



Minister for Planning

CA/12/0037

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Dear [REDACTED]

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ALONG THE VICTORIAN COAST

The purpose of this letter is to reiterate the Government's commitment to working with coastal Councils to achieve sustainable use and development on Victoria's coastal area recognising their environment, social, cultural and economic significance.

The release of the Coastal Spaces Inception Report is an opportune time to confirm and clarify the Government's policy that is expressed in the *Victorian Coastal Strategy* and the *Great Ocean Road Region Strategy*. It is important that the Government policy position is clear and unambiguous to enable councils to undertake their responsibilities both as a planning authority and a responsible authority in making planning decisions that impact on coastal areas.

The *Victorian Coastal Strategy* is the foundation of coastal planning policy, along with the recently released *Great Ocean Road Region Strategy*. Both are recognised in State Planning Policy. Ministerial Direction No.11 requires that amendments to a planning scheme are undertaken in a strategic manner. In particular it requires that a proposed amendment demonstrates how it is consistent with the relevant State policies.

Given the importance of the Victorian coast and the heightened awareness of coastal issues, it is timely to articulate some key planning and land-use policies which I will consider in determining any planning scheme amendment. These include, but are not limited to, the impact of the amendment on:

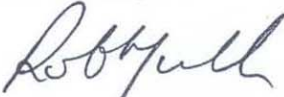
- directing residential development to existing settlements within defined township boundaries;
- minimising the overall impact of use and development on the coast;
- protecting the most sensitive areas and significant landscapes between settlements;
- providing social services, community facilities, transport and other physical infrastructure and/or utilities; and
- achieving sustainable coastal development that meets the hierarchy of principles for coastal planning and management as set out in the *Victorian Coastal Strategy*.

I further wish to clarify the definition of coastal settlements. The strategic extent of settlements is defined by the existing extent of urban zoned land unless the future strategic extent of a settlement is shown on a plan included in the planning scheme.

The Victorian Government recognises the effort and time which local government, key stakeholders and the community have committed to achieving well managed coastal development. This above clarification is intended to assist local government in providing for a sustainable future for the Victorian coastline.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate contact my Adviser, Rachael Joiner, on telephone 9637 8855.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Hulls', written in a cursive style.

ROB HULLS MP
Minister for Planning

CC: [REDACTED]