Life Saving Victoria

LIFE SAVING FACILITY OF THE FUTURE

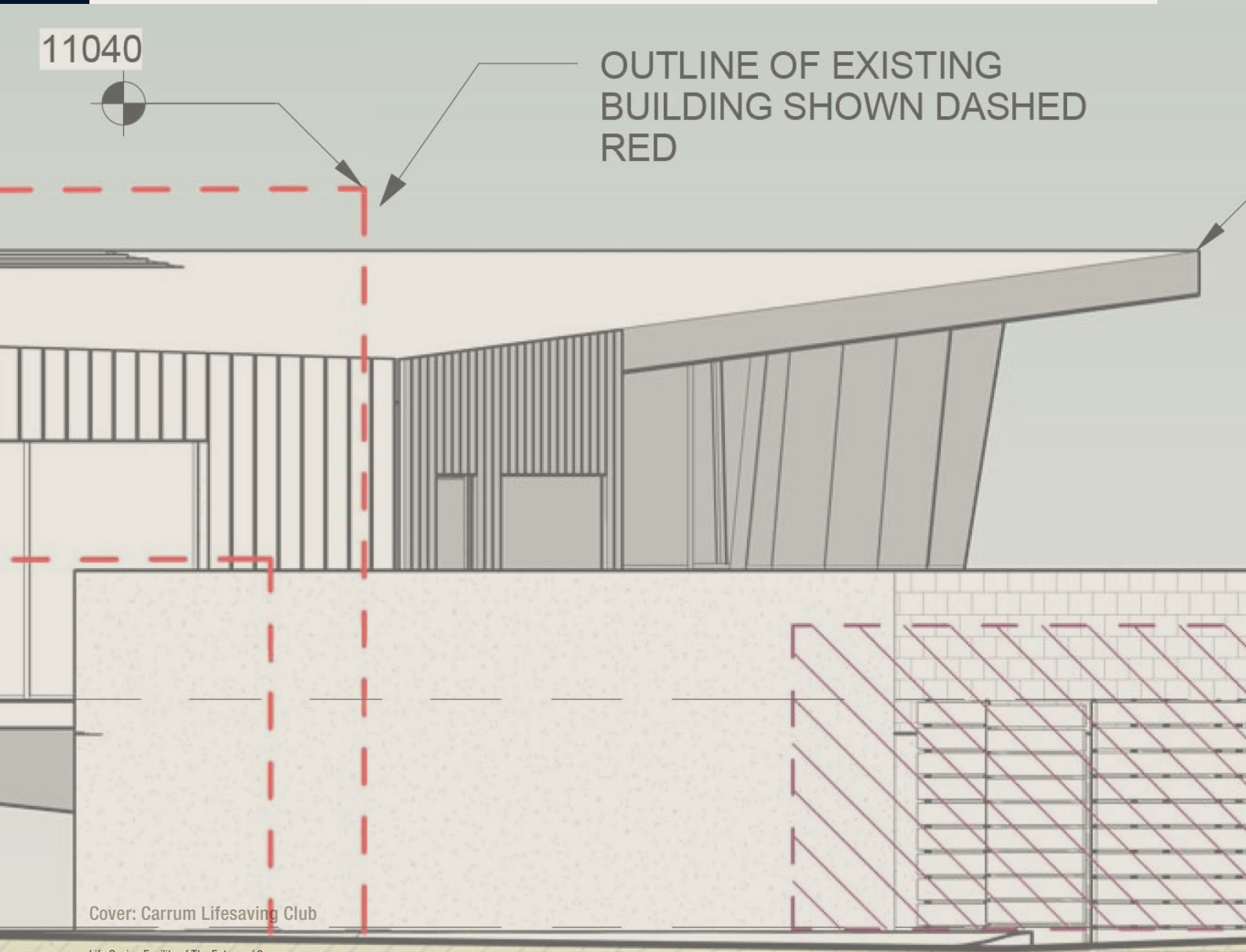
(A COMMUNITY ASSET)

DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES
MAY 2018

This is a guide only and site specific requirements will need to be addressed for each design and location

