

Connecting Communities.
Protecting Our Bay.



Port Phillip Ferries

www.portphillipferries.com.au

Sustainability & Emissions Reduction Plan

Our Commitment

At Port Phillip Ferries, every journey across Port Phillip Bay carries a responsibility that extends beyond transporting passengers.

We recognise that the waterways we operate on are among Victoria's most valuable natural assets, and we are committed to protecting them for future generations.

Sustainability is embedded in the way we operate our business. From investing in innovative technologies that reduce emissions to protecting marine ecosystems and educating our passengers about the environment, we are continually looking for ways to improve our environmental performance while delivering safe, reliable and enjoyable ferry services.

We believe sustainability extends beyond reducing our own environmental footprint. As a tourism and transport operator connecting thousands of passengers with Victoria's waterways every year, we have an opportunity to educate, inspire and encourage environmental stewardship across the communities and destinations we serve.

This Sustainability & Emissions Reduction Plan outlines the initiatives already implemented, our current environmental practices and our roadmap for continual improvement over the coming years.



○ Docklands

○ Station Pier

Ferry Time
45min

Ferry Time
55min

○ Portarlington

○ Geelong

Bellarine Peninsula

Port Phillip Bay

Bass Strait





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2026-2030

Our Sustainability Vision

To become Victoria's leading environmentally responsible ferry operator by reducing emissions, protecting marine ecosystems and inspiring sustainable travel across Port Phillip Bay.



Our Sustainability Pillars

Cleaner Operations

Reducing fuel consumption, emissions and operational waste through smarter technologies and efficient vessel operations.

Healthy Marine Environment

Protecting Port Phillip Bay through responsible waste management, pollution prevention and environmentally responsible operating procedures.

Sustainable Tourism

Encouraging low-impact visitor experiences by connecting Melbourne with regional Victoria without the need for lengthy road travel.

Community Leadership

Using our platforms to educate passengers and support organisations that protect Victoria's marine environment.



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What We've Already Achieved

Hullbot Underwater Hull Cleaning

In 2024, Port Phillip Ferries became one of the first commercial ferry operators in Victoria to introduce the Australian-designed Hullbot autonomous underwater hull cleaning system.

Marine growth on vessel hulls naturally increases drag, requiring greater engine power and higher fuel consumption. Traditionally this required regular dry docking and chemical cleaning.

Hullbot allows our vessels to be cleaned while remaining in the water using soft brushes and advanced underwater navigation technology.

The benefits include:

- Reduced marine biofouling
- Improved vessel efficiency
- Lower fuel consumption
- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions
- Elimination of chemical cleaning products
- Reduced dry docking requirements

Since introducing Hullbot, Port Phillip Ferries has achieved approximately a 9.1% reduction in fuel consumption, significantly reducing both operating costs and vessel emissions.





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Protecting Port Phillip Bay

The health of Port Phillip Bay is fundamental to our business. Strict environmental operating procedures ensure our daily operations minimise impacts on the marine environment.

Zero Sewage Discharge

Port Phillip Ferries maintains a strict zero discharge policy.

No sewage or sullage is discharged into Port Phillip Bay.

Wastewater is retained onboard and removed by licensed contractors using approved pump-out facilities. All discharges are planned, monitored and supervised to ensure complete environmental compliance.

Bilge Water Management

Bilge water containing oil or contaminants is never discharged into the marine environment.

Where contamination occurs, bilge water is:

- Absorbed using approved sorbent materials
- Collected in sealed containers
- Transported to licensed disposal facilities
- Recorded within vessel logbooks

Waste Oil Management

All waste oil generated onboard is collected and removed through approved waste contractors.

Every transfer is documented within the vessel Oil Record Book to ensure full traceability and compliance.

Responsible Waste Disposal

Waste generated onboard our ferries is collected and disposed of through approved waste management providers.

Operational procedures ensure waste is regularly removed, bins are monitored and any disposal issues are addressed immediately to minimise environmental risk.



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Spill Prevention & Fuel Management

Fuel handling represents one of the highest environmental risks in marine operations.

To minimise this risk, Port Phillip Ferries follows strict bunkering procedures that include:

- Crew trained in bunkering operations
- Continuous monitoring during refuelling
- High-level tank alarms
- Spill containment systems
- Fuel save-all protection
- Emergency isolation procedures
- Spill response equipment available during every refuelling operation

Should any spill occur, bunkering operations cease immediately and emergency response procedures are implemented in accordance with Port of Melbourne requirements.

