

# Central Coastal BOARD

## Central Coastal Board Annual Report 2002-2003

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Submitted to the Victorian Coastal Council



# Contents

Chairman's Message	3
The Year in Brief	4
1. Introduction	6
2. Membership and Meetings	8
3. Achievements against Business Plan Key Result Areas	14
4. Finance and Administration	19
5. The Year Ahead	21
Appendix A - Victorian Coastal Strategy (2002) Actions and Board Response	22

## Chairman's Message

It is with pleasure that I present the 2002 - 2003 Annual Report of the Central Coastal Board to the Victorian Coastal Council. This year we have completed the transition of the Board from the capital projects approach of the past to a strategic advisory body consistent with the Coastal Management Act.

To inform this transition, and to facilitate the implementation of the Victorian Coastal Strategy, the document *Coastal Priorities for the Central Region* was developed, giving priority to the development of a Boating Coastal Action Plan, and a Coastal Business Case for coordinating investment in built coastal and marine infrastructure in the region.

The Central Region continues to challenge the Board in terms of its complexity, scope and scale of issues and the number and variety of agencies, industries and individuals with a keen interest in the ongoing development and improvement of this area and with whom the Board enjoys close working relationships.

In particular, I again extend my sincere thanks to Mark Stone and Parks Victoria in providing the Board's Executive with ongoing prime accommodation in the Melbourne CBD. This arrangement works very much to the Board's advantage and, I hope, to the benefit of Parks Victoria.

I thank my fellow Board members for their continued support and commitment, noting that some members are leaving the Board at the end of June 2003, after terms of 1½ to 3 years, and thank them for their contribution.

Finally, I thank the Board's staff. Nick Wimbush resigned as Executive Officer in August 2002, after 2 years in the position. The new Executive Officer, Steve Blackley, has been on a steep learning curve after moving from a position with the New South Wales Coastal Council. The staff of Sharon Pretty (Senior Project Officer) and Rebecca Cohen (Project Officer) and a part-time administrative officer was reduced by one project officer in April 2003, due to continued financial constraints. They have capably supported the Executive Officer and the Board throughout the year.

We look forward to working with all our stakeholders over the next year and beyond to implement the actions from the *Coastal Priorities for the Central Region*.



Liz Johnstone  
Chairperson

# The Year in Brief

## (1) Overview

As one of Victoria's three Regional Coastal Boards, the Central Coastal Board (CCB) plays an important stewardship role in the co-ordination, planning and management of the unique coastal assets of Victoria's Central Coastal Region, including Port Phillip and Western Port.

This year has seen a heightened focus on the implementation of the new Victorian Coastal Strategy (VCS, 2002) in the region, particularly within the framework of Melbourne 2030 and other key strategic policies designed to minimise the inherent environmental and social risks arising from traditional urban and population growth, and to improve our management of natural resources.

The CCB is informed by local, regional and international trends affecting our coastal zone, most notably the recent socio-demographic changes resulting in 'coastal migration', a mobile and affluent ageing population, higher density development, and the ever increasing popularity of the coast - the "sea-change". The Board is acutely aware of the increasing pressures being felt in the region through global factors such as urbanisation, climate change, increasing mobility of people, goods and introduced pest species. This is evidenced by the Victorian Channels Authority and Port of Melbourne Corporation investigating options to cater for increased trade including channel deepening for the next generation of larger ships with increased draughts. The Environmental Effects Statement process is underway, and is prompting debate on marine and coastal sustainability in many sectors.

The CCB took an active interest in developing the 2002 VCS, promoting principles of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and ecologically sustainable development (ESD) in our region to deliver 'triple bottom line' (economic, environmental and social) outcomes and continuous improvement.

Implementing the VCS in the region has been assisted through the development of *Coastal Priorities for the Central Region*. This framework for implementing the VCS was prepared through an extensive and collaborative process involving State agencies and local government, and the Board is grateful to our stakeholders for their vision and commitment. Without doubt, the most significant initiative and achievement was the declaration of Victoria's 13 new Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries. During the year CCB participated in the formative stages of developing management plans for the Ricketts Point and Port Phillip Heads areas - these reserves will make a major contribution to ensuring future generations continue to enjoy our wonderfully diverse and rich marine and coastal environments.

CCB applauds actions which have contributed to improved water quality in the bays and open coast through joint activities and initiatives such as the Association of Bayside Municipalities' (ABM) Clean Stormwater project and the Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority's (PPWCMA) nitrogen reduction project. We continue to work with both the PPWCMA and the Corangamite CMA on a range of initiatives to keep coastal issues high on the agenda. The CCB has played a key role in facilitating and coordinating coastal and marine input to the Regional Catchment Strategies (RCS) and, importantly, the Regional Catchment Investment Plans which deliver NHT2 funds.

The CCB's participation in the Commonwealth Government's National Heritage Trust *Coasts and Clean Seas* program has resulted in the installation of boat waste treatment facilities in four key bayside locations: St Kilda, Yaringa, Patterson Lakes and Sandringham, with plans developed for Brighton, Geelong and Queenscliffe. We will continue to encourage boat owners and coastal managers to adopt improved waste management systems to protect water quality.

CCB's has developed Coastal Action Plans (CAPs) in partnership with Mornington Peninsula Shire Council and the City of Greater Geelong. The draft Corio Bay CAP and Mount Eliza to Point Nepean CAP both required the facilitation of common action programs for multiple user and interest groups, involving extensive consultative processes, to ensure that quality decision-making and management processes will guide future use and development in these regions. Key challenges raised in the VCS and reflected in these CAPs are to be addressed through an implementation program, relying on inter-agency cooperation.

The Board has continued to identify emerging trends, threats and risks to the region to be possibly addressed through the use of CAPs, guidelines and other processes provided by the Coastal Management Act 1995. Our commitment to the VCS's sustainability principles will mean communities continue to play an integral role in protecting our coastal catchments, foreshores and bays. The CCB will continue to facilitate and improve coastal management in our region, bringing together state and local government agencies, commercial and recreational organisations and community representatives to work toward a sustainable future for our unique and complex region.

It is important to note that all Board memberships expired on 30 June 2003 and members were required to renominate for the Board by late May 2003. This Annual Report is the final Report for the Board, with a new membership appointed in July 2003.

