many facilities and sites in the local ports. Closures were in place at various times, with St Kilda Pier penguin viewing platform closed for a significant period due to its high visitations

- Deterioration of assets continue to impact Parks Victoria’s business reputation in effectively managing the local ports due to pier & jetty closures and public safety incident reports. The following piers and jetties were closed in whole or in part as of 30 June 2020:

- Middle Brighton Pier
- Hampton Jetty
- Black Rock Jetty – outer section
- Warneet Pier North
- Warneet Pier South – low landing
- Tankerton jetty – low landing
- Tooradin Jetty
- Stony Creek Backwash walkway
- Gem Pier – during reconstruction
- Frankston Pier - outer
- Portarlinton Old Pier
- Newhaven Jetty - part
- Cowes Jetty – vehicle restriction.

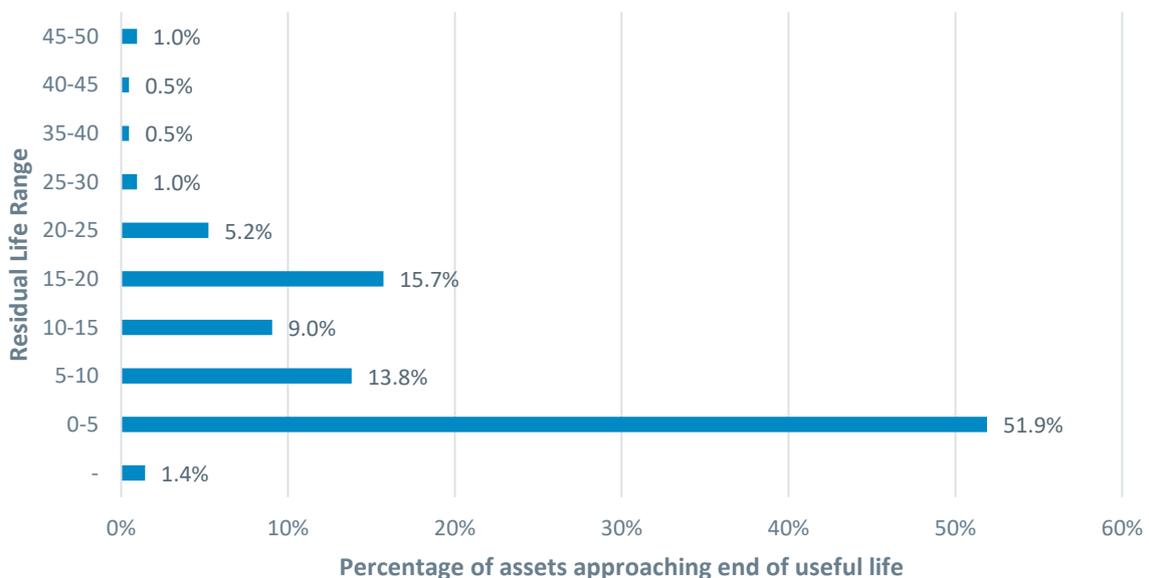


- Brighton Breakwater was not accessible due to the closure of middle Brighton Pier.
- A high proportion of assets (53%), are now reaching their end of life and the service level will drop significantly within the next 0-5 years<sup>10</sup>

- Unseaworthy vessels sinking at or breaking free of their mooring cause financial and environmental impacts. The associated salvage, labour and clean up costs of uninsured vessels is often a cost falling to Parks Victoria. A risk treatment plan has been developed to manage this event aimed at reducing the number of unseaworthy vessels on moorings.

