



APRIL 2018

# Great South Coast Regional Partnership

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

### 1. WHO WE ARE

The Great South Coast Regional Partnership (GSC RP) 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.

Our region in south west Victoria extends from Shipwreck Coast to the South Australian border, and each year attracts thousands of visitors who come to enjoy its coastline and natural scenery. It is also home to internationally recognised areas of indigenous significance, and is underpinned by agricultural and fishing sectors. The Partnership ensures regional communities have a greater say in the development of their region.

### 2. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND REGIONAL PRIORITIES

At the heart of our role is engagement with our community and listening to the community's views on what matters to them most. In two years since the formation of the Great South Coast Regional Partnership, our community engagement activities included two large scale regional community gatherings. In 2016 and 2017 GSC Regional Assemblies were attended by close to 500 people in total, 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, and again in November 2017, the following priority was submitted to the RRSC:

*'The Government consider the merits of establishing a coordinated governance mechanism for the Great Ocean Road, to ensure a planned, integrated economically prosperous approach to this iconic destination.'*

### 3. GSC REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP'S RESPONSE

Great South Coast 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, to ensure a planned, integrated economically prosperous approach to this iconic destination.

The Great South Coast 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 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] to arrange time for a further discussion.