## **(2) Key Achievements**

The Central Coastal Board has had a busy and productive year. Key achievements and milestones include:

- The development of *Coastal Priorities for the Central Region*, which was provided to the Minister for Environment and Minister for Water, the Hon. John Thwaites.
- The development of draft Coastal Action Plans for Corio Bay with the City of Greater Geelong and Mt Eliza to Point Nepean with Mornington Peninsula Shire Council.
- Installation of boat sewage waste facilities at four sites within the Central Region, jointly funded by the Board and the Commonwealth's Coasts and Clean Seas program.
- Several local capital projects, totalling approximately \$1.1m, to improve coastal infrastructure and amenity around Port Phillip were completed, including Gem Pier at Williamstown and the Marina Reserve at St Kilda.
- A joint meeting with the Port Phillip and Western Port Catchment Management Authority in March 2003 to progress shared understandings of catchment-coast-ocean issues.
- Strong commitment to and engagement in the development of Regional Catchment Strategies for the Port Phillip and Western Port CMA Region and the Corangamite CMA Region.
- The facilitation of coastal input to Regional Catchment Investment Plans for both CMA's.
- The Board's newsletter "About the Bays" was distributed every month during 2002 and on a two-monthly basis in 2003 to 565 stakeholders from a wide range of interests in the region and beyond. The website was also regularly updated.
- Our Coastal Planners' Forum was successfully organised and hosted at Cranbourne in November 2002 and at Geelong in May 2003.
- Leadership of the Western Port Portfolio Coordination Group and the management of the Western Port Research Coordination Project to develop conceptual ecosystem models for Western Port and identify research needs.
- Completion of the Western Port Bibliography detailing over 1000 references for scientific and research work.
- Continued engagement of the Board and staff with the Association of Bayside Municipalities and attendance at all ABM General Meetings.
- Membership of the Technical Reference Group for the EES process for the Port Phillip Channel Deepening Project.

# 1. Introduction

Three Regional Coastal Boards cover the entire Victorian coastline in collaboration with the Victorian Coastal Council. The Central Coastal Board operates in the Central Region (below) which includes 13 coastal municipalities from the City of Greater Geelong in the west to the Bass Coast Shire in the east. The key features of the Central Region are the two large embayments of Port Phillip and Western Port (including Phillip Island and French Island), and the presence of Victoria's capital, Melbourne, which is home to over 3.5 million residents and significant industries and primary production. Impacts from the catchments, up to the Great Dividing Range, ultimately extend out to the seas of Bass Strait and beyond.



The region contains approximately 75% of Victoria's population concentrated in Greater Melbourne and the important regional city of Geelong. This major population poses a range of complex and sensitive coastal issues and several challenges for the successful implementation of the VCS. Fundamental to this is the increasing recognition of the relationships between social, economic and environmental considerations and need to improve the delivery of Ecologically Sustainable Development in the region.

While the coastal and marine environment facilitate a variety of highly beneficial and economically valuable uses, such as attractive residential areas, coastal and water-based recreation, tourism, major and local ports, fishing and industry, these uses have led to significant environmental issues such as:

- Loss of habitat and biodiversity;
- Introduced terrestrial and marine pests;
- Deteriorating water quality; and
- Climate change and greenhouse emissions.

Many of the pressures causing environmental impacts also result in emerging social and economic issues such as:

- Increasing demand for coastal real estate, increasing property prices, and changes to the demographics and accessibility of coastal townships;
- Increasing house sizes and installation of impervious surfaces;
- Increasing demand for recreational opportunities and access; and
- Loss of agricultural land and areas for production.

The Central Coastal Board's charter is to identify the strategic coastal priorities for natural resource management and land use planning, and coordinate the activities of the many agencies with interests in the coastline, catchments, estuaries and bays.

As set down in the *Coastal Management Act 1995*, the Board's functions are:

- a. To develop Coastal Action Plans for land within the region;
- b. To provide advice to the Minister on coastal development in the region and any other matters referred to it by the Minister;
- c. To provide advice to the Victorian Coastal Council on coastal development in the region and any other matters referred to it by Council;
- d. With the approval of Council, to prepare and publish guidelines for coastal planning and management in the region;
- e. To facilitate the implementation in the region of the Victorian Coastal Strategy, Coastal Action Plans and approved coastal guidelines for the region;
- f. To facilitate local public awareness of, and consultation and involvement in, the development and implementation of the Victorian Coastal Strategy, Coastal Action Plans and approved coastal guidelines for the region;
- g. To liaise with, and encourage the cooperation of, Government Departments, municipal councils, public authorities, industry, community groups and persons and bodies involved in the planning and management of the region in developing and implementing strategic solutions to matters affecting the conservation and use of the region's coast; and
- h. To carry out any other functions conferred on it by or under this Act or any other Act.

Further background information on the Central Coastal Board's role and functions can be found on its web site at [www.ccb.vic.gov.au](http://www.ccb.vic.gov.au)

Under Section 13 of the *Coastal Management Act 1995*, the Board is required to report to the Victorian Coastal Council on the status of coastal planning in the region and the implementation progress of the Victorian Coastal Strategy.

## 2. Membership and Meetings

### 2.1 Membership

The Minister for the Environment appoints the members of the Central Coastal Board under Section 11(1) of the *Coastal Management Act 1995*. In addition, the Board can co-opt up to two additional members under Section 11(4) with the approval of the Minister. The Board has good geographic representation from across the region and a wide range of skills important in coastal planning including conservation, recreation, business and land use planning. The Board membership for the 2002-2003 year was as follows:

Member	Background	Meetings Attended
<p>Cr Liz Johnstone (Chairman)</p> <p>S11(1) Appointment Expires 30 June 2003</p>	<p>A local resident of Elwood, Liz Johnstone is Deputy Mayor of the City of Port Phillip and a past President of the Association of Bayside Municipalities.</p> <p>Liz has a long association with community consultation, planning, coastal issues and environmental improvement through her involvement in Local Government and many associated committees.</p> <p>She has represented Local Government on coastal issues at the National level on the Inter-Governmental Coastal Reference Group and is also a member of the Victorian Coastal Council.</p>	9
<p>Ms Judy Backhouse</p> <p>S11(4) Appointment Expires 30 June 2003</p>	<p>Judy Backhouse was the Regional Manager for the Port Phillip Region of the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE).</p> <p>In December 2002 NRE was restructured to form the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE). Judy has recently been promoted to the position of Executive Director, Regional Services, DSE.</p>	2* replaced by Doug Miller
<p>Mr Neil Beddoe</p> <p>S11(1) Appointment Expires 30 June 2003</p>	<p>Neil Beddoe is a resident of Cowes and has been involved in a range of local and State associations including Yachting Victoria, Westernport Safety Council, Cowes Yacht Club and the Westernport Water Board.</p> <p>Neil has a long experience in Local Government, in engineering, planning and business, and being a former member of the State Boating Council, brings a technical and recreational boating background to the Board.</p>	5
<p>Mr Paul Dartnell</p> <p>S11(4) Appointment Expires 27 November 2003</p>	<p>Paul Dartnell is Parks Victoria's Chief Ranger for Port Phillip, and apart from his position on the Board, is also a member of the Recreational Boating Advisory Group established by Marine Safety Victoria, and various other Steering Committees and Advisory Committees around Port Phillip.</p> <p>Paul has worked in natural resource and park management for over 10 years in the areas of business management, planning, policy and strategy, and operations. Paul is qualified in landscape architecture and economics.</p>	7

<p>Dr Tim Ealey S11(1) Appointment Expires 30 June 2003</p>	<p>Tim Ealey is an Environmental Scientist and Ecologist who has undertaken a range of research on marine and coastal environments as well as work in the Antarctic and Pilbara desert. At present he is working on propagation of seagrass and mangroves.</p> <p>The Foundation Director of the Monash University Graduate School of Environmental Science, Tim lives at Coronet Bay and has been a member of the Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority since its inception. He is also a member of the Westernport Water Board, the Seagrass Management Team and several local committees.</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>Ms Lee Emmett S11(1) Appointment Expires 30 June 2003</p>	<p>Lee Emmett has a genuine appreciation of the diversity and sensitivity of Victoria's coast, and the need to manage it sustainably. She has been an active resident of the Bayside community for the past eight years.</p> <p>Lee holds an MBA and an Honours Degree in Science from Monash University. She is a member of the Dandenong Catchment Committee for the Port Phillip and Westernport CMA, a Director on the Lower Murray Water Authority, and former Secretary of the Stonnington Citizens for Reconciliation.</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>Mr Noel Maud S11(1) Appointment Expires 30 June 2003</p>	<p>Noel Maud is a member and former president of the South Gippsland Conservation Society and former councillor and mayor of Bass Coast Shire Council. He has much experience working with community and government on coastal environmental issues.</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>Mr Doug Miller</p>	<p>Doug Miller is Manager Coasts Port Phillip Region, Department of Sustainability and Environment. Doug has extensive experience in natural resource management, community engagement and strategic planning gained as a local government town planner and in senior policy and operational positions with the Victorian Government.</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>Mr Leigh Phillips S11(4) Appointment Expires 18 October 2002</p>	<p>Leigh Phillips is Director of Statutory Planning in the Department of Sustainability and Environment. He has extensive experience with the Victorian Planning System and is responsible for the administration of the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> across the State.</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>Dr Bronwyn Ridgway  S11(1) Appointment Expires 30 June 2003</p>	<p>Bronwyn Ridgway lives in Beaumaris and has extensive knowledge and understanding of the coastal environment, in particular that of Western Port Bay. She is a Director of Maunsells, a large environmental, engineering and planning company.</p>	<p>*0 resigned Nov 2003</p>

<p>Mr Mark Rodrigue S11(1) Appointment Expires 30 June 2003</p>	<p>Mark Rodrigue is the current President of the Marine Education Society of Australasia (MESA) and has vast experience in community education relating to coastal and marine issues. He was awarded a Victorian Coastal Award for Excellence for his work in marine education in 2002. Mark is currently employed by Parks Victoria as an Education Officer working on Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries' education programs.</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>Ms Alison Sinclair S11(1) Appointment Expires 30 June 2003</p>	<p>Alison Sinclair lives in Point Lonsdale and was a Director of In Depth Scuba Education and Queenscliff Dive Centre. She has been actively involved in various committees and roles with the Borough of Queenscliffe. Alison was Chairman of the Queenscliff Lonsdale Business Association which was involved in issues relating to harbour redevelopment, the Queenscliff Fort and the environment. Alison received a Rural Women's Leadership Bursary in 2000 and is currently the Development Manager at the Austin Research Institute.</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>Mr Phil Westwood S11(1) Appointment Expires 30 June 2003</p>	<p>Phil Westwood is a primary producer who lives in Grantville on Western Port. He is an Environmental Auditor, a Board member of Westernport Water, a member of the Westernport Catchment Committee of the Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority, President of Friends of Bass Valley Bush and Chairman of the Bushland Research Council.</p>	<p>8</p>

Executive Support was provided by:

- Nick Wimbush (Executive Officer to 30 August 2002),
- Steve Blackley (Executive Officer from 11 November 2002),
- Sharon Pretty (Senior Project Officer and A/Executive Officer 31 August to 10 November 2002),
- Rebecca Cohen (Project Officer to 17 April 2003),
- Christina Fitzgerald, Laura A'Bell (Administration - Job Share to September 2002),
- Emma Henderson (Part-time Administration - September 2002 to March 2003),
- Janelle Johnston ((Part-time Administration from March 2003)

## 2.2 Board Meetings

Between July 2002 and June 2003 the Board met nine times as follows:

