



Annual Report 2023-24



GREAT OCEAN ROAD
COAST & PARKS AUTHORITY

OFFICIAL

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We acknowledge and respect the separate and distinct Wadawurrung People and Eastern Maar as the Rights Holders of the Great Ocean Road's land, waters, seas and skies and acknowledge their cultural knowledge that has led to sustainable practices and has cared for Country over tens of thousands of years.

We honour Elders past and present and express gratitude for their sharing of wisdom that has ensured the continuation of Culture and Traditional practices.

We are committed to genuinely partner and meaningfully build relationships that reflect self-determination and enable us to work together with Rights Holders and Aboriginal communities to support the protection of Country, the maintenance of spiritual and cultural practices, and together deliver on their broader aspirations in the 21st century and beyond.

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About this Annual Report

The Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority (the Authority) Annual Report 2023-24 is a formal account of the Authority's financial and operational activities for the financial year.

The report highlights the Authority's adherence to its governance framework, including compliance with relevant laws, government policies, and obligations.

The report covers the Authority's performance in managing the coast and parks under its care and includes an independently audited Performance Statement and Financial Report.

Additionally, it details key initiatives, achievements, and activities guided by the Minister for Environment's Statement of Expectations, contributing to the ongoing management reforms outlined in the Great Ocean Road Action Plan.

Thriving as one living and integrated natural entity. That is our vision for the Great Ocean Road region. Our task is clear and ambitious: improve the protection and manage visitation of the Great Ocean Road environs by;

- embedding cultural competency and self-determination;
- protecting the marine, coast and parks environments;
- enabling engaged and active communities;
- creating sustainable and regenerative visitor experiences; and
- ensuring financial sustainability.

Accessibility Statement

Feedback or questions relating to the Annual Report are welcome. To receive this document in an alternative format, please contact Customer Service on:

Phone: **1300 736 533**

Email: **info@greatoceanroadauthority.vic.gov.au**

The Annual Report can also be viewed electronically on our website **www.greatoceanroadauthority.vic.gov.au**

RESPONSIBLE BODY DECLARATION

In accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1994*, I am pleased to present the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority's Annual Report for the year ending 30 June 2024.



Libby Mears

Chair Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority

27 November 2024

About the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority

WHO WE ARE

The Authority is a State Government entity established by the *Great Ocean Road and Environs Protection Act 2020 (GOREP Act)* as the dedicated land manager for the Great Ocean Road coast and parks.

We exist to protect, conserve, enhance and manage public land within the Great Ocean Road coast and parks so that they can be enjoyed by all, now and for generations to come.

We commenced operation on 1 December 2020 as the land manager for ~950 hectares of coastal reserves between Point Impossible and Marengo and are undergoing a significant scale up of our operations and functions.

We will have responsibility to protect and manage visitation of the coast

and parks along the full length of the Great Ocean Road, enabling a holistic approach to addressing the impacts of increasing visitation, environmental processes, severe weather events and climate change.

By 1 November 2025 we will be responsible for managing 170,000 hectares of parks and coastal reserves along the Great Ocean Road including 355 kilometres of coastline (from Point Impossible to the Hopkins River), several National Parks, coastal town foreshores, high visitation sites such as the Cape Otway Lightstation Tourism Precinct and the Twelve Apostles Visitor Experience Precinct, and marine land to the edge of Victorian waters.

We report to the Minister for the Environment to deliver on our priorities and functions as outlined in the *GOREP Act 2020* and the

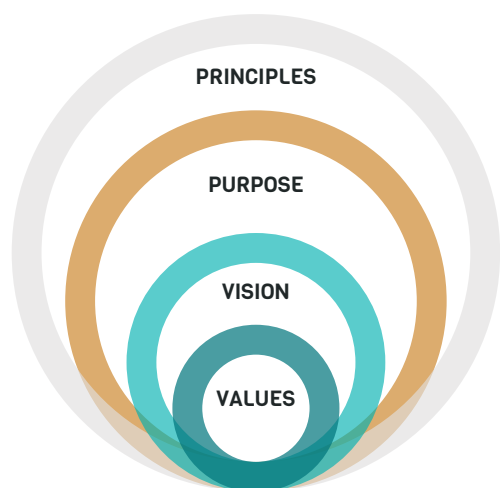
Statement of Expectations issued by the Minister on 28 February 2022. The Statement of Expectations sets out the priority areas for our performance and functions; cultural competency and self-determination, transformation and transition to our end state, Great Ocean Road coast and parks protection, community engagement, visitor experience and financial sustainability.

The Hon. Ingrid Stitt MP was the responsible Minister for the period from 1 July 2023 to 1 October 2023. The Hon. Steve Dimopoulos was the responsible Minister for the period from 2 October to 30 June 2024.

All revenue raised on the land we manage is reinvested back into the Great Ocean Road coast and parks so they can be enjoyed now and for generations to come.

OUR PURPOSE

We exist to protect, conserve, enhance and manage the coast and parks traversed by the Great Ocean Road so that they can be enjoyed by all, now and for generations to come.



OUR VALUES

COLLABORATION

We will work with experts and aligned individuals, groups and organisations to build our knowledge and deliver a positive impact



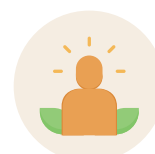
EVIDENCE

We will use evidence to inform our decision making



LEADERSHIP

We will have a strong voice on the issues that matter and demonstrate good practices



TRUST

We will build trust through transparency and honesty, both in our successes and our challenges



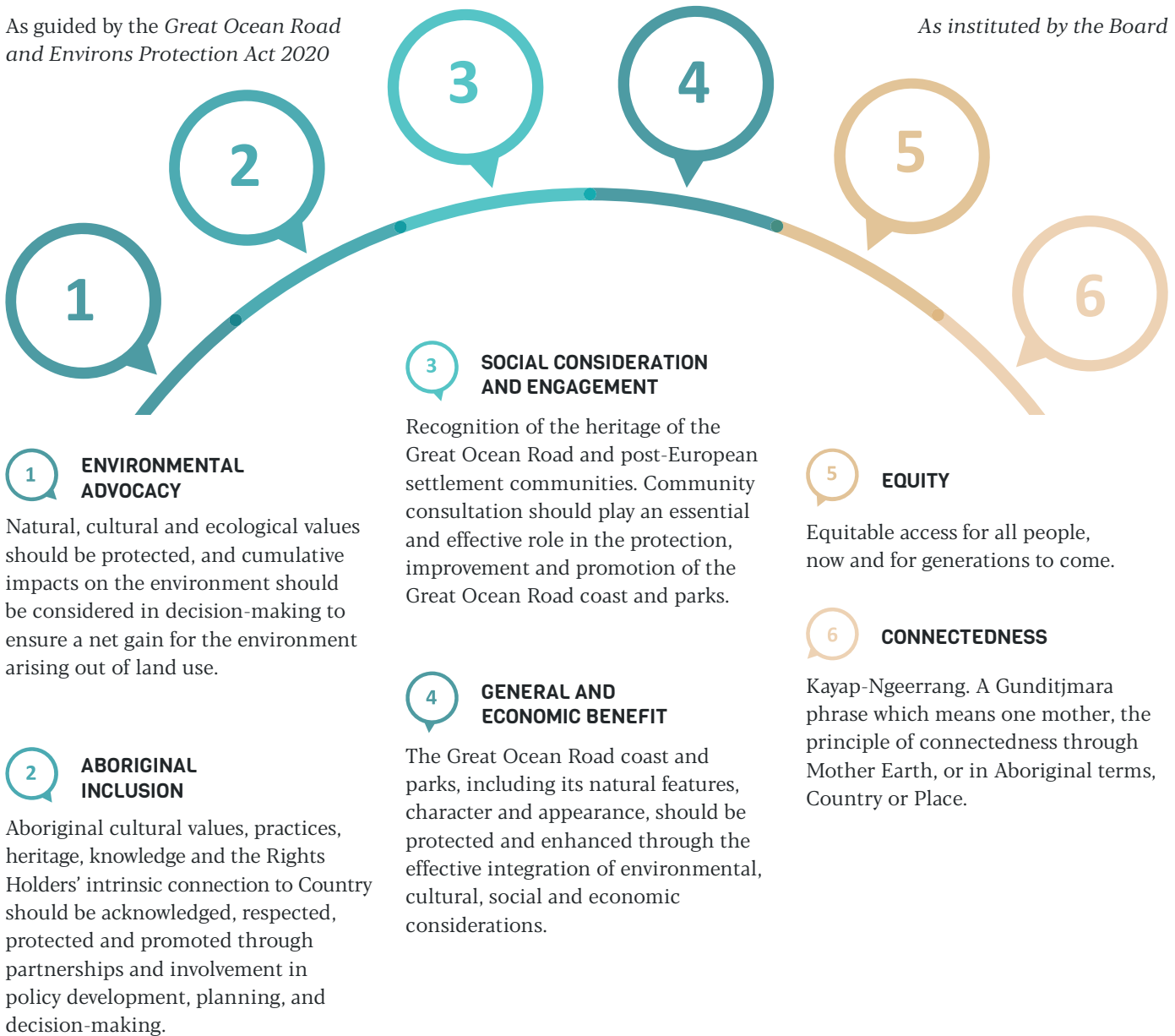
OUR PRINCIPLES

GREAT OCEAN ROAD COAST AND PARKS PROTECTION PRINCIPLES

As guided by the *Great Ocean Road and Environs Protection Act 2020*

GREAT OCEAN ROAD COAST AND PARKS PROTECTION PRINCIPLES

As instituted by the Board



CONTINUING THE STORY

The National Heritage-listed Great Ocean Road is one of the world's most scenic and iconic coastal touring routes, and Victoria's most significant tourism asset. The Great Ocean Road is an icon steeped in cultural values and history.

