

- **Preserve Western Port Action Group**
- **Sub committee: Phillip Island Conservation Society**
- **Jeff Nottle – Chairman**
- **Kate Whittaker – Secretary**
- **Kevin Chambers- Committee**
- **Graeme Hanigan- Committee**

- Our comments address the following terms of reference:
- b.the potential impacts of the proposed lease on the development of a second container port in Victoria; and
- g. any other relevant matters.

- We have partnered with other organisations including:
- Western Port and Peninsula Protection Council
- French Island Port Stoppers
- Sea Shepherd
- Victorian National Parks Assoc.
- The Nature Conservancy

- Much mythology that has arisen around the Port of Hasting's:
- Natural deep water port
- Natural deep water harbor
- Blasting Port Phillip heads
- Capacity of existing ports
- Biggest container ships & port

- A business cases and/or cost/benefit analysis for a container port at Hastings needs to include all the costs and impacts on the region
- Cost estimates usually only include construction and operating costs and land side logistics costs
- Further relevant cost estimates are essential for key Western Port issues
- Multi Government Departments and Portfolios need to be included

- **Cost estimates for Western Port to include:**
- Impact of increased erosion and sediment flows arising from dredging in a very high tidal flow environment
- Current erosion issues will be accelerated and exacerbated with severe impacts
- Particularly in the north of the bay and the north shore of Phillip Island (Cowes)

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Melbourne Water
2548-01R01v07



- 5 km LONG X .05 km WIDE CONTAINER WHALF
- 16 METRE DEEP DREDGED TURNING BASIN 18M
- Cubic Metre dredge 6M
- Cubic Metre dredge in approach channels

Figure 5-2 Inundation Hazard Extents for Western Port – Map 2

- **Cost estimates for Western Port to include:**
- Negative impact on tourism and loss of visitor numbers and the flow on damage to the regional economy and jobs
- In 2012-13 Tourism contributed \$653M to the Bass Coast Shire economy, 37.9% of gross regional product, employed 5700 people 38.2% of regional employment

- Phillip Island has over 1.6M day and overnight visitors that is expected to grow to 2.38M by 2035 supporting 2,100 additional jobs
- 35 % of international tourists to Melbourne come down to Bass Coast
- Phillip Island is currently undertaking a 20 year tourism review and a container port is identified as a key risk

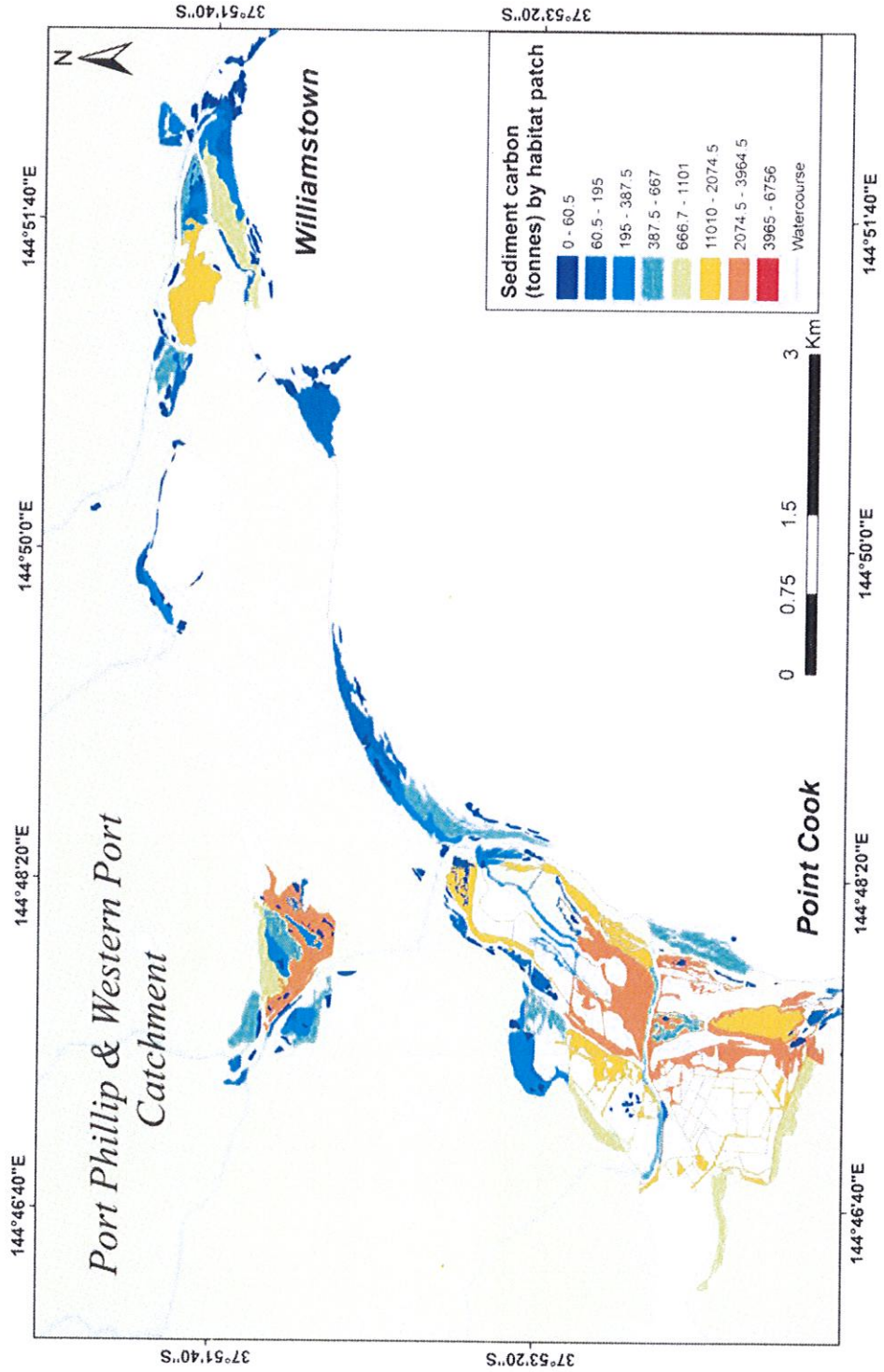
- **Cost estimates for Western Port to include:**
- Cost to the Ecosystem of Western Port – Value \$7B - \$88B – ACF
- Seagrasses salt marshes and mangroves are among the Earth’s most efficient and long-term carbon sinks.
- Seagrasses can capture and store carbon at a rate of 40 times faster than tropical rainforest
- 154 square kms of seagrass in Western Port.

