

8. The St Kilda Pier

The St Kilda harbour site is a unique asset that serves both the local and the wider community. The harbour has been associated with marine and recreational activities since the construction of the first pier in the 1850s. Over 2 million people visit the St Kilda pier and the kiosk each year.

The pier must be replaced. The Victorian Coastal Strategy 2002 and the St Kilda Foreshore Urban Design Framework stated that the expected lifespan of St Kilda Pier was fifteen years from 2001. Subsequently, Parks Victoria, the Department of Sustainability and Environment and the City of Port Phillip prepared a Concept Plan for redevelopment of the St Kilda Harbour.

The Concept Plan stated that 'due to the dilapidated condition of the existing pier, there is an exciting opportunity to rebuild the pier, combining the wonderful experiential qualities of the pier (which we all love) with the pragmatic engineering requirements to provide a safe harbour through an integrated wave screen wall'. It proposed a salt water sea pool at the end of the pier made possible through the creative design of the wave attenuation screen. The pier would also be carried right back to Jacka Boulevard and would include a ramp for handicapped access to the water's edge.

In 2009 the Council approved a Royal Melbourne Yatch Squadron proposal for construction of new swing moorings, significant wave protection and removal of the existing moorings'. unChain supported this proposal. The marina project was completed in 2014. The \$14 million marina project was funded by the RMYS with a contribution from the state government. The state government contribution included \$1.22 million for remedial and strengthening works on the existing pier.

Council approval of the RMYS marina project required the new breakwater to be constructed in a way that facilitated a new pier and sea pool. The remedial and strengthening works on the pier are only a temporary solution.

It is the responsibility of the state government, not the Council or the RMYS to fund a new pier to replace the existing one.

unChain calls on the candidates and their parties to commit to the early funding of this essential work.