The coastal and forested landscapes along the Great Ocean Road are of high cultural, ecological and economic importance to the Wadawurrung and

Eastern Maar people who have known the lands and waters for thousands of years.

With 243 kilometres of limestone cliffs, rainforest, shipwreck history and world-class surf breaks, the Great Ocean Road connected isolated communities when it was constructed by returned servicemen between 1919 and 1932 to honour their fellow soldiers and sailors from World War I.

Our vision for the Great Ocean Road coast and parks is to thrive as one living and integrated natural entity.

Rights Holders

The Eastern Maar and Wadawurrung Peoples are the Rights Holders of the lands and waters of the Great Ocean Road coast and parks and have been for thousands of years. As its First Peoples, these groups hold a unique position, and we recognise there is much to learn from the Rights Holders. We work respectfully with both groups to ensure we engage on the terms that they choose, realising their rights (including self-determination) and respecting their cultures and knowledges.

We acknowledge the Eastern Maar and Wadawurrung Peoples as the Rights Holders of the lands and waters encompassed by the Great Ocean Road coast and parks. We acknowledge their ancestors who cared for the lands, rivers and sea, and all living creatures for thousands of years.

We pay our respects to their Elders past, present, and future who continue this path.

We're committed to building genuine partnerships with Rights Holders that embody self-determination, and are led by their expectations. The foundation of this relationship is our commitment to building cultural competence into all levels of our operations and ensuring cultural safety for all First Nations peoples and parties engaging with the Authority.

As stated in our guiding legislation the *Great Ocean Road and Environs Protection Act 2020* and embedded in our organisation's identity, we are committed to the following Aboriginal Inclusion principles:

- Aboriginal cultural values, practices, heritage and knowledge should be acknowledged, respected, protected and promoted
- The intrinsic connection of the Traditional Owners to Country should be acknowledged through partnership and involvement in policy development, planning and decision making for public land management
- Traditional Owners should be involved in the integration of their ecological knowledge and land management practices into the management of the Great Ocean Road coast and parks.

EASTERN MAAR ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation (EMAC) is the professional organisation that represents the Eastern Maar People of South West Victoria and manages their Native Title rights and Interests. EMAC has a board of directors of Traditional Owners and is a registered organisation under the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006*.

WADAWURRUNG TRADITIONAL OWNERS CORPORATION

Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (WTOAC) is the representative body for Wadawurrung Traditional Owners. The corporation works to support their aspirations and protect Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in accordance with the *Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*.

EASTERN MAAR

The following statement (in a Maar language and in English) is from the Eastern Maar—
'watnanda koong meerreeng, tyama-ngan malayeetoo'

Ngatanwarr

Ngeerang meerreeng-an
Peepay meerreeng-an
Kakayee meerreeng-an
Wartee meerreeng-an

Maara-wanoong, laka. Wanga-kee-ngeeye

Meereeng-ngeeye, pareeyt, nganpeeyan, weeyn, wooroot,
poondeeya-teeyt
Meerreeeng-ngeeye, nhakateeyt, woorroong, leehnan,
moorooop, keerray
Meerreeeng-ngeeye, thookay-ngeeye, pareeyt pareeyt ba
waran waran-ngeeye,
wangeeyarr ba wangeet – ngeeye, maar ba thanampool-
ngeeye, Ngalam Meen-ngeeye, moorooop-ngeeye

Meerreeeng-ngeeye Maar, Maar meerreeng

Wamba-wanoong yaapteeyt-oo, leerpeeneeyt-ngeeye,
kooweekoowee-ngeeye
nhakapooreepooree-ngeeye, keeyan-ngeeye
Wamba-wanoong nhoonpee yaapteeyt-oo,
tyama-takoort meerreeng

Peetyawan weeyn Meerreeng, nhaka Meerreeng, keeyan
Meerreeeng, nganto-pay ngootyoonayt meerreeng

Kooweeya-wanoong takoort meerreeng-ee ba watanoo
Meerreeeng-ngeeye, yana-thalap-ee ba wanga-kee Meerreeng
Laka

Ngeetoong keeyan-ngeen Meerreeng, Meerreeng keeyan
ngooteen

Together body and Country, we know long time
(We see all of you), greeting.

Mother my Country.
Father my Country.
Sister my Country.
Brother my Country.

We are the Maar speaking Peoples. Hear us.

Our Country is water, air, fire, trees, life.
Our Country is thought, language, heart,
soul, blood.

Our Country is our Children, our youth, our
Elders, our men and women, our Ancestors,
our spirit.

Our Country is Maar, Maar is Country.
We bring to the light our songs, our stories,
our vision, our love.

We bring these things to the light so All can
know Country.

To care for Country. To think about Country.
To love Country. To protect Country.

We invite all that choose to live on or visit
our Country to slow down. To tread softly
and listen to Country speak.

If you love Country, Country will love you.

WADAWURRUNG

The following statement (in the Wadawurrung language and in English) is from the Wadawurrung—

Comugeen budjo thalikiyu kin bil bengordi
ngadak. Ngarrwabil, boron, guli, bagurk.
Comugeen budjo bengadak ngarruk dja, ngubiyt,
weagoon gobata gupma wurring baap bengordi
nganak, djarrima murrupnhuk bengadak

Gobata Wadawurrung balug jumbuk dirdalbil
murrupnhuk bundjil monomeet beeko weagoon.
Mutjakak noogie wada durrallully.
Wangarrak Wadawurrung balug bengadak
mirriyu birraleedja gobata kia ying, ngarrimilli,
wahak, karrung, kuya, nyanayit yanunit,
djilenawurr, baap willam bengordi ngadak

Nyurrinana ngal bengordi ngadak

Willam wurdiwarri Wadawurrung Balug dja
bengordi ngadak, bullarto nerrigirr baap monomeeth
worrowing warree, gelanyi bulboluk

Koaka dorla, Godomut, Koornoo,
Jan Juc, Mangowak

Willamo weagoon monomeetwa yonbarra baap
wirraapiyn, buniya, tarka binyak ngal.
Wawagoon nerrigirro kit baap bullarto gurrin
kia wahak, karrung, yanikan werrity.
Corroborree bullarto waik ngitj balugwa
bengordi ngadak

Beek budj kanamo ngitj.
Mirr wurru ngarra dja bengadak.
Mirritonton dja Wadawurrung balug, gobata
beak yerraak murrup yanimirriyu ngarrwauk
bengordi ngadak

We deeply respect our people of the past. Elders,
children, men, women. We deeply respect their
knowledge of country, water, life, their care of the
traditions and of each other, we stand with their spirit.

Great spirit Bundjil told us to take care of the
great life within the land.

To only take what you need without selfishness.
Wadawurrung shared their knowledge of singing, dance,
trade, camps, fishing, hunting, paintings, and homes
with us to protect for our future generations.

We all need to help.

Our Wadawurrung family group lived within the great
sea, with a large land of forested areas and wonderful
banks of the ocean, near many water bodies.

Anglesea, Point Addis, Barwon Heads,
Jan Juc, Aireys Inlet.

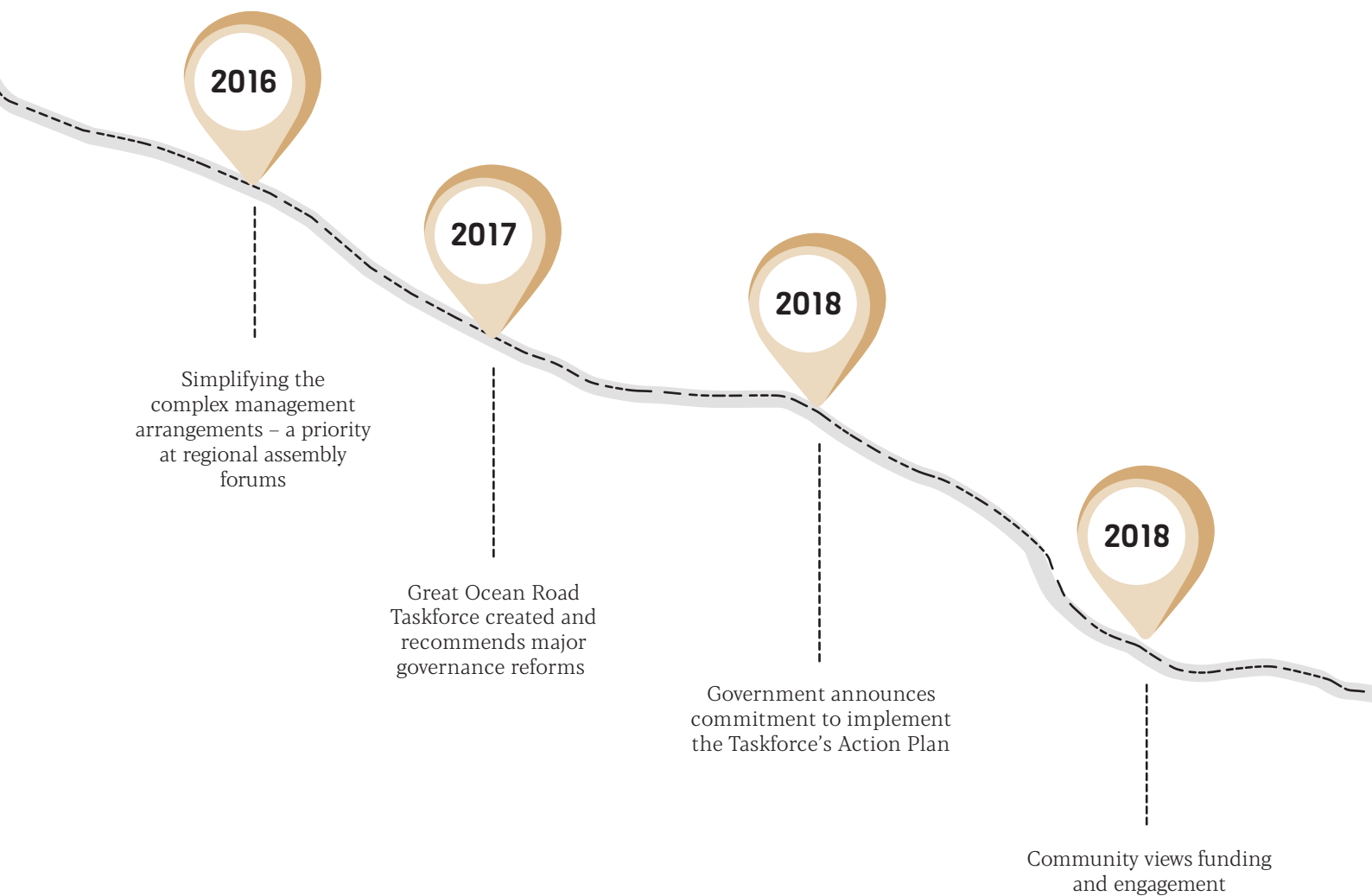
These homes all provide ideal life to birds and fish, eels.
Reeds turned into our baskets.

