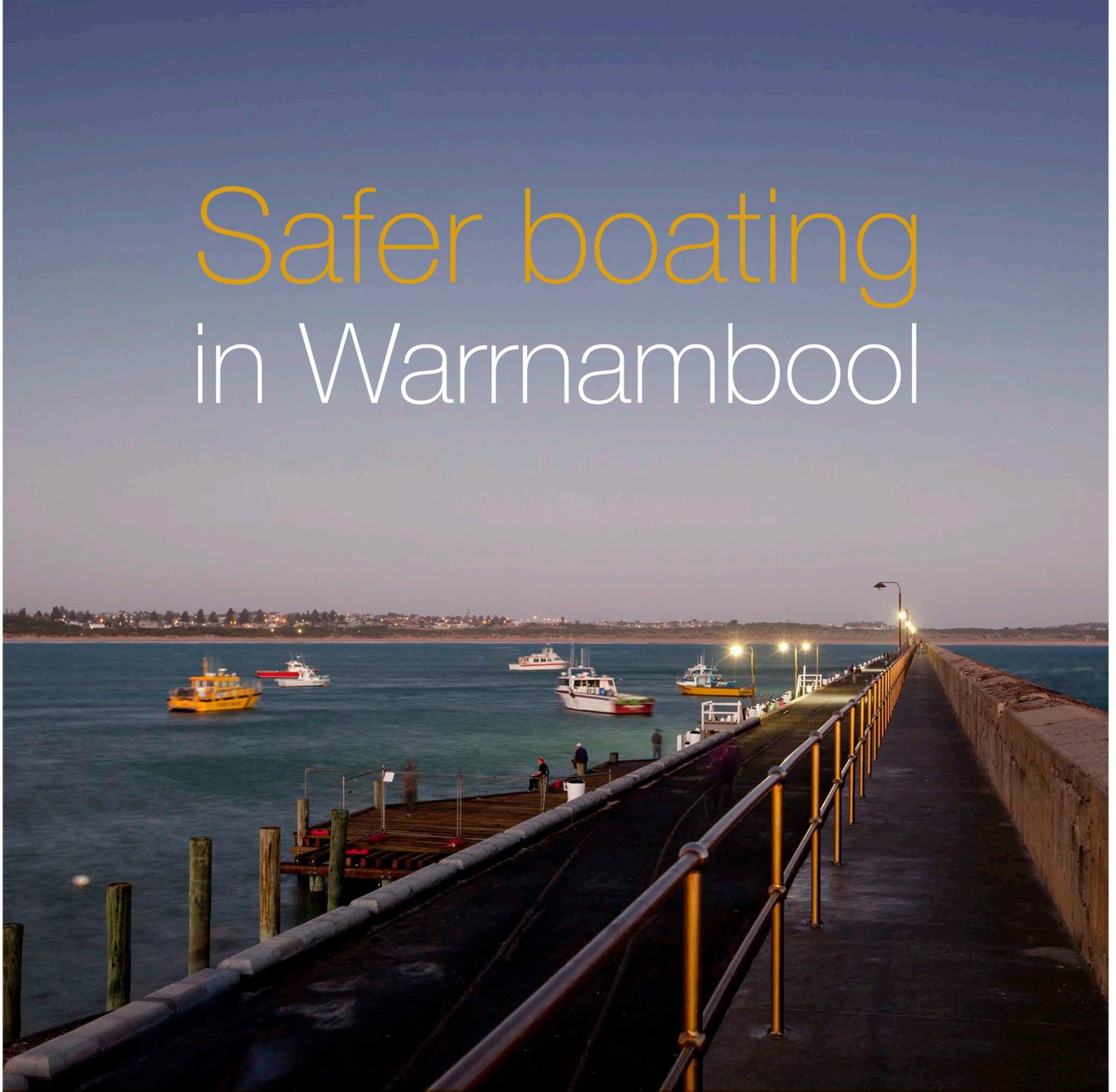


Safer boating in Warrnambool



Safer boating on Lady Bay

Fishing has long been a favourite recreational pursuit among Victorians and Victoria's Great South Coast provides some of the state's most exciting and bountiful off-shore fishing.

