



## **Appendix 2a**

### **11.1 Chief Executive Officer Report**

*Point Lonsdale Front Beach – Project Update August 2021  
from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and  
Planning*

# **Ordinary Meeting of Council**

Wednesday 22 September 2021 at 7:00pm

Via Videoconference (Zoom)

# Point Lonsdale Front Beach – Project Update

## August 2021

### Context

- In 2018, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) facilitated a community engagement process regarding the low sand levels at the Point Lonsdale foreshore and options to maintain sand at the front beach.
- The communities desired objective was to increase and retain sand for recreation and amenity of the front beach.
- In August 2018, coastal engineers from Cardno presented six options to address community concerns. Community feedback indicated strong opposition to these options. Cardno then revised its designs and presented two new groyne options at the February 2019 consultation, which received minimal community support.
- Public consultation was conducted between 22 February and 11 March 2019 and included a Community Design Option (CDO) for eight new rock groynes to be built along the foreshore. The results revealed that most respondents preferred the CDO option over alternative engineered options. However, this option was not considered technically feasible by Cardno.
- DELWP committed to work with local CDO representatives and a suitably qualified independent engineering consultant (Water Technology) to determine if the design was technically feasible.

### Findings – CDO technical feasibility study

- The feasibility of the CDO option was investigated with representatives of the CDO, Parks Victoria (PV), the land manager, and the Borough of Queenscliffe. The process was facilitated by DELWP. Three meetings were held between December 2019 and July 2020.
- The investigation identified that the proposal is technically feasible only if Groynes 1, 2 and 3 were increased in size to be 2.8 metres tall and 11 metres wide (like a breakwater) to sustain the wave energy, ocean swell and storm impacts. The CDO was not supportive of the proposal to increase the size of the groynes.
- Water Technology, the independent engineering consultant, identified that Groyne 5 in the CDO design would provide the best results in sand accumulation. This option was almost identical to that proposed by Cardno under the previous groyne investigation completed in 2019 that was not supported through community consultation.

### Policy context

- Point Lonsdale front beach is within the Port Phillip Heads Marine National Park which is managed by Parks Victoria. Parks Victoria has the delegated powers to approve works under the National Parks Act 1995. This would include the possible installation of groynes.
- Installation of groynes in Port Phillip Heads Marine National Park is not supported within the park management plan due to the potential environmental impacts.
- Building new groynes is also inconsistent with the new Marine and Coastal Policy (2020), which states that non-intervention is the primary objective when intervention would cause unacceptable negative impacts or be ineffective. (Objective 6.7).
- The Marine and Coastal Policy provides the key principles for planning and decision-making in the marine and coastal environment where 'adaptive management' (e.g., groynes) is the last option when managing hazards and risks.
- The objectives for new groynes at Point Lonsdale foreshore is for recreation and amenity, not for the management of hazards and risks.
- With no immediate public safety or asset risk posed by maintaining the status quo, currently the Marine and Coastal Policy does not support additional coastal infrastructure at Point Lonsdale Front Beach.

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## Outcomes & Next Steps

- Building groynes at this location would be inconsistent with the Marine and Coastal Policy.
- DELWP will continue monitoring the Point Lonsdale foreshore through regular drone surveys and assessment of sediment dynamics via the Victorian Coastal Monitoring Program.
- Additional wave monitoring buoys have been installed within Port Phillip Bay to inform and help understand sand movement and erosion events.
- The wave data will help inform a separate study of the Point Lonsdale coastline, including Dog Beach.
- If public safety or assets are at risk in the future, authorities will consider further action.
- Where possible, natural remediation options will be considered first, such as sand renourishment, the process of physically carting sand from one location to another.