Life in the forest gave resources like food and lots of
tools to use for trade, building, journeys.

If there was lots to trade, we would share with our
families and celebrate.

We love this earth will all our feeling
We would name our country, by what we could see.
Our country is remembered by Wadawurrung, our
proud spirit walks to tomorrow to teach others the care
of our earth.

Authority Establishment Milestones



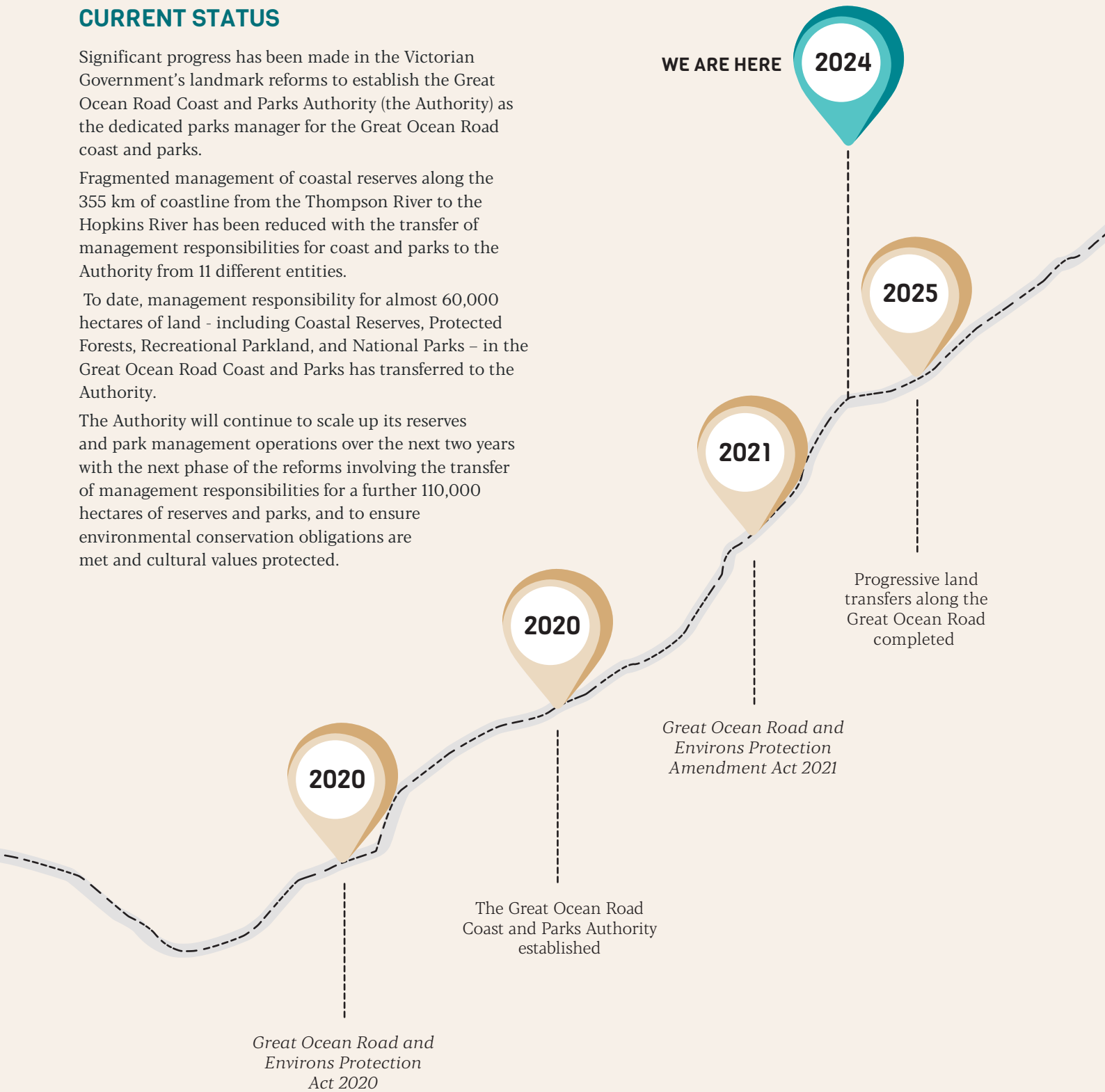
CURRENT STATUS

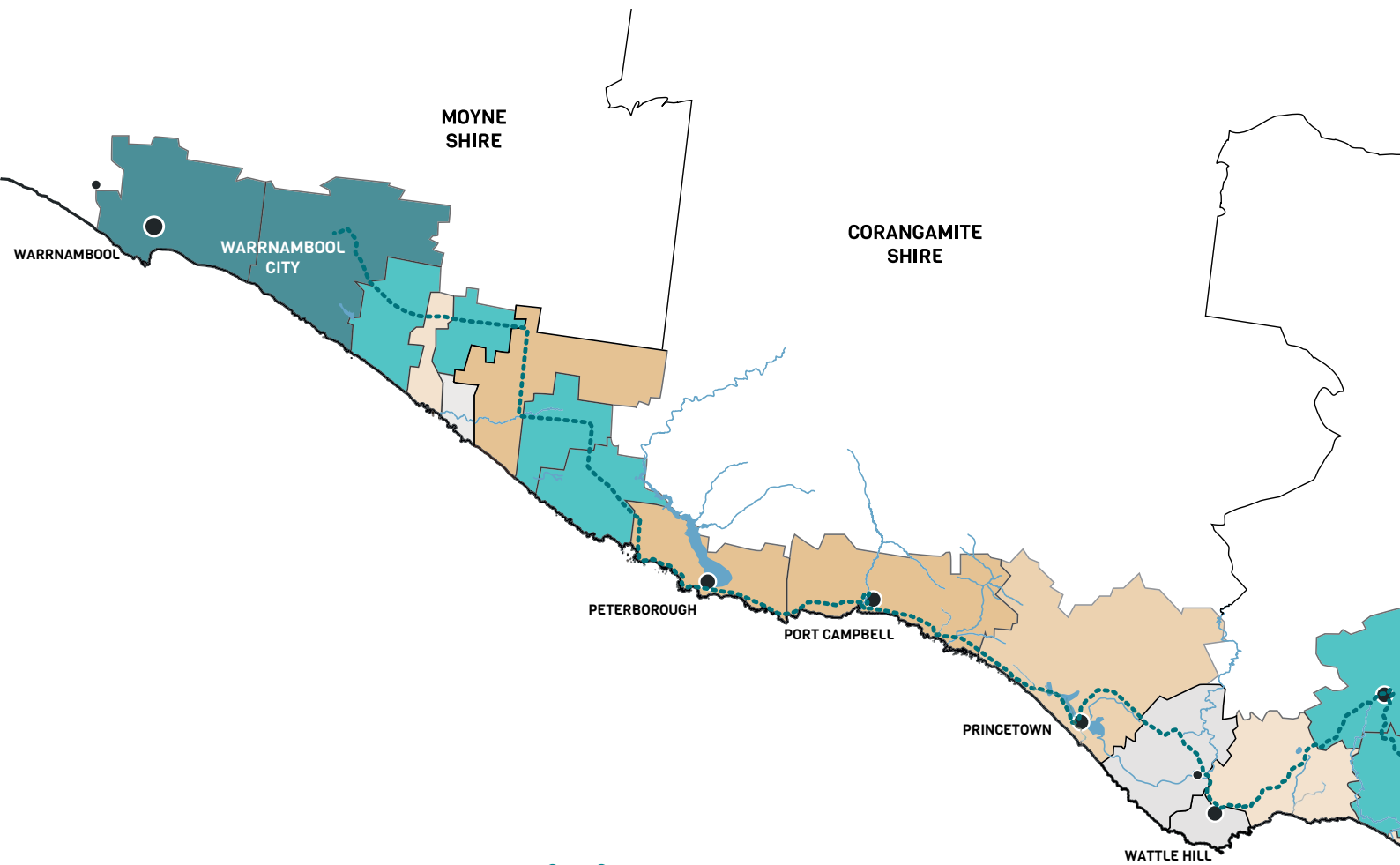
Significant progress has been made in the Victorian Government's landmark reforms to establish the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority (the Authority) as the dedicated parks manager for the Great Ocean Road coast and parks.