The Port of Warrnambool provides a launching place for commercial and recreational fishing vessels. The Port manager, Warrnambool City Council, is committed to providing safer boating facilities.

The Port of Warrnambool, constructed at the western end of Lady Bay, consists of a boat ramp, an historic 19th century breakwater and other facilities including a jetty, power and water supplies.

Lady Bay is part of the Shipwreck Coast and faces the

Southern Ocean. Conditions for launching boats are frequently challenging.

To enable the safer launch and retrieval of boats at Lady Bay, Council plans to upgrade boating facilities including the boat ramp. It will also regularly dredge key sections of the Port area.

These combined measures will ensure that it is safe for boats to launch at Lady Bay more than 80 per cent of the time.



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The challenge

While the breakwater provides significant protection challenges still exist at the boat launching area with waves surging up the ramp. As a result, conditions are unsuitable for launching about 40 per cent of the time.



The safer harbour solution

This is a complex issue where Warrnambool City Council had to weigh up project priorities, environmental and social impacts, financial costs, possible economic benefits, community sentiment and the aesthetic impact of further development on Lady Bay.

In December 2015 Council endorsed the Safer Boating Project that includes the construction of a three-lane boat ramp and the reconstruction of an adjacent jetty to the south of the ramp.

The ramp will feature a porous surface allowing water to pass through rather than surge up the ramp.

This option was chosen on the basis that:

- It satisfied widespread community support for a safer harbour;
- That it was efficient;
- It comprised a more realistic funding prospect;
- It had the minimal environmental impact.

Project detail

The porous boat ramp – allowing waves to pass through rather than surge or “shoal” up the ramp – is an innovative approach that provides the prospect of creating safer boat launching and retrieval with less environmental impact.

Physical models have been built and tested to confirm the effectiveness of the concept, with the tests carried out at the Queensland Government Hydraulics Laboratory.

The porous ramp, in combination with dredging will make conditions safe for boat launching and retrieval about 80 per cent of the time (waves less than 20cm in height) A further significant advantage over the existing boat

ramp would be that boats and trailers would no longer be subjected to breaking waves or the subsequent down rush of reflected broken waves.

With the growing popularity of recreational fishing and the anticipated benefits from improved boating facilities there are associated land-side components of the project. These include a holding area along with modification and expansion of existing boat trailer and car parking.

Warrnambool City Council is seeking funding support through the Boating Safety and Facilities Program to introduce these safety features at the Port of Warrnambool.

Costs

Ramp cost:	\$2 million
Land-side costs:	\$700,000
Total project cost:	\$2.7 million

Proposed funding model

Warrnambool City Council	\$540,000
Victorian Government	\$2.16 million



The benefits

As a result of the safer boating measures, more boats will be able to launch more often at the Port of Warrnambool, which is a State Government-owned facility.

It is anticipated that this would comprise largely recreational fishing vessels. An increase in fishing tourism will build on an important strength of the Great South Coast region.

Commercial vessels will also use the upgraded facilities along with the Warrnambool Coast Guard.

