

# Your Great Ocean Road

## PRESERVING OUR COAST FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS



**I am often asked what is the most important factor that guides everything we do here at the Authority.**

It's not a simple answer. Our commitment to delivering on our unique quadruple bottom line ensures we consider environment, Aboriginal inclusion, social and economic principles in the projects and opportunities we invest in and the decisions we make.

In another way, there is quite a simple answer: intergenerational equity. In other words, the decisions and actions we take now must improve the Great Ocean Road coast and parks for both current and future generations.

Collectively, all four principles of our quadruple bottom line are aimed at achieving intergenerational equity and are enshrined in the *Great Ocean Road and Environs Protection Act 2020*.

The challenge is that, in many scenarios, there is a natural tension between what is beneficial in the here and now and what's best for future generations. This becomes even more complex when you consider the impacts of climate change, such as sea level rise and coastal erosion, on the coast.

A relatively recent piece of legislation, the *Marine and Coastal Act 2018*, or MACA, which builds on the foundations of its predecessor, is the tool that ensures we and other coastal land managers across Victoria strike the balance of protecting and enhancing our coast for now and for the future.

MACA provides a simpler, more integrated and coordinated approach to planning and managing the complex marine and coastal environment. It does this by enabling the protection of the coastline and the ability to address the long-term challenges of climate change, population growth and ageing coastal structures.

You can see many examples along our coast of infrastructure, such as stairs and car parks, under threat from our dynamic environment, built decades ago when planners did not have the benefit of the information and data we now have at our disposal.

MACA is a safeguard. Just as a new car wouldn't make it onto the road without even the most basic safety features like seatbelts, projects on coastal land must seek MACA consent.

Preserving our coast for future generations isn't just about appropriate land use and development. It's about fostering environmental stewardship and a love for our coastal lifestyle among the next generation.

We see this happening in communities along the Great Ocean Road in a number of ways, whether it's the nippers from the many surf lifesaving clubs, students from across Victoria visiting school camps or landcare groups weeding and planting on our coastal environment.

A source of pride for us at the Authority is our Education team and the programs they deliver. All year long, the team educates the next generation of coastal protectors through hands-on conservation activities to equip students with knowledge and skills to look after our coast.

The team educates through four main programs – Environmental Education, Coast Guardians, caravan park and camper education and community education.

A few stats from 2022 that crossed my desk this week reminded me of how rewarding it is to see students embrace the opportunity to learn about the biodiversity, ancient knowledge systems and cultural heritage that make the Great Ocean Road such a special place.

After a couple of years impacted by COVID-19 restrictions, 2022 was a big year for our team, recording the highest ever number of Environmental Education classes and taught the most students since 2017.

Across both the Environment Education and Coast Guardian programs, the team taught 2746 students across 163 classes this year. This not only equates to an impressive 540 hours of conservation efforts, but marks the start of an environmental learning journey for our next generation of leaders.

In addition to local schools, we also took the opportunity to engage visiting students from across Victoria, with education classes delivered to 140 school camps across our caravan parks and camp grounds.

And just to prove the adage that you're never too old to learn, last year the team engaged with more than 1100 people through sessions at events including the ANGAIR Wildflower and Art Show, Surf Coast Kite Festival and Otways BioFest, among many others.

We look forward to continuing to work alongside students and community members throughout the year and beyond.

To watch a video of the amazing work our Education Team has completed this Summer, scan the QR code below using the camera on your mobile device.

**Jodie Sizer**  
CEO



To find out more about our Education team and programs visit [www.greatoceanroadauthority.vic.gov.au/Environmental-Education](http://www.greatoceanroadauthority.vic.gov.au/Environmental-Education)

For a more in-depth look at the *Marine and Coastal Act 2018*, head to [www.marineandcoasts.vic.gov.au/marine-and-coastal-act](http://www.marineandcoasts.vic.gov.au/marine-and-coastal-act)