



## **PHILLIP ISLAND CONSERVATION SOCIETY INC**

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Incorporation No: A 11396

### **The Next 50 Years**

**April 2019**

## **Introduction**

Established in 1968 the Phillip Island Conservation Society (PICS) has achieved significant conservation outcomes for Phillip Island over the last 50 years. We have taken the opportunity to reflect on previous key PICS involvements and achievements and consider key aspirations for the next 50 years.

The planning process has involved a planning workshop facilitated by Greg Johnson in November 2018 that included 17 PICS members and committee representatives. The workshop identified PICS guiding principles, key aspirations and key challengers.

Strategies were developed that outline the way in which PICS intends to achieve specific outcomes and fulfill the guiding principles over a long time frame.

The output from the PICS planning workshop was considered in detail by the PICS management committee and on two occasions in February and April 2019.

Detailed strategies will be developed, prioritised and agreed by the committee.

Strategies will be reviewed from time to time by the PICS committee. The committee will report to members and the community on achievements and identify any gaps in resources or other challenges over time.

PICS committee endorsed PICS the next 50 years including guiding principles, key aspirations and key challenges on 6 April 2019.

## **PICS Guiding Principles**

**Guiding principles** are generally defined as: *A broad philosophy that guides an organisation throughout in all circumstances, irrespective of changes in its strategies, goals, type of work, or top level management.*

### **Guiding Principles**

1. Conserve, protect, enhance and restore Phillip Island's native fauna and flora with climate change in mind whilst educating the wider community
2. Recognise that Phillip Island's unique environment is part of Western Port, an internationally significant UNESCO biosphere reserve and Ramsar surrounds
3. Ensure Phillip Island is protected from over and inappropriate development and tourism that is not ecologically sustainable
4. Support total renewable energy for Phillip Island
5. PICS is an apolitical, transparent and inclusive organisation
6. Strengthen partnerships with key referral organisations and stakeholders
7. Conserve and protect the marine ecosystems around Phillip Island
8. Integrate an approach with key authorities on shared vision for Phillip Island
9. Defend Western Port against industrialisation and other threats
10. Ensure transport respects the limited ecological carrying capacity of Phillip Island

## **PICS Key Aspirations**

The key aspirations listed below include short, medium and long term aspirations.

- That preservation, conservation and enhancement of the natural world habitat, flora and fauna are prioritised
- That Phillip Island becomes a National or State Park or receives similar formal protections
- That existing settlement boundaries are maintained, monitored and honored
- That mandatory cat and pest control support re-wilding of Phillip Island
- That expansion of marine reserves around Phillip Island occurs
- That PICS is consulted on strategies and development proposals with Government and peak bodies
- That PICS leads the recognition of “the environment is our economy”
- That PICS strongly supports the establishment of an independent Environmental Asset Fund for Phillip Island
- That PICS is recognised as a Council Referral Authority
- That PICS is sustainably resourced
- That PICS is acknowledged as a valued community resource

## **PICS Key Challenges**

- Climate change
- Working with all levels of Government and key agencies
- Population growth and maintenance of settlement boundaries
- Visitor numbers, footprint and demand management
- Noise controls
- Commercial shipping
- Industrialisation pressures for Western Port
- Conservation of environmental assets on private land
- Sustainable management of roads and transport
- Identification of environmentally significant land/features
- Lack of consensus on how Phillip Island should be presented
- PICS engagement with the wider community
- PICS succession planning