

Frequently Asked Questions Cooper's Mill Foreshore Management Plan

1. What is Cooper's Mill Reserve?

Cooper's Mill reserve is a reserve on the northwestern end of Cooleenup Island, part of the Murray River Delta where it enters the Peel Inlet. It contains a historic flour mill, a caretaker's residence and recreation areas. The area is valued for its history, scenic foreshore, walking access and connection to the Murray River.

2. Why is planning needed for this site now?

The Mill and surrounding foreshore are increasingly affected by flooding, foreshore erosion, rising water levels linked to climate change. Without action, ongoing damage could threaten the Mill's long-term survival and public safety. The Shire's Coastal Hazard Risk Management Adaptation Plan (CHRMAP) has identified that the site of Cooper's Mill and the caretakers house are rated highly vulnerable in planning year 2030 and beyond.

3. What documents are being consulted on?

The Foreshore Management Plan focuses on erosion control, flooding and public access, while the Conservation Management Strategy focuses on protecting the heritage significance and fabric of Cooper's Mill. Together, they provide a coordinated long-term approach.

4. Is Cooper's Mill heritage-listed?

Yes, Cooper's Mill is State-heritage listed, meaning any works must respect and protect its cultural and historical significance.

5. What problems are affecting the Mill?

The Mill already experiences flooding multiple times most winters, salt and moisture damage and increasing erosion risks. These impacts are expected to worsen over time.

6. Why can't flooding be completely prevented?

Because the Mill sits very low next to the river, complete flood prevention is not realistic. The approach instead focuses on reducing damage, slowing deterioration and improving resilience.

7. What foreshore works are proposed in the draft plan?

The preferred option includes a new engineered seawall, stabilisation of eroding banks, replacement of failing timber structures and revegetation where appropriate.

8. Will the Mill be rebuilt or significantly altered?

No. The focus is on conservation, repair and minimal intervention in line with heritage best practice.

9. Will public access change?

Public access will be maintained and improved where possible, while adapting to changing water levels and safety requirements.

10. What happens if nothing is done?

Erosion and flood damage will continue, maintenance costs will rise and the Mill's heritage value could be permanently compromised.

8. Have Your Say.

Community feedback is an important part of planning for the future of Cooper's Mill Reserve.

You are invited to share your views on:

- How you value Cooper's Mill and the reserve
- Concerns about flooding, erosion and safety
- Access, recreation and use of the foreshore
- The balance between heritage protection and change
- Any local knowledge or ideas that could help guide future decisions

Feedback received during public consultation will be reviewed and considered before the decisions are made about the plans.