



GREAT OCEAN ROAD COAST & PARKS AUTHORITY

WHAT'S CHANGING?

From 1 July 2026, the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority (GORCAPA) will take over issuing and managing Tour Operator Licences (TOLs) for the public land it manages along the Great Ocean Road.

This is part of a bigger, legislated change. The Victorian Government established GORCAPA under the *Great Ocean Road Environs Protection Act 2020 (GOREP Act)* to serve as the dedicated parks and public land manager for the Great Ocean Road region.

The GOREP Act lists specific coastal parks, reserves, and marine areas that GORCAPA must manage by 1 November 2025.

GORCAPA is also the lead agency for visitation management policy and planning along the Great Ocean Road.

Amendments to the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978* and *National Parks Act 1975* make GORCAPA the exclusive granter of Tour Operator Licences for:

- Crown land reserves and unreserved Crown land, even if GORCAPA isn't the land manager.
- Land under the *National Parks Act 1975*, once GORCAPA is appointed as the land manager.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU:

If you operate on GORCAPA-managed land, you'll get your licence from GORCAPA, not Parks Victoria.

Until 30 June 2026, Parks Victoria will keep administering these licences on GORCAPA's behalf.

From 1 July 2026, GORCAPA will issue its own licences and work directly with operators for the areas it manages.

WHEN WILL THE CHANGE HAPPEN?

The handover happens on 1 July 2026:

- From 1 July 2026, GORCAPA will begin issuing its licences for the areas it holds land manager responsibility.
- For land that will not transfer to GORCAPA, you can still apply for a TOL with Parks Victoria. For further information please visit: <https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/get-into-nature/licensed-tour-operators>

DO I NEED A SEPARATE LICENCE FOR EACH LAND MANAGER?

Yes. If your tour or activity takes place on land managed by both GORCAPA and Parks Victoria, you will need a licence from each.

You don't need a licence just to cross public land, only if your tour/activity uses that land, however you may need to obtain the relevant land managers permission. Operators are encouraged to contact the relevant land manager to discuss.

WHAT HAPPENS TO MY CURRENT LICENCE?

If you have a valid Parks Victoria licence covering areas that are transferring to GORCAPA from 1 July 2026:

- You will need to apply for a new licence for the areas managed by GORCAPA. You will need to pay an Annual Fee for this licence and the Use Fees as well.
- You will need to have your Parks Victoria licence amended from 1 July 2026.

WHAT HAPPENS FROM 1 JULY 2026?

From 1 July 2026, you will need a new licence for GORCAPA-managed areas.

In the lead up to 1 July 2026, GORCAPA will work with tour operators to prepare these new licences. If your current licence runs past July 2026:

- You will need to apply for a licence which covers the GORCAPA managed land
- GORCAPA will draft a new licence with the same terms and conditions
- You'll get a chance to review and sign the new licence in 2026
- You can also nominate new activities or locations at this point

WHAT IF I WANT TO CHANGE MY CURRENT LICENCE AFTER JULY 2026?

Contact the land manager where the activity happens:

- GORCAPA for land it manages
- Parks Victoria for land they manage

They'll talk through your options. They may:

- Vary your current licence, or
- Suggest issuing a new licence, depending on your changes

WHICH AREAS WILL GORCAPA MANAGE?

The following areas have moved (or are moving) from Parks Victoria to GORCAPA:

www.greatoceanroadauthority.vic.gov.au

- Port Campbell National Park
- Bay of Islands Coastal Park
- Southern end of Great Otway National Park
- Marine Parks:
 - Point Danger Marine Sanctuary
 - Point Addis Marine National Park
 - Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary
 - Marengo Reefs Marine Sanctuary
 - Twelve Apostles Marine National Park
 - The Arches Marine Sanctuary
 - Merri Marine Sanctuary

A detailed map of GORCAPA managed land is available here:

<https://www.greatoceanroadauthority.vic.gov.au/Land-We-Manage>

Parks Victoria will continue to manage:

- Central and northern parts of the Great Otway National Park
- Other National Parks across Victoria

More info: [Parks Victoria Licensed Tour Operators page](#)

HOW DO I REPORT MY QUARTERLY TRIP RETURN?

From 1 April 2026: Report all GORCAPA-area activities to GORCAPA, and all activities occurring on Parks Victoria managed areas to Parks Victoria.

LICENCE RENEWALS?

GORCAPA will contact current Operators undertaking activities along the Great Ocean Road whose licences will expire on 30 June 2026 regarding the process to renew.

HOW WILL FEES WORK?

You'll be charged based on where your activities take place (e.g. Use Fees).

If you operate in both Parks Victoria and GORCAPA managed areas, you must report for the land on which the activity took place.

You can choose to apply for a new licence at any time from either GORCAPA or Parks Victoria, depending on the public land usage.

Fees are listed here: <https://www.forestsandreserves.vic.gov.au/tour-operators>

From 1 July 2026, you will be required to pay an Annual Fee for each Tour Operator Licence you hold.

WILL I STILL USE PARKCONNECT FOR GORCAPA LICENCES?

No. ParkConnect will remain accessible for Parks Victoria licensing only.

If you're moving to GORCAPA, they'll email you with new details about how to manage your licence from 1 July 2026.

WILL THERE BE MORE INFORMATION?

Yes — GORCAPA will provide more help and updates:

- GORCAPA website: <https://www.greatoceanroadauthority.vic.gov.au>
- GORCAPA will visit different sites along the Great Ocean Road ahead of 1 July 2026, where staff will be available to answer questions in person and provide materials

WHO DO I CONTACT WITH QUESTIONS?

- For questions about Parks Victoria areas or other licensing matters prior to 1 July 2026, contact: ltolicensing@parks.vic.gov.au
- For questions about GORCAPA or licensing from 1 April 2026 onwards, contact: licenses@GreatOceanRoadAuthority.vic.gov.au