The Victorian Government is committed to protecting the attractive environment, landscape and lifestyle of the Bellarine Peninsula

The Bellarine Peninsula is renowned for its attractive rural hinterland, boutique wineries and artisan producers. With coastal and historic towns, such as Queenscliff, and excellent beaches, it is a tourism and recreation destination.

Given its proximity to Geelong and Melbourne and reputation as an attractive and relaxed lifestyle destination, the Bellarine Peninsula has been under increasing development pressure. To ensure the region’s long-term sustainability, and manage threats from climate change risks, the Victorian Government must effectively balance growth with the preservation of distinctive features and characteristics.

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) will work with the City of Greater Geelong, the Borough of Queenscliffe and Traditional Owners, the Wadawurrung, to declare the Bellarine Peninsula a Distinctive Area and Landscape under the Planning and Environment Act (1987).

The Distinctive Area and Landscape declaration will enable identification of long-term settlement boundaries to protect the unique Bellarine Peninsula for current and future generations.

Statement of Planning Policy

To achieve a long-term vision for the region and guide future land use and development, a Statement of Planning Policy (the Statement) including a Strategic Framework Plan will be developed with:

• The local Councils
• Traditional Owners
• The community.

This will be informed by the localised planning statement that is already in place for the Peninsula.

The Statement provides a framework to protect the Peninsula.

It will ensure important attributes are conserved and continue to be of special significance to the people of Victoria. It will also celebrate Aboriginal Victorians connection to Country.

The Statement will consider height controls and identify long-term protected settlement boundaries. This will ensure development does not inappropriately encroach into valued natural and rural landscapes. These will be subject to the same strong protections in place for Melbourne’s permanent Urban Growth Boundary, requiring parliamentary approval to amend them. Implementing these boundaries will safeguard valuable landscapes and protect them from overdevelopment and encroachment.

Some changes to local planning controls may be required in order to implement the Statement. These controls will ensure that the region’s environmental values – attributes loved by locals and Victorians – are protected.

engage.vic.gov.au/distinctive-areas-and-landscapes-program
BELLARINE PENINSULA
Distinctive areas and landscapes

More information
planning.implementation@delwp.vic.gov.au

Call 136 186 Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm. Costs may vary - mobiles and public telephones may incur additional costs.

engage.vic.gov.au/distinctive-areas-and-landscapes-program

Have your say
Community consultation will open at key stages of the Bellarine Peninsula Distinctive Area and Landscapes Project.


Timeline

Stage 1
Initial project work
Early 2019

Stage 2
Declaration of Bellarine Peninsula region as a Distinctive Area and Landscape
Mid 2019

Stage 3
Development of the Draft Statement of Planning Policy
Late 2019

Stage 4
Approval of the Statement of Planning Policy
Early 2020

Public Engagement
The environment, landscape and lifestyle people want to protect

Public Engagement
Policy Direction

Public Engagement
The draft Statement of Planning Policy

engage.vic.gov.au/distinctive-areas-and-landscapes-program