Fragmented management of coastal reserves along the 355 km of coastline from the Thompson River to the Hopkins River has been reduced with the transfer of management responsibilities for coast and parks to the Authority from 11 different entities.

To date, management responsibility for almost 60,000 hectares of land - including Coastal Reserves, Protected Forests, Recreational Parkland, and National Parks - in the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks has transferred to the Authority.

The Authority will continue to scale up its reserves and park management operations over the next two years with the next phase of the reforms involving the transfer of management responsibilities for a further 110,000 hectares of reserves and parks, and to ensure environmental conservation obligations are met and cultural values protected.





Our Communities

Protecting and enhancing the Great Ocean Road's coast and parks is a privilege and a shared responsibility.

As the Authority managing this iconic coastline and its parks for Victoria, we recognise the region's significance to millions of people, from the Eastern Maar and Wadawurrung People who have looked after this Country for thousands of years, to people living and working in our communities, and visitors traversing the road from across the world.

Each value the Great Ocean Road in their own way and the aspirations for the region are many and varied. To this end, we will continue to refine our understanding of the shared community vision for the important role that the Great Ocean Road coast and parks play in the region.

The broader region spans over 100,000 hectares and hosts over six million visitors a year. It is a breathtaking area that includes 21 discrete communities, from Torquay to Warrnambool. Approximately 24,000 people call the Great Ocean Road home, and many more return to holiday homes and favoured vacation spots to build treasured memories year after year.



We know that each community is unique and appreciate there will be diverse community needs and expectations now and into the future.

Community engagement continues to play an essential and effective role in protecting, improving, and promoting the Great Ocean Road coast and parks.

Chair's Foreword



I am delighted to present our 2023-24 Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority Annual Report, outlining a year of important progress and reform.

Continuing the story

This year has been instrumental in shaping the future direction of the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority. At the heart of our efforts is a clear vision of the Great Ocean Road coast and parks thriving as one living and integrated natural entity.

Scientific research tells us that Australia's coastline is changing. With rising seas and increasing coastal erosion, planning for the future of the Great Ocean Road requires us to have a clear eye on the future.

The coast is experiencing a post-pandemic revival, with visitors returning in numbers reminiscent of pre-pandemic times. The allure of this iconic region is undeniable, drawing people from far and wide.

Ensuring the conservation and protection of the region through simplified management of the Great Ocean Road coast and parks is our key focus. The transfer of land management to the Authority has simplified operations, uniting what was once overseen by 11 different entities. This streamlining ensures stronger conservation and protection of the Great Ocean Road coast and parks.

Strengthening local partnerships

We know our success lies in the strength of our relationships. The

Eastern Maar and Wadawurrung Peoples, the Traditional Owners of the lands and waters of the Great Ocean Road coast and parks for millennia, offer a unique perspective.

As the First Peoples of Country, their profound biocultural knowledge and insights are essential, encompassing not only ecological understanding but also the deep cultural, spiritual, and emotional connections to the land.

The protection and management of the iconic Great Ocean Road coast and parks will be assured through collaboration –with Traditional Owners, state and federal governments, local councils, external agencies, and, most importantly, all who live in and visit this extraordinary place.

Every year we continue to strengthen relationships with local communities and agencies as we progress the reform program. This requires us to understand the values of local communities and work with local government, community groups and volunteers to share the work of the Authority and the evidence that informs our work.

Celebrating our achievements

Reflecting on the past year, I am immensely proud of our achievements, particularly in advancing major infrastructure, including the Geelong City Deal projects in Apollo Bay, Kennett River, and Lorne.

We're moving forward with thoughtful and deliberate action on long-standing issues – decades in the making, tackling the challenges of climate change, improving the visitor experience, and enhancing community amenity – which are at the heart of why we exist.

Our commitment to enhancing the region is further underscored by the initiation of coastal adaptation planning in Mounts Bay, Anglesea, Torquay, Lorne, Kennett River and Apollo Bay.

Historic agreement signed

In December, we hosted Minister Dimopoulos, Parks Victoria Chair John Pandazopoulos, and CEO Matthew Jackson in Torquay for the signing of a historic agreement between the

Authority and Parks Victoria.

Under this agreement, the Authority will collaborate with Parks Victoria on conservation science and environmental work across the National Park lands for which the Authority assumes management responsibility.

Planning for the future

This year, we prioritised our corporate governance and strategic planning arrangements, in the form of our inaugural Five-Year Business Strategy and the 2024-25 Corporate Plan.

Through a sharpened focus on the Minister's Statement of Expectations and alignment with our Strategic Themes, these plans reflect our commitment to engage locally, leading innovative discussions and actions that realise our shared vision.

These documents chart our course forward, as we continue to transition our organisation from its formative years into a progressive, evidence-based coast and parks management authority. Our focus is clear – to bring these strategic plans to life and achieve significant, lasting change.

Looking forward

I would like to thank my Board colleagues for their commitment to progressing the Great Ocean Road reform program. The Board brings strategic clarity combined with diverse perspectives to our decisions and I appreciate the collective way in which this complex environment is navigated.

On behalf of the Board, I extend our sincere thanks to Jodie and our dedicated staff who continue to work hard in pursuit of advancing our vision.

I would also like to express our deep gratitude to Rights Holders and community members, whose collaboration has been essential in shaping our work.

As we celebrate the successes of 2023-24, our sights are firmly set on the future and delivering further important outcomes in the years ahead.

Libby Mears
Chair

CEO's Foreword



The 2023-24 financial year has been pivotal in the ongoing transformation of the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority.

Our transformation continues

This year we've made significant progress in building a resilient, fit-for-purpose organisation that is transforming how the Great Ocean Road coast and parks are managed into the future.

Organisationally, we have undergone a structural realignment to improve efficiency as we continue to explore new ways of working, while embedding innovative approaches to the holistic management, care, and protection of the coast and parks.

In doing so, we are responding to the needs identified by the Great Ocean Road Taskforce and voiced by our communities.

Having surpassed the halfway mark in our evolution, we have significantly expanded our responsibilities, assuming management of 89 new parcels from eight land managers, adding 2,131 hectares to our estate.

This growth is reflected in our performance, with 87.5% of our 2023-24 operational actions completed or on track, showcasing the expertise and efforts of our entire team.

Harnessing local knowledge and expertise

At the heart of our mission are the invaluable partnerships with the Eastern Maar and Wadawurrung Traditional Owners, the custodians of these lands and waters for millennia.

Our ongoing commitment to thoughtful and inclusive deliberation is powerful, and our community engagement processes continue to be shaped by all who participate in them.

Over 1,337 days of community engagement, we facilitated 90 in-person sessions and 36 online sessions, resulting in 2,789 survey responses. This enthusiastic participation highlights the strong local interest in shaping our decision-making processes.

Developing a sustainable financial position

A powerful part of our establishing legislation, the *Great Ocean Road and Environs Protection Act 2020*, is the commitment to reinvest back into our coast and parks, so they can be enjoyed by all now, and for generations to come.

In 2023-24, we strengthened our financial sustainability, with caravan park operations and the Cape Otway Lightstation contributing significantly to our revenue. These key assets generated \$22.72 million, representing 77% of our total income. Their performance highlights the importance of these sites in supporting our operations and long-term financial health.

Additionally, \$1.77 million was generated from leases, licenses, and permits across public land reserves, further diversifying our revenue streams. This strong financial performance ensures we can continue reinvesting in the preservation and enhancement of the iconic landscapes we manage.

Improving the visitor experience

This year marked a significant expansion in our Great Ocean Road parks, after being appointed land managers for Princetown Recreation Reserve and the Port Campbell Recreation Reserve.

With over six million visitors annually, and as the region's largest accommodation provider, we directly supported over 780,000 visitor nights, contributing significantly to local economies.

The Cape Otway Lightstation remained a popular attraction, welcoming 113,400 visitors, while more than 43,600 locals and tourists enjoyed over 110 events across the coast, generating over \$180,000 in event permit fees.

We continue to lead transformative projects like the Point Grey Redevelopment in Lorne, the Improvements to Tourism Infrastructure at Kennett River and the Apollo Bay Harbour Redevelopment – with each of these initiatives set to enhance the appeal and experience of these popular destinations. These major initiatives are gathering significant momentum, and I am excited to see each of them come to fruition.

End of an era

After thirteen years of impactful work, we have made the difficult decision to conclude our environmental education services, marking the end of a meaningful chapter in our history.

In its final year, the Education program delivered 169 classes to 3,696 students, who collectively contributed 799 hours to conservation. Our Summer Camper Activity and Coast Guardians Programs engaged over 2,000 participants, inspiring the next generation of environmental stewards. For this, and the respected legacy they leave behind, we thank them.

The next chapter awaits

I wish to take this opportunity to thank our Board for their counsel, strategic guidance and unwavering support, and the Executive Team for their leadership and drive, which have been pivotal in guiding our efforts we continue to transform.

