

Portarlington Safe Harbour Community Bulletin

April 2008



Introduction

The purpose of this community update is to report on the progress made on the technical studies and development of the Draft Master Plan.

Since the last community update the Steering Committee and consultant team, lead by Meinhardt Environment & Infrastructure, have been busy undertaking the key tasks, which are:

- A master plan to guide development of the Portarlington Safe Harbour and the adjacent foreshore precinct.
- Technical investigations of sediment characteristics and contamination, water quality, flora and fauna, traffic management, geotechnical investigations and harbour design wave modelling.
- Identification of opportunities for recreation and tourism development.
- Economic feasibility assessment of all investment opportunities associated with the development (including project staging).
- An Indigenous Cultural Heritage Management Plan as per the requirements of the Aboriginal Heritage Act.

Progress on key tasks

Significant progress has been made on delivering the key tasks in particular:

The following technical investigations have been completed:

- Sediment characteristics and contamination

- Water quality
- Flora and fauna
- Traffic and parking
- Extent and depth of basalt flows in the harbour
- Topographical survey

A community workshop and focus groups have been conducted that help define the community values, improvements and aspirations for the open space and foreshore.

A Cultural Heritage Management Plan is being prepared with input from the local indigenous groups.

The results from the technical studies, review of existing strategies and community consultation are being used in the development of the Draft Master Plan.

Given the complexities of study area, we have not been able to meet the ambitious timeline for the release of the draft Master Plan for community comment. Once the outstanding issues have been resolved to the satisfaction of the Steering Committee, we will seek approval from the Minister to release the Draft Master Plan.

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