

DECEMBER 2022

Board Communiqué

On behalf of the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority (the Authority) Board, I'm pleased to share our final Board Communiqué for 2022.

The December Board meeting marked two years of our existence as an organisation and it was a great opportunity to pause and reflect on everything we have achieved to date before deep diving into the work we are about to undertake to achieve our vision.

We exist to care for, protect and manage the coast and parks traversed by the Great Ocean Road so that they can be enjoyed by all, now and for generations to come.

Seeing our hard work over the past 24 months to deliver on that purpose captured in a highlights reel was incredibly humbling. 4,292 students have been through one of our education programs, our Conservation team has planted over 11,500 tube stock, we have had more than 1.5 million visitor nights across our eight caravan parks and generated over \$30 million in revenue to be reinvested back into our coast and parks. These numbers are just a tiny snapshot of some of our achievements to date.

Importantly, there is a tonne of impactful work ahead of us and we need to be strategic in how we prioritise our efforts and measure them as an organisation in order to stay true to our ambitious vision.

Our December Board meeting was an extensive one given the many moving pieces at the Authority and we placed great focus on governance, strategy, prioritising initiatives, measuring outcomes and executing on future land acquisitions.

DEECA

The Board welcomed news of the newly created Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) with a new Minister, Ingrid Stitt, replacing our prior Minister Lily D'Ambrosio and the Department of Environment, Water, Land and Planning (DELWP). We thank Minister D'Ambrosio for her support and stewardship of the Authority and look forward to working closely with Minister Stitt to continue to deliver on our Statement of Expectations and to transition to our end state as the lead management authority for the entire coastline as outlined in the *Great Ocean Road Action Plan*.

STRATEGIC PLAN

There is much to do as our organisation continues that transition towards becoming the lead management agency by the end of November 2025, which is why our Five Year Strategic Plan will provide important direction.

The Board received an update on the development of the Five Year Strategic Plan, including the evolution of the organisation's strategic themes that were first drafted at a February Board workshop.

As a group, we believe the key strategic focusses of the Authority are the environment, the visitor economy and commercial operations, and provided further direction as to how these pillars should feed into the next iteration of the Five Year Strategic Plan for consideration and deliberation by the Board in February 2023.

We look forward to finalising our Five Year Strategic Plan and sharing it more broadly with our stakeholders and communities to enable clear understanding of our priorities and vision for the future.



GREAT OCEAN ROAD
COAST & PARKS AUTHORITY



Continue the story.
www.greatoceanroadauthority.vic.gov.au

REGIONAL TRAILS STRATEGY

The Great Ocean Road region is home to some of the most incredible scenic trails that navigate our unique landscape, providing enormous health benefits and economic opportunities to the community.

The Board was pleased to hear that the Authority has commenced the development of a Regional Trails Management Strategy for the Great Ocean Road region, extending from Point Impossible in the east, through to Warrnambool City in the west.

The strategy, funded by DEECA, will provide an overarching guide for the consistent and coordinated planning, development, management and marketing of world class trail experiences that reflect the region's unique character, environmental and cultural importance and diverse offerings.

It is an extensive and impactful piece of work for our region that will continue to place us as a destination of choice and will deliver huge economic benefit through increased visitation and time spent in our communities along the Great Ocean Road.

The strategy is a collaboration between the Authority, DEECA, Traditional Owners Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation and Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, the local governments of Colac Otway, Corangamite, Moynes, Surf Coast and Warrnambool, Parks Victoria, the Department of Transport, Regional Development Victoria and Great Ocean Road Regional Tourism.

We look forward to viewing a draft strategy at the April Board meeting, with the delivery of the final strategy earmarked for August 2023.

POINT GREY REDEVELOPMENT

The Board endorsed the Authority's commitment to continue exploring options and opportunities to deliver the Point Grey redevelopment, with a request for further information and a recommendation to be presented to the Board at an appropriate time for decision.

The Point Grey Redevelopment journey has been long and has taken on many directions. As a Board, we believe it is a project that will create a unique experience for locals and visitors and present great economic benefit for the local economy.

The Point Grey precinct sits along the Great Ocean Road at the southern entry to Lorne and includes a number of facilities that are core elements of the community, such as the Lorne Pier, Lorne Aquatic and Angling Club (LAAC), Lorne Pier Seafood Restaurant, and the former Lorne Fishing Cooperative.

The proposed improved facilities would include a new Lorne Aquatic and Angling Club, hospitality offerings, improved connectivity between the water's edge and the public space, recognition of cultural heritage and upgraded walking paths along the foreshore connecting the site with Lorne township.

In June 2022, we endorsed the development of a new master plan for Point Grey to address VCAT and *Marine and Coastal Act 2018* and Policy implications and endorsed continuing to explore options and opportunities to deliver the project, noting that the final options will be presented to the Board at an appropriate time for decision. This is a position we continue to support.

OTHER MATTERS

The December Board meeting also addressed leasing procedures, contract variations for the Queens Park amenities project, pool safety in our parks, our risk management framework, and the Board adopted updates and renewals of ten policies among other business.

REIMAGINING CONSERVATION CONFERENCE

Finally, the Board reflected on the Authority's presence at the Reimagining Conservation Conference, a first Nations-led forum focussing on the policies and practices of land and sea management across Australia.

The three-day forum in November was a valuable opportunity to further build relationships with thought-leaders in this space, engaging with different philosophies, and challenge how we integrate western science and traditional science in the way we manage our land and sea.

It was noted that our CEO Jodie Sizer presented the Authority with great integrity and facilitated an informative discussion around the importance of weaving the different knowledge systems.

We are committed to continuing to learn on our journey as a young organisation and being part of these conversations is important, enlightening and inspiring.

Sincerely,



Libby Mears

Board Chair, Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority.