Date	Venue	Guests/Presenters
24 July 2002	Parks Victoria, Melbourne	- Christopher Keegan, Boating Industry Association of Victoria, regarding the Marine Industry Development Project.
28 August 2002	Parks Victoria, Melbourne	- No presenters.
23 October 2002	Parks Victoria, Melbourne	- Ian Potts, Parson Brinckerhoff, regarding Portsea Defence Land. - Nick Wimbush, NRM Services, regarding the Strategic Implementation Framework.
27 November 2002	Parks Victoria, Melbourne	- Alison Harris, Department of Infrastructure, regarding Melbourne 2030. - Kate McMahon, Parks Victoria, regarding Marine National Parks and Sanctuaries.
18 December 2002	St Kilda Town Hall	- Steve Blackley, CCB, regarding Climate Change and Coastal Acid Sulfate Soils.
18 February 2003	Victoria Room, 8 Nicholson St, Melbourne	- Alison Stone, Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE), regarding review of Regional Coastal Board memberships and operations of the DSE Coastal Section.
19 March 2003	Level 29 Gallery, Nauru House, Melbourne	- Joint meeting with the Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority (PPWPCMA). - Phil Johnstone (Bayside City Council) and Chris Chesterfield (Melbourne Water) regarding the ABM Stormwater Project. - Jason Alexandra (PPWPCMA) regarding innovative funding opportunities for catchment and coastal management. - Jo Klemke, DSE, regarding review of the Port Phillip Bay Environmental Management Plan.
27 May 2003	Parks Victoria, Melbourne	- Rebecca Price, DSE, regarding the Coastal Management Act and review of Coastal Crown Land Management. - Alexandra Lewis, Parks Victoria, regarding <i>Strategic Directions for the Bays</i> . - David Buntine and David Thomas, PPWPCMA, regarding the Regional Catchment Investment Plan.
25 June 2003	Parks Victoria, Melbourne	- No presenters.

## **2.3 Board Representation on Committees**

### **2.3.1 Committees of the Central Coastal Board**

#### **Business Planning Subcommittee**

The Business Planning Subcommittee of the Board was not convened during the 2002-2003 year. Due to the impending expiry of Board memberships on 30 June 2003, it was considered appropriate for the new Board to develop and take ownership of the new Business Plan.

#### **Coastal Priorities for the Central Region (CPCR) Steering Committee**

The project Steering Committee met 5 times and comprised:

CCB members - Cr Liz Johnstone, Dr Tim Ealey, Mr Neil Beddoe and Ms Lee Emmett.  
Parks Victoria - Mr Paul Dartnell.  
DSE (DNRE) - Mr Doug Miller.  
DSE (DOI) - Mr Leigh Phillips.  
Melbourne Water - Mr Nick Ronan.  
EPA - Ms Kelly O'Shanessy, Mr Tim Turnbull.  
Port Phillip and Westernport CALP Board (now CMA) - Dr Mick Lumb.  
Casey Shire - Mr Ian Stevenson.  
Association of Bayside Municipalities (ABM) - Ms Margaret Bell, Mr Michael Coleman.

The sub-committee developed the CPCR document to accelerate the implementation of the VCS in the central region. CPCR was adopted by the Board and forwarded to the Minister for Environment for advice.

#### **Boat Sewage Waste Management Project Steering Committee**

The Steering Committee was comprised of representatives from state and local government.

CCB - Noel Maud  
Parks Victoria - Steve McPhee  
EPA - Tim Turnbull, Crasten Osmers  
DSE (NRE) - Sally Burgess, Maree Bethel, Simon Coverdale  
MSV - Ingrid Meinke  
ABM - John Fisher  
South-East Water - Peter Chamberlain

This sub-committee oversaw the installation of boat sewage waste facilities at four sites within the Central Region, jointly funded by the Board and the Commonwealth's Coasts and Clean Seas program. The sites were at St Kilda, Yaringa, Sandringham and Paterson Lakes.

### 2.3.2 Other Committees and affiliations

<i>Committee/Forum</i>	<i>Representation</i>	
	<i>Member</i>	<i>Staff</i>
VCC	Liz Johnstone	
VCC Chairs and EO's forum	Liz Johnstone	Steve Blackley
MPSC CAP	Phil Westwood	Sharon Pretty
Corio bay CAP	Liz Johnstone	Sharon Pretty
Association of Bayside Municipalities	Liz Johnstone	Steve Blackley
Southern Catchments Forum	Liz Johnstone	
Port Phillip and Westernport RCS Steering Committee	Liz Johnstone	Steve Blackley
Port Phillip and Westernport RCIP Regional Assessment Panel	Doug Miller	Steve Blackley
Corangamite Regional Assessment Panel		Steve Blackley
Geelong Waterfront Boating Needs Assessment, City of Greater Geelong		Steve Blackley
SW Port Phillip and Bellarine Boat Launching Review, Parks Victoria		Steve Blackley
Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary Advisory Group	Lee Emmett	
Port Phillip Heads Marine National Park Advisory Group	Mark Rodrigue	
Mornington Peninsula and Western Port Biosphere Reserve Group	Dr Tim Ealey	Rebecca Cohen
Technical Reference Group for the EES for the Port Phillip Channel Deepening Project		Sharon Pretty

## 3. Achievements against 2001-04 Business Plan Key Result Areas

The following information refers to Key Result Areas (KRAs) in the CCB Business Plan. The Business Plan is being revised by the new Board and is available on the Board's web site at [www.ccb.vic.gov.au](http://www.ccb.vic.gov.au)

### 3.1 Regional Strategy - KRA 1

#### 3.1.1 Coastal Priorities for the Central Region

The Coastal Priorities for the Central Region (CPCR) project commenced in early 2001 as the *Strategic Implementation Framework*. It was established to accelerate the implementation of the VCS in the central region, and to clarify the regional context and priorities. The Board has a general coordination role in implementing the Victorian Coastal Strategy in the region and specific leading or contributing responsibilities as set out in Appendix A.

The CPCR was developed with key input from partner agencies. The Steering Committee included Melbourne Water, the Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority, the Environment Protection Authority, the Department of Sustainability and Environment, the Department of Primary Industries, Parks Victoria, the Association of Bayside Municipalities and representatives from local councils adjacent to Western Port. The Steering Committee was extended in line with the revised VCS and the final report was endorsed by the committee in March 2003.

The Framework outlined in the CPCR identifies **7 Priority Areas** for the region to be progressed through cooperation with agencies and local government, including:

- Strategic Planning for Boating Facilities
- Coastal Business Case (Investment and Coordination)
- Coastal Consents and Decision Making
- Natural Resource Management
- Climate Change and Storm Surge Planning
- Coastal Guidelines
- Evaluation and Monitoring

The CPCR has been endorsed by the Board and the VCC, and was provided to the Minister for Environment for his information, prior to implementation by the Board with other key stakeholders, to begin in earnest in late 2003.

Meetings have been, and will continue to be, held with relevant Ministerial advisers and agency staff to ensure that implementation of priority actions is progressed effectively.

