



# Williamstown Maritime Precinct

## Update – July 2022

The Williamstown Maritime Precinct is one of Melbourne's most iconic destinations

# Williamstown Maritime Precinct Framework



The Williamstown Maritime Precinct has a long and rich history, located on the lands of the Bunurong People.

A premier maritime and tourist destination, it provides important spaces and facilities for people from the local community and visitors alike, attracting more than 100,000 visitors each year.

Since the beginning of the 19th century, as Melbourne's first seaport, it has supported trade, recreation, and naval activities. Today it remains a working port, while hosting a range of waterfront uses and marine activities.

## Facts and figures

Melbourne's **first Port settlement** offers some of the best views of the CBD and bay

Home to the Alfred Graving Dry Dock, **constructed in the 1860s** which is the largest of its kind in the southern hemisphere

**6.5 million** cubic metres of liquid bulk products (oil and petroleum) transported through the port which is anticipated to increase to **13.7 million m<sup>3</sup>** by 2050

More than **3000 yacht club members** 800 motor boats, and 600 marina/swing berths

Port of Melbourne contributes **19,600 jobs + \$6 billion** to the Victorian economy

The Victorian Government invested \$200,000 to deliver the *Williamstown Maritime Precinct Framework* (Precinct Framework) designed around the needs of those who use the area and to create a vision for the precinct whilst remaining true to its legacy as a working port.

The Department of Transport (DoT) asked the community to participate in the development of the Precinct Framework, as well as engaging with government, authorities, traditional owners, local organisations, yacht and boating clubs and other stakeholders.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, engagement was moved to online channels. DoT has still garnered great input thanks to wide promotion on social media, email and word-of-mouth activities by the Project Steering Committee members and other local groups.

**DoT has heard from stakeholders and community in the following ways:**

**155**   
**submissions**  
 to a public survey on the Department of Transport's Get Involved website

**14**   
**interviews**  
 one-on-one with key stakeholders for the local area

**75**   
**attendees**  
 at a Virtual Open House to hear from project specialists and share ideas

The Williamstown Maritime Precinct is a special place for many people. Common themes DoT has heard from the community and stakeholders were:



### Place and heritage

- Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners and their long and ongoing cultural association with the area.
- Protection of maritime character
- Family friendly village atmosphere
- Scenic views
- Education/maintaining maritime trades
- History and storytelling capacity



### Environment and sustainability

- Clean and healthy coastal marine environment
- Foreshore and habitat protection
- Protection of significant views
- Climate resilience
- Flood protection
- Engaged and informed community



### Land use and activities (inc. operations and functional needs)

- Balanced land use mix
- Well maintained public spaces
- Diverse recreational opportunities
- Safeguard working port and maritime functions
- Safe harbour to reinforce the precinct as a premier boating and maritime precinct



### Movement and connection

- Cohesive and integrated precinct
- Walkability and access for all users
- Foreshore access
- Enhanced connections and wayfinding


The Precinct Framework identifies opportunities to guide future use and development of the precinct underpinned by a series of strategic directions and precinct options. It sets out a vision for the foreshore that balances its mixed uses and its legacy as an industrial port.

The Precinct Framework identifies six key directions and supporting strategic land use directions to deliver the vision for the precinct including:



**A Place of cultural exchange**

Which is meaningful and allows for people to share in an array of cultural experiences, to recognise, celebrate and learn about its Indigenous values, past and contemporary heritage; enriching its place and social capital.



**A functional and celebrated maritime destination**

Recognising this area as a significant working port and revered maritime locale, where one can simply be a spectator or roll up the sleeves and participate in educational and recreational pursuits around the core maritime focus. A key focus will be on preserving and building on the precinct's maritime heritage, character and activities on offer.




**A balanced compatible mixed use precinct**

That promotes optimal use and adaptive re-purposing of land and infrastructure assets, to maintain the WMP as a thriving mixed used centre that balances various user needs.



