



JANUARY 2022

Board Communiqué

Welcome to the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority Board's Year 1 Communiqué.

Established on 1 December 2020, the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority (the Authority) manages, protects, rehabilitates and fosters resilience of the natural, cultural and heritage values of coastal Crown land and marine waters along the Great Ocean Road. The Authority is a statutory authority governed by a Board of Directors, with the current Board appointed by the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change in November 2020. The Authority operates under the *Great Ocean Road and Environs Protection Act 2020*.

The Board comprises 12 members, including a nominee of each recognised Traditional Owner group in the Great Ocean Road region, the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation and the Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation.

The Board is committed to best practice governance and values open and accountable communication with the Authority's stakeholders. Following each Board meeting, a Board Communiqué is issued to provide an overview of the current issues and challenges considered by the Board during each meeting.

The Board has worked on several key priorities during its first year of operation, including:

MANAGING THE IMPACTS OF COVID-19

Like all businesses in the region, the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions and lockdowns have impacted the commercial operations of the Authority, with the repeated closing and opening of its caravan parks and the imposition on visitors and employees. The Board has overseen the development of

swift responses to the sudden announcements of restrictions and lockdowns to ensure impacts on the organisation are minimised, and to explore ways to prepare for a future COVID-normal environment.

The Authority's commercial department has undertaken reviews of all procedures, worked closely with affected guests, and ensured all required COVIDSafe measures are in place, while showing great adaptability.

POINT GREY - LORNE REDEVELOPMENT

The Board has assumed the responsibility from the previous Great Ocean Road Coast Committee for the Point Grey – Lorne Redevelopment project in Lorne. The development is worth a combined \$10 million, with \$8 million being contributed from the Geelong City Deal, \$2 million from the Authority and a further \$450,000 from the Lorne Aquatic and Angling Club.

As part of the Board's commitment to engaging with the community, the Chair and CEO has met with key Lorne community leaders to discuss the development's progress and has committed to partnering with the community to establish a trusting and respectful relationship.

WYE RIVER COASTAL EROSION WORKS

Following storms in June 2021, the Wye River estuary suffered significant erosion. In partnership with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority, the Board has overseen the implementation of several short-term solutions to manage further erosion at this site.

The Board will continue to work with the local community and the Wye River Surf Life Saving Club to explore longer term options, including a hybrid approach of nature-based and non-nature-based solutions.



GREAT OCEAN ROAD
COAST & PARKS AUTHORITY



Continue the story.
www.greatoceanroadauthority.vic.gov.au

THE AUTHORITY'S INAUGURAL CEO

In July 2021, the Board welcomed the Authority's first Chief Executive Officer, Jodie Sizer.

Jodie has brought dynamic leadership, expertise in transformational change and critical skills in economic and regional development to the CEO role. She is taking a lead role in driving the Authority's exciting reform agenda to simplify the land management arrangements and deliver economic benefits balanced with environmental sustainability.

The Board wishes to publicly thank interim CEO, Daniel Aitken, for his work in amalgamating the former Committees during the transition to the Authority and continuing their important work.

WAYNE KAYLER-THOMSON'S LAST BOARD MEETING

Board member Wayne Kayler-Thomson has announced his retirement, attending his last Board meeting in September 2021. The Chair acknowledged Wayne's significant contribution to the Board and the broader Great Ocean Road region over many years and his commitment to strategic opportunities to enhance and evolve the regional visitor economy. The Board wishes Wayne and his family all the best with his next phase of life.

THE AUTHORITY'S FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

In November 2021, the Authority's first Annual Report was tabled in the Victorian Parliament. This is a major milestone for the Board and the Authority. The Annual Report provides a full overview of the first seven months of operations and achievements by the Authority and outlines its ongoing commitment to delivering better protection and management of the iconic coast and parks of Victoria's Great Ocean Road.

THE BOARD'S FUTURE FOCUS

Moving into its second year, the Board is looking to continue to engage with the wide range of stakeholders along the Great Ocean Road in a meaningful and productive way and further embed partnerships with Traditional Owners.

In December 2021, the Board held its first On Country gathering with the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners. This was an important event and milestone for the Board as it recognises the cultural values, knowledge and perspectives that are fundamental to building deep relationships in the

Authority's shared commitment to protect, enhance and manage the land and marine environment of the Great Ocean Road. The Board is looking forward to holding an On Country gathering with the Eastern Maar Traditional Owners in April 2022.



Members of the Board and CEO gather On Country with Wadawurrung woman Corrina Eccles in December 2021. Pictured L-R: Jenny McMahon, Terry Bracks AM, Daniel Ierodiaconou, Corrina Eccles, Jodie Leonard, Christine Wyatt, Douglas Humann AM, Jodie Sizer (CEO) and Libby Mears (Chair).

The Board will also be planning the expansion of its operations and services along the Great Ocean Road in line with the *Great Ocean Road and Environs Protection Amendment Bill 2021*.

The Board will be undertaking important work to develop the Authority's new Community Engagement Strategy and its 5 Year Strategic Business Plan, in addition to continuing the rollout of the Authority's new brand across numerous assets along the Great Ocean Road.

An important focus for the Board over the next 12 months will be the planning and delivery of a range of capital works projects to enhance the visitor experience along the Great Ocean Road, and to work with state and local government and other agencies to coordinate broader regional activities and projects.

The Board is committed to building strong relationships in the delivery of its work and with a shared commitment to the vision for one integrated model of governance and land and marine management for the entire Great Ocean Road region.