

SHOREHAM FORESHORE RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN EXTRACT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To protect the natural undeveloped character of the Reserve by conserving and enhancing indigenous flora and fauna whilst providing compatible recreational and educational opportunities.

INTRODUCTION AND CURRENT SITUATION

The reserve is approximately 189 hectares (refer land status section below) in size and 2.2 kilometres in length extending from Point Leo Foreshore Reserve at Seychelles Road in the north to south of the basalt point, south of the Beach Road car park and Stony Creek.

The reserve abuts Western Port in the south east of the Mornington Peninsula approximately 75 kilometres from Melbourne and 20 kilometres south of Hastings.

The Reserve is valued for Its vegetation and coastal setting by campers, local residents and visitors, surfers, fishers and other beach users, school groups, walkers and bird watchers.

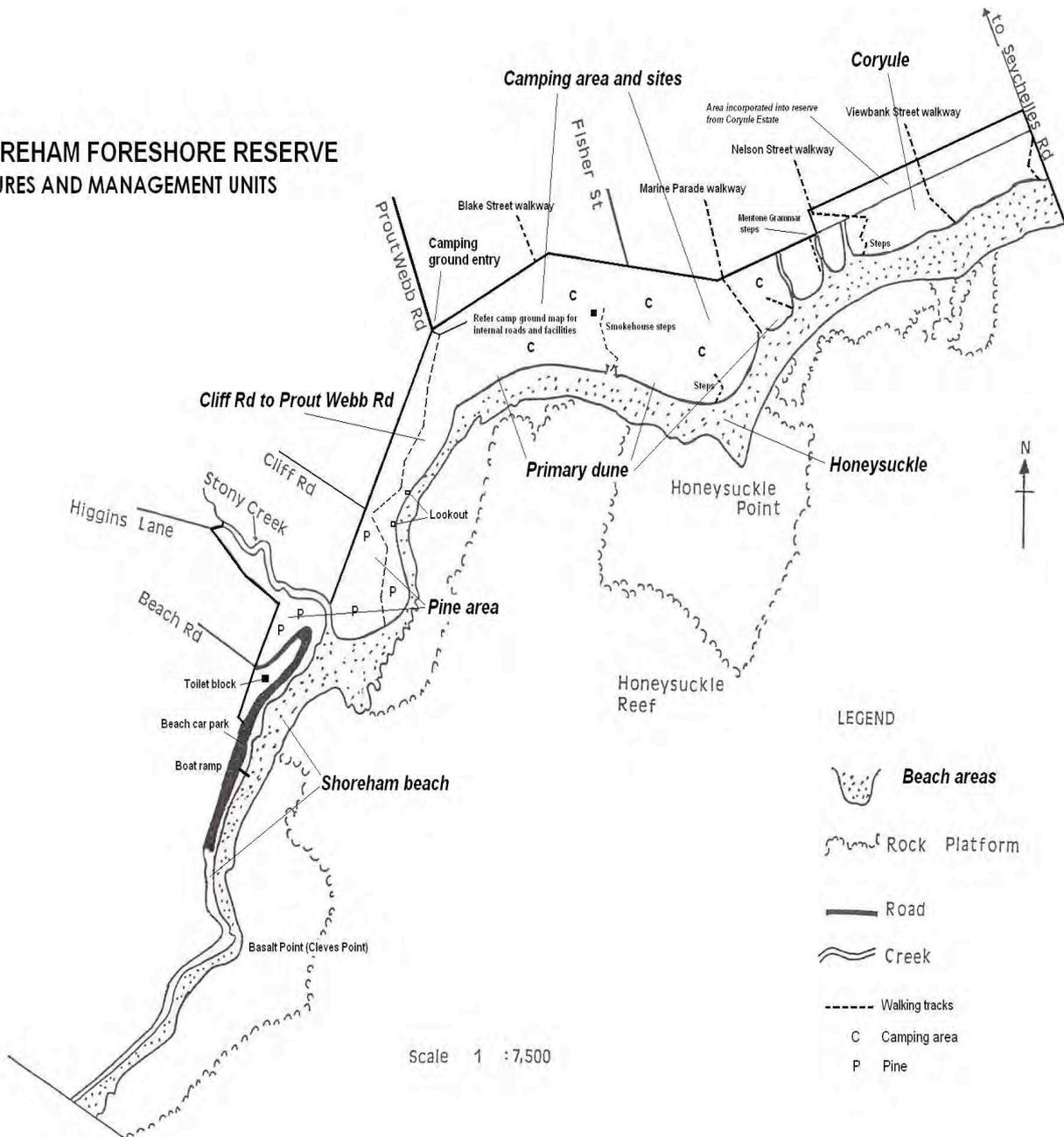
The surrounding land uses are private cleared land and Shoreham village to the west. The surrounding coastal environment includes rock platforms and sandy beaches, Western Port (a wetland of international significance listed in the Ramsar Convention), and the creek corridor of Stony Creek. Point Leo foreshore abuts to the north and Flinders Foreshore Reserve to the south. It is in the Mornington Peninsula Shire