**An adaptive and resilient precinct**

A precinct that is poised and ready to tackle environmental and socio-economic challenges such as climate change head on, through adaptive and practical solutions.



**A cohesive and connected precinct**

That promotes greater cohesion and linkages between the Port and maritime related functions, with the public realm, tourist and recreational facilities on offer.



**An innovative and prosperous precinct**

That doesn't shy away from progress and change, and nurtures skills and trades, education, learning and innovation as the backbone to creating a prosperous and diverse economic base.

## The Williamstown Maritime Precinct Framework journey

<b>14 May 2020</b>	Victorian Government announced plans to create a Precinct Framework.
<b>September 2020</b>	Project team coordinated one-on-one phone and web meetings with stakeholder to understand local values and conditions.
<b>9 – 25 September 2020</b>	Online survey, background information, precincts maps and fact sheets to seek feedback from stakeholders and the community.
<b>17 September 2020</b>	‘Virtual town hall’ meeting with Minister Horne, Department of Transport, and the Project team over 70 members of the local community.
<b>January – March 2021</b>	Feedback and studies inform a draft Precinct Framework shared publicly for further feedback.
<b>November 2021</b>	Consultation on the Williamstown Wave Study led by Parks Victoria and DoT.
<b>January 2022</b>	Consultation with Traditional Owner group on the Precinct Framework.
<b>Early 2022</b>	Framework updated based on public comments and final Precinct Framework document shared.
<b>25 February 2022</b>	Victorian Government released the Precinct Framework, focused on the area’s maritime environment and providing a clear direction for the future.

## Completed projects

- ✓ Underwater dive inspections at Workshops Jetty
- ✓ Stages 1 and 2 of Williamstown Wave, Wash and Surge Study
- ✓ Williamstown Dredging Study
- ✓ Gem Pier pile repair and replacement project

# Projects underway

## Williamstown Local Port Area plan

The Williamstown Local Port Area Plan will help guide investment priorities and provide a sustainable approach to meeting economic, tourism and community needs.

Parks Victoria will prepare the plan in partnership with DoT and will invite Hobsons Bay City Council to be part of the project reference group.

### Williamstown Local Port Area Plan timeline



The plan will progress the Precinct Framework objectives and strategies in the context of the Sustainable Local Ports Framework, incorporating four principles in local ports: local economy and jobs growth, tourism and recreation, emergency response and community and cultural value.

All values are found in the iconic Williamstown foreshore.

The Williamstown Local Port Area Plan will build upon the knowledge gained through the existing technical studies and stakeholder and community engagement.

## Sustainable Local Ports Framework

The Victorian Government committed \$2.5 million to implement the Sustainable Local Ports Framework to provide a consistent planning and decision-making pathway.

DoT has commenced implementation of the framework to improve local port management.

The framework outcomes will assist government in prioritising and directing future investment to where it is needed most.

This framework incorporates four principles in local ports:

-  local economy and jobs growth,
-  tourism and recreation,
-  emergency response and
-  community and cultural value.

Local port area plans will be developed for key precincts and guided by community and stakeholder engagement.

## Workshops Jetty inspections and repair options

One of the first actions from the Precinct Framework is the investment of \$100,000 through the Local Ports Program for further detailed inspections of piers located in the precinct to support commercial activities and tourism.

In late 2021, below water dive inspections of Workshops Jetty were undertaken to assess the condition of the pier substructure, including piles.

Parks Victoria is developing repair options which will deliver large vessel berthing using the results of above and below water inspections.

### Gem Pier fender installation

Under the State Budget 2022-23, funding has been provided to Parks Victoria to reinstate a fender system to the outer piles at Gem Pier. The works are expected to commence in mid-2023 and will improve berthing safety for commercial vessels.

### Williamstown Wave, Wash and Surge Study

A Wave Wash and Surge study was undertaken to understand potential causes and effects of waves in the precinct.

Stage 3 of the Study is considering mitigation through vessel operations, together with more information and education for vessel operators.