

## The Case for a Melbourne Marine Operations Service Depot

The aspiration to create this Maritime Services Depot were proposed agreed by Places Victoria and City of Melbourne in July 2012 *Waterways Operations Concept Plan Bolte Precinct West* “Facilitate the delivery of a marine precinct that includes space for commercial service providers, a regulatory centre and a facility for servicing and maintenance.” p.36.

The recreation boating industry is a significant economic driver in this State. In recognition of this, the State Government in 2019 established **Better Boating Victoria** to support and develop the recreational boating industry throughout Victoria. Provision of adequate marine services in the City of Melbourne is critical to any expansion of recreational boating activities as well as maintaining and expanding the Heritage Fleet. BBV is likely, therefore, to support the establishment of marine service facilities in the State capital, Docklands within the CBD.

If Docklands is to optimise economic up-lift from its waterfront location, infrastructure to sustain and grow local maritime recreation activity is essential. For example, maintenance facilities, provisioning for ALL types of watercraft and voyages. Operational services at such a facility would include refueling, litter collection, shore-to-ship/ship-to-shore access, and staging area for events. The recommendations in the June 2018 Lower Yarra River Advisory Committee Report to the State Govt refer to a shortage of for “back of house facilities for maritime provisioning and servicing. p.5

The City of Melbourne is committed to establishing this facility on the Yarra bank south at Bolte West Precinct in collaboration with Development Victoria. DV is already funded to reconstruct the Yarra wharf in this precinct. July 2019 The designs are progressing well Current plans for the Depot are restrictive in specifying a Class 15 light duty Wharf when its is critical that a Class 40 Wharf with lifting capacity is installed in order to properly serve the various types of repairs of maintenance.

See: Marine Service Centre referenced in CoM Annual Plan Initiatives over several years.

City of Melbourne Draft Annual Plans 2019-20:

“Progress planning and design for Waterways Operations Precinct in the Bolte Precinct West, to support effective growth of marine activities in Docklands.”

City of Melbourne Parks, Property and Waterways Branch ‘Docklands Waterways Strategic Plan 2009-2018.

Development Victoria/CoM/ Places Victoria *Waterways Operations Concept Plan Bolte Precinct West* July 2012.

## Considerations

- The Melbourne Marine Operations Service Depot will need a slipway on the designated space in the Bolte West Precinct, Development Victoria.
- Access to water will be of value for marine technology students at the Kangan TAFE.
- A Marine Operations Service Depot will enable ALL types of maritime activities to occur at Docklands generating employment and income e.g. scheduled re-fits, repairs, electrical, plumbing, rigging, sail making, joinery, engineering, etc.
- There is an unmet demand for such marine services located in close proximity to Victoria Harbour in order to support the existing level of water-based recreation activities.
- Increased water transport services will generate greater demand for a Marine Operations Services Depot.
- There is a need to consider power to the site of the depot, vessel waste disposal, and vehicle access for provisioning, spare parts and fuel.
- The capacity to lift vessels at the Depot is critical. A ‘Marine Straddle Carrier’ capable of lifting 250 tonnes as well as a Class 4o Wharf is required.
- The Heritage Fleet has high maintenance demands, and consequently needs access to a Marine Operations Services Depot to sustain its commercial and operational viability. Heritage Ships require comparatively frequent scheduled minor and major maintenance and repairs. The Marine Operations Services Depot would enable minor works to be done at Victoria Harbour and major works have Victoria Dock (Dudley Street) slipway access.

Note: City of Melbourne does not have a stand-alone Urban Waterways Master Plan and this is a planning deficit – the 2019 draft River Strategy makes scant reference to Victoria Harbour or the Bolte West area of the river bank/.

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