

## MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS (continued)

■ **Coach services and links.** Great Ocean Road passenger coach links between Apollo Bay, Port Campbell and Warrnambool have been improved and link with onward services to Ararat via the Grampians, enabling a 'Great Southern Touring Loop' by public transport connecting the Great Ocean Road, Grampians and Goldfields tourism regions.

■ **Rail stations** along the Geelong to Warrnambool train route have been upgraded, including car parking and building refurbishment of the stations at Warrnambool, Terang, Camperdown, Colac and Winchelsea. A new station platform at Deakin University Warrnambool Campus has also been constructed.

■ **Rail services** to Warrnambool have been improved with an additional train to the Sunday timetable.

■ **Access improvements.** Public transport access to the Great Ocean Road Region has been enhanced by the Regional Fast Rail upgrade of the rail connection between Melbourne and Geelong. New V/locity passenger trains have been introduced together with increased services, particularly on weekends.

### Prosperity: Encouraging sustainable tourism and resource use

The State Government has allocated \$7 million over four years to boost new employment, tourism and recreation opportunities in the Otways area and hinterland communities. The following major projects have been initiated to help disperse the economic benefits and environmental pressures, both geographically and seasonally.

■ **The 'Old Beechy Line' cycle and walking trail.** Tracing the former railway between Colac and Beech Forest, the trail was opened in October 2005 and will help stimulate eco-tourism opportunities in the Otways hinterland.

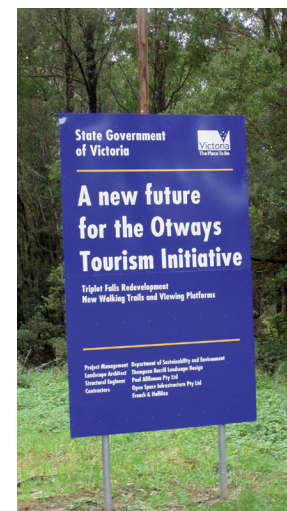
■ **The Great Ocean Walk.** A 91 kilometre coastline and forest walking trail between Marengo and Princetown opened in December 2005. The trail incorporates seven new campsites for hikers and walkers.

■ **Turtons Track.** The State Government has committed \$6.244 million for improvements to this road. Works over two years will include road sealing and surfacing and improved drainage to create an all-weather two wheel drive touring route.

■ State Government is working with Colac Otway Shire to undertake an economic development strategy and also to promote and support the **Forrest township** as a northern adventure tourism gateway, including establishing a mountain bike trail.

■ **Upgrading recreation and nature-based tourism facilities and services.** Works including new facilities at Lake Elizabeth, a new walking path at Triplet Falls, the sealing of Otway Light Station Road and improved tourist access to waterfalls and features near Beech Forest have been completed. Assistance is being provided by State Government to local adventure and eco-tourism operators and local tourism bodies to take up new opportunities in nature-based tourism and recreation.

■ Shipwreck Coast Tourism has achieved **certification** under the 'Green Globe 21' environmentally sustainable tourism benchmarking program which encourages tourism operators to apply more sustainable tourism practices.



### Departments and agencies involved with the Strategy

Department of Sustainability and Environment (convener)  
 City of Warrnambool  
 Colac Otway Shire  
 Corangamite Catchment Management Authority  
 Corangamite Shire  
 Department of Infrastructure  
 Department of Innovation, Industry & Regional Development  
 Framlingham Aboriginal Trust  
 Geelong Otway Tourism  
 Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority

Heritage Victoria  
 Moyne Shire  
 Parks Victoria  
 Shipwreck Coast Tourism  
 Surf Coast Shire  
 Tourism Victoria  
 VicRoads  
 Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative  
 Western Coastal Board

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## How are we travelling? on the Great Ocean Road

A report card on delivery of the Great Ocean Road Region Land Use and Transport Strategy