



2 May 2018

Ms Libby Sampson  
Great Ocean Road Taskforce Project Manger  
Department of Environment, Land, Water and  
Planning, Barwon South West  
Level 4, State Government Offices  
30-38 Lt Malop Street  
Geelong VIC 3220

Dear Libby,

### **SUBMISSION TO THE 'GOVERNANCE OF THE GREAT OCEAN ROAD ISSUES PAPER'**

#### **Introduction**

The Barwon Regional Partnership welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to be considered in response to the 'Governance of the Great Ocean Road Region Issues Paper'. The submission is responding with specific focus on the Management Model in section 4 of the paper.

#### **Recommendation**

The Barwon Partnership would like to submit the following recommendation to be considered:

The Barwon Regional Partnership supports the establishment of *a new body* to be the lead agency to to develop, coordinate delivery of, audit and report on the implementation of, a Strategic Framework Plan for the Great Ocean Road Region, Option 4 outlined in the 'Governance of the Great Ocean Road Region Issues Paper'.

#### **Context**

Regional Partnerships provide strategic advice on government policy, service delivery and budget priorities across social, economic and environmental domains. The Barwon Regional Partnership is one of nine Partnerships across the state, established by the Victorian Government, recognising that local communities are in the best position to understand the challenges and opportunities faced by their region.

Regional Partnerships are the mechanism for direct engagement between regional communities and the Victorian Government, primarily through annual regional assemblies and the Government's Rural and Regional Ministerial Committee chaired by the Minister for Regional Development (the Minister). The partnerships provide advice to the committee about local or regional issues and priorities that can be incorporated into government policies, programs, planning and budget processes and, in turn, receive advice on Victorian Government policy and budget priorities to feed back to regional communities and leadership groups.

#### **Barwon Regional Priorities**

In 2016 and 2017 Barwon Regional Assemblies were attended by approximately 500 people across the two events. Consultation was also undertaken via online community surveys, social media communications, workshops and focus groups with young people of the region, and meetings with representatives of key projects and programs addressing current regional priorities.

The priorities determined through this consultation process are presented to the Regional and Rural Sub-Committee (RRSC), led by the Minister for Regional Development. In November 2016, the following priority was submitted by the Barwon Regional Partnership to the RRSC:

*'Simplify the complex and duplicated management arrangements for the Great Ocean Road'*

#### **Response**

The Barwon Regional Partnership would like to submit a formal response to Question 8, with particular reference to the options for a lead agency.

The Partnership agrees that Option 4 contained in the Issues Paper, is the preferred response to the options for a lead agency. Specifically, that a fully funded and legislated body or authority be established, to develop, coordinate delivery of, audit and report on the implementation of a Strategic Framework Plan for the Great Ocean Road region.

#### **Conclusion**

The Barwon Regional Partnership thanks the Great Ocean Road Taskforce for the opportunity to make a submission to the 'Governance of the Great Ocean Road Issues Paper', and trusts the process will lead to an integrated and streamlined governance model for the Great Ocean Road region.

Should you require further information on this submission please contact the Barwon Regional Partnership on telephone [REDACTED] or email [REDACTED] to arrange time for a further discussion.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Chair, Barwon Regional Partnership