

DESCRIPTION OF THE WATERWAY AT THE POINT

POINT LONSDALE, 3225, VICTORIA

PREPARED SEPTEMBER 2026



1. INTRODUCTION

The Point Waterway in Point Lonsdale is located within the Swan Bay catchment. Swan Bay is a Ramsar-listed wetland of international significance, recognised for its extensive marine flora and the large numbers of migratory shorebirds that visit each year.

Connected to Swan Bay via Lakers Cutting, The Point Waterway was constructed on a former shell grit mining site, and now winds through a 600 home and 170 unit retirement village. The 5.5-kilometre tidally flushed waterway provides recreational and landscape amenity for residents and visitors, while also supporting intertidal ecosystems along its banks and within The Point Conservation Reserve at its western extent.

The waterway supports a range of passive recreational activities, including walking, birdwatching and kayaking, and contributes significantly to the character, liveability and environmental value of the area. The waterway and the Conservation Reserve contain rare salt marsh communities which provide valuable habitat for local wildlife.

The Point Waterway became fully operational in 2022. Responsibility for its management was transferred to the City of Greater Geelong (City) in May 2025.

2. WATERWAY FEATURES

A range of engineered and natural features work together to manage water movement, maintain water quality and support the long-term health of the system. These include channels, culverts, rain gardens and automated gates that respond to the movement of tides in Lakers Cutting.

As water enters the Point via Lakers Cutting it gradually moves through the waterway in a clock wise direction before returning to Lakers Cutting. This regular movement is controlled via Automatic Flow Control Gates (AFCG).

Water also enters the system via a one-way drainage channel connected to Lake Victoria. The outlets of the culverts at the waterway edge are designed to prevent flows going back toward Lake Victoria from the waterway, while allowing outflows from Lake Victoria into the waterway.

Culverts are strategically located around the landscape to direct overland flow, and prevent flooding on private property. The waterway also receives stormwater from surrounding urban areas, including landscaped drainage systems and rain gardens.

The structures associated with the waterway are designed to:

- Provide sufficient one-way flow through the system to prevent water stagnation and associated water quality issues.
- Regulate and limit peak water levels within the waterway.
- Enable discharge from Lake Victoria to pass through the system and into Lakers Cutting.
- Direct overland flows away from private property and into the waterway.
- Improve the quality of water entering the system.

3. NEIGHBOURING FEATURES

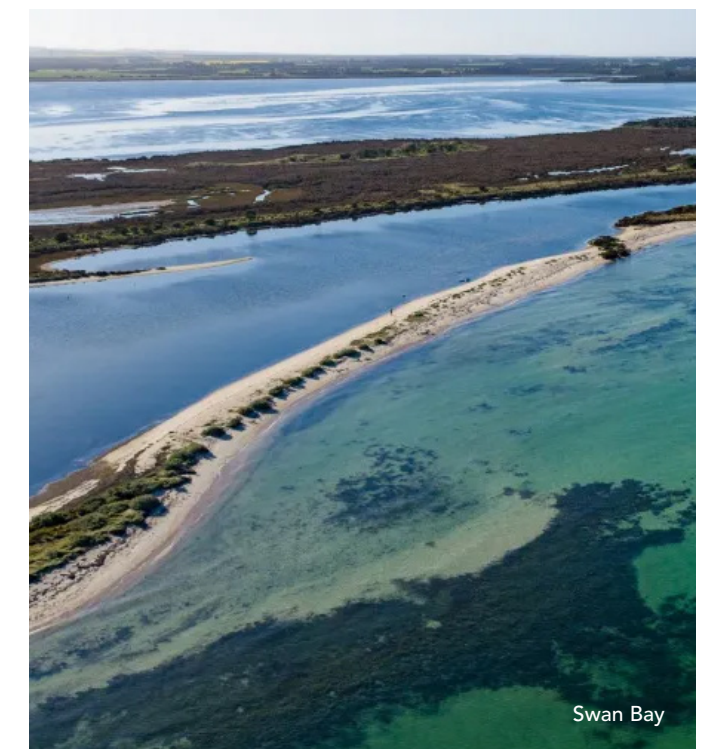
The Point Waterway is connected to a broader network of waterways and wetlands, including Lake Victoria, Lakers Cutting and Swan Bay. Conditions in these areas can influence the health of the waterway.

Swan Bay is an internationally recognised wetland that supports important marine habitats and migratory bird species. Maintaining healthy water quality throughout the connected system is important for protecting these environmental values.

Water levels within The Point Waterway are primarily influenced by the tidal conditions in Lakers Cutting. While the development does not significantly affect water levels in Lakers Cutting, tidal exchange drives water movement into and out of the waterway and is the primary determinant of water quality within the system.

Lake Victoria and surrounding catchments also contribute water to the system. Seasonal changes, rainfall and natural environmental processes affect water quality throughout the connected waterways.

Factors affecting the waterway from Lake Victoria include seasonal variations, catchment runoff, rainfall, nutrient and sediment load.



WATERWAY FUNCTION

The main waterway channel varies in depth from 1.5m to 3.0m, with wider flatter sections to assist with the movement of the water and to provide a natural system for the habitat of plants and animals.