CONTENTS

Introduction	3
Lifesaving Facility of the Future	4
Key Principles	4
Other Considerations	4
Proof of Concept	4
Community Benefit	4
Lifesaving Operations Design Specifications:	6
Patrol and Observation Room(s)	6
First Aid Room	7
Member Change Rooms Inc. Showers and Toilets	8
Storage Areas – Minimum Equipment Requirements	8
Training Room	8
Training Equipment Storage Room	9
Secretaries Room	9
Kitchen	9
Accommodation (includes male & female)	9
Aquatic Sport/Recreational Equipment Storage	9
General	9
Bump Out Storage	10
External Requirements	10



Cover: Carrum Lifesaving Club

Since the early 1990's it has been apparent that a shared vision existed between the lifesaving movement, the community and the emergency management sector that centered around a lifesaving facility being much more than an appropriately located structure, housing the barest and most essential lifesaving equipment and related patrol support infrastructure.

Through considered planning and engagement with key stakeholders, and with the support of local government and coastal managers, improved lifesaving facility design and functionality will lead to the reduced risk of drowning, increased community engagement, greater inclusiveness and a facility that stands the test of time aesthetically, structurally and environmentally.

It is now commonly accepted that the number of extreme weather events will increase and Victoria will experience a rising number of hot summer days in the years to come. Therefore the lifesaving facility of the future must be constructed with this changing environment and increased requirement for lifesaving services in mind.

The coastal location of many lifesaving clubs and lifesaving's role as a key partner in community resilience and emergency management response provide scope for lifesaving facilities to play a key role during extreme emergency events such as fires and floods. Facility design should be considered in this context.

This document provides a guide to redevelopment and facility design, and needs to take into account the individual requirements of each location. Key elements to consider can include active patrolling membership, nipper participation rates, overall membership, community and government partnerships and shared use.

THE COASTAL LOCATION OF MANY LIFESAVING CLUBS AND LIFESAVING'S ROLE AS A KEY PARTNER IN COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT RESPONSE PROVIDE SCOPE FOR LIFESAVING FACILITIES TO PLAY A KEY ROLE DURING EXTREME EMERGENCY EVENTS SUCH AS FIRES AND FLOODS.

THE LIFESAVING FACILITY OF THE FUTURE SHOULD BE DEVELOPED ON THE BASIS OF EIGHT KEY PRINCIPLES:

1.

CAPACITY TO CATER FOR THE NEEDS OF A GROWING VOLUNTEER LIFESAVING MEMBERSHIP.

A membership committed to providing the optimum lifesaving service.
A membership wanting to participate in the all aspects of the lifesaving movement from active training through aquatic sports to recreational activities that drive social cohesion and volunteer engagement.

A facility that is able to meet the growing expectations of the community, increased need for lifesaving services and greater club membership requirements through increased engagement, inclusiveness and access.

2.

HAVE A SENSE OF AN OPEN, WELCOMING AND INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT.

This should include the introduction of kiosks and casual retail areas to allow for greater community gathering spaces. Training areas and social spaces utilized by members would be designed and fitted out to also cater for shared community use at times when these spaces are not being used by lifesavers.

Both of these aspects will assist clubs to drive cost recovery initiatives through fundraising for life saving purposes and engage with the broader community.

Facilities will also provide an environment that caters for a broad and diverse community demographic.

3.

THE FACILITY DESIGN WILL ASSIMILATE WITH ITS LOCAL COASTAL ENVIRONMENT AND LANDSCAPING WILL PROVIDE IMPROVED COMMUNITY AMENITY.

The design will ensure the facility is a local feature capable of standing up to the rigors associated with its location.

Materials used will be leading edge in terms of their sustainability and durability.

The design should be developed to aesthetically assimilate with the local environment.

Landscaping should provide improved amenity for community use and recreation.

4.

REDUCTION IN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS IS A PRIORITY.

From the use of water tanks and solar systems to recycling as appropriate, innovative and sustainable design need to be considered.

The facility design and subsequent operational function should ensure it minuses its environmental impact, while balancing the need to ensure the primacy of life.

5.

THE FACILITY WILL FACILITATE COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND SCHOOLS BASED PROGRAMS.

In the design features, the facility should include areas that enable education and school groups to utilise the benefits of the space and location to run programs for their students and candidates.

