

# Media Release

**Steve Dimopoulos MP**

Minister for Environment

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events

Minister for Outdoor Recreation



Tuesday, 6 August 2024

## PROTECTING THE FUTURE OF PORT PHILLIP BAY

The Allan Labor Government is supporting community groups to protect Port Phillip Bay's iconic marine and coastal environment.

Minister for Environment Steve Dimopoulos announced the latest round of the Port Phillip Bay Fund grants, with a \$2.3 million investment to support a wide range of community groups that include not-for-profits, schools and Traditional Owner groups to deliver 25 projects to improve Port Phillip Bay's health, habitats and wildlife.

Grants of up to \$300,000 were available for innovative, large-scale projects and up to \$25,000 for smaller projects that directly benefit the coastal and marine environments of the Bay.

Port Phillip Bay is home to over 10,000 species of marine life with its diverse habitats, including sea grass meadows, rocky reefs and sandy beaches, providing essential breeding and nursery grounds.

In addition to being one of Victoria's most important ecosystems, Port Phillip Bay is a major tourist destination supporting recreational activities such as swimming, fishing, snorkelling and sailing.

Since 2016, the Port Phillip Bay Fund has now provided more than \$17 million in grants for 215 projects such as reef restoration, marine life monitoring, water quality improvements and litter reduction initiatives.

This program delivers on the Allan Labor Government's *Port Phillip Bay Environmental Management Plan 2017–2027*, ensuring that Port Phillip Bay remains healthy and resilient for generations to come.

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Environment Steve Dimopoulos

*"We're proud to support the dedicated volunteers and community groups who are passionate about protecting one of Victoria's most treasured ecosystems."*

*"This funding will help groups and researchers who are working to preserve and protect the Bay for years to come."*

### Quote attributable to Member for Melton Steve McGhie

*"Port Phillip Bay is iconic to Victoria, and we are dedicated to ensuring long-term health of this precious natural asset for our community to enjoy for generations to come."*

## 2024 Port Phillip Bay Fund Projects

Recipient	Project Funded
Port Phillip EcoCentre	Nature for All
Victorian National Parks Association	Nature Stewards of our Bay
Mornington Peninsula Shire Council	Dune Erosion Mitigation & Coastal Process Education
Dromana Foreshore Committee of Management	Dromana Marine Coastal Environment and Community Engagement Project Stage 3
Port Phillip EcoCentre	Baytime: Building Capacity for Inclusive, Nature-Based Youth Volunteering
Dolphin Research Institute	Discover Port Phillip: Water and Wildlife Stories
Nepean Conservation Group	Stewardship of the Bay: Conserving the Coastal Environment
Jawbone Marine Sanctuary Care Group	The Jawbone Sanctuary Looking Back to Learn Program
Borough of Queenscliffe	Community Education and Protection of Coastal Moonah Woodlands
Frankston Beach Association	Mile End to Allawah Ave Revegetation Project
McCrae Coastal Group	Healthy Bay, Healthy Foreshore, Happy People
Southern Ocean Environmental Link	Mud Islands Shore Keepers
Australian Marine Mammal Conservation Foundation	The Port Phillip Bay Marine Mammal Bioblitz
Safety Beach Foreshore Landscape Committee	Safety Beach Coastal Erosion Mitigation Project Stage 3
Bellarine North Rotary Club	Foreshore Revegetation
Hobsons Bay City Council	Sandy Point Coastal Protection
Hobsons Bay Wetlands Centre	Involving Communities in Conserving Birdlife
RMIT University	Exploring Unseen Threats: Contaminant Trends and Impacts
Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research	Assessment and Management of Colony-breeding Birds at Mud Islands
Conservation Volunteers Australia	SeaToSource Port Phillip Bay
Deakin University	Mapping Seagrass and Kelp
Parks Victoria	Restoring the Underwater Forests of Port Phillip Bay
Odonata Foundation	Building Community Capacity for Understanding the Bay
Corangamite Catchment Management Authority	Swan Bay Saltmarsh Restoration Project
Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee of Management	North Bellarine Coast Cultural Conservation and Restoration Project