



4th May 2018

Great Ocean Road Taskforce Project Manager,
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Dear GOR Taskforce Manager,

Re: Governance of the Great Ocean Road Region Issues Paper

Life Saving Victoria (est. 2002) is an initiative of the Royal Life Saving Society Australia Victoria Branch (est. 1904) and Surf Life Saving Victoria (est. 1947). Life Saving Victoria is the peak water safety body in the state of Victoria residing in the Emergency Management Victoria (EMV) portfolio.

Life Saving Victoria's (LSV) mission is to prevent aquatic related death and injury in all Victorian communities and has the vision that all Victorians will learn water safety, swimming and resuscitation, and be provided with safe aquatic environments and venues.

LSV agrees with the issues paper in regard the need of reform to governance arrangements along the Great Ocean Road. The challenges are varied and the stakeholders abundant. It makes good sense that there once again be a single governance body.

The challenge of an increasing number of visitors is particularly pertinent to LSV as we work to deliver a modern lifesaving service that suits the needs of those recreating in, on or around the shoreline of the Great Ocean Road. Addressing water safety cannot be done in isolation as research tells us that the infrastructure, education and communication are necessary ingredients for providing safer aquatic locations. Location of parking, toilet blocks, supervision models and appropriate signage, all play a part in keeping visitors safe. It would be a missed opportunity to only look at landscape issues of roads and coastal (land) environment and not also address coastal water environment at the same time.

The issues paper commonly refers to landscapes with little reference to seascapes.

Impacts of climate change affects the ability of Surf Life Saving Clubs to be located where they adequately support "primacy of life" services. There needs to be a balance between the location of facilities to support safe aquatic usage with innovation of building practise and operational lifesaving services. Entering the water is an activity undertaken by large numbers of locals and visitors and their safety should be considered paramount. Entering the water is a key activity when visiting the Great Ocean Road

Surf Life Saving Clubs are a community volunteer service with a long and proud history on the Great Ocean Road. They currently contribute significantly to the fabric of the towns, adding to the visitor experience with social inclusion, sport and volunteer lifesaving operational services. Life Saving Victoria welcomes the opportunity to maintain an ongoing dialogue, with what we hope will be a new entity, that has foresight for the benefit of all Victorians.

Yours sincerely,


GM Government and Industry Relations

saving lives, preventing injuries, enjoying the water

A decorative graphic at the bottom right of the page consisting of several overlapping, wavy lines in shades of blue, yellow, and red, curving upwards and to the right.