

## Seminar

# Valuing a natural Westernport Bay

What's Westernport Bay really worth? The economics of ecosystems

**A massive new port at Hastings is promoted as good for the economy, but that's not the full story. The port is also a threat to the environment and recreation – oil spills, dredging, land clearing and thousands of more ships a year could take a heavy toll on Westernport Bay.**

Westernport provides an incredible range of ecosystem services including treating pollutants and providing plentiful fish stocks for fishers. It's also a beautiful place for people seeking respite from busy working lives. But what is this really worth in dollar terms?

This interesting and informative seminar will explore the 'natural' value of Westernport Bay and why it is worth more to the community than just a shipping channel and port.

**Speakers include** Professor Robert Costanza, a world leading expert in ecological economics, as well as representatives from the Australian Conservation Foundation's New Economics Unit, the Victorian National Parks Association and Westernport & Peninsula Protection Council.

### Seminar details

**WHERE:** Somers Yacht Club – Parklands Ave, Somers (Google map reference <http://goo.gl/OncAUv>)

**WHEN:** Tuesday 4 March

**TIME:** Doors open 5.45pm, 6.15pm start, finishes 7.45pm

**RSVP:** Booking is essential and can be done through our website at [www.seminar.vnpa.org.au](http://www.seminar.vnpa.org.au). **Dinner is available (\$25 cash only)**, drinks at bar prices after the seminar, but you must book in advance when you RSVP. **The full agenda** is also available on our booking page.

### Professor Robert Costanza

Professor Robert Costanza is regarded as the founding father of the discipline of ecological economics. He is the author or co-author of more than 500 scientific papers and 20 books, and repeatedly appears on lists of the world's most influential researchers.

He holds a Chair in Public Policy at the ANU's Crawford School of Public Policy.



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Photo: Royal Spoonbill in breeding plumage by Frankzed-flickr

