

Cowes Boat Ramp Upgrade

Information Bulletin: May 2023

Better Boating Victoria is funding the delivery of the Cowes Boat Ramp upgrade. The project will extend and raise the existing ramp to provide boaters better access at a greater range of tides and manage sand accumulation. The adjoining jetty will also be extended to create more space for temporarily tied boats and the lower landing raised to improve access to and from vessels.

Construction works are due to begin shortly at Cowes Boat Ramp.

Better Boating Victoria is collaborating with the Bass Coast Shire Council to deliver the upgrade to the Cowes Boat Ramp. To improve boating at this popular facility, works will include a new boat ramp and the extension of the existing jetty structure. During the works the boat ramp will be closed for public safety reasons beginning in late May with the expected completion in late Spring 2023.

Project Background

The Cowes Boat Ramp is a popular boat launching destination on the southern side of Western Port Bay. With the ongoing growth in demand for boating and the difficulties faced with launching Cowes has been identified for an upgrade.

The upgrade of the facility will provide a new ramp making launching and retrieving of boats easier.

BBV has progressed the detailed engineering designs, permits and approvals in consultation with the facility manager Bass Coast Shire Council, government agencies, recreational boaters and community members.

Project Construction

A Contract has been awarded to specialist marine contractors Bridgewater Marine and construction is due to commence from late May 2023.

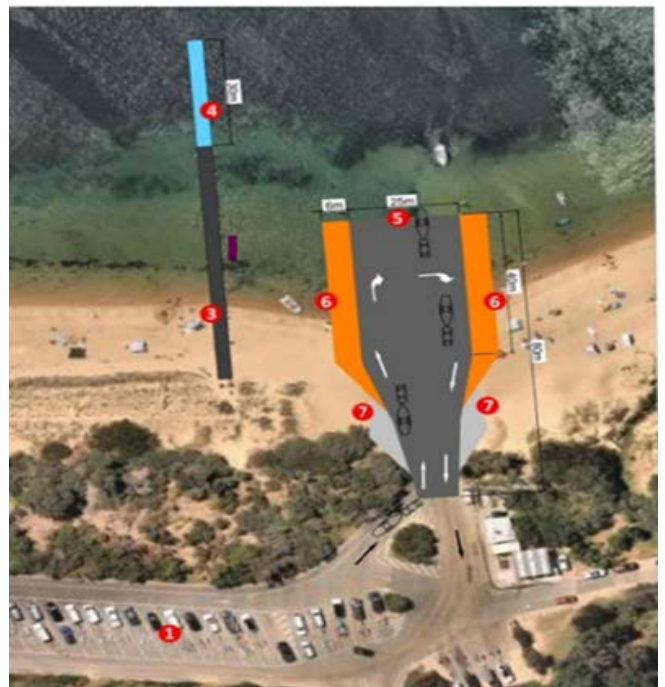
During the works the boat ramp will be closed for public safety reasons with expected completion in Spring 2023.

Bass Coast Shire Council will oversee the delivery of the upgrade.

What's next?

Construction works will occur between late May and the facility will be open again in late Spring 2023 and will include the following upgrades to the facility:

- Extension to the existing jetty, with a deeper lower landing
- Upgraded boat ramp raised to a higher beach profile
- Double lane access with a turning circle section
- Rock revetments on both sides of the ramp
- Pedestrian and vehicle beach access ramps



Frequently Asked Questions

Will I be able to use the boat ramp when construction is taking place? No, once works begin there will be no access to the boat ramp for public safety. Works are due to commence in late May and the facility will be open again in late spring 2023.

When is construction due to start? Works are anticipated to commence in late May 2023, with indicative completion of late Spring 2023 subject to weather conditions etc.

Where can I launch and retrieve my boat while the Cowes boat ramp is closed? The nearest boat ramps include Rhyll and Newhaven. For more information on local boat ramps please visit <https://www.boating.vic.gov.au>.

What do the upgrade include? The project will extend and raise the existing ramp to provide boaters better access at a greater range of tides and manage sand accumulation. The adjoining jetty will also be extended to create more space for temporarily tied boats and the lower landing raised to improve access to and from vessels.

Why is a marina not being constructed? A marina is not feasible at this location due to the shallow seabed, coastal processes and significant sand movement along that section of coastline.

What's happened so far? Community consultation for the project took place from July to August 2021 to develop concept plans for improvements to the boat ramp and jetty. A final concept was released to the public in August 2022.

Who will be managing this project? Bass Coast Shire Council will manage and deliver the construction phase of the project.

Will there be any increases in parking? Bass Coast Shire Council recently completed an upgrade to the eastern carpark. The new upgrade will focus on the ramp and improving the launching experience for boaters.

Where is this upgrade being funded from? The Better Boating Fund (BBF) which returns all the funding collected from marine licensing and registrations into boating.

What will be done to make it easier to launch a boat? The proposed design features a raised boat ramp with an improved grade that will improve launching and retrieval by keeping vehicles clear of the water as well as the ramp clear of the beach profile, reducing sand build-up. The proposed extension to the existing jetty will also make it easier to get in and out of the boat in deeper water.

Will there be pedestrian access to the beach still? The design incorporates a pedestrian and vehicle access ramp on both sides.

Why has this project been funded? Cowes Boat Ramp is in poor condition due to difficult launching with the shallow sand ramp and this site has been identified in the Action Plan for an upgrade in 2022-2023.

What will construction involve? Construction works will involve the civil and structural engineering to achieve the final design. Works include:

- Delivery of the materials to site
- Extension of the jetty
- Placement and building up the new ramp

Will we get regular updates to let us know how the project is progressing? Monthly updates will be provided on Better Boating Victoria's website. For updates on project progress and more information please go to:

<https://betterboating.vic.gov.au/ramp-upgrades/Cowes>

Need more information?

Find out more about the government's recreational boating initiatives at www.betterboating.vic.gov.au



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