

Olivers Hill Precinct Project – Safe Boat Refuge and Coast Guard Facility

Frequently asked questions

What is this project?

The Frankston Volunteer Coast Guard, in partnership with Frankston City Council is seeking to develop a breakwater and new operations and training centre at the base of Olivers Hill, adjacent to the existing boat ramp in Frankston.

Why do we need a safe boat refuge?

In the past year the Coast Guard has responded to more than 150 incidents, with the numbers of beach and bay visitors increasing every year.

Currently, no safe refuge from severe weather and rough sea exists in Frankston for Coast Guard and Water Police. Vessels are currently deployed from Patterson River, Sandringham or Williamstown, delaying rescues by up to 100 minutes or preventing them in adverse weather.

A safe refuge will allow the Coast Guard to respond to emergencies quickly and will allow boaters to safely retrieve their vessel in any weather by acting as a barrier from surging waves and creating a calm environment to remove vessels from the water.

What are the benefits of the safe boat refuge?

The safe boat refuge will:

- Provide calmer and safer conditions to launch and retrieve boats
- Enable efficient and safer operations and improved response times for emergency services including the transfer of those rescued
- Provide a permanent anchorage for the Frankston Volunteer Coast Guard vessel to respond more rapidly and enable Water Police a location for operations

Why does the Coast Guard need a new facility?

After many decades and numerous restoration works, the Coast Guard's operations centre had reached the end of its serviceable life and was demolished leaving them without a permanent home. Frankston City Council has stepped in and provided temporary facilities.

A new facility providing a space for Coast Guard operations and training adjacent to the existing Olivers Hill Boat Ramp will provide greater surveillance, a continued base for joint emergency operations and enable a more accessible community training and education facility for the increasing number of volunteers and recreational boat users.

What is included in proposed precinct works?

The safe boat refuge will include:

- Safe access for emergency services' vehicles
- A barrier from surging waves in adverse weather and a safe calm space for retrieval of marine vessels
- Opportunity for Water Police vessel operations, if required
- Lighting, CCTV and webcam of bay conditions

The Coast Guard facility will include:

- Secure 'drive through' garage with space for two vehicles, attached boat and trailer
- Coast Guard change rooms and amenities
- Lunch room / kitchen
- New entry, airlock, circulation, stairs, lift and adequate storage
- Multi-purpose / training room with adjoining kitchen, storage and amenities
- Coast Guard observation room and office
- Lighting, CCTV and webcam of bay conditions
- New adjoining public toilets

What additional benefits will this project bring?

- Attract more recreational water sports to the Frankston Foreshore, bringing broader economic benefit
- Stimulate the leisure retail industry
- Improve emergency services capacity to respond in all weather conditions
- Increase the safety for emergency services personnel and boat ramp users
- Opportunity to increase safer participation in coastal sports and leisure

Where can I view the proposed plans?

Initial concept designs of the safe boat refuge and Coast Guard facility are available on Council's website.

Alternatively, you can view hard copy plans at Council's Civic Centre located at 30 Davey Street, Frankston.

What environmental studies have been undertaken?

An independent marine specialist, KBR (Kellogg Brown and Root), was engaged by Council to undertake necessary studies to assess the impact of the safe boat refuge on the local coastal processes and develop a concept plan for the safe boat refuge.

Information from a number of past studies have also been reviewed and considered as part of the recent assessment by KBR.

The studies includes development of hydrodynamic model and collection and interpretation of data related to wave lengths, sediment transportation, water levels and wind movements.

Most importantly, the draft preliminary environment and planning assessment undertaken by KBR sets out the further technical assessments required to inform the environmental and planning approvals process for the project.

These reports are available on Council's website.

Is this the same proposal as the former proposed 'Marina'?

No. This is a completely different proposal for a safe boat refuge only, not a marina for mooring vessels.

Why are we waiting on more environmental studies, weren't they completed with the previous marina proposal?

As this is a different proposal to the 'marina', the required studies need to be undertaken on the current proposed designs as the impacts would differ.

Additionally, previous studies were completed in late nineties and require to be updated with recent information in order to be accurate and relevant.

Will people be able to moor their boats at the safe boat refuge?

No. The purpose of the safe boat refuge is to provide a calm and safe transfer of patients from Coast Guard to emergency services and for the safe retrieval of vessels.

Why not invest in Kananook Creek?

The independent assessment by marine specialist by BMT has revealed that the existing channel depth (-1.0 metre Australian Height Datum - AHD) and width (12 metres) of Kananook Creek is not sufficient to allow for safe operation of Coast Guard vessels that require a channel depth of -2.0 metres AHD and a width of 15 metres for safe navigation.

Furthermore, clearance between Landmark Bridge and top level of water is not sufficient to allow for safe and efficient access of dredging equipment, Coast Guard and Water Police vessels.

Will the new design require dredging?

Yes, ongoing minor dredging (estimated around 400 m³ annually) will be required to maintain safe operations at the Olivers Hill.

Will the new building compromise the stability of Olivers Hill and the surrounding properties?

The proposed Coast Guard Operations Centre will be designed ensuring no impact on stability of Olivers Hill.

What is the total cost of the project?

The anticipated project cost is approximately \$24 million subject to further investigations. Draft concept designs have been prepared and subsequently noted by Council at its meeting on 19 November 2018.

A broad indication of the costs involved is as follows:

- \$16-18 M for the Breakwater and Safe Boat Refuge
- \$6 M for the Coastguard Operations and Training Centre within the Olivers Hill Precinct

How is the project being funded?

As part of its advocacy initiatives, Council is calling on both the Victorian and Australian Government's to commit \$8 million each to help deliver the Safe Boat Refuge and Coast Guard Operations and Training Centre within the Olivers Hill Precinct.

Council has committed \$8 million towards this project.

How can I learn more and provide feedback on the development plans?

Council is hosting a number of community 'drop-in' information sessions where you can view the proposed plans, learn more about the project, have your questions answered and provide your feedback to help inform the future plans.

When:

- Saturday 15 December, 10am-1pm
- Wednesday 19 December, 4.30-7.30pm
- Saturday 19 January, 10am-1pm
- Tuesday 22 January, 4.30-7.30pm
- Tuesday 5 February, 5.30-7.00pm

Where:

Functions by the Bay (Frankston Park Football Club), corner Plowman Place and Young Street, Frankston

Community feedback is important to us and will help guide next steps in the development of this project. A survey will be available online from Friday 30 November 2018 until Friday 8 February 2019.

