

Environmental and cultural assets

The coastal environment

Victoria has 2,000 kilometres of coastline. Its marine waters contain important representations of species endemic to the Southern Ocean and contain a diversity of habitats such as seagrass meadows, mud flats, intertidal and sub-tidal rocky reefs, mangrove kelp forests and pelagic systems. Coastal wetlands also provide an important habitat for migratory birds and areas around Werribee, Westernport, Corner Inlet and Gippsland Lakes are protected under the International Ramsar Convention for this purpose. Approximately 96% of the coast is public land.¹

Significant cultural features

Apart from environmentally significant areas, the coastline is home to important cultural sites, both Indigenous and European. Among European sites are historic lighthouses, customs houses and fortifications, most protected as part of the national estate.

The coast also provides significant landscape and amenity features which are valued by residents and visitors alike. The Great Ocean Road is one example of such a cultural landscape and has been subject to specific planning strategies as a result of its significance.³

Areas of environmental and cultural significance along the Victorian coast²



*Marine Protected Areas include Marine National Parks and Sanctuaries, Marine Parks, Marine Reserves, and Marine and Coastal Parks.

Changing Populations "Population characteristics" p. 18