The Reserve includes family and surf beaches, primary sand dunes, cliffs, fern gullies, coastal woodland communities, walking trails, camping area, public car parking and pine tree area ("The Pines") listed as of State Cultural Significance, under the Victorian Heritage Register (H1996).

The Reserve is shown below and is divided into 7 areas or precincts for the purposes of preparing management actions. The various precincts are:

- Coryule
- Camping area
- Honeysuckle
- Primary dune
- Prout Webb Road to Cliff Road
- Pine area
- Shoreham beach

SHOREHAM FORESHORE RESERVE FEATURES AND MANAGEMENT UNITS



Land Status and Management Responsibilities

The Shoreham Foreshore Reserve (the Reserve) is Crown land, reserved as follows:

Parcel	Size (Ha)	Crown allotment / Section	Township	Parish	Reservation Temporary/ Permanent	Reservation purpose
P240526	4.2	1, Sec 3	Shoreham	Flinders	Permanent	Protection of the coastline (Gov Gazette 1981, p.895)
P241137	86.4	29A, Sec A	-	Flinders	Permanent	Protection of the coastline (Gov Gazette 1981, p.895)
P240925	98.8	46A, No Sec	-	Balnarring	Permanent	Protection of the coastline (Gov Gazette 1981, p.579)

The above described Crown land is reserved pursuant to the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978*. The Reserve reference number is Rs7223.

The Reserve is managed by the Shoreham Foreshore Reserve Committee of Management (the Committee). The Committee is appointed by the Minister for Environment and Climate Change to manage, improve, maintain and control the land for the purposes for which it is reserved.

Reserve regulations were declared on 24 September 1986 (Government Gazette no. 77, p3628), and set out the powers of the Committee to:

- Control vehicular access and use in the reserve;
- Control boating activities within the reserve;
- Control camping activities, including directing the removal of structures from the foreshore reserve; and
- Grant permits, subject to terms, fees and conditions consistent with the Regulations.

The Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) acts the landowner of Crown land and delegates the management responsibilities to committees of management. DSE provides advice and guidance to Committees and assists Committees to resolve issues and build relationships with their key stakeholders. Committees are eligible to apply to various grants via DSE. Committees are required to provide a financial or audited statements to DSE and can request assistance or advice as required.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Aerial photo



Map 2. Shoreham Foreshore Reserve

Geology

Geology of the area consists mainly of Palaeozoic bedrock covered by Tertiary deposits, with basalt (older volcanics) being the major component.