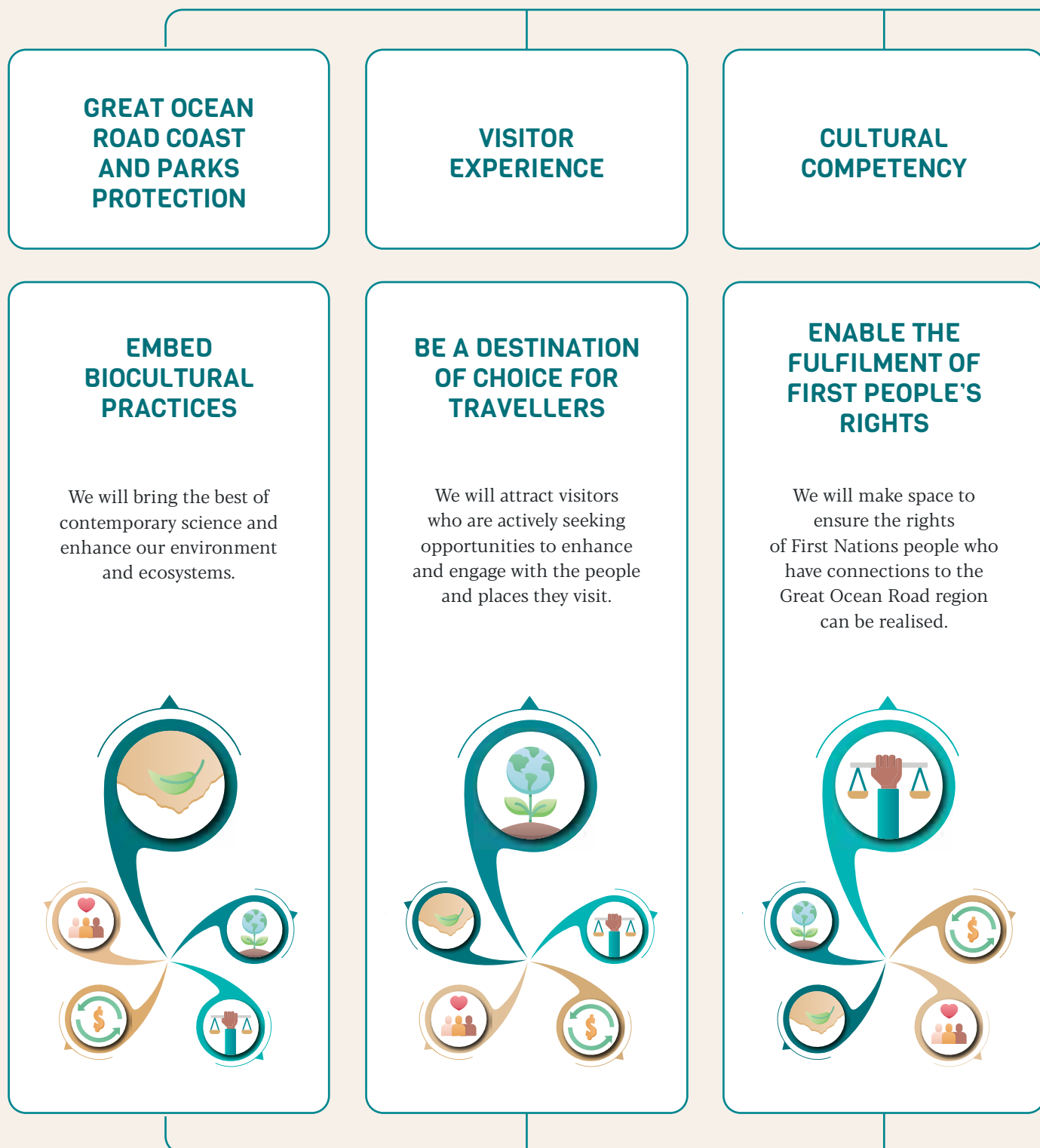
We are profoundly thankful to our Rights Holders, the community, local councils, and project partners for their immense contributions throughout the year.

I am truly fortunate to be leading an incredible team that pours heart, energy, and expertise into every aspect of our mission.

I look forward with excitement as the next chapter begins.

Jodie Sizer
CEO

Statement of Expectations



Our Strategic Themes

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

TRANSFORMATION TO 'END STATE'

REINVEST IN PLACES AND COMMUNITIES

We will generate revenue equitably to fund our operations and reinvestment in the Great Ocean Road coast and parks, and engage with local communities.



EMPOWER OUR PEOPLE

We will build a strong, united workforce that is committed to our vision and empowered to deliver on it.



Year in Review Snapshot

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

OVER

4,000 participants



attended environmental education sessions or events

DELIVERED

169 environmental education sessions to

3,696

SCHOOL STUDENTS

DELIVERED SPECIALISED CLASSES FOR



369 STUDENTS

through the Coast Guardians Program

STUDENTS CONTRIBUTED OVER

799hrs

of conservation work through our education program

OVER

1,730 visitors

took part in the Summer Camper Activity Program

CONSERVATION

5,167hrs

spent achieving actions outlined in our Coastal Vegetation Strategy

3,544hrs of woody weed removal

1,140hrs

of revegetation works



114 hours cleaning up illegal party sites

APPROXIMATELY

200 hectares



of the coast from Torquay to Marengo treated for weeds

VOLUNTEERS

CONSERVATION STAFF SPENT OVER

200hrs

guiding volunteer field activities

86 STAFF FROM RIP CURL volunteered

600hrs

of their time for Rip Curl's Planet Day

CARAVAN PARKS & COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS

MANAGED

ten

caravan parks

RECORDED OVER

780,000

visitor nights

GENERATED OVER

\$24 million

in caravan park revenue



WELCOMED

2 new parks

Princetown Recreation Reserve and Port Campbell Recreation Reserve



TICKETED

113,400 visitors

to tour the Cape Otway Lightstation

COASTAL RESERVES

MANAGED

68 BBQs

23 outdoor showers

11 playgrounds & 2 SKATE PARKS

75 car parks

85 STAIRCASES and an additional

60 BEACH ACCESS POINTS

268 bins



plus biodegradable dog bag dispensers

15km OVER



of the Surf Coast Walk plus other paths and trails in Torquay, Lorne and Apollo Bay

NEARLY

2,500 pedestrians per day on high use sections of the Surf Coast Walk

49 amenity blocks WITH APPROX.

13,000 toilet block cleans annually



SNAPSHOT

1 July 2023 –
30 June 2024

PLANNING

20 *Marine and Coastal Act 2018 consents*
SUBMITTED

17 *Marine and Coastal Act 2018 consents*
APPROVED

6 *Cultural Heritage Permits*
SUBMITTED

1 *Cultural Heritage Management Plan*
RECEIVED

60 *REQUESTS for Works Planning submissions*
RECEIVED

LAND MANAGEMENT TRANSFERS

ADDITIONAL
2,131 hectares
public land reserves

TRANSFERRED
89 *new public land reserves parcels*
from eight land managers

COMMUNICATIONS



68,027
New Website
VISITORS

3,092 
MEDIA MENTIONS

2,817
Facebook likes
(UP 60%)

155,096
Facebook visits
(UP 121%)

Facebook reach:
291,600
(UP 76.7%)



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

1,337
DAYS OF ENGAGEMENT
(UP FROM 424)

2,789
SURVEY RESPONSES
(UP FROM 813)

36 *Online sessions*
(UP FROM 24)

90 *In person sessions*
(UP FROM 43)

174
EMAIL SUBMISSIONS
(UP FROM 111)

23 PROJECTS ON
Have Your Say
& **25,295**
PROJECT PAGE VIEWS

WITH **994**
NEW FOLLOWERS

LEASES, LICENCES AND PERMITS

ISSUED & MANAGED:

45 *LEASES* 


18 *GENERAL LICENCES*

35 *TOUR OPERATOR LICENCES*

GENERATED
\$1.77 million
from lease fees

ISSUED PERMITS FOR MORE THAN

110
events

GENERATED
\$84,700
in revenue 
from licencing and permit fees

MORE THAN
43,600
participants in activities

Our Performance

As we advance through our transformation, the Authority stands more than halfway through its journey from a committee of management to the dedicated manager of the Great Ocean Road coast and parks.

Our progress is reflected in the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority’s 2023–24 Report of Operations, which outlines the strategic direction for the financial year in response to the priorities outlined in the Minister for Environment’s Statement of Expectations.

The following section sets out the six areas against which the Authority’s performance is measured, each encompassing several priorities with corresponding intended actions.

While some actions document the Authority’s legislative responsibilities, others are conditional on external funding and resourcing. All actions are carefully evaluated during our annual planning and budget process.

Across 2023–24, we successfully completed 24 actions and made significant progress on another 25 actions. However, 7 actions were not commenced. Among these, three actions (1.2, 3.2, 5.13) required specialist resources that were unavailable, one project was cancelled (3.4), and two projects were delayed due to external factors (5.14, 6.1). Overall, our performance demonstrates significant progress, with 87.5% of actions either completed or well on track.

CULTURAL COMPETENCY

We will ensure the rights of First Nations people who have connections to the Great Ocean Road region can be realised.

