

Community Update

December 2019

Great Ocean Road Management Reforms Underway

The *Great Ocean Road and Environs Protection Bill 2019* has been introduced into the Victorian Parliament. It will reform the management of the Great Ocean Road and its landscapes for future generations. The Bill's second reading speech was tabled, and it will be debated in Parliament in the first half of 2020. To learn more about the process on how laws are made visit:

<https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/about/how-a-law-is-made>.



The *Great Ocean Road and Environs Protection Bill 2019* provides for dedicated management arrangements to better protect the Road's environment and the jobs, businesses and liveability of communities that rely on it.

The Bill will give effect to reforms outlined in the Government's *Great Ocean Road Action Plan* by:

- Establishing the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority to deliver a more coordinated and sustainable approach to land and visitor management. Currently, 11 entities have responsibility along the length of the road with no clear overarching plan
- Strengthening and imbedding Traditional Owner knowledge and culture into the management of the landscapes traversed by the road and includes Traditional Owner language in the body of the Bill
- Recognising the scenic landscapes along the road as the one living and integrated entity for protection, with requirements to implement a landscape management approach and stricter planning controls
- Recognising the state significance of the Great Ocean Road and its landscapes.

This Bill is the first of two Bills that are required to give effect to those reforms to save this special area for future generations.

New Acting Director, Major Projects – Alana Macwhirter



Jason Borg, who previously headed up the Great Ocean Road Management Reforms team has left the project. Jason was a great leader and he will continue providing excellent public service in his new role as Regional Director, Western Victoria at Parks Victoria. Alana Macwhirter has now joined the team and will be acting in the role until March 2020 whilst recruitment is undertaken for the ongoing position. Alana has come to the project with a wealth of experience from the Places and Precincts area within the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

Community conversations

Throughout November, 10 community engagement sessions were undertaken along with an online survey encouraging a dialog around the ongoing community involvement and funding options for the new Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority.



Contributions were made by more than 150 people in person, with the sessions generating many great conversations on what and how people would like to be engaged when the new Authority comes into operation in late 2020. The consultation was also replicated online via the Engage Victoria website, with a further 123 contributions made. Six written submissions were also received. Thanks to everyone that had their say in this process, all data is currently being compiled and a report on what was heard will be released shortly.

Season's Greetings

The project team would like to thank each and every one of you for contributing to the work throughout 2019. We appreciate all of your feedback into the project and value the time, effort and thought that is put into each comment and contribution, all of which are taken on board and considered.

Have a safe and festive holiday season and we look forward to working with you all in 2020.



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