



Western Port Bay

A healthy bay supports local jobs

Where I stand

At Flinders and Shoreham, Western Port isn't just scenery. Local livelihoods depend on it.

The bay supports recreational fishing, boating, tourism and many local businesses. If its health declines, we won't just lose wetlands and wildlife. We'll put local jobs and businesses at risk too.

The warning signs are already there.

The Environment Protection Authority rated water quality in Western Port itself as good in 2023-24. But waterways flowing into the bay were rated poor, with development and changing land use adding to the pressure.

Victoria's 2024 report on the marine and coastal environment found that sediment flowing into Western Port was in fair condition and getting worse. Migratory shorebirds were also rated fair and declining.

Responsibility for the bay is spread across different agencies, councils, laws and plans. There is no single plan bringing the whole bay, coastline and surrounding catchment together.

The community has developed a practical, science-led framework to change that. It was shaped with input from Traditional Custodians, scientists, councils, tourism operators, fishers, recreational groups and conservation organisations.

I'm backing it. Protecting the bay is also about protecting the people whose work and businesses depend on it.

What I'll do

Back the Western Port Bay Framework

I'll push the Victorian Government to adopt and fund the Western Port Bay Framework. It calls for:

- one strategic plan covering the bay, its coastline and the land and waterways that drain into it;
- a management partnership bringing together Traditional Custodians, community representatives, government agencies, councils, local businesses, industry, fishers and recreational groups; and
- a dedicated Western Port fund, renewed each year, to put the plan into action.



The framework would bring existing responsibilities together, improve monitoring and restoration, and make sure future development proposals are assessed openly with genuine community input.

Make progress public

I'll push for regular public reporting on the health of the bay, including water quality, sediment, shorebirds and restoration work.

Western Port needs more than disconnected projects and promises. It needs one plan, clear responsibility and reliable funding.

What progress looks like

Success means:

- the Western Port Bay Framework is adopted;
- a plan for the whole bay and its catchment is completed;
- a collaborative management partnership is established;
- dedicated annual funding is secured; and
- the public can see whether the bay's health is improving.