



AUGUST 2023

Board Communiqué

On behalf of the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority (the Authority) Board, I am pleased to share our August 2023 Communiqué to inform stakeholders about the work of the Board.

We held our Board Meeting in Torquay on Wadawurrung Country, which provided a wonderful opportunity to gather for our first meeting of the new financial year.

The Board used this time to further reiterate our commitment to evidence-based decision making in all the work we do. We are unapologetic in our consideration of cultural, social, environmental and financial information alongside community and stakeholder input in evidencing our decisions.

We believe this will enable our organisation to make decisions that step us closer to our vision of a Great Ocean Road region thriving as one, integrated living entity.

FIVE YEAR BUSINESS STRATEGY

The Authority is now halfway through its transformation from a committee of management into the dedicated manager of the Great Ocean Road coast and parks.

To support this transformation, we've commenced the development of our first Five Year Business Strategy, which will continue to transition our organisation from its formative years into a progressive, evidence-based coast and parks manager committed to doing the right thing, not the easy or popular thing.

The Strategy will drive our transformation and organisational performance from 2024 through to 2029, and ultimately step us closer to our vision of the Great Ocean Road region thriving as one integrated, living entity.

As a Board, we are committed to providing the strategic guidance and support that empowers our people to lead with purpose. The Board has played a leading role in guiding the development of Strategy which considers international best practice tailored to a local context and how our actions can help efforts toward improved outcomes for the environment and our communities now and into the future.

The Great Ocean Road and Environs Protection Act 2020, outlines the requirement for the Authority Board to prepare a Five Year Business Strategy for Minister approval.

Delivery of this key document will achieve a significant governance obligation, demonstrating organisational maturity and a focus on actions that drive immediate, and long-term leadership.



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CORPORATE PLAN 2023-24

The Reporting Obligations of our guiding legislation, the *Great Ocean Road and Environs Protection Act 2020* sets out that the Board must prepare an annual Corporate Plan for the approval of the Minister.

At the August meeting, the Board considered and endorsed the draft Annual Corporate Plan 2023-24 which sets out the organisation's work program and actions for the next financial year in line with our Five Year Business Strategy.

The 2024 Plan includes actions for completion in the financial year ending 30 June 2024, and other actions relating to progress on multi-year projects and initiatives. Each action contributes towards one of the five key Strategic Themes that will be captured in the Annual Report for publication.

Once Approved by the Minister's Office, the 2023-2024 Corporate Plan will be published on our website.

The Board looks forward to seeing the momentum and impact our actions will drive across this financial year and look forward to sharing this guiding document with you upon Ministerial approval.

INAUGURAL STATE OF THE GREAT OCEAN ROAD COAST AND PARKS ENVIRONMENT REPORT

In an exciting step forward, the Board considered and adopted the draft suite of environmental and social indicators to be considered by the Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability (the Commissioner) for incorporation into the inaugural State of the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Environment Report (SoE).

The *Great Ocean Road and Environs Protection Act 2020* established a statutory requirement for the Commissioner to report periodically on the environmental condition of the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks.

Using ecosystem health and social science indicators, the State of Environment Report (SoE) will report on the health of our region – our land, our water, our air, and our ecosystems.

The SoE will align with the Science for Sustainable Development Framework developed by the Commissioner in 2020. This framework demonstrates the Commissioner's ongoing commitment to developing an environmental reporting framework with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at its core, and therefore creates an internationally applicable and recognised mechanism.

The report's geographical boundary is the gazetted Great Ocean Road coast and parks region.

GEELONG CITY DEAL – GREAT OCEAN ROAD – PROJECT UPDATE

Board Directors noted the comprehensive Geelong City Deal project update regarding the Apollo Bay Harbour Redevelopment, Point Grey Redevelopment, and the Improvements to Tourism Infrastructure at Kennett River.

These projects, delivered in collaboration with the Australian Government and Victorian Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions, are vital to enhancing the liveability and functionality of these popular destinations for both local communities and the millions of visitors to the region each year.




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Our team has worked closely with key stakeholders to facilitate a smooth transition of the projects and is recruiting to strengthen our major projects, planning and engagement capacity and capability.

The Board and Management are actively engaging with the latest insights from best practice climate and coastal science, environmental data and the relevant planning and legislative frameworks, to inform decision making that underpin important considerations for all three projects but particularly at Point Grey given the current stage of the redevelopment.

We thank the community, Traditional Owners, our local councils and project stakeholders for the contributions made so far and look forward to continuing the collaboration.

The Great Ocean Road projects are being delivered as part of the \$500 million Geelong City Deal, a collaborative partnership to transform Geelong and the Great Ocean Road by the Australian Government and Victorian Government, and local council with the Authority and key partners.

I look forward to updating you further on our progress as we work towards our shared vision of a Great Ocean Road region thriving as one, integrated, living entity.

Sincerely,



Libby Mears

Board Chair, Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority.

END OF FINANCIAL YEAR – 30 JUNE 2023

Board Directors noted the Financial Summary Report for period ending the 30 June 2023 in preparation for the upcoming audit cycle to finalise the Audited Financial Statements, the Financial Management Compliance Report for FY2022-23 and enable the completion of the draft 2022-23 Annual Report.