

# Media Release

**Steve Dimopoulos MP**

Minister for Environment

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events

Minister for Outdoor Recreation



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## PROTECTING THE LIFE OF PORT PHILLIP BAY THROUGH GRANTS

The Allan Labor Government is kickstarting projects that will protect the health and vitality of Port Phillip Bay, ensuring this iconic landmark stays healthy so its waters, wildlife and ecosystems can thrive for generations.

Minister for Environment Steve Dimopoulos today announced the opening of the 2025 Port Phillip Bay Fund, with \$2.16 million to support projects that strengthens the bay, ensuring its environment and coastal habitats remain healthy for the community and everyone who enjoys the natural landmark across the state.

Grants will be awarded to eligible groups – including environmental groups, Traditional Owners, local councils, schools and research institutes – who can demonstrate their ability to deliver on-ground environmental activities, such as the restoration of foreshore and coastal habitats, or enhancement of marine environments.

Since 2016, the Port Phillip Bay Fund has provided more than \$17 million in funding support across 215 projects in and around the bay. More than 265 hectares of threatened habitat have been restored, 180 tonnes of litter have been removed, and planted more than 138,000 indigenous plants – giving nature a new lease of life.

Previous projects have included using drones to build a better understanding of coastal erosion, culling of sea urchins and cultivation of juvenile kelp to help restore the natural marine ecosystem, and tackling marine debris.

The Port Phillip Bay Fund is part of the Government's ongoing investment to support the implementation of Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037. It is one of a suite of programs funding actions to support biodiversity and threatened species.

For more information, visit [marineandcoasts.vic.gov.au](https://marineandcoasts.vic.gov.au)

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Environment Steve Dimopoulos

*"Port Phillip Bay is one of Victoria's most iconic tourist attractions, and a beloved local landmark. We are proud to support the great work of local groups caring for their bay to keep it this way."*

*"The Port Phillip Bay Fund has helped more than 35,000 volunteers get involved in caring for the bay and its precious ecosystems."*