Hazardous Materials Management

Dangerous goods and hazardous materials are only transported when all legislative and safety requirements can be fully satisfied.

Strict procedures ensure:

- Correct identification
- Safe segregation
- Secure storage
- Compliance with Australian Standards
- Compliance with the International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code

Where these requirements cannot be met, hazardous materials are not accepted onboard.

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Supporting Sustainable Tourism

Every passenger choosing to travel by ferry instead of driving contributes to a more sustainable visitor economy.

By connecting Melbourne with the Bellarine Peninsula via Port Phillip Bay, we help reduce reliance on private vehicles while supporting regional tourism businesses and local communities.

Our ferry services encourage sustainable visitation through:

- Easy access to wineries and local producers
- Transport to regional events and festivals
- Bicycle-friendly travel
- Car-free day trips
- Support for local tourism operators
- Reduced road congestion between Melbourne and regional Victoria





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Community Partnerships & Environmental Education

Protecting our waterways extends beyond how we operate our vessels.

One of the greatest contributions we can make is using our platforms to educate and inspire the thousands of passengers who travel with us every year.

Port Phillip Ferries has an ongoing partnership with the Bellarine Catchment Network (BCN), the region's leading environmental organisation dedicated to protecting the Bellarine Peninsula's coastlines, waterways and biodiversity through community education, habitat restoration and conservation programs.

Through this partnership we have committed to helping extend BCN's environmental messages well beyond community events by integrating conservation education throughout the passenger journey.

Our communication channels include:

- Onboard digital information screens
- Educational displays at the Melbourne Ferry Terminal
- Framed Local Hero biodiversity posters displayed onboard our ferries
- Customer e-newsletters
- Social media campaigns
- Website content
- Promotion of local environmental events

These initiatives encourage practical actions that passengers can take to protect native wildlife, marine ecosystems and Victoria's coastlines while supporting biodiversity conservation across the Bellarine Peninsula.





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Looking Forward

Environmental responsibility is an ongoing journey.

Between now and 2030, Port Phillip Ferries is committed to delivering continual improvements across our operations.

Our Future Commitments

Reduce Emissions

- Continue monitoring fuel consumption across the fleet.
- Investigate emerging low-emission marine technologies.
- Explore alternative marine fuels as they become commercially viable.
- Identify further operational efficiencies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Improve Operational Efficiency

- Expand digital operational reporting.
- Continue preventative maintenance that maximises fuel efficiency.
- Review operational procedures to reduce unnecessary engine idling.
- Optimise vessel scheduling where practical.

Reduce Waste

- Continue reducing single-use products.
- Increase recycling opportunities across vessel and terminal operations.
- Review procurement practices to favour environmentally responsible suppliers.

Protect Our Marine Environment

- Continue proactive Hullbot cleaning.
- Maintain zero discharge practices.
- Continue rigorous spill prevention procedures.
- Review environmental procedures annually.

Engage Our People

- Continue environmental awareness training for crew.
- Encourage staff-led sustainability initiatives.
- Embed sustainability into everyday operational decision making.

Educate Our Community

- Continue our partnership with the Bellarine Catchment Network.
- Expand environmental education delivered through our communication channels.
- Support local biodiversity and conservation campaigns.
- Promote responsible visitor behaviour.
- Seek additional partnerships that improve environmental outcomes for Port Phillip Bay.

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Measuring Our Progress

To ensure accountability, Port Phillip Ferries will monitor and review:

- Fuel consumption
- Vessel efficiency
- Greenhouse gas reduction initiatives
- Environmental incidents
- Waste management compliance
- Community education initiatives
- Staff engagement

This Sustainability & Emissions Reduction Plan will be reviewed annually to ensure our actions remain measurable, transparent and aligned with industry best practice.

Our Commitment to the Future

Port Phillip Bay is home to unique marine ecosystems, thriving coastal communities and countless visitor experiences that rely on a healthy environment.

As Victoria's award-winning ferry operator, we recognise our responsibility to protect these waterways while connecting people with the destinations they love.

Through smarter technology, responsible operations, strong community partnerships and a commitment to continual improvement, Port Phillip Ferries will continue working towards a cleaner, more sustainable future for our passengers, our communities and the environment.

Together, we're connecting communities while protecting the bay for generations to come.