- 1

5.5km long fully tidal waterway moving in a clockwise direction.
- 2

Water level rises and falls with each incoming and outgoing tide from Lakers Cutting.
- 3

Rain gardens and grassed swales within the road reserves control urban nutrient inflows into the waterway as part of the water sensitive urban design of The Point.
- 4

Flow control gates allow inflow and outflow to maximise tidal exchange of water, move the water around the system, manage water quality and enable the waterway to self-clean (flush).
- 5

The volume of the waterway is approx 400,000m3 and takes, on average, 14 days to complete a full loop back to Lakers Cutting.
- 6

Seagrass and algae naturally occur (as they do in Lakers Cutting and Lake Victoria) and will vary in quantity and location due to seasons, weather, periods of low tides and nutrient inflows from Lakers Cutting and Lake Victoria. Management of seagrass and algae forms part of the waterway maintenance program.
- 7

The waterway has created an interconnected network of landscaped waterway reserves, with more than 8kms of pathways, as well as a natural interface to the conservation reserve.
- 8

The managed range of water level varies from 100mm to 500mm above sea level. The flow control gates also exclude Lakers Cutting tides above a determined level (eg: king tides), with a permitted peak water level of 900mm above sea level.
- 9

Water quality testing, monitoring, and reporting continued throughout the construction phase and operational management period, to meet required benchmark targets. The City of Greater Geelong manages and operates the waterway following handover from Moremac.
- 10

Culverts with backflow valves provide the discharge outlet for Lake Victoria to flow through The Point to Lakers Cutting, whilst preventing flow back into Lake Victoria.



4. WATER SENSITIVE URBAN DESIGN

The Point incorporates a range of sustainable drainage features designed to improve the quality of stormwater before it enters the waterway. These features include vegetated swales, rain gardens and landscaped drainage areas.

These systems help capture sediment, nutrients and other pollutants from stormwater runoff while also reducing erosion and supporting healthy vegetation throughout the development.

Together, these features contribute to healthier waterways and improve the environmental performance of the surrounding neighbourhood.



5. WATERWAY OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

The City is responsible for the ongoing management of the waterway and associated infrastructure. This includes monitoring water levels and water quality, maintaining key assets and ensuring the waterway continues to function effectively.

Routine maintenance activities include inspections of channels, drainage assets and vegetation, as well as managing algae, seagrass and other natural processes when required.

The City, supported by specialist contractors, operates and maintains the waterway in order to deliver the outcomes required by the Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP). The operation and maintenance work covers:

- The Automatic Flow Control Gates and their electrical, mechanical, instrumentation and computer systems
- The water level and flow, water quality monitoring

systems, and the associated water quality sampling and testing

- Periodic removal of excess sea grass and algae
- Monitoring of the physical assets, such as the waterway banks and bunds for signs of erosion and the various culverts for signs of blockage
- The collection, storage, evaluation and reporting of water quality data

The scope, frequency and procedures for this work are covered by the WQMP.

These activities help maintain the waterway's appearance, environmental health and recreational value for residents and visitors.

6. COMPLIANCE REPORTING

In May 2025, the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) approved the Point Lonsdale Residential Development Project Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP), Revision 4, for implementation. On 24 September 2025, the EPBC Act Approval 2003/1144 was transferred to The City.

The WQMP states in its Section 9.1:

There will be an annual WQMP Compliance Report on the implementation of the WQMP. This report will be produced by a suitably qualified and experienced independent environmental consultant engaged by... (The City) ...who will review the available records from operation, maintenance and monitoring of the Waterway. The report will, for the calendar year to 31 December:

- For the purposes of the Varied EPBC Approval, be consistent with the Annual Compliance Report Guidelines, Commonwealth of Australia 2023;
- Summarise the incidents in the reporting year that triggered non-compliance reports (see below) plus the subsequent investigations, rectification and close-out reporting;
- Contain tables, graphs and explanatory text that summarise the degree of compliance with the requirements of the WQMP concerning:
 - › The WQMP Water Quality Objective;
 - › The Baseline Water Quality
 - › Waterway water Levels.
- Contain or provide links to all monitoring data collected in the reporting year;

- Contain an assessment of the quality of this monitoring data collected, and of any limitations the data quality implies for the assessment of compliance with the provisions of the WQMP;
- Contain a description of what was done to check the work in the reporting year to implement the WQMP.

The City sends this annual compliance report to the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water. The purpose of this report is to comply with the varied EPBC Approval and demonstrate that in the previous calendar year the requirements in the WQMP have been attained by the management of water quality and water levels in the waterway.

The City also provides a copy of this report to EPA and DEECA in Victoria

- The first such report submitted by the City to these government agencies was for the 2025 calendar year

The information presented in each of the compliance reports demonstrated that in the applicable calendar year:

- The quality of surface water discharges from the site to Lakers Cutting has complied with the WQMP.
- There were no incidents concerning surface water quality that triggered a need to report them as non-compliance incidents to Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water as per the WQMP.

The annual compliance reports will be published on the City's website at the beginning of each calendar year.

7. PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

The Point Waterway has been designed with future environmental changes in mind, including projected sea level rise and changing climate conditions.

Its design provides flexibility to adapt water management practices over time while continuing to protect surrounding homes, public open spaces and environmental values.

Council will continue to monitor conditions and make informed decisions to ensure the waterway remains a sustainable and valued community asset for future generations.



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