



20 July 2022

The Port of Williamstown Action Group Inc. (PoWAG) is an incorporated association whose purpose is to advocate for improved maritime facilities in the Port of Williamstown, the provision of a safe harbour in the port, and the maximisation of the port's benefits to both its stakeholders and the community.

Through direct contact with the Minister for Ports, Melissa Horne, PoWAG has already played an active and constructive role in a variety of areas including the development of the Williamstown Maritime Precinct Framework (WMPF) (see <https://engage.vic.gov.au/williamstown-maritime-precinct>), the development of the Wave Wash and Surge Study undertaken by Parks Victoria, and the recent co-sponsoring of community days at the Alfred Graving Dock.

At this time, PoWAG has specific interest in the following four critical issues:

- **Safe Harbour**

PoWAG supports action which will address the issues arising out of the current and expected increase in both the size and volume of marine traffic entering or passing through Hobsons Bay. A critical initiative has been the monitoring and development of an understanding of the incidence of wave, wash and surge (WWS) impacting the long term viability and safety of the Port of Williamstown. Of particular concern is that a long term and effective solution is found for the WWS problem and that Williamstown is maintained as a safe harbour for all visitors and users of the waterfront.

- **Enhancement of berthing and associated facilities on the Port of Williamstown waterfront**

As stated in the WMPF, several jetties and piers are in poor condition which limits the potential of the precinct to host some future events requiring suitable berthing, such as visits from Tall Ships.

PoWAG has a close association with Tall Ships Victoria (TSV) and we are very supportive of their expertise and advocacy on the need for deep draft berthing and maintenance facilities. The principle aim of TSV is to initiate, support and assist visits of Tall Ships to Victoria with Williamstown previously being a key destination. The past success of Tall Ship visits to the precinct has been well recognised.

PoWAG supports the option in the WMPF that suitable serviced and accessible berths are reinstated. The replenishment, enhancement and protection of current berthing facilities will significantly contribute to Williamstown having world class maritime infrastructure which is also attractive to larger commercial and recreational vessels.

- **Sufficient draft for visiting and local vessels**

Maintenance of navigable water for all users of the Port of Williamstown, both recreational and commercial, is essential. PoWAG considers that the maintenance of sufficient water depth to allow proper access to current and future waterfront facilities is a key element in ensuring the long term viability of the port. Without sufficient water depth appropriate to all waterfront users,

Williamstown will no longer be a vibrant and successful maritime based community and tourist destination accessible from both the land and sea.

- **Maintenance facilities for Tall Ships, HMAS Castlemaine and other larger vessels**

Local and visiting vessels, including larger recreational vessels and Tall Ships, all require maintenance and the availability of slipping and crange facilities. This is a crucial factor in making a decision to make Williamstown a home port or cruise destination, not only for Tall Ships but other similar sized vessels. Also, the Museum Ship, HMAS Castlemaine, is a very significant part of the Williamstown maritime heritage. This vessel requires continual maintenance and regular slipping and has used the Alfred Graving Dock for this purpose. This use may be compromised in the future. The overall requirement for maintenance facilities would be the availability of a slip or dry-dock capable of handling up to a 1500t displacement vessel.

As a community action group PoWAG seeks to provide a relevant and constructive voice in the future development of the Port of Williamstown as a premier maritime precinct. In particular, it seeks to contribute in a positive way to the implementation of the Williamstown Maritime Precinct Framework.

If you wish to be involved and support PoWAG in continuing to advocate for the community and its involvement in the future of Williamstown as a maritime precinct, please join so we can continue this work.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Dawson', written over a horizontal line.

Tony Dawson
President
Port of Williamstown Action Group Inc.