ACTION		PROGRESS
1.1	Undertake regular meetings with Rights Holders to strengthen consideration, better collaboration and accountability	 ACTIONED
1.2	Establish an Agreement with Rights Holders for future collaboration to build a foundation for principled ways of working, accountabilities and priority outcomes	 NOT ACTIONED
1.3	Identify opportunities to share land and sea management, advocacy, research, economic, visitation and communication activities with Rights Holders	 ON TRACK
1.4	Enhance employment opportunities for Indigenous community members within the Authority	 ON TRACK
1.5	Identify shared priorities and collaboration opportunities outlined in the respective Traditional Owner Country plans to progress biocultural and economic benefit.	 ON TRACK

Our Performance (continued)

TRANSFORMATION TO 'END STATE

We will build a strong, united workforce that is committed to our vision and empowered to deliver on it.

ACTION		PROGRESS
2.1	Develop and implement a Five-Year Occupational Health and Safety Strategy	 ON TRACK
2.2	Develop a Five-Year Workforce Plan (Talent Management and Succession Planning Framework)	 NOT ACTIONED
2.3	Enhance professional development through Cultural Awareness Training	 ACTIONED
2.4	Develop and implement a Mental Health and Wellbeing Action Plan including fit-for-purpose workspaces	 ON TRACK
2.5	Develop and implement an Employee Reward and Recognition Program	 ON TRACK
2.6	Increase our Training and Development Program (leadership, mentoring and coaching)	 ON TRACK
2.7	Implement our Human Resource Information System	 ACTIONED
2.8	Maintain a long-term financial model	 ACTIONED
2.9	Complete the annual People Matter Survey	 ACTIONED
2.10	Align the Remuneration Framework and Performance Management Framework	 ON TRACK
2.11	Implement cost efficiencies to align resources to assigned actions.	 ON TRACK

Our Performance (continued)

GREAT OCEAN ROAD COAST AND PARKS PROTECTION

We will bring the best of contemporary science and Traditional Knowledges and practices to manage, protect and enhance our environment and ecosystems.

ACTION		PROGRESS
3.1	Implement the Coastal Vegetation Strategy 2022, working with key partner agencies and volunteer groups to maximise outcomes	 ACTIONED
3.2	Develop and implement a strategic and cross-tenure Pest Animal Management Plan	 NOT ACTIONED
3.3	Implement coastal and marine education programs for school groups and community	 ACTIONED
3.4	Develop and implement an Education Expansion Plan to guide the education program	 NOT ACTIONED
3.5	Refine education programs to reflect our core values, priorities and diverse subject matters relevant to the Great Ocean Road region	 ACTIONED
3.6	Support the development of the Victorian Government's State of the Environment Report for the Great Ocean Road	 ACTIONED
3.7	Enhance the Coastal Monitoring Program to increase our ability to make evidence-based decisions through meaningful citizen science opportunities	 ACTIONED
3.8	Undertake strategic adaptation planning in alignment with the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action's (DEECA) Victoria's Resilient Coast – Adapting for 2100+	 ACTIONED
3.9	Contribute to the development of the state-managed strategic planning framework where appropriate	 ON TRACK
3.10	Work with DEECA to review and update the <i>Crown Land (Reserves) Act</i> regulations, including exploring compliance requirements	 ON TRACK
3.11	Develop and implement an Environmental Economic Accounting protocol to operationalise our account	 ACTIONED
3.12	Develop and deliver <i>Marine and Coastal Act 2018</i> , Policy and Strategy education materials	 ACTIONED
3.13	Monitor and improve service level operational plans.	 ON TRACK

Our Performance (continued)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We will continue to foster strong relationships with our stakeholders built on trust and respect and adopt a clear and concise way of communicating that enables collaborative messaging and inspires collective action.

ACTION		PROGRESS
4.1	Develop a Communications Strategy to increase brand position, issue awareness and community engagement	 ON TRACK
4.2	Continue to deliver our Community Engagement Strategy and support cross organisational project delivery.	 ACTIONED

Our Performance (continued)

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

We will generate revenue equitably to fund our operations and reinvestment in the Great Ocean Road's coast and parks.

ACTION		PROGRESS
5.1	Implement and measure the Ten-Year Financial Plan	 ACTIONED
5.2	Complete the Commercial Strategy	 ON TRACK
5.3	Develop and align commercial reinvestment plans with the Asset Management Strategy	 ON TRACK
5.4	Implement Tour Operator Licences	 ACTIONED
5.5	Review the Social Procurement Strategy considering potential local and Indigenous collaborations	 ON TRACK
5.6	Commence Geelong City Deal-funded projects at Point Grey Lorne, Kennett River and Apollo Bay Harbour	 ACTIONED
5.7	Deliver prioritised infrastructure upgrades	 ON TRACK
5.8	Deliver prioritised actions in the ICT Strategy	 ON TRACK
5.9	Deliver agreements with land managers to transfer and manage new assets, including Parks Victoria and local government service-level agreements	 ON TRACK
5.10	Work with site operators to enhance our quadruple bottom line outcomes	 ACTIONED
5.11	Continue to develop a suite of park masterplans and investment actions across our management estate	 ON TRACK
5.12	Review and update the conservation management for the Cape Otway Lightstation	 ACTIONED
5.13	Develop a masterplan for the Cape Otway Lightstation	 NOT ACTIONED
5.14	Undertake market research to guide user access fee actions.	 NOT ACTIONED

Our Performance (continued)

VISITOR EXPERIENCE

We will attract visitors who are actively seeking opportunities to enhance and engage with the people and places they visit.

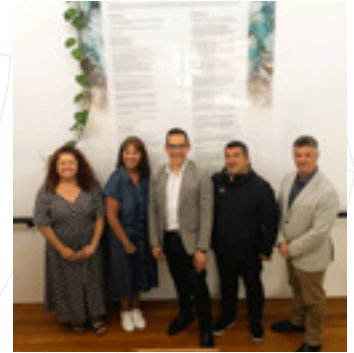
ACTION		PROGRESS
6.1	Achieve EcoTourism Destination Certification	 NOT ACTIONED
6.2	Complete and activate the Sustainable Visitation Management Strategy	 ON TRACK
6.3	Develop a Marketing, Advertising and Promotions Plan	 ACTIONED
6.4	Deliver the Coastal Trails Business Activation Strategy	 ACTIONED
6.5	Finalise the Apollo Bay Recreation Reserve Masterplan	 ACTIONED
6.6	Deliver Stage One of the Apollo Bay Recreation Reserve Masterplan	 ON TRACK
6.7	Establish and activate priorities in the Road and Carpark Asset Management Plan	 ON TRACK
6.8	Establish and activate the Caravan Parks Optimisation Plan	 ON TRACK
6.9	Develop a Smart Coast Strategy	 ACTIONED
6.10	Establish a Crown Land Utilisation Strategy	 ACTIONED
6.11	Establish and improve on baseline data including our net promoter score and asset feedback.	 ACTIONED

Highlights

HISTORIC AGREEMENT SIGNING WITH PARKS VICTORIA

In December 2023, Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority Board Chair Libby Mears and Chief Executive Officer Jodie Sizer hosted the Minister for Environment, Steve Dimopoulos, along with Parks Victoria Board Chair John Pandazopoulos and CEO Matthew Jackson.

This visit held profound significance, marking the backdrop for the signing of a crucial agreement between the Authority and Parks Victoria. Under this agreement, the Authority will enter a services arrangement with Parks Victoria to oversee conservation science and environmental works on National Park land within its management. (see page 27)



REFLECTING ON THREE YEARS OF ACHIEVEMENTS

December 2023 marked a significant milestone for us: our third anniversary. Over the past three years, we've delivered an outstanding set of achievements that underscore our commitment to protecting and enhancing the region's coast and parks.

From successful conservation projects to meaningful community engagement, our accomplishments reflect the dedication and hard work of everyone involved. Explore some of the incredible highlights from the past three years and catch a glimpse of the exciting future to come.

[Celebrating our 3rd Anniversary | Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

A NEW ERA FOR MAJOR PROJECTS ALONG THE GREAT OCEAN ROAD

In a major step for the Authority, our Board approved a grant agreement funding \$22.25 million to bring to life the Point Grey Redevelopment, Improvements to Tourism Infrastructure at Kennett River and the Apollo Bay Harbour Redevelopment projects.

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.

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. (see page 46)

ANNUAL REPORT AWARDED

The Authority's 2022-23 Annual Report won the coveted Special Award for Public Sector Communications and attained Silver in the 2024 Australasian Reporting Awards (ARA).

The Judges said, *"The attractive design, logical structure and well-prioritised content of this report make it easy for the reader to find and absorb information, and well-paced presentation helps to maintain the reader's interest. It includes helpful maps and infographics, and engaging case studies which illustrate the Authority's spread of activities."*



Challenges

COASTAL EROSION AT MARENGO, SKENES CREEK AND APOLLO BAY

Our Coastal Reserves team has completed beach nourishment and dune stabilisation works across three sections of our coastline at Skenes Creek, Mounts Bay, Mothers Beach and the Apollo Bay Harbour Beach to address observed erosion.

Where appropriate, beach nourishment has been used to create an effective buffer against storm and tide surges and has slowed erosion and shoreline retreat. Although these activities are short-to-medium term focused, we're committed to implement the strategic long-term management of coastal hazards through adaptation planning along our coast in alignment with the [Victorian Resilience Coast – Adapting for 2100+ guidelines](#). (see page 40)



SENSELESS DAMAGE TO ANGLESEA TOILET BLOCK

The Four Kings toilet block in Anglesea was temporarily closed after vandals caused extensive damage. They ripped fixtures from the walls, set a bin on fire, and spray-painted the facility, making immediate costly repairs necessary.

As a result, the community was without access for two weeks while the repairs were completed. Antisocial behaviour like this is not acceptable, and the Authority is committed to addressing it in collaboration with Victoria Police.