Soils (incl contamination)

The soil is mainly yellow podsols which are duplex in nature and generally acidic. Mottling is evident in patches, indicating poor drainage in some parts. (No known contamination)

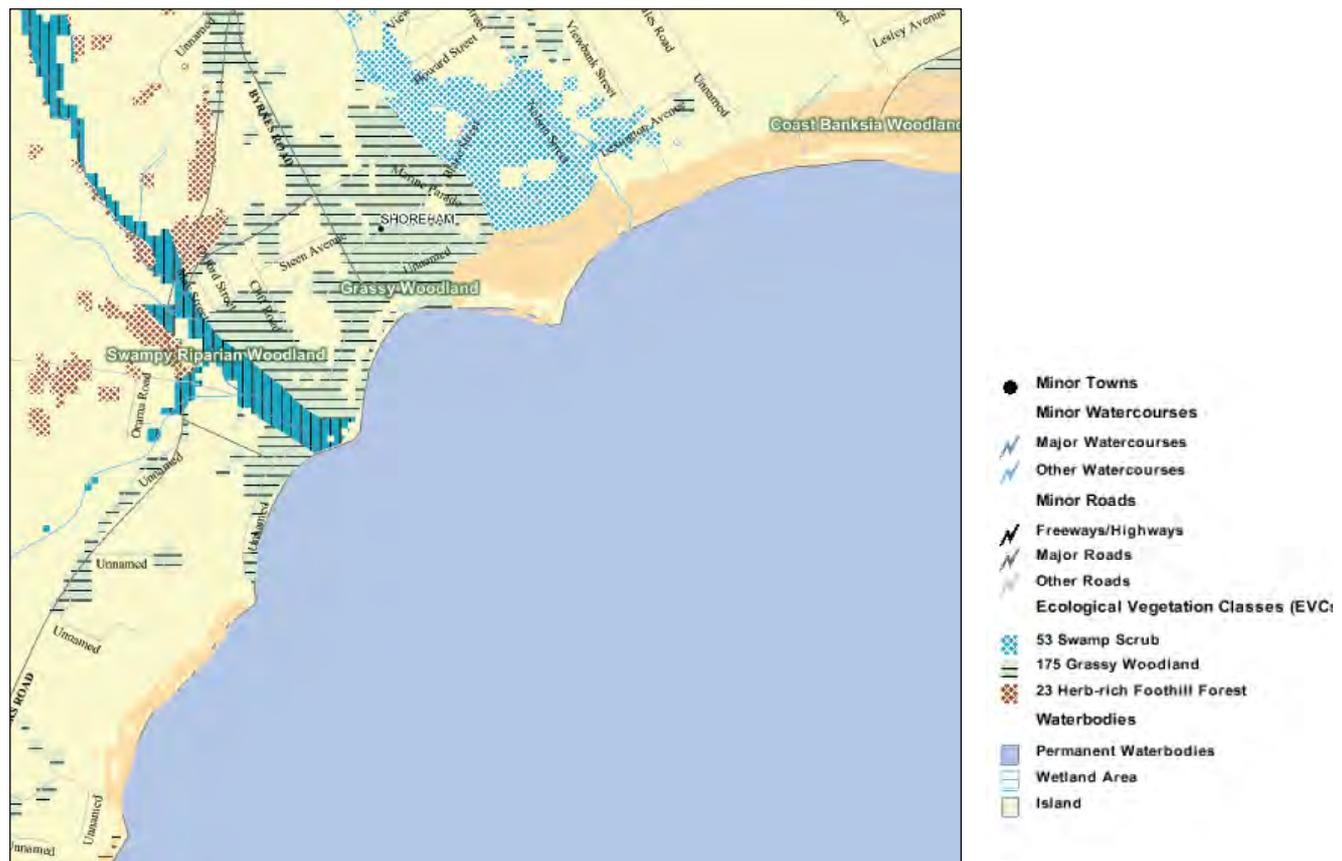
Erosion

Natural erosion occurs on the exposed cliff face south of Cliff Road. Landslips below Prout Webb and Cliff roads with subsequent rill and gully erosion have been caused by inadequate urban drainage causing saturation and mass movement.

Drainage

Lack of appropriate urban drainage from Steen Avenue, Prout Webb Road, Marine Parade, Blake Street, Fisher Street, Cliff Road, Point Leo Views Estate and Nelson Street impact on the reserve.

