

Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority focused on delivering harbour upgrade



by [Alison Martin](#) September 15, 2023

The Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority says it's "hit the ground running" to deliver the Apollo Bay Harbour upgrade, in contrast to the concerns raised by Colac Otway Shire Council.

However, the authority only has just over \$10 million to deliver the project following the handover from the council.

Colac Otway councillors said at its August council meeting that they were unhappy with GORCAPA's lack of progress on the significant project, having no start date and raised concerns regarding dwindling funds, as reported in the Colac Herald this week.

The council agreed at its meeting to write to the authority to express concerns regarding progress on the project, which had been funded under the federal-state-local government Geelong City Deal, with an initial \$12.61 million announced in 2018.

However, GORCAPA infrastructure and planning director Cath Olive said the authority had made significant progress in just three months since it had taken over responsibility to deliver the project, with GORCAPA establishing a Project Working Group, including representatives from the Authority, Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions, Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, Department of Transport and Planning, and Colac Otway Shire Council in June.

“We took on the highly anticipated \$12.61 million Apollo Bay Harbour Redevelopment in June 2023 with a great deal of excitement, and contrary to a media story this week we’ve hit the ground running,” Ms Olive said.

“In the three months since formalising the funding agreement, we have appointed an independent local consultant to undertake a review of the existing Development Plan to ensure the desired outcomes of the Plan can be achieved in the current legislative and policy environment.

“We have purposefully provided ongoing public project updates through several council and reference group briefings, local media, community news and our website.

“We have received \$10.19 million to deliver four elements of the Plan; the extension of the Fisherman’s Cooperative building, the relocation of the port depot, construction of the waterfront promenade and improved cycling and transport connections,” she said.

“Make no mistake, we are firmly focused on delivering an outstanding precinct for all.”

The Herald understands that the \$10.19 million in funding remaining for the project is to deliver four elements of the Apollo Bay Harbour Development Plan: an extension of the Apollo Bay Fisherman’s Cooperative building to accommodate an approved commercial offering in line with Marine and Coastal Act and Policy requirements; relocation of the Port Operations Depot from its existing location to the Mother’s Beach carpark; construction of the Waterfront Promenade; and improved pedestrian and transport connections around the Apollo Bay Harbour Precinct.