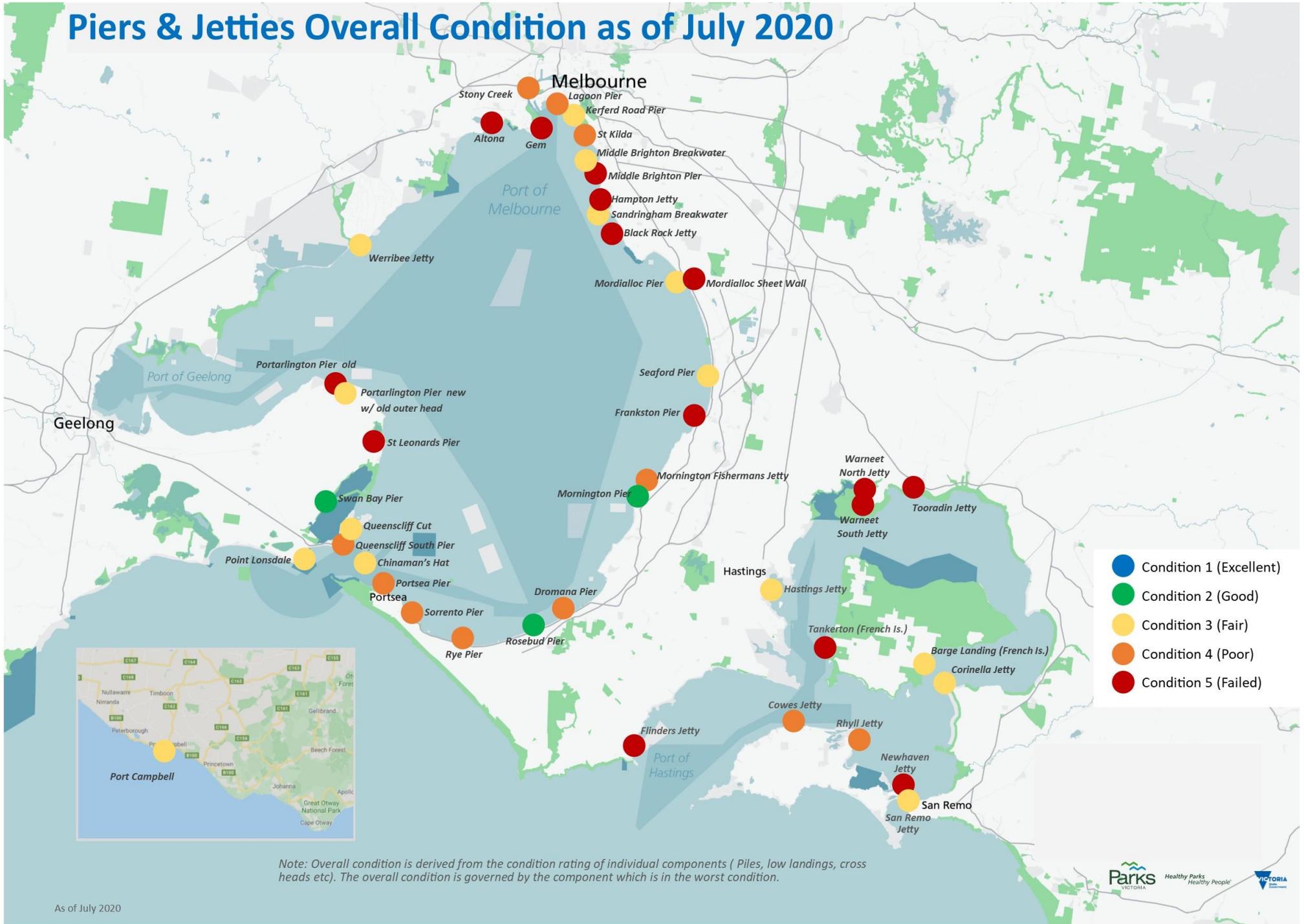


#### Life expectancy of Port Phillip and WesternPort Assets



<sup>10</sup> Master Asset Register – Maritime V2.56 July 2020.

# Piers & Jetties Overall Condition as of July 2020



Note: Overall condition is derived from the condition rating of individual components ( Piles, low landings, cross heads etc). The overall condition is governed by the component which is in the worst condition.

## 1.3. Conserving Victoria's Special Places

*Increase the resilience of natural and cultural assets in parks and maintain ecosystem services in the face of climate change and other stressors.*

### 1.3.1. Highlights

**Promote, conserve and manage important sites with the community:**

- Two Bays program – onboard the vessel 'MV Pelican':
  - Delivered marine environmental education to marina operators and stakeholders in Western Port
  - Managed a citizen science visit to Mud Islands, Port Phillip Heads Marine National Park
  - Connected with local schools for 12 days, engaged on coastal protection and healthy waterways.



- Advanced community awareness and protection of the St Kilda penguins, by implementing a 'Night Patrol' by Rangers and Authorised Officers, with Earthcare Penguin Guide Volunteers
- Improved marine pest awareness across the ports by engaging with commercial marine retailers on 'Check Clean and Dry'
- Launched the Divers Guide and Identification booklet (2<sup>nd</sup> edition) for Port Phillip Heads Marine National Park, in partnership with Friends of Beware Reef Marine Sanctuary

- Chinaman's Hat marine mammal regulatory signage upgraded in partnership with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP).

