

Community Update

September 2019

Great Ocean Road Management Reforms Underway

Work is well underway by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) on the first stage of implementing the Great Ocean Road Action Plan which was released October 2018.

The Victorian Government is committed to protecting the iconic coasts, parks and scenic landscapes and ensuring a great visitor experience along the Great Ocean Road for generations to come, with its own legislation, a dedicated coast and parks authority, a standalone planning framework and a better planning approval process. This is major reform.

Community Consultation Sessions

The Great Ocean Road Action Plan commits to developing an overarching Strategic Framework Plan for the Great Ocean Road region (Action #9). A key component of this will be to involve the community in developing long-term objectives and a shared vision for the future, ensuring that the distinctive landscapes and liveability of local communities is protected and provides a great visitor experience (Action #8).

Throughout May and June, 15 place-based community consultation sessions were held in 13 key locations for people to share their aspirations for the region. Participation by more than 300 people in person generated many valuable conversations around the attributes of the area, whilst also identifying locations which need greater protection or need improved infrastructure or facilities. The consultation was also replicated online via the Engage Victoria website, with a further 364 contributions made. 18 written submissions were also received. Thanks to everyone that had their say and participated in this process.



Community drop in session held at Torquay

A consultation draft of the vision statement and long-term objectives for the future of the Great Ocean Road region will be ready for public comment in early 2020.

The Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority

The Action Plan supports the need for a dedicated, place-based coasts and parks authority for this very special and important part of our State (Action #4). The Authority will be charged with the responsibility to ensure that environmental assets are protected, the liveability of communities is enhanced, and a great visitor experience is delivered for the enjoyment and benefit of future generations.

\$1.5 million was allocated in the 2019-20 Victorian Budget to establish the new Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority by the end of 2020. The organisational design, sustainable funding options and transition plan are currently being developed with the involvement of key stakeholders. The Surveyor General Victoria will also be undertaking survey work over the next year which will support the transfer of Crown land management responsibilities from 11 different organisations to the new Authority.

Drafting of legislation to recognise the national significance of this special part of our State and establish new regional based governance arrangements will be ready for consideration by Government in late 2019. This legislation will establish the new Authority and an overarching policy and planning framework for harmonising the work of the 20+ responsible entities. (Action # 1,2,3).

DELWP will hold community consultation sessions later in 2019 to provide an update on the establishment of the Authority and to consult on the Authority's governance arrangements, including helping to determine structures for the ongoing involvement of local communities. Information will be distributed once these sessions are organised.



Indicative timeline of Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority establishment

Standing Advisory Committee

A Standing Advisory Committee has been established for the Great Ocean Road region, primarily to provide consistent independent expert advice to the Minister for Planning (for Planning Scheme Amendments and Planning Permits called in by the Minister), and to responsible authorities on the appropriateness of land use and design of visitor economy development proposals (Action #11). If you would like to learn more about the Standing Advisory Committee, please visit: <https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/panels-and-committees/browse-panels-and-committees/projects/great-ocean-road-region-sac>.

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