COMPLEX CETACEAN STRANDING

In February 2024, a deceased six-metre-long Gray's Beaked Whale washed ashore at Marengo, prompting the establishment of an Incident Management Team (IMT) by the Department of Energy, Environment, and Climate Action (DEECA).

The IMT coordinated the burial of the whale, with vital input and support from the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority, Parks Victoria, and Eastern Maar Traditional Owners (EMAC).

These types of incidents are inherently complex and unique, requiring case-by-case management, factoring in public safety and logistics. Once the burial was completed, management of the site returned to the Authority as per agency arrangements.



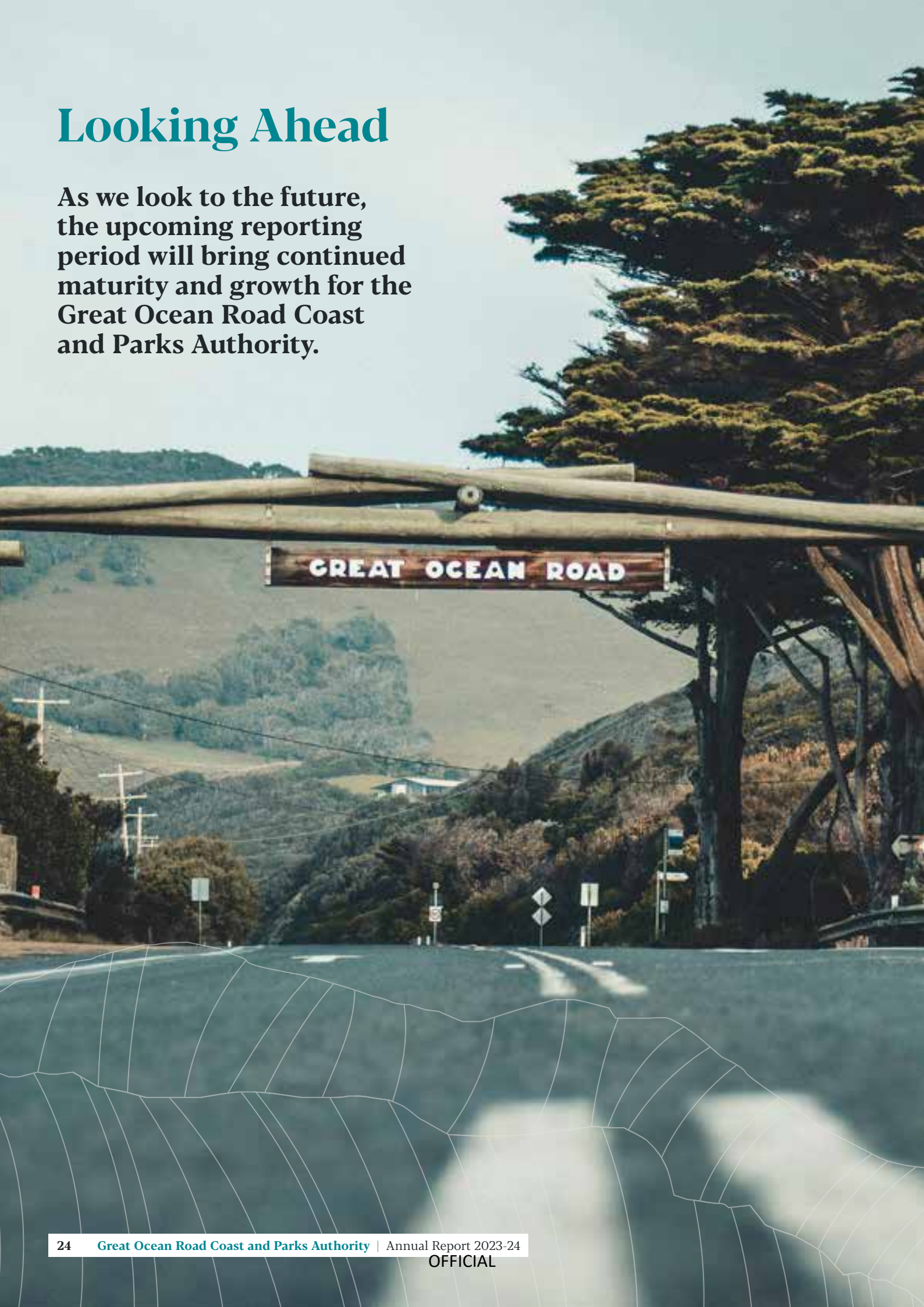
RESPECT AND SAFETY AT WORK

This year, we took a decisive stand against poor public behaviour, following a sharp increase in reported incidents of unwarranted and unsafe interactions between our team members and members of the public.

We called on the community to stand with us in rejecting any form of unruly and disrespectful behaviour. The public campaign, spearheaded by CEO Jodie Sizer, underscored a powerful message: safety and respect for our people are non-negotiable. Thank you to everyone who stood with us in this important effort.

Looking Ahead

As we look to the future, the upcoming reporting period will bring continued maturity and growth for the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority.



Our land management responsibilities will continue to expand, while major infrastructure projects will move into detailed planning and design phases, laying the groundwork for transformative changes across the Great Ocean Road coast and parks.

To realise our vision of the Great Ocean Road region as one living and integrated natural entity, we must continue to embrace innovative thinking and challenge existing paradigms.

The 2024-25 Corporate Plan stands as our blueprint for shaping the year ahead, firmly anchored in the protection principles enshrined in the *Great Ocean Road and Environs Protection Act 2020*.

Aligned with the Minister's Statement of Expectations and our Strategic Themes, it charts our evolution into a fit-for-purpose organisation committed to safeguarding our coasts and parks.

In the coming year, our success will hinge on delivering on the intent of greater efficiency, co-ordination, equity and leadership in how the Great Ocean Road environs are managed and shared.

The *Great Ocean Road and Environs Protection Act 2020* recognises, protects and promotes the values, rights and interests of Eastern Maar and Wadawurrung People.

We support a greater role for Eastern Maar and Wadawurrung People in the formal management and planning practices for the Great Ocean Road region, and as economic participants in our local economy.

We will continue to partner with Rights Holders to strengthen relationships, solidify two-way practices, and incorporate cultural values into our work.


Transformation is not just about change; it's about discovering and refining approaches that align with our vision for the future. While change can improve things, true transformation can create something fundamentally better.

To ensure we can deliver on our obligations and aspirations, it is essential that we secure and realise additional revenue streams. These resources are crucial to sustaining our progress and effectively managing our expanding land management responsibilities.

Under the *Great Ocean Road and Environs Protection Act 2020*, the management of approximately 700 parcels of land and sea will be transferred to the Authority by 1 November 2025.

Future land management transfers will include:

- Anglesea Bushland Reserve
- Bells Beach Surf Recreation Reserve
- Curdies Inlet
- Karaaf Wetlands
- Marengo Nature Conservation Reserve
- Port Campbell National Park
- Port of Apollo Bay
- Port of Port Campbell.



Environment and Coastal Operations

The Environment and Coastal Operations directorate has quickly become the driving force behind our mission to care for, protect, and manage the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks.

Our Environment team work to implement long-term conservation strategies aimed at protecting and enhancing the unique ecological values of this region. Targeted pest, plant and animal management, protection of threatened species, revegetation works, and monitoring and research ensures we implement a holistic program that maximises positive impact.

Central to this work is a growing network of partnerships with community groups, Traditional Owners, research institutes, local businesses, and government partners, all coming together to drive our success.

Our Coastal Operations teams are the guardians of both the coast and the countless visitors who come to experience its beauty. From Point Impossible in Torquay to Peterborough, they manage essential infrastructure, ensuring that each visit is not only safe but memorable. Whether it's maintaining beach access points and walking tracks, upgrading car parks, or enhancing boat ramps, their work is the backbone of a world-class coastal experience.

Our rangers are the everyday heroes of the coastline, dedicating themselves to the safety and enjoyment of coastal users. With a deep commitment to public safety, they lead the charge on

maintenance, minor capital works, and emergency management.

The team also takes carriage of our Emergency Management and Port Management, ensuring the Authority meets our obligations efficiently.

We welcome volunteers to assist with a wide range of actions, including weeding, protection of native fauna species, litter collection and revegetation. There is an opportunity for everyone to be active in environmental conservation across the Great Ocean Road coast and parks.

Conservation

As the land manager of the Great Ocean Road's coast and parks, the effective conservation of native flora and fauna, along with the protection of the region's coastal environment, is our highest priority.

With support from the community and corporate volunteers, schools and other partners, our Conservation Team is making a significant contribution to conservation efforts along the Great Ocean Road coastline. Over the past twelve months, they've managed a diverse range of coastal environments, ranging from soft sandy beaches to towering forests.

You will often spot our dedicated team in the field, working to implement long-term conservation strategies for the protection of the region's native vegetation and wildlife. Our team also works with local volunteer programs to encourage the community to connect with and protect their local environment.

HISTORIC AGREEMENT SIGNING WITH PARKS VICTORIA

In December 2023, Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority Board Chair Libby Mears and Chief Executive Officer Jodie Sizer hosted the Minister for Environment, Steve Dimopoulos, along with Parks Victoria Board Chair John Pandazopoulos and CEO Matthew Jackson.

This visit held profound significance, marking the backdrop for the signing of a crucial agreement between the Authority and Parks Victoria. Under this agreement, the Authority will enter a services arrangement with Parks Victoria to oversee conservation science and environmental works on National Park land within its management.