**Improve our approach using contemporary science to manage priority natural and cultural assets in parks:**

- In participation with Victorian National Park Association:
  - Completed Great Victorian Fish Counts at Mushroom Reef, Barwon Bluff, Point Cook, Jawbone and Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary
  - Completed Sea Slug Censuses at San Remo and Point Lonsdale
- Completed 6 marine environmental monitoring dives at 'Popes Eye' Port Phillip Heads Marine National Park, included the removal of 880 marine pest plants *Undaria*
- Finalised the purple sea urchin culling project, to restore important kelp grounds at Jawbone and Point Cook Marine Sanctuaries. In partnership with Deakin and Melbourne University.

**Conserve and restore ecological processes:**

- Control of intertidal weed *Spartina*, year 5 of a 10-year program with the aim to eradicate *Spartina* from Western Port 'Bass River' in partnership with Melbourne Water
- About 20 hectares of saltmarsh in Western Port is protected from livestock grazing near Bass River with the use of fencing. In partnership with Deakin University's Blue Carbon Lab 'Climate Change Solutions'

- Ecological values such as migratory wader roosting sites protected in partnership with Port Phillip Western Port Catchment Management Authority, Bass Coast Landcare, Bass Coast Shire Council and Phillip Island Nature Parks
- Parks Victoria supported Zoos Victoria Marine Response Unit, with 109 marine wildlife incidents
- Sea Search Intertidal reef monitoring conducted at:
  - Mushroom Reef Marine Sanctuary
  - Honeysuckle Reef
  - Port Phillip Heads Marine National Park
  - Jawbone Marine Sanctuary
  - Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary
  - Point Cook Marine Sanctuary.
- 2000 plants planted at Jawbone Flora and Fauna Reserve with Hobsons Bay City Council.

### 1.3.2. Challenges

- Management of the likelihood of marine exotic translocation around and from Port Phillip Bay, by either equipment or vessels infected by marine pests.

## 1.4. Providing benefits beyond park boundaries

### Contribute to the safety, living standards and wellbeing of Victorians.

#### 1.4.1. Highlights

##### Assist in keeping Victorians safe:

- 40 maritime incidents were managed, and 14 vessels removed by Parks Victoria
- Commercial signage at Sorrento Pier improved
- Boating safety improvements delivered on the Patterson River Rail Bridge build, as part of the Level Crossing Removal Project



- Provided marine safety compliance in Port Phillip, in partnership with Maritime Safety Victoria and Victorian Water Police
- Produced valuable support at the Paisley Challis Wetlands site, in the multi – agency oil spill clean-up
- Established a Critical Incident Management Team to manage Parks Victoria’s Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic response
- Contributed to the Victoria Water Police Regional COVID Emergency Management Team
- Supported the Victorian Government’s response to COVID19 by monitoring and closing recreational sites as required. A total of 1976 patrol observations were conducted by Marine and Maritime Staff

- Assisted Victoria Police and Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to support a rough sleeper person at Gem Pier shelter to seek alternative accommodation through DHHS
- A total of 213 Notices to Mariners as tabled below were published by Parks Victoria in 12 months to 30 June 2020

#### Notice to mariners

Type	2019 – 20
Events	41
Works	59
Dredging	20
Navigation Aids	76
Hazards	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>213</b>

- Excellent representation provided by Parks Victoria staff at a State Maritime Emergencies Exercise. The simulation of a major shipping incident around Port Phillip Heads, was supported by Parks Victoria in shoreline clean up, cetacean emergencies and oiled wildlife response.



##### Grow economic opportunities and promote the value of park ecosystems:

- Reduced red tape in enabling multiyear licences for licenced tour operators

- Launched virtual ranger to keep people connected to nature, with virtual video tours and online junior ranger resources during COVID-19 restrictions
- Marine park management promoted to key stakeholders in an online partnership with DELWP Coastcare and Marine Mammal Foundation
- 55% of permits supported commercial activation, most for filming and photography
- 51 licensed tour operators offered a diverse range of experiences, from tours, outdoor activities and education. 36 operated in Port Phillip and 15 operated in Western Port.

