

JUNE 2022

# Board Communiqué

## As Chair of the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority (the Authority) Board, I'm pleased to share our June 2022 Board Communiqué.

Our skills-appointed Board members have strong links to local community groups and organisations along the Great Ocean Road and include individuals with substantial experience in marine and coastal environmental conservation, public administration and governance, tourism and planning.

In governing the work of the Authority, we ensure that all decisions are informed by environmental, cultural, social and economic benefits; intergenerational equity impacts; and meaningful engagement and collaboration with Traditional Owners, communities, business and other partners.

Our latest Board meeting was held on Tuesday 16 June 2022 at the Authority's head office in Torquay on Wadawurrung land. The Board and I have enjoyed these opportunities to meet with the Authority's talented and growing team, as we continue to expand and deliver new functions.

In our June Board meetings we discussed a range of important strategic items, these are outlined below.

### BUDGET FINANCIAL YEAR 2022-23

The Board approved the Authority's Draft 2022-23 Budget.

The budget design is informed by the [Minister's Statement of Expectations](#), which outlines the Minister's directive that the Authority focus on key priority areas in the performance of its functions.

The Draft 2022-23 Budget has allocated resources and support to the Authority in these key priority areas:

- Building competency and awareness of cultural values and advancing practices that enable self-determination by partnering and engaging with Traditional Owners
- Developing a revised organisational structure aimed at building the capability and capacity to take on the broader range of public land types
- Establishing a plan which protects, conserves and enhances Crown land and marine waters in a way that is consistent with underlying legislation and for the benefit of future generations
- Executing strategy to establish and maintain formal structures for regular ongoing engagement with local and visitor communities
- Delivering an expanded capital works program of visitor infrastructure and improvements
- Increasing the ability to plan strategically and optimise investment across the Authority's assets
- Committing to focus on prioritising its resources to achieve a sustainable funding model.

### COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

The Board was pleased to endorse the Draft Community Infrastructure Plan (CIP) for the towns of Apollo Bay, Skenes Creek and Marengo for public exhibition. The Draft CIP was initiated in 2019 by the Colac Otway Shire Council, in partnership with the former Otway Coast Committee, now Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority.



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The Draft CIP will be available for public viewing and feedback for six weeks from mid-June 2022, including in-person engagement sessions. Opportunities to comment on the Draft CIP close on 22 July 2022.

Further details on the Draft CIP can be found in our April 2022 Board Communiqué, [here](#), and on the Colac Otway Shire Council website, [here](#).

## PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING

Parks Victoria briefed the Board on their experience and strategies in providing safe experiences for guests visiting their parks and facilities.

The Board is committed to delivering best practice in safe and enjoyable visitor experiences for all exploring the Great Ocean Road's iconic coast and parks.

The Authority will continue to work with Parks Victoria as a key partner and work collaboratively on public and staff safety in protected natural areas along the Great Ocean Road.

The Board also recommitted itself and the Authority to ensuring that occupational health and safety forms a key priority in all aspects of the work it carries out.

## CAPE OTWAY LIGHTSTATION PRECINCT

The Board received an update on the transfer of the Cape Otway Lightstation Precinct. The update included details on the acquisition of the current site assets, transition of staff into the Authority and utility upgrades that will occur in July 2022.

We were pleased that the Authority has been able to work positively with the current leaseholders, the Bowker family, throughout the transition. This constructive relationship is contributing to the smooth transfer process, with minimal disruptions to the Lightstation, staff and visitors.

The Board noted the work and passion of the Bowker family and their contributions in creating significant, long-lasting positive economic benefits for the local community. We thank the Bowker family for the care and dedication they have shown in preserving the site for more than 25 years and look forward to continuing this legacy.

## POINT GREY - LORNE REDEVELOPMENT

The Board discussed the Point Grey-Lorne Redevelopment Project in light of the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) determination in March 2022. More information on this can be found in our April 2022 Board Communiqué, [here](#).

The VCAT determination and the Victorian Government's recent endorsement of the Marine and Coastal Policy 2020 have provided an opportunity for the Authority to demonstrate its commitment to appropriate development along the Great Ocean Road and deliver best practice application of the Marine and Coast Act 2018 and its Policy.

The Authority is committed to continuing work with key partners and stakeholders, including Traditional Owners, state and local government and local community, to guide appropriate development at Point Grey. To ensure this occurs, the Board will develop key principles that underpin our aspirations of exemplar projects such as the Point Grey-Lorne Redevelopment and future investments within the context of the new Marine and Coastal Policy.

Sincerely,



**Libby Mears**

Board Chair, Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority.