

18/02/2010
C111**SCHEDULE 1 TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE OVERLAY**Shown on the planning scheme map as **ESO1****COASTAL WETLAND AREAS****1.0**22/05/2008
C46(Part 1)**Statement of environmental significance**

The coastline of Bass Coast Shire varies from internationally significant wetlands in Western Port and the rugged coastal cliffs along Bass Strait to Anderson Inlet. Development in these environmentally significant areas has the potential to impact on water quality and habitat values of these wetland ecosystems.

Western Port is an internationally significant (Ramsar) wetland because it has an unusually wide variety of habitat types. The Western Port Ramsar site contains important foraging areas, high tide and other roosts and breeding areas for a number of waterbird species including migratory waders. The site is also an important drought refuge for waterbirds during the summer months as, being marine, it provides habitat all year round.

Anderson Inlet has significant natural qualities and is the most clearly defined estuary in Victoria. It is both scenic and an important area for flora and fauna. The area provides an internationally significant habitat for migratory wader birds and habitat for endangered bird species.

Bass Coast Shire is adjacent to two Marine Parks. The Bunurong Marine and Coastal Park extends from Coal Point near Harmers Haven to Anderson Inlet. This includes the Bunurong Marine National Park which extends from The Oaks beach to Eagles Nest. These coastal waters contain a remarkable range of habitats that support abundant marine life. The diverse marine habitats at Bunurong include extensive inter tidal rock platforms.

The Churchill Marine National Park is located south of Rhyll off Phillip Island in Western Port. This park forms part of the Western Port Ramsar site and contains important roosting and feeding sites for migratory wader birds.

2.022/05/2008
C46(Part 1)**Environmental objective to be achieved**

- To ensure that development is compatible with the environmentally sensitive coastal areas.
- To maintain and enhance the ecological attributes such as the biological, physical and chemical components of the wetland ecosystem, and their interactions which maintain the function of wetlands and of Ramsar sites.
- To protect and ensure the long-term future of terrestrial and aquatic habitat for native plants and animals, include shorebird feeding areas and roosts and species and communities listed under the *Fauna and Flora Guarantee Act 1988*.
- To encourage ecological restoration, regeneration and revegetation with indigenous species within the site and in adjoining areas.
- To ensure that land abutting or draining into wetlands is managed to prevent any degradation of wetland function and values.
- To protect water quality and prevent water pollution in watercourses, water bodies, wetlands and groundwater.

3.018/02/2010
C111**Permit requirement**

A permit is not required for:

- The construction of a building or to construct or carry out works for normal farming activities (excluding works associated with the establishment of timber plantations) including:
 - Fencing and gates.
 - Ploughing and similar activities.
 - Dams less than 3000 cubic metres capacity.
 - Windmills and solar units.
 - Outbuildings less than 100 square metres gross floor area.
- The construction of a building or to construct or carry out works approved under the *Coastal Management Act 1995* or carried out as part of a management plan approved by the Department of Sustainability and Environment.

Applications must be referred in accordance with Section 55 of the Act to the referral

Authority specified in Clause 66.04 or a schedule to that clause for sites of International, National and State zoological significance.

Notice of an application must be given in accordance with Section 52(1) (c) of the Act to the person or body specified as a person or body to be notified in Clause 66.06 or a schedule to that clause for sites of Regional or Local zoological or botanical significance.

4.022/05/2008
C46(Part 1)**Decision guidelines**

Before deciding on an application, the responsible authority must consider as appropriate:

- The maintenance and improvement in the stability of coastal wetlands, dunes and coastlines.
- The impact of the proposal on coastal processes and the need to protect and enhance environmentally sensitive coastlines.
- The conservation of any areas of environmental importance or significance
- Potential threats to the quality, life cycle processes or functioning of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems or native plant and animal species.
- The function of the wetland, watercourse or habitat area as part of a broader natural system.
- The preservation of any existing native vegetation including measures to rejuvenate degraded areas and areas abutting watercourses with indigenous plant species.
- The extent of any proposed removal of native vegetation.
- The necessity of retaining a buffer strip of vegetation in the vicinity of water courses, roads and property boundaries.
- Control of noxious and environmental weeds and pest animals, including the need to minimise the spread of weeds and soil pathogens.
- The capacity of the soil and water to absorb wastes and the design of any effluent disposal system.
- The works to prevent and control drainage and stormwater run-off from any building, works, access road or driveway.

- The need to maintain the seasonality, quantity and quality of water flows through the area and through other areas with a common system of drainage.
- The need to minimise water pollution through the establishment of best practice performance standards and monitoring regimes for stormwater.
- The location, dimension and level of any excavation or alteration to the natural surface that may impact on the drainage function of the wetland, including works to stabilise buffers in areas of fill or excavation.
- Any comments from the Department of Sustainability and Environment.

References

Western Port Ramsar Site Strategic Management Plan, Department of Sustainability and Environment, 2003.

Management of Victoria's Ramsar Wetlands Strategic Directions Statement, Department of Natural Resources and Environment, 2002.

Inverloch Foreshore Reserve and Anderson Inlet Management Plan, Department of Natural Resources and Environment, 1998.