6.

COMMUNITY HUB.

The coastal location and proximity to open space and water allow lifesaving facilities to support emergency activities during extreme events such as fires and floods.

Design should consider the opportunity for lifesaving facilities to be utilised by emergency services and the community during every stage of an extreme event.

7.

FACILITY DESIGN PROVIDES A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE.

Life Saving Victoria is committed to the Safeguarding of Children and Young People (CYP) and acknowledges a safeguarding organisation doesn't just happen; it requires conscious action to protect children from harm.

Conscious action includes ensuring facility design, particularly in regards to change rooms and accommodation, allows for a separation of activity between the public and/or unsupervised visitors and CYP.

8.

LIFE SAVING VICTORIA'S STRATEGIC MISSION: TO PREVENT AQUATIC RELATED DEATH AND INJURY ACROSS VICTORIA.

The primacy of life, in an aquatic and emergency response context, is achieved through proactive patrols, response services, and education and promotion of water safety.

Facility design should enable the continuation and expansion of this concept, acknowledging the growing need for innovation and increased services as more members of community choose to live and recreate in and around waterways in the bay and coastal areas of Victoria.

IN ADDITION TO THE EIGHT KEY PRINCIPLES, LIFESAVING FACILITY DESIGN SHOULD AIM TO FACILITATE CONCEPTS TO ENSURE A SUSTAINABLE AND VIBRANT LIFESAVING CLUB AND ACTIVE AND ENGAGED MEMBERSHIP IN THE YEARS TO COME. THESE CONCEPTS INCLUDE:

- catering for the sister club relationships between coastal and bayside clubs
- strengthening the association between patrolling, active training and social cohesion activities of the organisation
- catering for broad community access when not in use as a primary location for emergency lifesaving services
- ensuring the facility has the capacity to provide scope for lifesaving clubs to generate funds to recover the costs of service delivery and lifesaving equipment turn over

CASE EXAMPLE: FAIRHAVEN SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

Fairhaven SLSC had a declining membership, and the volume of time spent patrolling and training was significantly reduced. The club found it extremely challenging to attract and retain members. This facility was redeveloped in 2013 using the fundamental design principles of the Lifesaving Facility of the Future.

The table below highlights the benefits achieved through good design and demonstrates the impact of the redeveloped facility on active volunteer membership, lifesaving volunteer training (denominated in competencies issued) and volunteer based lifesaving services (denominated in patrol hours) at Fairhaven.

	2009-10	2013-14	Variance
Volunteer membership	1,256	1,633	Increase of 377 active volunteers over 5 years (30% increase)
Volunteer lifesaving patrol hours	2,617	4,011	Increase of 1,393 patrol hours per year over 5 years (53% increase)
Volunteer training competencies issues	216	306	Increase of 90 volunteer competencies per year over 5 years (42% increase)

CASE EXAMPLE: CARRUM SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

FACILITY IN POOR CONDITION

In January 2010, the entire sidewall of the Carrum Surf Life Saving Club collapsed. A young girl walking along the footpath at the time was injured.

The facility was redeveloped, with construction of the new $1.57 million facility from August 2012 to August 2013.

Kingston City Council contributed $860,000 to the project, and $190,000 was raised by the club through cash donations and pledges. The State Government contributed $500,000 from the Life Saving Victoria Facility Development Fund and $20,000 from the Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program (VESEP).

Table 1 shows the impact the redeveloped lifesaving facility has had on active volunteer membership, lifesaving volunteer training (denominated in competencies issued) and volunteer based lifesaving services (denominated in patrol hours) at Carrum.

Table 1: Impact of Carrum redevelopment

	2010-11	2014-15	Variance
Volunteer membership	57	360	303 over 4 years (increase of 532% or 59% p.a.)
Volunteer lifesaving patrol hours	720	1,244	524 over 4 years (increase of 73% or 15% p.a.)
Volunteer training competencies issues	13	139	26 over 4 years (increase of 200% or 32% p.a.)

LIFESAVING FACILITIES HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO BE USED FOR COMMUNITY PURPOSES BEYOND LIFESAVING.