Ecological Vegetation Classes



Map 3. Ecological Vegetation Communities

Shoreham Foreshore Reserve includes three EVCs; Coastal Banksia Woodland, Grassy Woodland and Swampy Riparian Woodland, as shown in Map 3 above.

Coastal Banksia Woodland is described as being restricted to near coastal localities on secondary or tertiary dunes behind Coastal Dune Scrub. Usually dominated by a woodland overstorey of Coast Banksia *Banksia integrifolia* to 15 m tall over a medium shrub layer. The understorey consists of a number of herbs and sedges, including scramblers.

Grassy Woodland is described as a variable open eucalypt woodland to 15 m tall or occasionally Sheoak woodland to 10 m tall over a diverse ground layer of grasses and herbs. The shrub component is usually sparse. It occurs on sites with moderate fertility on gentle slopes or undulating hills on a range of geologies.

Swampy Riparian Woodland is described as woodland to 15 m tall generally occupying low energy streams of the foothills and plains. The lower strata are variously locally dominated by a range of large and medium shrub species on the stream levees in combination with large tussock grasses and sedges in the ground layer.

Biosites

Shoreham is within the 'Point Leo Surf Beach to Flinders Jetty' site of biological significance, which includes several near threatened species, including the Sooty Oystercatcher, Pacific Gull and Black faced Cormorant.

Flora

Eucalypt, Banksia, Acacia, shrubs, scramblers, sedges, grasses

Pest Plants

Sweet Pittosporum, Monterey Pine, Polygala, Watsonia, Smilax, Blackberry, Cape Weed, Panic Veldt Grass, English Ivy, Broom

Fauna

Wallaby, Koala, Possum, marsupials, snakes, birds

Pest Animals

Rabbit, Fox, Cat, Horses, Dogs, Noisy Minor, Bellbirds

DETAILS OF LEGISLATION, FRAMEWORKS AND POLICIES

The following is an overview of the key legislation, frameworks and policies that directly affect and direct the management of the Reserve.

Commonwealth

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* delineates areas of Commonwealth and State responsibility for the natural environment. This Act defines the Commonwealth's role in managing the environment as limited to matters of national environmental significance, such as Ramsar wetlands. The Act aims primarily to provide for the protection of the environment, promote ecologically sustainable development and promote the conservation of biodiversity. This Act applies to the Shoreham Foreshore Reserve due to its protection under the Ramsar Convention 1971.

The broad aim of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (*Ramsar Convention 1971*) is to reverse the worldwide loss of wetlands and to recognise and conserve those that remain. Wetlands are defined as shallow, open waters such as lakes, rivers and coastal fringes, and any land, which is regularly or intermittently saturated, by water, such as marshes, swamps and floodplains. Currently there are over eighty countries, which are Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention.

The whole of Western Port is protected under the Ramsar Convention. The Shoreham Reserve, therefore, abuts an area of international significance and hence, activities and impacts originating from within the reserve must aim to conserve and enhance the wetland. Management relating to wetland areas in the Reserve is located in sections 4.1.2, 4.2, 5, 6.2 and 8.

State

The *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978* provides for the reservation of Crown land for a variety of public purposes, the appointment of committees of management to manage those reserves and for leasing and licensing of reserves for purposes approved by the Minister for Environment and Climate Change.

The *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* (State) provides legislative protection for all Aboriginal cultural heritage sites, places and objects, with the involvement of

Aboriginal people. Under the Act, coastal areas are considered to have high cultural heritage sensitivity and where works include high impact activities; a Cultural Heritage Management plan is required to be prepared.

The Act recognises aboriginal people as the “primary guardians, keepers and knowledge holders of Aboriginal cultural heritage” and establishes the Aboriginal Heritage Council of 11 traditional owners and Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs).

RAPs play a lead role in administering the Act, including evaluating Cultural Heritage Management Plans and providing advice on applications for Cultural Heritage Permits.

Mornington Peninsula Shire Council does not currently have any RAPs recognised under the Act.

