



Port of Williamstown Action Group Update September 2026

About the Port of Williamstown Action Group (PoWAG)

PoWAG is a collective of residents, recreational users, businesses and local clubs united by a clear mission: to secure a safe, accessible and sustainable harbour for Williamstown and its maritime community .

In addition, we seek to improve the overall Williamstown waterfront experience for all community users and make the best of this underutilised asset. The 2023 Williamstown Local Port Area Plan (WLPAP) commissioned by Parks Victoria identified key actions relating to existing jetties and piers which due to poor condition, limit the potential of the precinct to host dynamic and living maritime heritage events.

PoWAG has a close association with both Seaworks and 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 principal 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 Williamstown to the precinct has been well recognised.

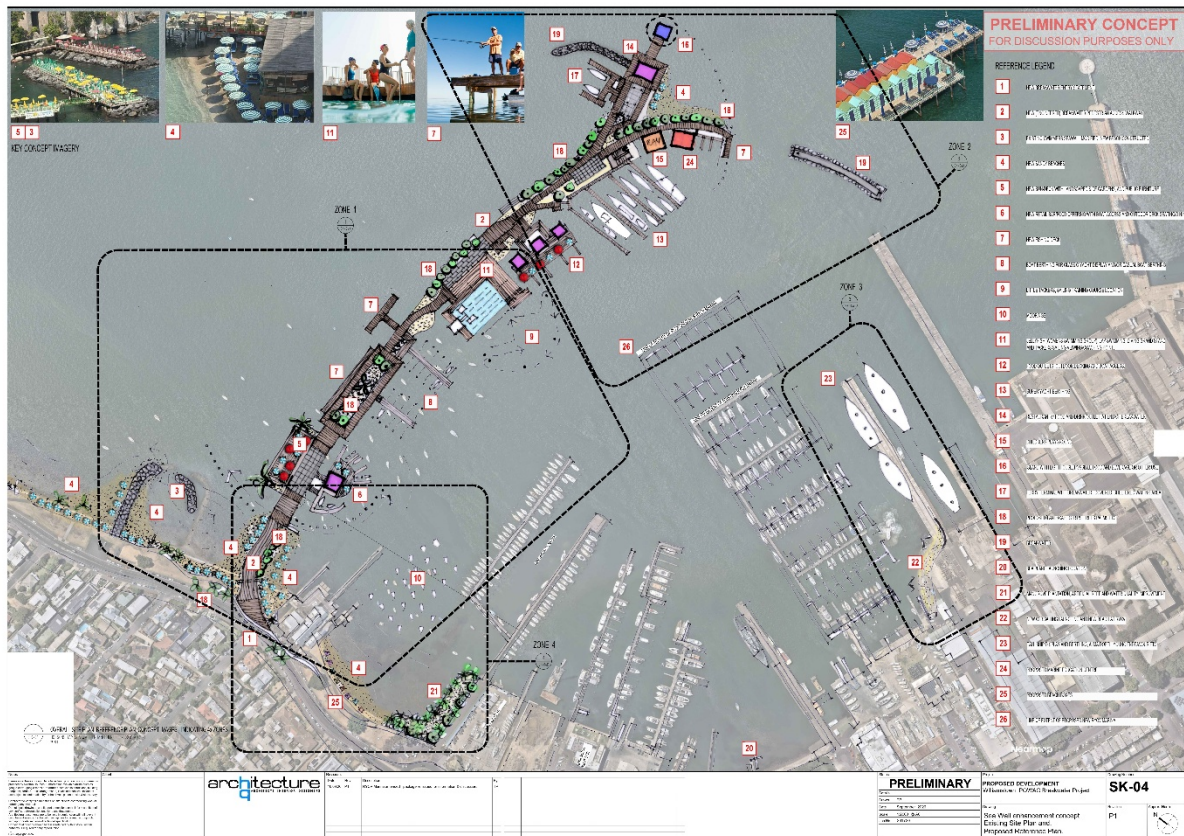
General Position and Current Challenges

The PoWAG working group has met with the Hobsons Bay City Council, Department of Transport, Port of Melbourne and Melissa Horne MP and the Hon Steve Bracks. Out of these there has been strong support for the Maritime Precinct Development concept.

In particular the Council identified the need for an articulated vision of what the final picture should look like and that the next stages of the 2023 Local Port Action Plan need someone from Council or State Government to take ownership and fund developing the next stages of asset development to archive a living maritime heritage waterfront.

We also identify the sale/ future use of the BAE site as pivotal in supporting the needs for deep harbour ship maintenance facility making Williamstown a world class maritime destination for super yacht servicing as well as commercial vessel servicing. Now is the time to lobby for the best use.

PoWAG has developed visual sketch representations of a Hobsons Bay Precinct Rock Wall Breakwater which integrates with existing features of Williamstown. This proposal includes casual recreational berthing on floating pontoons—the only such facility in our precinct—and shows what could be possible with increased community facilities and boosts the underdeveloped Williamstown Marine Precinct. (refer attached)



Next Steps

- PoWAG will continue to lobby Council and State Government to take the next steps of the Local Port Area Plan
- We will seek funding for necessary concept /environmental studies for the breakwater development
- PoWAG will be having its AGM in October 2026, if you are interested in joining our working group check our website www.powag.org and make contact via our email safeharbour@powag.com.au

Sincerely,

Jonathan Fryer

President of Port of Williamstown Action Group (PoWAG)

www.powag.org