#### 3.1.2 Integrating Regional Coastal and Catchment Management

The Board, through the Chair and Executive Officer (EO), is represented on the Steering Committee for the Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority's (PPWCMA) review of the current Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS). To date the process has involved public exhibition of two discussion papers contributing to the development of the draft RCS later in 2003. The Board has advocated and provided input to ensure coastal and marine values and threats are recognised and addressed.

The Board also engaged in development of the new RCS for the Corangamite CMA, but did not participate on the Steering Committee. The final Corangamite RCS was referred for accreditation on 2 July 2003. The RCS addresses issues relating to estuaries and coastal Ramsar sites, yet only addresses coastal issues in other locations in a limited fashion.

There is a need to enhance the links between the CCMA and the Central Coastal Board to widen the CMA's skills and knowledge base regarding coastal issues and the impact of catchment activities on coastal and marine environments, particularly the receiving waters of Corio Bay and Port Phillip. Opportunities exist with projects like the Swan Bay Integrated Catchment Project.

The EO sat on the Regional Assessment Panels for the Regional Catchment Investment Plans for both the Port Phillip and Westernport region and the Corangamite region, playing a lead role in facilitating and assessing coastal and marine applications.

While participating in these processes has required significant amounts of time, it has been extremely beneficial in assisting to develop good working relationships with the CMA's in the region, and also with other agencies involved in catchment and coastal management.

## **3.2 Information Exchange - KRA 2**

### **3.2.1 Web Site**

The Board's website - [www.ccb.vic.gov.au](http://www.ccb.vic.gov.au) provides a readily accessible means to communicate the Board's initiatives and priorities. The website is a key tool for providing access to information. A new design, consistent with the other Regional Boards and the Victorian Coastal Council, was launched in July 2002 and is updated on an as-needs basis.

### **3.2.2 Newsletter**

'About the Bays' continues to be distributed regularly to 565 stakeholders in the region and beyond. During the year 9 editions were distributed by post, email and published on the web. The audience for the newsletter is the Board's complete range of stakeholders, with a large representation of local government officers and elected officials, State government officers, as well as businesses, consultants, clubs, peak bodies and non-profit organisations. Over the last year, the publication of the newsletter was reduced from monthly to bi-monthly.

### **3.2.3 Lecture Series**

The 2001-04 Business Plan proposed the development of an occasional lecture series on coastal planning to be conducted in partnership with a university or Cooperative Research Centre. Although the Board did not instigate it, the RMIT Coastal Planning Course partly fulfils this identified need. Through the EO, the Board was involved in the development of this well-attended course, which was an initiative of the ABM's project funded by the Coastal and Marine Planning Program.

### **3.2.4 Coastal Planners' Forum**

The Board hosts the Coastal Planners' Forum, an informal network of coastal planners and sustainability practitioners from State and Local Government. Two full-day Coastal Planner's Forums were held during the year in partnership with local councils.

- The November 2002 forum was hosted by the City of Casey and culminated in a boat trip on Western Port to view the French Island Marine National Park.
- The Forum in May 2003 was hosted by the City of Greater Geelong and for the first time focussed on a single issue - recreational boating - to "test the water" for the proposed boating Coastal Action Plan. The forum was very successful, attracting 44 participants from local councils, state government and industry.

### **3.3 Coordinated Coastal Consent Process - KRA 3**

The Board continues to have concerns regarding the need to improve coordination and reduce complexity in the coastal consent process administered through the Coastal Management Act 1995. The potential duplication of effort with the local planning approval process is also identified in the Victorian Coastal Strategy. The Board agreed to work with DSE as they manage a number of current projects to address concerns relating to the operation of the Act, including ways to improve the processing of the Division 4 consent provisions and the declaration of areas to be modified to identify those areas declared not to be coastal Crown land under provisions of the Act.

### **3.4 Priorities for Capital Funding and Resource Allocation - KRA 4**

#### **3.4.1 Capital Project Implementation**

Capital funds in the order of \$1.1m were provided to complete infrastructure projects around Port Phillip designed to improve amenity and environmental values:

- \$1m was provided to Parks Victoria to extend and upgrade Gem Pier at Williamstown and to carry out associated dredging; and
- \$100,000 was provided to City of Port Phillip for improvements to Marina Reserve, St Kilda, as a carry-over project from the previous year's minor capital facilities grants.

A number of capital projects co-funded by the Board late in 2001-02 were completed during the year by local councils and state agencies.

#### **3.4.2 Boat Waste Management Facilities Project**

The Board and the Commonwealth Natural Heritage Trusts' *Coasts and Clean Seas Program* jointly funded the installation of infrastructure to improve water quality. Boat sewage waste management facilities, including sewage pump-outs and a hopper, were installed at St Kilda Marina, Sandringham Yacht Club, Patterson Lakes Marina (Port Phillip) and Yaringa Boat Harbour (Western Port). The facilities were launched by Minister Thwaites in March 2003 at the St Kilda Marina.

The original project proposal for installation of facilities at seven sites was amended due to inflation and additional requirements. However, planning commenced for a further facility on the Geelong Waterfront to service vessels in that area, and is likely to be hosted by the Royal Geelong Yacht Club. The location of the facility will be finalised by the City of Greater Geelong after a Waterfront Boating Needs Assessment is completed.

### **3.5 Providing Strategic Advice and Advocacy - KRA 5**

#### **3.5.1 Submissions and Formal Comment**

The Board provided advice to the Minister, the VCC and state and local government on a range of issues of regional significance. The Board submitted a number of written submissions to draft strategies during the 2002-2003 period, including responses on:

- Melbourne 2030: Planning for Sustainable Growth
- Defence land disposal at Point Nepean
- Draft State Environment Protection Policy (Waters of Victoria)
- Hobsons Bay Planning Scheme Amendment - Point Gellibrand Master Plan
- Assessment Guidelines for EES for Port Phillip Channel Deepening Project
- Corangamite Regional Catchment Strategy - 'Working Draft'
- Corangamite Regional Catchment Strategy - Community Draft 2002-2003
- Draft Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries Management Strategy
- St Kilda Foreshore Urban Design Framework
- Victorian Coastal Strategy 2002 Implementation and Reporting
- Coastal Sustainability Issues in the Central Coastal Region
- Resourcing for the Marine and Coastal Community Network
- Strategic Directions for the Bays (Parks Victoria)

Presentations on the VCS and the role of the Board were made to councils, community groups and industry bodies such as the Boating Industry Association of Victoria.