The ***Environment Protection Act 1970*** provides the legal framework by which environmental objectives, regulations and goals are established throughout the State for industry, commerce and the general public. The Act reflects the precautionary principle, the protection of intergenerational equity, the polluter pays principle, and the protection of biodiversity. It puts the responsibility for sound environmental management on Victorian businesses, communities and individuals. The Act aims to achieve greater environmental performance through shifting to collaboration and co-regulation as opposed to the traditional ‘command and control’.

The ***Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*** provides the legal framework to conserve Victoria’s native plants and animals. Its broad aim is to prevent the extinction of any more plants and animals and to ensure that native flora and fauna survive, flourish and retain their potential for evolutionary development in the wild.

The Wildlife Act 1975 was passed to establish procedures in order to promote the protection and conservation of wildlife, the prevention of taxa of wildlife from becoming extinct, the sustainable use of and access to wildlife and to prohibit and regulate the conduct of persons engaged in activities concerning or related to wildlife. Permits to keep wildlife are issued pursuant to this Act.

The ***Planning and Environment Act 1987*** establishes State planning and land use processes including provisions for planning schemes for individual council areas. A planning scheme is a statutory document which sets out objectives, policies and provisions relating to the use, development, protection and conservation of land in the area to which it applies. A planning scheme regulates the use and development of land through planning provisions to achieve those objectives and policies. Every planning scheme includes the State Planning Policy Framework. This Framework consists of general principles for land use and development in Victoria and specific policies dealing with settlement, environment, housing, economic development, infrastructure, and particular uses and development. The Local Planning Policy Framework sets a local and regional strategic policy context for a municipality including Crown land. It comprises the Municipal Strategic Statement and specific local planning policies.

Victoria’s Native Vegetation Management – A Framework for Action 2002 establishes the strategic direction for the protection, enhancement and revegetation of native vegetation across Victoria. It establishes the primary goal for native vegetation management is to achieve, “A reversal, across the entire landscape, of the long term decline in the extent and quality of native vegetation, leading to a Net Gain.” If native vegetation is proposed to be removed as part of a land use or

development proposal, planning and responsible authorities should achieve a Net Gain outcome, as defined in the Framework. This is achieved firstly, as a priority, by avoiding adverse impacts, particularly native vegetation clearance; secondly, if impacts cannot be avoided, by minimising impacts through appropriate consideration in planning processes and expert input into project design or management; and thirdly, by identifying appropriate offset actions. The criteria for determining the appropriate response and offsets are contained within the Framework.

The *Mornington Peninsula Planning Scheme* sets out policies and controls for the use, development and protection of land. The strategic framework and directions for the future use of the municipalities are outlined in their *Municipal Strategic Statements* (MSS). The MSS states the strategic vision for the municipality and provides the rationale for the policies and planning controls that form part of the Mornington Peninsula Planning Scheme. It provides the strategic basis for the application of the zones, overlays and particular provisions in the planning scheme and decision making by the responsible authority. For Mornington Peninsula Shire, the MSS identifies that the Peninsula's foreshore environments have significant environmental and recreational values and states that the foreshore should be protected from development which would diminish their environmental, conservation and recreational values.

The MSS recognises that the Peninsula's ecosystems are under pressure due to removal of vegetation, drainage modifications, coastal works and weed/pest animal invasion, and indicates that strategies which protect and build on existing sites of high significance and core areas of public land can aim to restore environmental diversity and resilience. The MSS also recognises the importance of coordinated management of coastal areas.

The Reserve is partly zoned Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ) between Seychelles Road to Beach Rd in the south, and Public Conservation and Resource Zone (PCRZ) south of Beach Rd.

The Reserve is covered by the following overlays:

- Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO17); Streamlines (over Stony Creek)
- Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO20); Cliff and beach
- Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO24); Site of Scientific Significance
- Heritage Overlay (HO327); The Pines Foreshore Reserve
- Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO) (over Stony Creek)
- Significant Landscape Overlay (SLO1); Coastal Landscape
- Significant Landscape Overlay (SLO4); Scenic Recreation Sites
- Significant Landscape Overlay (SLO6); National Trust Classified Landscapes