

VIC 3145

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

Dear Project Manager

Thank you for the opportunity to make comments.

If the objective is to effectively manage the Great Ocean Road, there needs to be a single body with a single focus on doing just that.

The current Great Ocean Road Coast Committee (GORCC) is currently ineffective in looking after the Great Ocean Road because it is charged with managing coastal crown land reserves. The name suggests that it might be assisting in management of the Great Ocean Road, but it appears to not have skills or resources for doing so. Instead GORCC keeps itself busy upsetting local communities along the Great Ocean Road, trying to make decisions on behalf of locals which it does not understand and which it has been ineffective in consulting (eg Lorne Pier Point Grey Pier Precinct). There is not much evidence of a high level skill set associated with the GORCC.

I suggest that GORCC be removed or re-named so that people do not get the idea that it is responsible for managing the Great Ocean Road. Instead it would be better to give responsibility for management to a new or existing organisation which has appropriate management skills and resources for what is a very large and complicated engineering project. It should also be considered that global warming is causing slow but significant sea level rise which will threaten several low lying sections of coastal road that are not currently protected adequately from future erosion and storm surge events.

As for current GORCC responsibilities and decision making, I think these would be better given to local communities, DELWP or Parks Victoria, with people who are local assisting in making decisions that local communities will have to live with.

Thank You



John Barker