The Board has advocated for appropriate interpretation and implementation of the VCS in many fora. For example, the Board has engaged with Council and consultants on development proposals and strategic planning initiatives in the Bass Coast Shire.

#### **3.5.2 Western Port Portfolio Coordinating Group**

The Board continued to Co-Chair the Western Port Portfolio Coordination Group (WPPCG) with the PPWCMA. Members include DSE, EPA and Melbourne Water.

Stage 1 of the Western Port Research Coordination Project to develop a conceptual ecosystem model for Western Port was completed in June. The final report is publicly available on the Board's website.

The WPPCG has been working on a comprehensive Western Port Bibliography which will be available for public viewing on the Board's website in late-2003. The bibliography consists of approximately 1000 references including research papers, reports, dissertations, conference proceedings, books etc., focusing on issues embracing regional/rural planning, urban development, seagrass decline, water quality/pollution, aquatic birds, environmental management, experimental research, industry, recreation and tourism.

#### **3.5.3 Review of the Port Phillip Bay Environmental Management Plan**

The Port Phillip Bay Environmental Management Plan (EMP) was published by NRE in 2002. The EMP's two key programs are the Nutrient Program and the Marine Pests Program. The Board had some involvement in development of the EMP.

The Board is the lead agency for the review of progress of both Programs and commenced the interim review of progress of implementation of the Port Phillip Bay EMP in May 2003. The review is due to be completed by December 2003. Technical input to the review will be provided by DSE and agencies with key responsibilities for implementation of tasks in the EMP.

### 3.5.4 Other Advocacy and Advisory Activities

- The Board contributed to a number of other initiatives with the aim of raising awareness and influencing stakeholders to improve strategic coastal planning (as outlined in 2.3.2).
- The volume of email correspondence and enquiries continues to increase, and comprises a large part of the Board's formal and informal strategic advice and advocacy on many issues and projects.

## 3.6 Sub-Regional and Issues-Based Coastal Action Plans - KRA 6

### 3.6.1 Sub-Regional Coastal Action Plans

#### ***Corio Bay CAP***

The Corio Bay CAP covers the area of the City of Greater Geelong (CoGG) from its northern boundary near Little River around to Edwards Point near St Leonards. It is being developed by the Board in partnership with CoGG, and with the guidance of a broadly based agency Steering Committee including representation by the Chair, Liz Johnstone and Senior Project Officer, Sharon Pretty.

The Corio Bay CAP was on public exhibition from July-August 2002, and after a lengthy consultation and redrafting process, is very close to finalisation. It is expected to be endorsed by the Steering Committee in July 2003, for consideration by the CoGG and the Board. The CAP would then be provided to the Victorian Coastal Council for formal consideration and recommendation to the Minister for Environment.

#### ***Mount Eliza to Point Nepean CAP***

The Mt Eliza to Point Nepean CAP covers the Port Phillip coastline of the Mornington Peninsula Shire. The CAP is a joint initiative of the Board and the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council (MPSC). The multi-agency Steering Committee included Board member Phil Westwood and Senior Project Officer, Sharon Pretty.

The Mt Eliza to Point Nepean CAP was exhibited publicly from January-March 2003. It is anticipated that the Steering Committee will endorse the CAP in August 2003 for consideration by MPSC and the Board. The CAP would then be provided to the Victorian Coastal Council for formal consideration and recommendation to the Minister for Environment.

#### ***Waterfront Geelong CAP***

The Waterfront Geelong CAP was endorsed by the Minister in 1998. An informal review of the status of implementation of the CAP was carried out by staff of the Board, the CoGG and DSE to inform the development of the Corio Bay CAP.

The statutory 5-year review of the Waterfront Geelong CAP is due in late 2003 and a formal public review of the CAP will commence at that time.

### 3.6.2 Issues-Based Coastal Action Plans

#### ***Boating CAP***

Development of a CAP to address boating issues in the Region is one of the identified priorities arising from *Coastal Priorities for the Central Region*. Meetings commenced with key stakeholders regarding the feasibility and likely scope of the project, with the formal CAP process expected to commence in late 2003

## 4. Finance and Administration

The State Government of Victoria supplies the Board's recurrent funding through the Department of Sustainability and Environment (formerly the Department of Natural Resources and Environment). In addition in 2002-2003 the Board expended Commonwealth funding provided in 2001-2002 for the Boat Waste Pump-out project. The financial position for the financial year ending June 2003 is summarised below. The Board is not an incorporated body and audit requirements are met through the Department of Sustainability and Environment.

Summary					Notes
	ITEM	BUDGET 2002-2003	EXP. TO 30/06/03	BAL. AT 30/06/03	
	Operating	214,375.00	213,929.72	445.28	
	Capital Funds	1,270,100.00	1,217,100.00	53,000.00	
	Trust	292,761.76	71,275.09	221,676.22	1
	Commonwealth Funds	102,472.00	102,472.00	0	2
<b>Recurrent Budget</b>					
FUND	ITEM	BUDGET 2002-2003	EXP. TO 30/06/03	BAL. AT 30/06/03	
001/210	Salary Costs	96,901.00	100,350.82	-3,449.82	
	Other Operating Expenses	117,474.00			
	Contract Labour		53,426.52		
	IT Expenses		15,285.49		
	Communications		14,304.74		
	Transport/Parking		4,972.82		
	Seminar & Conference Fees		3,389.15		
	Indirect Operating Charges		5,307.73		
	Board & Meeting Expenses		16,892.45	3,895.10	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$214,375.00</b>	<b>\$213,929.72</b>	<b>\$445.28</b>	

Capital Funds					Notes
FUND	ITEM	BUDGET 2002-2003	EXP. TO 30/06/03	BAL. AT 30/06/03	
589/194	Bay Tourism Destinations	216,000	216,000	0	3
593	Bay Works Program	1,054,100	1,001,100	53,000	4
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,270,100</b>	<b>1,217,000</b>	<b>53,000</b>	

