

Position Description



GREAT OCEAN ROAD
COAST & PARKS AUTHORITY

Position title:	Senior Strategic Planner
Classification:	Level 7
Status:	Permanent, Full-Time
Location:	Torquay, Victoria.
Approved:	Director Land and Marine Management – June 2026

Purpose of the position

Working closely with the Strategic Planning Coordinator and Planning Manager, the Senior Strategic Planner leads and supports the delivery of high-quality, consistent planning across the Authority's day to day strategic planning program and trail related initiatives.

The role is responsible for preparing and implementing precinct, site-based and place-making plans; providing planning and development advice; coordinating organisational input into partner-agency projects; and leading the planning, design and development of new and existing trail networks across the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority estate.

The position plays a key role in ensuring that business-as-usual (BAU) planning activities and trail projects are integrated, compliant, strategically aligned and responsive to community, environmental and cultural values.

About the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority

The Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority (GORCAPA) is the dedicated Victorian Government entity entrusted with the care, protection and sustainable management of one of Australia's most breathtaking and culturally significant coastal regions. Established under the Great Ocean Road and Environs Protection Act 2020, GORCAPA was created to address the complex and fragmented management of the coastline and ensure the long-term conservation of this iconic landscape.

GORCAPA is responsible for managing more than 170,000 hectares of coastal reserves, National Parks, Marine Sanctuaries and foreshores stretching along 355 kilometres of stunning coastline. This includes

high-profile sites such as the Twelve Apostles Visitor Experience Precinct and Cape Otway Lightstation, as well as local ports, community reserves and critical marine environments.

At the heart of its work is a commitment to protect the unique environmental, cultural, heritage and community values of the region. GORCAPA partners deeply with Traditional Owners, local communities and stakeholders to integrate cultural knowledge, ensure environmental stewardship, support sustainable visitation and build lasting benefits for regional economies and generations to come.

About the Planning Team

The Planning Team works across our organisation and with key stakeholders including community, business and both state and local government to guide best practice coastal planning to safeguard the values of the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks for future generations.

The Planning Team provides high level leadership and support across the organisation in both strategic and statutory coastal planning. The team is responsible for the development, implementation and review of plans and strategies that guide the use and development of the Coast and Parks. The team ensures projects and works undertaken by the Authority comply with all relevant legislation, policy, and regulations.

Primary responsibilities

BAU Strategic Planning:

- Lead the preparation of precinct plans, site-based plans, minor masterplans, infrastructure and access planning products, and other BAU strategic planning outputs in accordance with legislation, guidelines and organisational priorities.
- Provide internal and external advice on land use, development proposals and infrastructure and access considerations to ensure alignment with strategic, policy and legislative frameworks.
- Coordinate organisational feedback on strategic plans and projects led by partner agencies, ensuring clear communication and well-informed Authority positions.
- Monitor, review and report on BAU strategic planning products, including internal progress reporting and contributions to external reporting obligations.
- Conduct research, prepare high quality briefs and reports, and provide professional advice on planning issues, risks and opportunities.
- Manage consultants, including developing project briefs, undertaking procurement, contract management and cyclic project reporting.

- Support public consultation and engagement activities relating to BAU and other planning projects as required.
- Maintain awareness of contemporary planning practice, legislation and policy relevant to coastal and public land management.

Trails Planning, Development & Coordination

- Lead the planning, design and development of new and existing trail networks on Authority-managed land, ensuring all work aligns with the Regional Trails Strategy and its strategic directions, priorities and implementation pathways.
- Create and manage systems for live data collection on trail utilisation and associated infrastructure to support evidence-based implementation of the Strategy.
- Represent the Authority at external meetings, forums and project groups relating to trail planning, ensuring the Regional Trails Strategy is consistently communicated and embedded across partner agencies.

General

- Plan, organise and manage own workload to meet agreed timeframes and project milestones.
- Ensure accurate and complete records of business activities are created and maintained in accordance with organisational policy.
- Perform other duties as required to support the Planning team.

Key selection criteria

Qualifications and Experience

- Tertiary qualification in environmental planning, urban planning, coastal planning and management, landscape architecture, recreation planning or a related discipline.
- Demonstrated experience in strategic or statutory planning, public land planning, trail planning or related fields.
- Experience preparing precinct plans, site-based plans, masterplans or similar planning products.
- Experience in project management, including procurement, consultant management and delivery of complex planning or infrastructure projects.
- Demonstrated experience in community engagement and working with State/Federal Government funding partners.
- Knowledge of relevant legislation and policy frameworks, including the *Marine and Coastal Act 2018* and the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

Knowledge and skills:

- Strong analytical and problem-solving skills, with the ability to analyse data, identify issues and develop practical solutions.
- Understanding and compliance with organisational policies, procedures and legislative requirements, including OHS obligations.
- Demonstrated ability to build and maintain positive relationships with a diverse range of rightsholders and stakeholders such as Traditional Owners, commercial operators, community groups, interest groups, local government and State government agencies.
- High-level interpersonal, communication and consultation skills.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team, often to tight deadlines, on projects of environmental, social, economic and cultural significance.
- Ability to foster collaboration, support capability development and contribute positively to team culture and outcomes.
- Sound knowledge of project management principles and practices, including stakeholder engagement and risk-based planning.

Terms and conditions of employment

Appointment to this position is subject to the successful applicant being able to:

- Provide a National Police Check Certificate
- Obtain a Working with Children Certificate
- Provide evidence of Australian Work Rights
- Hold a current Australian Driver's Licence.

Organisational relationships

Reports to: Strategic Planning Coordinator

Direct reports: Nil

Internal liaison: All Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority directorates.

External liaison: Traditional Owners, interest groups, community groups, responsible entities under the *Great Ocean Road and Environs Protection Act 2020* and consultants.