

**“OUR LAND IS GIRT BY SEA”**  
**THE VICTORIAN MARINE AND COASTAL ACT 2018**  
**– ITS GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND PHILOSOPHIES**

Formerly titled: Integrating catchment, coastal and marine management...

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Chair of the Minister’s Expert Panel on the new Act

# APPROACH

- *Note in the next presentation Jeremy Reiger will describe the process used to develop the Bill and its specific content. The two presentations should be seen as complementary and be read together.*
- **Drivers for Change** - after 23 years of the Coastal Management Act.
- The **Guiding Principles/ Philosophies** behind the new Act (including 'fit for purpose')
- How these principles / philosophies are **reflected in the Act** – i.e. what's different in the new Act overall and why.
- **Conclusion: political reality meets academic purity**

# DRIVERS OF CHANGE

- The world changes - 23 years is a long time .....
- Critiques highlighted the need to integrate what happens in the catchments and in coastal waters to coastal zone management
- ALP Policy platform in 2014 – looking for differentiation, great emphasis on marine.
- In the review a series of drivers were recognised:
  - Central: Involving the community
  - Clearer governance and institutional arrangements
  - Strengthening marine management, policy and planning
  - Integrating planning systems
  - Adapting to climate change
  - Sustainable resourcing
  - Improving knowledge

# GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND PHILOSOPHIES

- From the drivers for change and the global literature and experience in coastal zone management over the last quarter of a century come:
  - Specific planning and management frameworks that are now incorporated explicitly in the Act: (let the acronyms fly)  
ICZM, EBM, ESD, Evidence-based decision-making, precautionary principle, proportionate and risk-based principle & adaptive management.
- Bound by an overall philosophy: **INTEGRATION**
  - Integration of planning and management
  - Integration of catchment, coastal zone and marine management
  - A ‘whole of government’ approach (integration of institutional arrangements)
  - Community ownership and participation (1879 reservation legacy/ Victorian egalitarianism / liberalism: "Peace and Prosperity")
- Restrained by ‘fit for purpose’ (current political/ community reality, particularly around resourcing)

# INCORPORATION INTO THE ACT:

## MAIN FEATURES ONLY

- **Objectives** - new: T.O. recognition and engagement, climate change, specifically coverage of marine environment
- Marine and coastal environments **defined** (Gippsland Lakes clearly **in**)
- Principles (see earlier) – **integration** the key focus
- Policy – Strategy split – whole of government sign off (bi-partisanship to continue?)
- **Marine Spatial Planning** framework to be developed
- **RASPs** – Regional and Strategic Partnerships
- Coastal **Catchment** Management Authorities (NRM bodies) involvement
- Range of status/ state of environments/ environmental management plans across government (e.g. park management plans to be consistent with this Act)
- [http://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/domino/Web\\_Notes/LDMS/PubPDocs.nsf/ee665e366dcb6cb0ca256da400837f6b/0ec5da10fede3449ca2581f4007850a4/\\$FILE/581344bi1.pdf](http://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/domino/Web_Notes/LDMS/PubPDocs.nsf/ee665e366dcb6cb0ca256da400837f6b/0ec5da10fede3449ca2581f4007850a4/$FILE/581344bi1.pdf)

# CONCLUSION:

# POLITICAL REALITY MEETS ACADEMIC PURITY

## Personal Reflection

- Will it work?
  - the interplay/ balance between what one can achieve in a low resourcing / low environmental commitment period (realpolitik) and having all the right elements present (academic purity)....
  - Strong well funded RASPs early on...critical
- What is successful implementation of 'all the right elements' dependant on:
  - 'the price of freedom is eternal vigilance' – community/ NGO vigilance, pressure and direct involvement
  - Ministers and Secretaries who are committed (and knowledgeable) champions