The benefits of sharing facilities include improved service delivery and efficiency, increased social connectedness and participation and better use of government asset investment. Lifesaving facilities that have been redeveloped have seen significant usage by local government and community groups, including for:

- Meetings for community groups including Scouts, Rotary, fitness groups, cultural groups and other special interest groups.
- Events run by local council and business groups.
- Birthdays, weddings and other celebrations.
- Training other emergency services personnel.
- Excursion program locations for primary and secondary schools.

The measurable community benefits include:

- Improve health and safety for volunteers and the public.
- Improve amenities at Victoria's beaches.
- Decrease the risk of drowning (fatal and non-fatal) by ensuring the retention and attraction of volunteers that are able to provide responsive and adequate service to the public on our beaches.
- Increase opportunity to use lifesaving facilities for other community purposes, thus increasing community presence and possible involvement in club activities.

LIFESAVING OPERATIONS DESIGN SPECIFICATIONS:

THE DESIGN OF A LIFESAVING FACILITY NEEDS TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION A RANGE OF FACTORS, INCLUDING:

- Primacy of life is a critical priority
- Proximity to the beach/area that needs to be patrolled
- Expanse of coast that club supervises
- Average and peak public attendances at the beach
- Proximity to populated areas
- Tourism recognition and commercial development options
- Ease of access and egress
- Member engagement
- Aquatic environmental conditions, including seasonal variations
- Display of honour boards, historical memorabilia etc.
- Design to enable mixed use opportunities for community, education and school groups
- Able to support the community during all stages of an extreme emergency
- Supports capacity to provide additional other services, including kiosks and retail spaces
- Environmental impact
- Access to parking
- Proximity to public transport, pedestrian and bicycle routes
- Use of materials
- Multicultural sensitivities

OBSERVATION ROOM

An elevated room from which the lifesavers have an unobstructed view of the area under their observation, not solely the area between the red and yellow flags.

The room should have the following attributes:

- Be able to house a minimum of two persons in a seated or standing position all day comfortably.
- Have very high visibility across the entire observation area taking into consideration beach characteristics such as dunes, groins, jetties and piers
- Have protective safety glass or similar to the front and to the sides
- Have shade to protect the lifesavers from the sun
- Be artificially cooled
- Entry point/s to the room need to be controlled so that only active members have access to the room
- Have a bench that can hold area plans, relevant logbooks, radio and computer equipment
- Have wall space on which area plans can be mounted
- Has lockable storage that can house two-way radio communication and public address equipment
- Have a mobile radio or land-line telephone access

PATROL ADMINISTRATION ROOM (GROUND FLOOR)

Preferable

- For administration on each patrol day
- Patrol rosters
- Boat logs
- Incident recording
- Pre and post patrol briefing and incident debriefing
- Patrol Uniform storage

FIRST AID ROOM

All lifesaving clubs should have a first aid room with the following characteristics:

- The size of the room provided should be of appropriate size and configuration for the expected usage of the beach.
- A small beach with regular visitation rates for hot days should provide a room with a medical examination couch/bed and sufficient room for a lifesaver to apply treatment to a casualty sitting or lying on the medical examination couch/bed.
- A medium sized beach with medium visitation rates on warm to hot days of 1000 or more should provide a dedicated first aid room which allows access by lifesavers carrying a stretcher.
- A large beach with large visitation rates on warm to hot days of 5000 or more should provide a
- dedicated first aid room with two medical examination couches and appropriate access for each.
- Where more than one medical examination couch is provided, sufficient space should be provided so that treatment of a casualty on one medical examination couch does not interfere with the treatment of a casualty on any other medical examination couch.
- Where multiple medical examination couches are provided they should be separated by a curtain, which will offer greater privacy.
- The room should be well lit and ventilated.
- First aid room temperature should be suitable in assisting with maintaining normal body temperature (18 – 22 degrees Celsius).
- The room should have a washbasin with hot and cold water.
- The room should have a telephone with a list of emergency numbers posted close by.
- The room should have a minimum of two electrical general-purpose outlets (GPO).
- The room should have lockable storage for special medication, items used for external wound treatment.
- The room should have a workbench for the preparation, or the cleaning and sterilisation, of items used in first aid treatment
- The room should have flooring that is washable and slip resistant. A drain may be provided to ease the cleaning of spills of materials or body fluids.
- The room should allow access by casualties requiring assistance including carers to enter and leave the room. This includes cases where casualties are carried into the room on a stretcher or in a wheelchair.
- The room should have direct and easy access to the beach
- The room must be at ground level with double door access on the outside wall of the building with direct access to an ambulance/ car bay.
- The room should be located close to a disability toilet.
- The room should have appropriate storage for first aid equipment include Deliberators, etc.

