



AUGUST 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 6 August 2024 in Torquay, on Wadawurrung Country.

APPROVED BOARD DECISIONS

INSTRUMENTS OF DELEGATION TO AUTHORITY STAFF FOR NEW POWERS ASSOCIATED WITH MANAGEMENT OF NATIONAL PARKS:

- Instrument of Delegation (National Parks Act)
- Instrument of Delegation (National Parks Regulations).

THE CHAIR TO SIGN THE FOLLOWING INSTRUMENTS OF DELEGATION TO PARKS VICTORIA ENABLING PARKS VICTORIA TO CONTINUE TO ISSUE AND MANAGE TOUR OPERATOR LICENCES UNDER VARIOUS ENACTMENTS:

- Instrument of Delegation to Parks Victoria (Crown Land (Reserves) Act)
- Instrument of Delegation to Parks Victoria (Forests Act)
- Instrument of Delegation to Parks Victoria (Land Act)
- Instrument of Delegation to Parks Victoria (National Parks Act)
- Instrument of Delegation to Parks Victoria (Wildlife Act)

ESTABLISHMENT OF A CHARITY TO BE NAMED THE GREAT OCEAN ROAD FOUNDATION TO BE OPERATED AS A SEPARATE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

The principal purpose of the Foundation will be to protect, enhance, conserve, rehabilitate and manage the natural environment of the Great Ocean Road Region for the benefit of the community including through the funding and provision of research, information, and education.

Once registered with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission, the Foundation will seek registration as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not for-profits Commission, and endorsement from the Australian Taxation Office as a Deductible Gift Recipient.

FINANCE SUMMARY REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30 JUNE 2024

The Board noted that management is working on several actions and a forward plan to improve the future budget position given the current fiscal constraints.



GREAT OCEAN ROAD
COAST & PARKS AUTHORITY



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STRATEGIC ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

DRAFT REGIONAL TRAILS STRATEGY 2024-2034

Trails within the Great Ocean Road region are managed by local and state government agencies and departments, each with their own planning, maintenance and marketing approaches. In recognition for the need for coordinated management, funding was provided to the Authority through the Visitor Experience Uplift grant to develop a Regional Trails Strategy for the Ocean Road region. Development of the draft Strategy has been supported by a complex governance structure involving rightsholders and stakeholders across the region. The purpose of the draft Strategy is to provide a framework to guide state and local government agencies in the development and investment of trails in the region. Community engagement will be undertaken to finalise the draft Strategy which is scheduled to occur in September 2024.

The Board acknowledged the challenges related to the proposed maintenance investment of the trails which the Authority will be responsible for as the ultimate asset owner. These would include staffing costs, and upkeep for the trail and infrastructure including a campground, suspension bridges and lookouts. Costs for ongoing maintenance are currently being estimated, noting that this is dependent on changes to project scope, and the methodology applied. Exploration to realise the trails as a driver for commercial opportunities with Traditional Owners along with broader economic benefits continues.

GEELONG CITY DEAL – GREAT OCEAN ROAD PROJECT UPDATE

Management provided an update on each of the Geelong City Deal projects (Apollo Bay Harbour Redevelopment, Point Grey Redevelopment and the Improvements to Tourism Infrastructure at Kennett River). Board Directors who are observers at each of the project Community Reference Groups provided their observations.

APOLLO BAY PORT TRANSFER

The Authority took over management of the Port of Apollo Bay on 1 July 2024. Management provided an update on activities that have occurred in the first month, including recruitment of a new Port Manager.

A number of key risks associated with this transfer have been identified and the Authority is working through proposed mitigations and quantifying potential additional investments required to address these risks to manage the asset.



OTHER AREAS OF INTEREST

The Board noted updates on the following items:

- Twelve Apostles Precinct Development
- Occupational Health and Safety report for May - June 2024.

BOARD COMMITTEES

FINANCE, AUDIT & RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (FARMC)

An additional FARMC meeting was held prior to the board meeting on 6 August 2024.

APPROVED: STRATEGIC INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2024-2028.

The newly appointed Internal Auditors Aster Advisory presented their Strategic Internal Audit Plan for 2024 -2028. The Plan includes an annual work program based on the Authority's governance, risks and controls, and includes audit of business processes or units likely to be vulnerable to fraud, corruption or other losses.

Recommended for approval by the Board the Instruments of Delegation to Authority staff for new powers associated with management of National Parks.

The Authority took over management of its first National Park on 1 August 2024. The Authority adopted an Instrument of Delegation for these new powers to ensure that Authority staff have a clear understanding of who is responsible for delivering the Authority's range of powers under National Park legislation. This was approved by the board at its subsequent meeting.

PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE (PPC)

There was no PPC meeting held in this reporting period.

OTHER STRATEGIC ACTIVITIES

The Chair provided an overview of the Bells Beach / Djarrak land management transfer event on country on 1 July 2024.