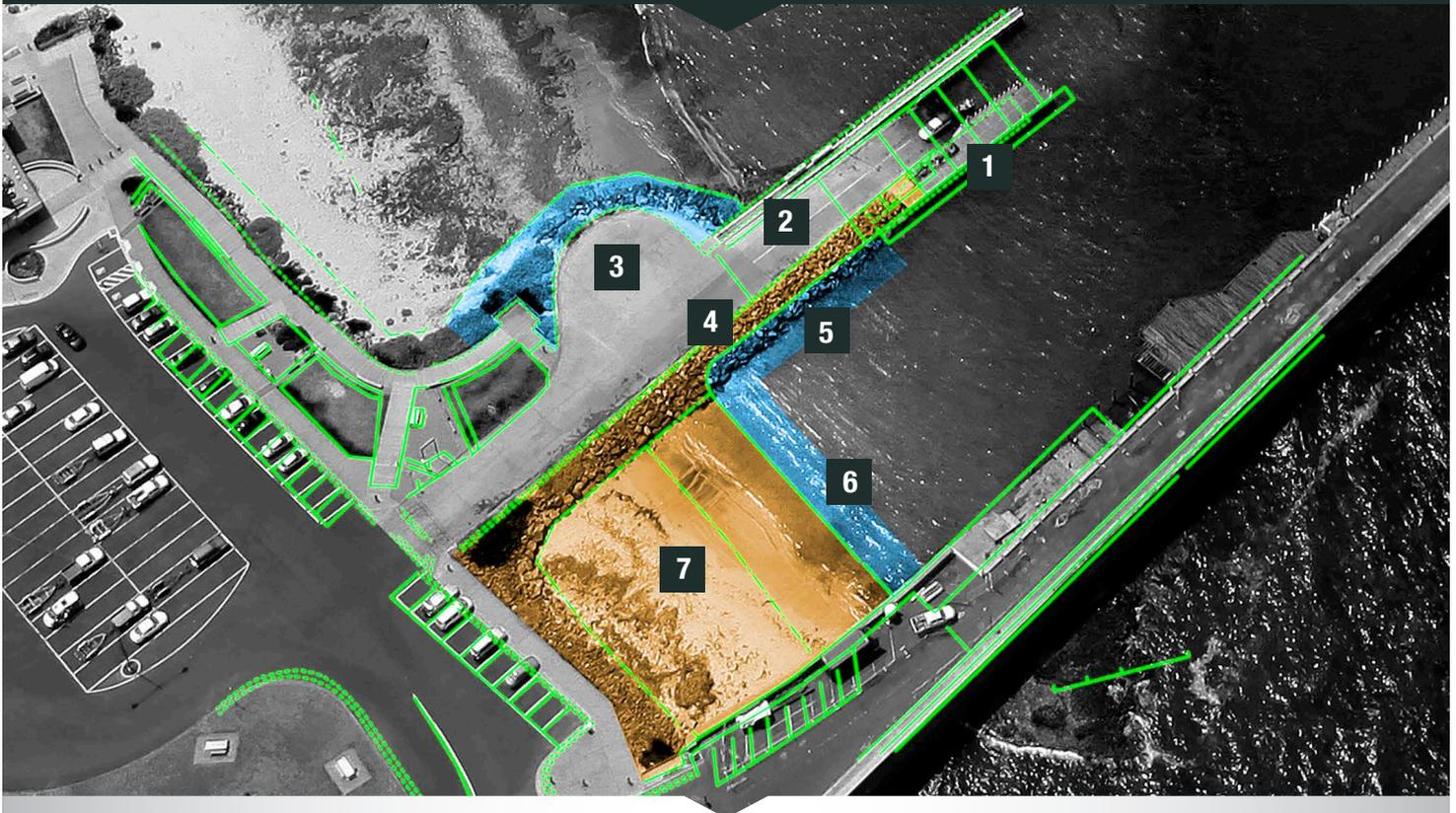
Enhanced boat launching facilities aligns with the State Government plan, Target One Million, which aims to grow participation in recreational fishing to one million anglers by 2020.

The project also aligns with the objectives of the Boating Safety and Facilities Program, in particular:

- ✓ ensure safe access to waterways
- ✓ decrease boating incidents and fatalities
- ✓ improve boating facilities and the planning of these facilities
- ✓ promote increased safety
- ✓ provide improved search and rescue services



Safer boating - project overview



1. Construct new jetty
2. Concrete approach slab to be replaced
3. Existing vehicle turning area
4. Construct new concrete approach slab with integrated kerb
5. Protection batter
6. Construct rock seawall
7. Proposed hardstand area for vehicles and trailers

Safer boating in Warrnambool



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An informed decision

Lady Bay is a stunning natural asset enjoyed by many Warrnambool residents and visitors to the Great South Coast. Because of its significance, an extensive community engagement process was undertaken leading up to the decision to carry out new infrastructure work at the Port.

In late 2014 Council established a Community Reference

Group and a Technical Reference Group to help guide the community and Council around this important decision.

Council conducted a survey on safer boating options. A total of 698 responses were received which indicated widespread support for additional infrastructure to support safer boating.