MEMBER CHANGE ROOMS (INC. SHOWERS AND TOILETS)

- Male and female
- Designed to ensure that it provides a clear and physical separation of activity from all other member and public access areas
- Members with a physical disability
- Space for lockers
- Bench seating
- Baby change facility
- Sanitary napkin disposal
- Female and Male shower bays
- Provide appropriate facilities for nipper change rooms
- The number and configuration of change rooms to be in accordance with Building Code of Australia
- Configuration, access and design ensures compliance with Child Safe standards

PUBLIC TOILET AND SHOWER FACILITIES

- Public toilets and change rooms can be an integrated part of the building with separate entry and access from the main building
- These facilities are to be funded and maintained by the local authority

STORAGE AREAS – MINIMUM EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

- Rescue boards
- Flag Stands
- Patrol Shelter
- Patrol Buoys and anchors
- Rescue tubes
- Inflatable Rescue Boat, motor and trailer
- Workbench
- Storage cupboards for spares
- Wall space for notices
- Four-wheel drive vehicle
- All-terrain vehicle
- Rescue Water Craft (Jetski)
- Secure fuel storage
- Two roller/tilt door access/egress to storage at least one of which has safe and direct access to and from the beach

TRAINING ROOM

- Lifesaving training and lectures
- Theory and practical CPR and First Aid training
- Use of audio visual equipment
- May be multi use for club meetings:
  - Committee
  - Lifesavers
  - "Friends of" Meetings
  - Community groups

BUMP OUT STORAGE

- Storage for tables and chairs
- Space to maneuver without obstruction
- Storage for spare uniforms and club clothing

TRAINING EQUIPMENT STORAGE ROOM

- Secure storage for training manikins and consumables
- Oxygen equipment
- Pocket masks
- Spine board

ADMINISTRATION ROOM

- Secure room for administrative and IT purposes

KITCHEN

- Sink
- Microwave and/or stove
- Cupboards
- Refrigerators
- Food preparation bench space
- Other appliances as required

ACCOMMODATION

This will not apply to all clubs, but rather those clubs that need to include bunk rooms in their lifesaving facilities. Case examples of the need include facilities in regional areas with members requiring accommodation during heavy patrol periods, or lifesaving clubs that conduct group training programs on aquatic safety.

Key considerations include:

- Flexible design that provides separation of accommodation for CYP
- Number of beds to be determined by the local club requirements and purpose of accommodation
- To accommodate separate male and female areas
- The accommodation to be fully accessible under building standards.

