



Dear Regional Coastal Boards,

Congratulations on delivering in depth and descriptive Regional Coastal Plans. I am aware of the time, energy and discussions that are required to create comprehensive plans. I also applaud your strategic approach in receiving public feedback via an online survey form. The promoting mechanisms within the survey are a good guidance for those in the public sphere who are not familiar with the public comment process or not certain how to construct their response.

My premise for writing one response to all three Regional Coastal Plans is due to some overarching and broad picture concerns that I recognised while reading each document. I list these concerns below.

1. The structural language of the three Regional Coastal Plans does not mimic the 2014 Victorian Coastal Strategy (VCS 2014). The Hierarchy of Principles sets out the VCS 2014 while the Regional Coastal Plans follow other structures. As a reader, I find this approach disintegrated and subtracts from the vertical flow of the VCS 2014 to the three Regional Coastal Plans.
2. An integrated framework for Ports is not represented in all three Regional Coastal Plans.
3. Across the three Regional Coastal Plans, foreshore management is applied incorrectly. In fact, foreshore management is only one aspect of coastal management and not the whole.
4. The words Aboriginal people should be changed to Traditional Owners (this sensitive issue was picked up across all three Regional Coastal Plans).
5. The Plan at a Glance is a fantastic way for a reader to get a summary of the Plan, however, it does not address the Hierarchy of Principles of the VCS 2014.
6. There are many interesting and excellent plans to be implemented across the Victorian coastline. Funding sources to implement these plans are not transparent in any of the Regional Coastal Plans.
7. There is little information regarding mitigation and adaptation to Climate Change across the three Regional Coastal Plans.

8. Roles and responsibilities for plan implementation require further clarity and teasing out.
9. There is little detail as to how each of the three Regional Coastal Plans will integrate with the Regional Catchment Strategies and Growth Plans.
10. I am curious as to what happens with current existing Coastal Action Plans? Will they be integrated, superseded, overarched or scrapped within the context of the Regional Coastal Plans? Further clarity is needed here within each of the Regional Coastal Plans.

Thank you for your time in reading my above concerns.

I am more than happy to discuss any of the above issues or provide further clarity.

I wish the Victorian Coastal Council, Regional Coastal Boards and the Department great success with the final Regional Coastal Plans.

Kind regards,