#### 1.4.2. Challenges

- Establishing the appropriate resources for emergency preparedness, response and recovery for maritime emergencies (non-search and rescue) within the local ports.

## 1.5. Enhancing organisational excellence

*Enhance our capability, capacity and culture to deliver on our commitments.*

### 1.5.1. Highlights

- Continue to deliver a strong safety-first program, with the Marine and Maritime Region maintaining a Total Recordable Injury Frequency Rate (TRIFR) of zero since January 2019
- Disability awareness and engagement training delivered online to 1,491 staff and 277 volunteers through Get Skilled Access
- Implemented online mobile site safety surveys to improve hazard identification across the ports

- Parks Victoria finalised the delivery of the Chemical Management and Dangerous Goods Strategy
- Development and adoption of a strategic Health Safety and Environment (HSE) management system framework.

### 1.5.2. Challenges

- Better port user incident, hazard and near miss reporting that is shared with multiple reporting agencies
- Development of an integrated payment and application system for both mooring and work permits.





## 1.6. SEMP Key Performance Indicators

This table details SEMP objectives (*Port Management Act 1995* Section 91CA) and provides specific supporting key performance indicators that ensure port activities within the control of Parks Victoria are environmentally sustainable, managed to improve safety and consistent with the Victorian Government delivery across all Victorian local ports.

### Definition of year-end result:

<b>Target met</b>	✓	Target has been met or exceeded within agreed timeframes
<b>Target not met</b>	X	Target has not been met – exceeds 5% variance
	(X)	Target has not been met – within 5% variance
<b>No result</b>	◆	Recorded as N/M = Not measured

Performance indicator	2019-20 target	2019-20 actual	Year end status
<b>Objective (a) Promoting improvements in safety and environmental outcomes at Victoria's ports.</b>			
<b>Parks Victoria</b>			
<b>1 Induction of contractors undertaking work within local ports includes safety and environmental considerations</b>	100%	◆	◆
This measure is determined by the percentage of contractors completing the Parks Victoria induction process.			
Note: Currently there is no centralised process to record contractor inductions across the local ports, Parks Victoria are developing an online system for staff inductions and seeking the best fit to capture an online module for contractors.			
<b>Objective (b) Improvement of stakeholders, tenants, licensees and service providers' understanding of environment and safety best practices within the local port.</b>			
<b>2 Maintain a local port stakeholder database inclusive of tenants, partner organisation and authorities, councils, major pressure groups and individuals contributing to local port discussions</b>	1	1	✓
The database went through several reviews to ensure the most up to date contacts have been maintained, it is now been uploaded into the stakeholder database Park Connect.			
<b>3 Digital publication of annual local ports e-newsletter</b>	50	74	✓
This measure is determined by the number of page hits and download of e-newsletter to inform of any changes in port management practices and provide relevant guides to best practice. <sup>11</sup> The e-newsletter is emailed to stakeholders and tenants and made available on Parks Victoria's website.			
<b>Objective (c) Promoting an integrated and systematic approach to risk management in relation to the operation of the port.</b>			
<b>4 Inclusion of local port risk issues and SEMP KPIs as a standard agenda item in District Management Team meetings</b>	3	3	✓
This measure is determined by the number of targeted and agenda-based discussions of local port risk issues and SEMP KPIs at District Management Team meetings annually.			

<sup>11</sup> Data sourced from Campaign Monitor – Local Ports Update – Issue 4.

<b>5 Facilitate and document local ports risk workshop to review existing risks and priorities and document and prioritise arising risks. Incorporates internal and external incident report data</b>	1	0	<b>(X)</b>
<p>The delivery of this workshop was unfortunately cancelled due the Coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions. The review of existing risks and incident data was completed. Risk treatment plans are being rolled over into the next financial year and small targeted risk workshops continue to be held online to discuss, capture and implement control improvements for the local ports.</p>			
<b>6 Conduct SEMP Steering Committee meetings</b>	3	3	✓
<p>This measure is determined by the number of meetings each year to review/modify/endorse prioritisations of existing and arising risks. Internal governance of SEMP publication and document control.</p>			
<b>7 Reliable operation of Aids to Navigation in Parks Victoria's local ports</b>	100%	100%	✓
<p>The reliability standards are provided by MSV.</p>			



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**Photography acknowledgements**

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**Cover image**

Local Port of Port Phillip

**Back image**

Local Port of Western Port