ACTIVE TRAINING EQUIPMENT STORAGE

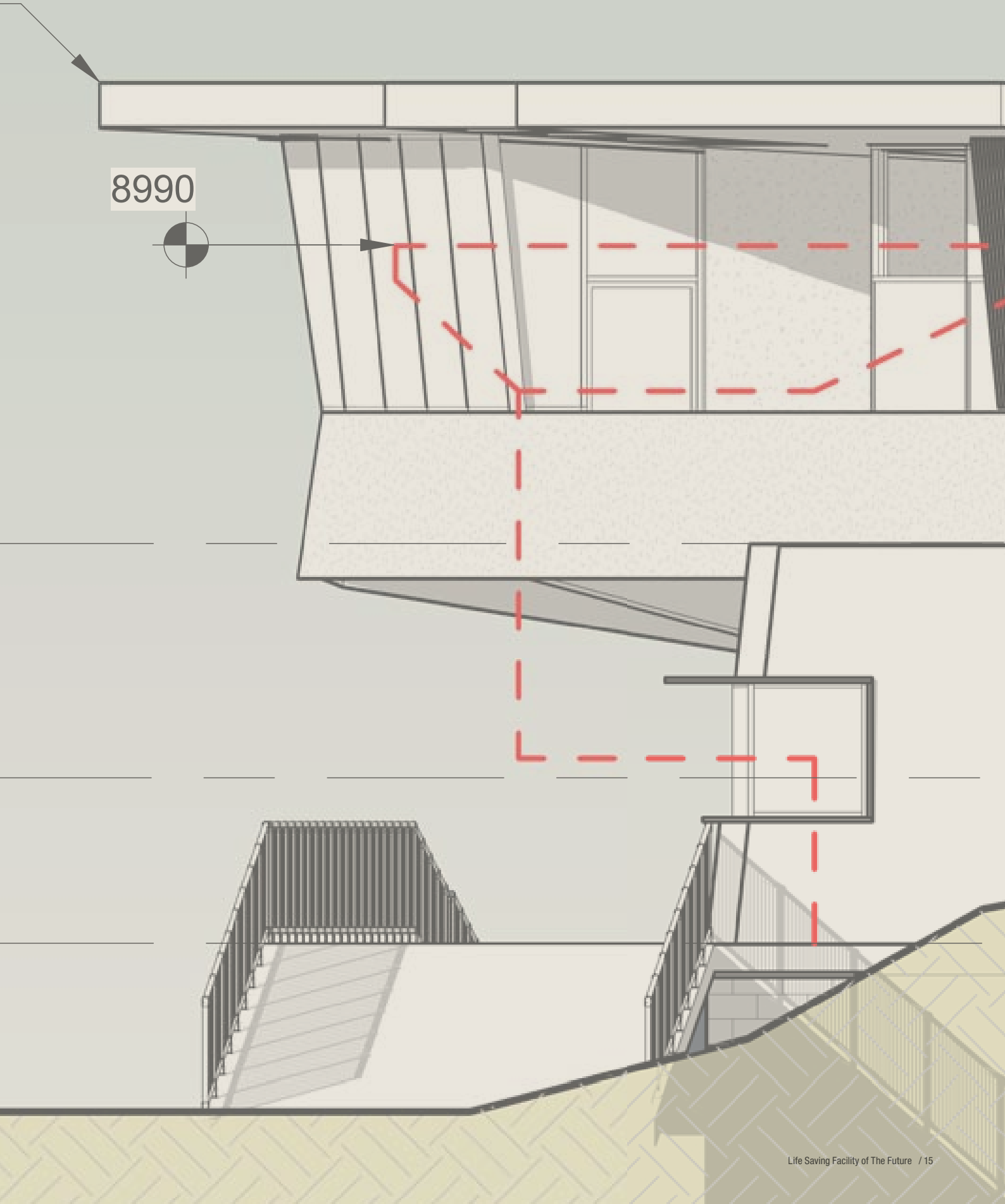
- Preferably a separate area suitable for boat, board and ski storage
- Access to washing down area with racks
- First aid kit – separate to the patrolling kit
- Whistles
- Water safety vests – for coaches and water safety
- Rescue tubes – separate to patrolling equipment
- Witches hats – for area demarcation
- Beach flags
- Lightweight buoy with a sand anchor
- Notice board/ blackboard
- Well-padded and accessible wall racking for craft away from hazards (IRB's, chemicals etc.)
- Foam nipper boards
- Racing Malibu boards
- Racing skis with paddles

GENERAL

- Hot water facilities
- Air heating and cooling in training and first aid rooms
- Disabled access to all levels and areas
- Physical separation of club operational areas from general public space for junior member protection and security of life saving equipment
- Area for patrolling members to take meal breaks

EXTERNAL REQUIREMENTS

- Driveway access to storage area
- Driveway access for first aid room
- Driveway access to beach for rescue boat launch and retrieval
- Wash down area (external) with running water, drainage
  – For boards
  – Outboard motors
  – ATV's
  – and other patrol equipment
- Clear and easy access to be provided around the facility plus to and from the beach to enable the safe movement of all-terrain vehicles and rescue equipment


8990

Life Saving Victoria

200 The Boulevard Port Melbourne VIC 3207
PO Box 353 South Melbourne DC VIC 3205

Tel (03) 9676 6900
Fax (03) 9681 8211
mail@lsv.com.au
www.lsv.com.au