- **Cost estimates for Western Port to include:**
- Disturbance to seagrass ecosystems can cause release of ancient carbon, with potentially major global warming consequences.
- The Port Phillip and Westernport catchment has a total blue carbon value of \$56M
- Majority of value is in Western Port

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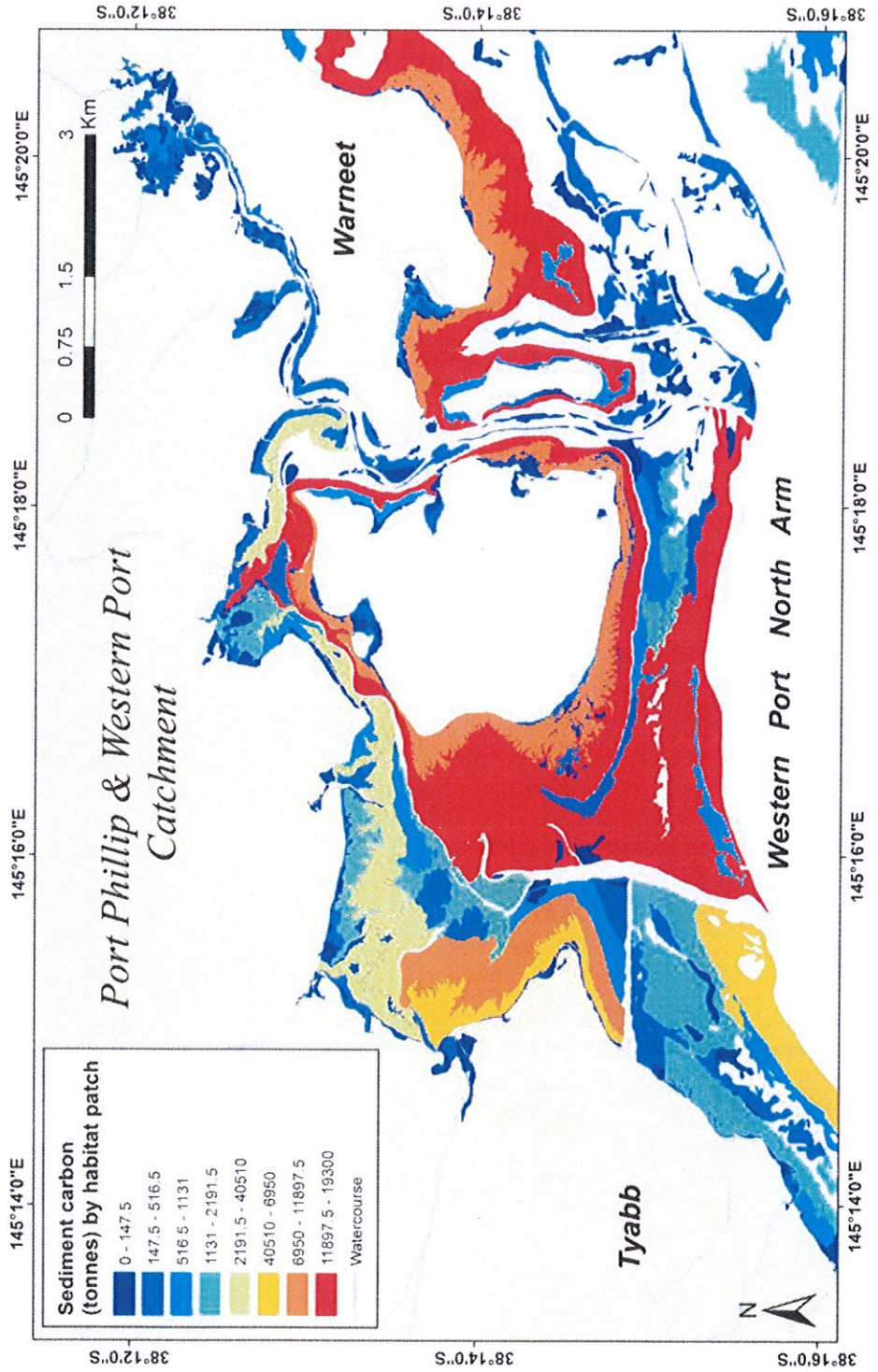
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- **Cost estimates for Western Port to include:**
- **Impact on aquifers and vegetable industry of potential further saline intrusion**
- **Impact on Western Port marine life including:**
 - Penguins
 - Whales
 - 1300 other species

- **Cost estimates for Western Port to include:**
- **Costs to recreational fishing and boating**
 - Current value \$500M
 - Impact on small businesses and townships
- **Costs to the region as a result of loss of amenity**
- **Cost of loss of RAMSAR listing**

- Thank you
- Questions
- Jeff
- Kate- Amenity, marine life, indigenous issues
- Kevin- Waters of Western Port, boating, fishing
- Graeme- Aquifers, dredging, deep water port