Trust 425 Projects	Balance brought Forward 01-02	Income and transfers	Expenditure	Transfers	Carry forward to 03-4
Western Port	10,620.00	0	0	0	10,620
Coastal Risk	0	0	0	3.50	3.50
Regional Coastal Boards	0	0	0	333.32	-333.32
Business management	210,253.00	5,000.00	79,400.68	5,295.00	130,557.34
Coastal Action Plans	-8,939.00	0	-8,125.59	814.37	0
Port Phillip Bay Initiative	80,828.70	0	0	0	80,828.70
<b>Total</b>	<b>292,761.76</b>	<b>5,000.00</b>	<b>71,275.09</b>	<b>4,810.00</b>	<b>221,676.22</b>

**Notes:**

- 1 Balance includes \$5,000 from EPA for Western Port Research project.
- 2 Commonwealth funds were provided for installation of boat waste facilities. All funds expended.
- 3 Provided by CCB as companion funding for boat waste facilities.
- 4 Major projects funded included Gem Pier \$897,000 and Marina Reserve \$100,000.

**NOTE: ALL FIGURES ARE GST EXCLUSIVE**

## 5. The Year Ahead

With the burgeoning popularity of the coast, increasing complexity of issues arising and forecast reductions to our recurrent budget, the 2003-2004 year is expected to challenge the capacity of the Board. Indeed, these challenges are also felt by all government departments, agencies and community groups on the coast. The Board is likely to assume a facilitation role more often and to address issues at a higher, regional strategic level and be less able to engage on local issues or at the local level. We will continue to seek to break down sectoral barriers, and take a proactive approach to emerging issues. Increased engagement in external funding processes is highly likely.

Importantly, the Coastal Management Act requires the new Board to develop a Business Plan within 6 months of establishment. The following issues are intended as a guide from the outgoing Board to aid identification of priority areas.

### **Implementation of Coastal Priorities for the Central Region, particularly**

- Progressing the development of the Boating Coastal Action Plan;
- Development of the Coastal Business Case with DSE as lead agent

### **Changing nature of coastal development and increasing demand for recreational use**

- Impacts of development pressure on areas outside of the Melbourne 2030 urban growth boundary, yet proximate to Melbourne (eg Bass Coast).
- Maintaining, replacing or removing ageing coastal infrastructure.
- Significant development potential of aquaculture within an ESD framework.
- Wind farm projects in coastal locations.
- Increasing demand for marina developments, particularly in and around Port Phillip.
- Rising sea levels and/or increased numbers/severity of storm events resulting from climate change.
- Investigation and management of coastal acid sulfate soils.
- Port Phillip Channel Deepening Environment Effects Statement process.
- Management Plans for Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries

### **Integrating coastal and catchment management**

- Regional Catchment Strategy development and implementation.
- Strengthen interaction between CMA's and the CCB, and encouraging integration of catchment approaches for Port Phillip across CMA's.
- Stakeholder education regarding the impact of catchment activities on coastal and marine environments.
- Continued engagement in Western Port, including the Western Port Portfolio Coordinating Group.
- Promotion of the catchments-coasts-ocean continuum.

### **Increasing complexity of coastal management issues requiring enhanced engagement of key stakeholders including**

- Minister for Environment;
- Ministers with portfolio responsibilities with coastal impacts eg Tourism, Transport, Regional Development
- Local government
- Indigenous groups;
- Community based committees of management and industry/user groups.

The Board looks forward to working with its regional stakeholders in the discussions and constructive debate that will accompany these issues.

## Appendix A: Victorian Coastal Strategy 2002 Actions

The following actions are reproduced here from the Victorian Coastal Strategy 2002 in recognition that they will form a key focus for the Board in implementing the Strategy in coming years. Under the CM Act, the Board is required to report on these actions.

Objective/ Action	Description	Partners	Progress
<b>4.1 Improve opportunities for safe boating and water based activities</b>			
4.1.1	The overall objective for boating is to enhance water safety outcomes through infrastructure, training, and integrated safety networks including strategic assessment of coastal radio and communications systems. Planning for the provision of boating access and safe and functional facilities will seek to ensure that best use is made of existing infrastructure.	PV, LG, MSV	Coastal Priorities for the Central Region indicates the need for a regional Boating CAP. Corio Bay CAP details actions to review boating access and infrastructure for the Bellarine Peninsula and Corio Bay. Mt Eliza to Pt Nepean CAP to strategically assess boating access and infrastructure for the Port Phillip coast of the Mornington Peninsula.
4.1.2	Coastal and bay locations that have natural benefits, such as sheltered boating locations due to protection from prevailing winds and sea conditions, shall be identified through a recreational boating strategy or regional boating plans. Planning should give priority to maritime related uses at these locations.	PV, LG, MSV	Recreational Boating CAP being considered to build on work completed for the State Boating Strategy produced by State Boating Council (Marine Safety Victoria) Feb 2000.
4.1.3	Regional boat launching and retrieval facilities will be designed to provide all tide and all weather facilities where possible. The provision of services, including effluent disposal facilities at strategic boating facilities, will be encouraged.	PV, LG, MSV	Sewage pump out facilities have been installed through over \$200,000 funding from the Central Coastal Board and NHT at St Kilda Marina, Patterson Lakes Marina, Sandringham Yacht Club and Yaringa Boat Harbour. The City of Greater Geelong undertook facility enhancement at the Limeburners Pt Boat Ramp to provide safe boating facilities, including \$350,000 funding from the Board.
4.1.4	Destination points and boat harbours will be identified and developed to provide a range of services for visiting boats including ferries, commercial charter, tour and training boats.	PV, LG, MSV	Corio Bay and Mt Eliza to Pt Nepean CAPs may identify opportunities. Central Coastal Region Recreational Boating and Fishing CAP being considered. Previous investigations by the former State Boating Council identified sites.
4.1.5	A consistent approach to communicating marine regulations and safety through signage and education programs will be implemented.	PV, LG, MSV	The responsibility for undertaking Action 4.1.5 falls within the remit of Marine Safety Victoria. CCB is not resourced to facilitate this.

