



comprehensive authoritative data for the wise management of Western Port suggests that it is time, 50 years on, that a Shapiro Jubilee is conducted.

Into such a study could be added the emerging importance of the need for wise climate change adaptation and mapping the Ramsar site's Blue Carbon resource. Further, technologies such as LIDAR mapping were not available in the 1970s, so there is much to learn about the current state of the Western Port environment and investigate what 50 years of development, including urban encroachment, have done. This will be of prime importance as development continues and Melbourne moves towards the project 2050 population of around 8 million residents. There is an obligation to protect the Ramsar site and up-to-date knowledge of its attributes and functions is a precondition for this to occur.

**Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?:**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment. As stated in the submission, the Western Port Biosphere Reserve Foundation has a deep and abiding interest in the Ramsar site and the attributes that have led to its listing. The attached brochure shows just one project we are doing to protect it. The establishment of the evidence base to describe 50 years of change is the next step in the wise management of Western Port and the Biosphere is particularly keen to see this occur.

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**Signature:**  
Greg Hunt