

Seaford Wetlands Rejuvenation Project FAQs

What is the Seaford Wetlands Rejuvenation project?

Seaford Wetlands Rejuvenation project is part of the Victorian Government's \$315 million Suburban Parks Program to create more than 6,500 hectares of new and upgraded parks and trails across Melbourne's outer suburbs.

As part of this program, the Victorian Government is funding \$5 million of upgrades at Seaford Wetlands with a focus on:

- Improving safety, access, and connection for visitor
- Strengthening the wetlands' ecological health
- Embedding cultural values into the wetlands' design and management.

The program delivers on the Victorian Government's [Open Space for Everyone Strategy](#), which is a blueprint guiding the planning, management, and delivery of Melbourne's open spaces for the next 30 years.

Who is delivering the project?

Frankston City Council are leading majority of the projects with City of Kingston delivering the shared-use path component, which is situated in the Kingston City Council municipality. The projects are being delivered in partnership with the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (BLCAC) and Melbourne Water.

BLCAC have undertaken a Cultural Values Study as part of the project and recommendations from the study have been incorporated into the design and planning of a self-guided biocultural trail.

What will Seaford Wetlands Rejuvenation project deliver?

The \$5 million Victorian Government investment will deliver:

- A new shared-use path and pedestrian bridge to 'close the loop', by creating a full pedestrian circuit around the Seaford Wetlands
- Habitat and ecological improvements
- Cultural Values Study and self-guided biocultural interpretative trail
- Upgraded signage and facilities, including a new viewing platform

How were the projects decided?

A Seaford Wetlands Steering Group has been established to identify projects, this includes senior representatives from:

- Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation
- Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action
- Frankston City Council
- Kingston City Council
- Melbourne Water
- Member for Carrum

During the initial stages, several feasibility studies and workshops were held with key stakeholders to identify projects and determine their feasibility.

How did this feedback influence the outcome of the project?

Engagement reports are available at: [Seaford Wetlands Rejuvenation Project | Engage Frankston!](#)

One of the key outcomes of engagement: All upgrades to Seaford Wetlands should prioritise the area as a natural reserve, with high ecological values including compliance with the Ramsar Management Plan.

Stakeholder consultation

As well as undertaking community consultation, key stakeholder groups have been engaged as part of this project design. They include:

- Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation
- Patterson River Secondary Collage
- Birdlife Australia
- Melbourne Water
- Kingston City Council
- Downes Estate
- Friends of Edithvale and Seaford Wetlands
- Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA)
- Seaford Wetlands Steering Group

What special environmental requirements are in place for this project?

A formal self-assessment was undertaken on Council's behalf by ecological consultants Practical Ecology to determine the potential impacts of the proposed upgrades associated with the Seaford Wetlands Rejuvenation Project on Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) as listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

To inform the impact assessment, a thorough desktop review was undertaken followed by fieldwork and detailed reporting. Consultation with Frankston City Council, DEECA, Melbourne Water, and Bird Life Australia occurred frequently throughout to discuss a variety of considerations around the project and its potential impacts.

The Friends of Edithvale – Seaford Wetlands (FESWI) were informed and consulted during the preparation of the report.

Findings of the self-assessment were:

- Except for the viewing platform, all the proposed upgrade works are located at some distance from important habitat for MNES and therefore it is not expected that a significant impact would occur given that standard mitigation measures are put in place.
- The upgraded viewing platform occurs in the direct vicinity of habitat for MNES, in particular migratory shorebirds.
- While it is not expected that ongoing use of the viewing platform would significantly impact MNES, construction-related disturbance has the potential to deter various species.
- Because of this, works on the viewing platform must not occur when migratory shorebirds are present (August to April) and during the breeding seasons for Australasian bittern (October to February) and reed-warbler (October to December),

and therefore must be restricted to the months of May to July in order to avoid the potential of a significant impact to MNES.

Provided that prescribed mitigation measures are put in place, neither a referral under the EPBC Act, nor the completion of an Environmental Effects Statement were required.

Note: a 'self-assessment' is a formal tool provided by the Federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water, as a first step for project proponents to determine whether their project requires a referral to the Department under the EPBC Act 1999.