



WARRNAMBOOL  
CITY COUNCIL

## Safer boat launching and retrieval at Lady Bay

### Have Your Say

## Boat launching at Lady Bay – the current situation

The Port of Warrnambool is a Victorian Government-owned asset managed by Warrnambool City Council.

The heritage-listed Breakwater, built in the late 1800s, is the key piece of Port infrastructure and was built to protect boats from the pounding of the mighty Southern Ocean. Over the past five years the boat ramp has been upgraded along with a lower landing attached to the Breakwater. Work has also been carried out on the Breakwater including rendering of the stone and concrete blocks and installation of new lights. The ramp is also cleaned when conditions allow.

In 2010 major strategic dredging was undertaken with follow-up dredging in 2012 and 2013.

A wave study showed the dredging was effective in reducing wave height. Australian boat launching standards recommend launching in waves less than 20cm in height. The wave study showed that as a result of dredging it was safe to launch and retrieve boats 60 per cent of the time. Warrnambool City Council made a commitment in its Council Plan to review the needs of Lady Bay users, including those who use the bay for boating. This project, which considers the safer launching and retrieval of boats on Lady Bay, forms a key part of that commitment.

Regardless of which safer boating option is ultimately selected, the Breakwater will require significant rehabilitation in the medium term.

## A major decision for Warrnambool



As Victoria's largest coastal city outside of Port Phillip Bay, much of what makes Warrnambool great is linked to our connection to the Southern Ocean.

Swimming, fishing, surfing, walking, boating and admiring the natural beauty of Lady Bay are major factors that can influence a decision to either visit or live in Warrnambool.

Council is committed to improving boat launching and retrieval facilities in Lady Bay while avoiding any potentially irreversible damage to our most important natural asset.

Strategic dredging carried out by the Council in 2010 brought about a reduction in wave height around the boat ramp. In November last year Council established technical and community reference groups to investigate further options to make launching and retrieving boats at Lady Bay safer.

The reference groups comprising scientists, Lady Bay user group representatives and members of the public, have identified three preferred safer boating options.

These options are outlined below along with a summary of the existing boating facilities.

With each option, the benefits of improving boating facilities must be weighed against the potential impact on the environment, Council's budget and on the amenity of all those who enjoy Lady Bay.

The wave action in the harbour is complex and any certain solution is difficult to guarantee. Each of the three options will significantly reduce wind-generated swell, however long waves - a different type of wave - will still impact on the harbour.

This feedback form is not a referendum but will help guide the Council and provide a gauge of support for the various options. It also provides an opportunity for written comment.

Before us is a major decision with the potential to cause significant change to Lady Bay and the Merri Sanctuary. It's vital we get it right. Council is now eager to receive public feedback on the options before the development of a master plan.

**Cr Michael Neoh**

Mayor

Warrnambool City Council

For more information



[www.warrnambool.vic.gov.au](http://www.warrnambool.vic.gov.au)

Connect to Council



# Safer boat launching and retrieval at Lady Bay

## Option A - Upgrade existing facilities

**\$1.5 million**



Concept only, cost indicative



### Work

- 1** Widened boat ramp made with porous structure to diffuse wave energy
- 2** Wave heights to be managed by continuation of dredging

### Outcomes

- Boats able to be launched 90 per cent of the time (this is about the percentage of time for which it would be safe for small craft to venture beyond the Breakwater)
- Up to 50 per cent reduction in wave height
- Least potential for negative environmental impacts
- Least protection from wind generated short waves

### Estimated cost

\$1.5 million capital works, \$250,000 annual maintenance

### Do you have any comments?

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For more information



# Safer boat launching and retrieval at Lady Bay

Option B - Breakwater spur and artificial groyne

\$3.2 million



Concept only, cost indicative



## Work

- 1** Widened boat ramp made with porous structure to diffuse wave energy
- 2** Groyne to the north of boat ramp
- 3** Spur emerging from breakwater to the east of the ramp  
Material and height of spur and groyne to be determined

## Outcomes

- Safe boat launching and retrieval 100 per cent of the time
- Protection of the boat ramp from wind, sea swells
- Groyne will help reduce sand build-up at the ramp, stabilise the beach
- Up to 75% reduction in wave height
- Effectively provides safe launching and retrieval in all weather conditions
- Greater environmental impact

## Estimated cost

\$3.2 million capital works, \$200,000 annual maintenance

Do you have any comments?

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For more information

# Option C - An enclosed harbour

**\$5.5 million**



**Concept only, cost indicative**



## Work

- 1** Widened boat ramp made with porous structure to diffuse wave energy
- 2** Longer groyne to the north of the boat ramp
- 3** Large spur from the breakwater  
Material and height of spur and groyne to be determined

## Outcomes

- Safe boat launching and retrieval 100 per cent of the time
- Effectively provides safe launching and retrieval in all weather conditions
- Up to 100 per cent reduction in wave height
- Calmer conditions within harbour
- Most expensive option
- Greatest visual impact
- Greatest potential for negative environmental impacts

## Estimated cost

\$5.5 million capital works, \$400,000 annual maintenance

## Do you have any comments?

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## Economic impact

SED Advisory has been appointed to undertake a high-level economic analysis in order to identify the value of the precinct in its current format.

The analysis will not only consider the physical value of the assets, but also their broader value to the community (e.g. recreational use) and contribution to tourism and character of the region. Employment, visitation and economic activity within the precinct is being reviewed, along with an assessment of current uses and major activities.

When it becomes available this analysis will be made available online at [www.yoursaywarrnambool.vic.gov.au](http://www.yoursaywarrnambool.vic.gov.au)

## Safer Boating on Lady Bay - Have Your Say

You can also go online to have your say on Lady Bay, go to:

[www.yoursaywarrnambool.com.au](http://www.yoursaywarrnambool.com.au)

Return this form to the Civic Centre at 25 Liebig Street, Warrnambool.  
Submissions close August 31,

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Post code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Please rank the three options

(1 being most preferred, 3 being least preferred)

Option A

Option B

Option C