4.1.6	The provision of boating facilities and strategic planning for boating use will be consistent with fisheries management, conservation aims, boating demands and safety requirements and will consider potential impacts on amenity and quality of experience for other coastal and beach uses (eg. noise from personal water craft). .	PV, LG, MSV	Corio Bay CAP identified issues and opportunities at the local level. The Mt Eliza to Pt Nepean CAP is still considering strategic assessment of all recreation opportunities. Central Coastal Region Recreational Boating CAP being considered which CCB will seek to do jointly with key stakeholders including Fisheries Co-Management Council
<b>4.3 Promote and protect the values of scenic coastal roads</b>			
4.3.1	Planning schemes will be the primary mechanism to protect scenic and other values along coastal roads.	Tourism Vic, LG, DoI, Vic Roads	This action could include Coastal siting and design guidelines and include infrastructure. CCB's capacity limited to raising awareness and encourage inclusion.
4.3.2	The development of a Victorian Scenic Coastal Drive will continue. Existing coastal roads between Warrnambool and Inverloch and between Seaspray and Loch Sport will be designated and promoted as scenic drives or tourist roads, with improved signage and facilities.	Tourism Vic, LG, DoI, Vic Roads	Not relevant to Central Region.
<b>4.4 Improve signage to and along the coast</b>			
4.4.1	A strategic approach to orientation signage, interpretation and historic places will be reinforced along the coast to improve visitor awareness, understanding and experiences.	Tourism Vic, LG, PV, VicRoads	CCB has not had a role in implementing this action to date VCC has supported installation of water safety signage on Victorian beaches, in association with SLSA-Vic.
<b>5.2 Provide direction for the location and scale of use and development on the coast</b>			
5.2.1	Opportunities will be actively sought to ensure that Municipal Strategic Statements take account of the special nature and character of the coast and the characteristics and role of the coastal cities, towns, villages and bayside suburbs.	LG, DoI, CoM, PV	The ABM CMPP project and Bettess Report developed Coastal Components for the MSS's of Planning Schemes for 10 Councils on Port Phillip Bay. CCB has promoted this work, and continues to advocate for similar work for the 3 Western Port councils' MSS's. Development of Coastal Components for the MSSs of Planning Schemes for 3 Councils on Western Port under consideration. Negotiations underway with local governments on incorporation of recommendations during current 3-year review of MSSs.

5.2.2	The essential character of coastal settlements, undisturbed areas between settlements and the developed populated coast will be protected through mechanisms such as the development of local guidelines and planning scheme overlays, for the siting and design structures on the coast.	LG, DoI, CoM, PV	Council MSSs are expected to achieve this at some level for most areas. Further refinement could be achieved through Master Plan and/or UDF exercises. The Corio Bay and Mt Eliza to Point Nepean CAPs will assist to some extent. CCB actively promotes this Action through Coastal Planners Forum. Melbourne 2030 assists greatly in definition and principles for managing growth in activity centres and several principal activity centres are on the coast, or nearby in the Central Region. The Corio Bay and Pt Nepean CAPs include appropriate reference to Melbourne 2030 and will implement this action locally. Township boundaries of coastal settlements outside of the Urban growth Boundary need to be urgently defined.
5.2.3	The planned growth of coastal towns will be managed through the establishment of township boundaries in planning schemes. This will ensure that growth in coastal areas is planned, coastal values protected (eg. environmental, scenic, cultural) and the needs of future generations respected.	LG, DoI, CoM, PV	Melbourne 2030 identifies 'urban growth corridors' and 'green wedges' to determine extent of urban limits. Planning schemes establish boundaries, zones and overlays. Several councils in the region have established such boundaries CAPs consider the concept of limiting certain types/levels of activities to 'activity nodes' largely determined by Council, but also discussed with CCB. CAPs to support and strengthen approach of Melbourne 2030 Township growth boundaries need legislative status similar to the Urban Growth boundary defined through M2030
5.2.4	Planning schemes will be the primary tool used to avoid proliferation of development outside existing settlements and in the vicinity of free standing major visitor centres or resorts, and inappropriate development within existing settlements.	LG, DoI, CoM, PV	This is being achieved primarily through the model MSSs developed through the CMPP. The CCB continues to advocate for such an approach for the Western port municipalities. The statutory force to date is limited.
5.2.5	Priority will be given to regional coordination through regional planning such as the Great Ocean Road Region Strategy.	LG, DoI, CoM, PV	The Strategic Implementation Framework will consider regional planning opportunities. The Corio Bay and Mornington Peninsula CAPs attempt to assign priorities at a regional level.

5.2.6	Excluding the urban settlements around Port Phillip, appropriate areas for coastal developments will be confined to activity and recreation nodes within existing settlements defined with the community having regard to the criteria outlined in the Strategy.	LG, DoI, CoM, PV	As per 5.2.3, there is significant development pressure outside of established townships which undermine the ability to do this strategic work in a timely way.
5.2.7	Within the urban settlements around Port Phillip, appropriate areas for coastal developments will be confined to activity and recreational nodes in conformity with the policies for clustering of activity contained in the metropolitan strategy having regard to the criteria outlined in the Strategy.	LG, DoI, CoM, PV	Nodal concepts are well integrated with Melbourne 2030 for the metropolitan region and reflected appropriately in the Corio and Pt Nepean to Mount Eliza CAPs. Nodal concept also reinforced in proposed Great Ocean Road Region Strategy. The boundaries once defined need the same legal status as the Urban Growth Boundary. A consequence of clustering is surplus, redundant and underutilised infrastructure which needs to be decommissioned/ removed.
5.2.8	Detailed management planning for coastal Crown land shall have regard to the indicative coastal land use identified in the Strategy.	LG, DoI, CoM, PV	This is a responsibility of DSE/DPI and Committees of Management such as Local government that the CCB does not generally involve itself in.
5.2.9	Opportunities will be actively sought to restructure old and inappropriate subdivisions where identified conflicts with coastal vulnerability and environmental values can be reduced.	LG, DoI, CoM, PV	CCB has engaged in debate regarding the appropriateness of subdivisions. The complexity and scale of issues in the Region suggest that the Board be assisted in this action by DSE.
<b>6.6</b> Improve facilitates for tourism and provide opportunities for cultural and nature based tourism			
6.6.1	Key user groups, including the tourism industry, will be consulted on all major access, signage and infrastructure projects.		Stony Point Ferry Feasibility Study. Signage is usually or should be a state-wide issue to be coordinated by VCC.

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