



FEBRUARY 2024

Board Communiqué

Our Board is committed to best practice governance and values open and accountable communication with the Authority's stakeholders.

The Board met on 9 April 2024 in Torquay, on Wadawurrung Country.

BOARD DECISIONS

APPROVED: APPOINTMENT OF AN INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICE PROVIDER

Following a procurement process, and as recommended by the Finance, Audit & Risk Management Committee (FARMC), the Board approved the appointment of Pitcher Partners Consulting as the Authority's internal audit service provider, effective from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2027.

APPROVED: SMART COAST STRATEGY 2024-2029

The Board approved the final Smart Coast Strategy 2024-2029. A draft of the Strategy was approved by the Board in October 2023, with feedback incorporated into the final document. A smart coast refers to a coastal region where data, technology and innovation are integrated to enhance information sharing, decision making, sustainability and the wellbeing of communities and ecosystems. Our Strategy is the first in Australia to focus on developing a smart coastal region.

APPROVED: FINANCE SUMMARY REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 29 FEBRUARY 2024

STRATEGIC ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

The Board discussed the draft budget for FY 2024-25 and noted the financially constrained environment. The budget process commenced in January 2024, with Executives and Senior Management considering the current and future operating environment, aligned with relevant strategies. The final budget is due to be presented to the board at its June meeting.



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OTHER BUSINESS OF INTEREST

The board noted updates on the following items:

- Twelve Apostles Precinct Development
- Paid Visitor Parking
- Lorne Sea Baths
- Geelong City Deal projects (Apollo Bay Harbour Redevelopment, Point Grey Redevelopment and the Improvements to Tourism Infrastructure at Kennett River)
- Coastal and Marine Management Plan
- Sustainable Visitation Strategy; and
- Occupational Health and Safety report for January – February 2024.

BOARD COMMITTEES

FINANCE, AUDIT & RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (FARMC)

The Board noted the minutes from the 14 March FARMC meeting and approved the following updated Committee Charter and policies, as reviewed and recommended by the FARMC:

- a. Board Travel and Expense Policy
- b. Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy
- c. Borrowing Policy.

PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE (PPC)

The Board noted the minutes from the 22 February PPC meeting and approved the updated Committee Charter, the Board Integrity Framework (Consolidated Code of Conduct Policy) as reviewed and recommended by the PPC.

OTHER STRATEGIC ACTIVITIES

The Chair provided an overview of the Local Government Area (LGA) forum held on 15 March 2024. The primary objective of the forum was to bring together regional leaders to foster stronger relationships across the Great Ocean Road, to understand our shared strategic challenges and explore beneficial opportunities and partnerships. The next LGA forum will be held on 31 May.