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STRATEGIC STATEMENT

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Strategic Statement

The Minister for Planning is the responsible authority and planning authority for the unincorporated territories of French Island, Sandstone Island and Elizabeth Island, as the islands do not fall within any municipal boundary.

The objectives and strategies for French Island are set out under the following themes:

- Housing and settlement, Clause 21.04
- The environment, Clause 21.05
- Economic development, Clause 21.06
- Heritage and built environment, Clause 21.07
- Resource management, Clause 21.08
- Transport, Clause 21.09
- Infrastructure, Clause 21.10.

The objectives and strategies for Sandstone Island are at Clause 21.11.

The objectives and strategies for Elizabeth Island are at Clause 21.12.

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Overview

Western Port Bay, which surrounds French, Sandstone and Elizabeth Islands, is an important natural asset of the State in relation to its recreational opportunities and shipping potential, and internationally for its environmental quality.

French Island

French Island is located approximately 65 kilometres southeast of Melbourne in Western Port Bay and has a land area of around 17,000 hectares. French Island sits approximately five kilometres east of Stony Point, 10 kilometres south of Tooradin and five kilometres north of Phillip Island. Interfacing municipalities, although interrupted by the waters of Western Port Bay, are the Shires of Mornington Peninsula, Cardinia and Bass Coast.

Day-to-day access to and from the Island is by the passenger ferry from Stony Point and Cowes to Tankerton or the vehicular ferry from Corinella to Saltmine Point.

French Island’s regional context has regard to:

- The waters of, and the land surrounding, Western Port Bay
- French Island National Park and French Island National Marine Park
- Heritage and Tourism
- Natural systems

French Island National Park and French Island National Marine Park were proclaimed in 1997 and 2002 respectively. Although the National Park is contained wholly on the Island, its regional context needs to be considered in relation to its impact on geographically broader ecosystems. The whole of the Island’s coastal area, other than three small Crown Land reserves at Tankerton, the Barge Landing and Freeman Point, is included in areas protected under the National Parks Act 1975 (i.e. the French Island National Park and the French Island Marine National Park. Approximately one-third of the Island is rural freehold land and the remainder of the Island is included in the French Island National Park.

French Island tourism can be considered in a regional context through its proximity to tourist attractions on Phillip Island, the Mornington Peninsula and Western Port Bay.

Sandstone Island

Sandstone Island is located in Western Port Bay and has an area of around 22 hectares. The Island is approximately one kilometre south-east of the Hastings foreshore. The closest point of the Island to the mainland is at its southern tip where it is about 600 metres from Jacks Beach Reserve at Bittern. Sandstone Island needs to be considered with regards to its regional environmental significance.

Elizabeth Island

Elizabeth Island is located in Western Port Bay approximately two kilometres south east of French Island and has an area of approximately 26 hectares. Elizabeth Island functions as a tourism accommodation retreat and has limited access infrastructure to and around the Island. Elizabeth Island needs to be considered in regards to its regional environmental significance.



FRENCH ISLAND AND SANDSTONE ISLAND PLANNING SCHEME