The Authority's commitment to a holistic approach in visitation management ensures that environmental sustainability remains a top priority while safeguarding the liveability of local communities. No other organisation has the mandate to address these challenges across the full length of the Great Ocean Road.

Recognising the significance of this special part of the state, the Government established the Authority as the dedicated manager of parks and coast along the Great Ocean Road. These changes ensure better protection for the area's unique environment and a coordinated approach to managing conservation, visitor experiences, investment, and community engagement.

COMBATING SPINY RUSH IN ANGLESEA'S WETLANDS

In April 2024, our Conservation Team successfully completed the annual battle against the invasive Spiny Rush (*Juncus acutus*) in the wetlands surrounding Anglesea Caravan Park. This persistent, spiky weed, native to regions spanning the Americas, Africa, Europe and West Asia, has long been a formidable opponent in our efforts to preserve the natural biodiversity of these wetlands.

Each year, we wait until the conditions are just right - dry enough to access the wetlands - before launching our campaign to control the spread of Spiny Rush. This aggressive weed thrives in wet habitats such as bogs, fens, meadows, and along the edges of ponds and lakes. Left unchecked, it quickly dominates the landscape, displacing smaller, less competitive native rushes and sedges, and creating monocultures that severely reduce biodiversity.

However, after many years of dedicated treatment, we are beginning to see a positive shift in the ecosystem. Indigenous plants are returning to areas once overrun by Spiny Rush, signalling a significant victory in our ongoing efforts to restore and protect these vital wetlands. This transformation highlights the importance of sustained conservation efforts and the resilience of our native landscapes when given the chance to recover.

WSL ONE OCEAN AND HEARTWOOD HABITAT GIVE BACK TO LOCAL WILDLIFE

The waves at Bells Beach weren't the only things making a splash this year at the World Surf League (WSL) Championship Tour stop in Torquay.

As part of the WSL's sustainability initiative, WSL One Ocean teamed up with the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority and Heartwood Habitat on a mission to protect coastal ecosystems.

This year, the focus shifted to the hidden world above the waves – the intricate ecosystems thriving in the Australian coastal canopy.

Many native Australian animals rely on tree hollows for their survival, with these natural cavities providing essential shelter, breeding grounds, and protection from predators. However, factors such as development and natural disasters have led to a significant decline in available hollows, posing a serious threat to a wide range of species.

To address this challenge, Heartwood Habitat offered nest box installation, crafting artificial shelters from sustainable materials that mimic natural hollows. These nest boxes, funded by the WSL PURE donation, were installed throughout Torquay's Taylor Park providing crucial alternatives for displaced wildlife.

The boxes were designed to attract a variety of local bird species, including Eastern rosellas, Crimson rosellas, Rainbow lorikeets, Musk lorikeets, Red-rumped parrots, and Blue-winged parrots, all of which play vital roles in the coastal ecosystem.

The creation of new nest boxes will provide homes for countless birds, while ongoing monitoring by our Conservation Rangers will ensure their success into the future.



WSL One Ocean, Heartwood Habitat and Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority crew combine for conservation in Torquay. Photo credit – Cait Miers.

SPURGE PURGE AT KENNETT RIVER

In November 2023, our Conservation and Coastal Reserves team hosted a successful 'Spurge Purge' day in Kennett River. This event focused on combating Sea Spurge (*Euphorbia paralias*), an invasive weed that has become a significant threat along sections of the Great Ocean Road coastline.

Sea Spurge, a small pale green shrub that can grow up to 70 centimetres tall, spreads rapidly once established, displacing native vegetation and disrupting the natural structure of beach and dune systems.

Local Landcare group Wye to Wongarra has been at the forefront of efforts to remove Sea Spurge from this area joined by the Kennett Community Action Group, painstakingly uprooting the weed by hand. Their dedication has significantly reduced the mass of Sea Spurge in Kennett River, making this follow-up day a crucial step in controlling regrowth and new shoots.

The 'Spurge Purge' was a resounding success, with about 25 staff members from across the Authority participating in the event.

CELEBRATING THE ARRIVAL OF A NEW GENERATION OF HOODIES

The Great Ocean Road region is home to some of the most amazing birdlife, but sadly some species are so rare they are considered vulnerable, such as the small Hooded Plover.

The pale brownish-grey plover's breeding season begins in August each year and ends around April. That aligns with the peak season for beachgoers, which potentially creates a problem as these vulnerable birds rely on the sand dunes to nest and raise their young, making human interference a significant threat.

In a concerted effort to safeguard the fragile population, our Coastal Rangers team, alongside enthusiastic volunteers joined forces with locals and visitors to support the survival of these endangered birds and their chicks across the region.

Between August and September each year, these shy little birds engage in a long and dangerous battle to raise their families on Australia's beaches.

Without human assistance, Hoodies have only a 2.5% chance of survival from egg to fully fledged (meaning the chicks can fly) adult.

Since 2006, BirdLife Australia's Beach-nesting Birds Program has been at the forefront of coordinating the statewide and national recovery of the Hooded Plover, with crucial support from the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority, Parks Victoria, Barwon Coast, Friends of the Hooded Plover Surf Coast, Friends of the Hooded Plover Otways and the Surf Coast Shire.

However, despite these efforts, several nests were lost this season to unusually high tides, predators, and unknown causes. The young birds, unable to fly until around 35 days after hatching, were particularly vulnerable.

Yet, amid these challenges, there was a beacon of hope. The breeding season's highlight was the successful

fledging of two chicks on the Lorne Foreshore—the first time a Hooded Plover pair had bred in this location. With a remarkable success rate of one nest yielding two fledged chicks, this achievement was unprecedented.

Our team invested over 400 hours helping the 'Hoodies', erecting signage, temporary fencing, and engaging and educating community and visitors alike, in addition to the countless hours our dedicated volunteers committed to the season.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who respected the site signage and contributed to this collective effort. We look forward to another successful breeding season, continuing our work to ensure the survival of the Hooded Plover for future generations.



The first recorded pair of successful Hooded Plover breeding pair and two hatchlings in Lorne. Photo credit – Michael Prideux.

Environment and Coastal Operations (continued)

OUR CONSERVATION TEAM DELIVERED:

5,167 hours

achieving actions outlined in our Coastal Vegetation Strategy

114 hours

cleaning up illegal party sites



1,140 hours of revegetation works



SNAPSHOT

1 July 2023 –
30 June 2024

3,544 hours

OF WOODY WEED REMOVAL

APPROX. **200** & hectares

of weed treatment along the coast from Torquay to Marengo



RESTORING MARENGO'S DUNE ECOSYSTEM

Over the past 12 months, the Conservation Team has made significant progress in establishing a thriving dune ecosystem between the Barham River mouth and Marengo Reefs Marine Sanctuary. This picturesque stretch of beach not only borders environmentally rich sites but also provides critical habitat for the vulnerable Hooded Plover.

Before we began, the existing beach had a solid foundation of foredune species but lacked incipient dune vegetation, had several established weed populations, and needed formal access points.

To kickstart the project, three new access stairs were installed along the beach, complemented by sand renourishment works. These new stairs allowed us to fence off the most damaged sections of the beach, providing the dunes with the time and space to recover.

With these foundations in place, our team tackled the next challenge: weed removal. We focused on eliminating established woody weeds and the more difficult task of reducing grass and herbaceous weeds along the beach.

This included removing shoreline invaders like Marram Grass and Sea Spurge, wind-blown weeds like Cape Weed, thistles, and Purple Groundsel, as well as the ever-encroaching Kikuyu and Buffalo grasses from the Great Ocean Road verge.

Our efforts are transforming Marengo Beach into a vibrant and resilient dune ecosystem, crucial for the protection and regeneration of this precious coastal habitat.

Coastal Reserves

Our Coastal Reserves team manages coastal and visitor infrastructure from Point Impossible through to Peterborough. The team build, maintain and upgrade facilities including toilet amenities, beach access points, car parks and boat ramps.

The Coastal Operations team includes rangers, cleaners and contractors who work to keep our coastline safe, accessible, clean, and beautiful. Our outdoor rangers ensure the safety and enjoyment of coastal users, leading beach clean ups, facilities maintenance, risk management, garden and track maintenance and waste management.

PROJECTS

During 2023-24 our team delivered the following projects and initiatives:

- Commenced management of Anglesea Riverbank, Coogoorah Park and Loveridge Lookout in Anglesea, Port Campbell and Peterborough foreshore areas, Apollo Bay Airfield and Marengo Nature Conservation Reserve
- Planned for the transition of management responsibilities for Bells Beach / Djarrak
- Completed sand renourishment works at Fishermans Beach to protect critical boating infrastructure
- Upgraded outdoor event power at Elephant Walk, Torquay
- Replaced 200 dog signs at beaches between Torquay and Lorne
- Constructed a new path and safety netting at Point Bunbury in Apollo Bay
- Upgraded Lorne and Torquay works depots to improve safety and functionality to meet greater land management responsibilities
- Installed diamond grid and access matting to upgrade accessibility at Point Roadknight beach
- Delivered a cliff safety campaign and updated geotechnical assessments for cliffs south of Bird Rock in Torquay.

IMPROVING BEACH ACCESSIBILITY IN ANGLESEA

This year, the Authority took significant steps to improve beach accessibility in the Anglesea area, making it easier for people of all abilities to access the sun, sand and sea from Torquay to Apollo Bay.

Access and inclusion are so important. We're proud to be part of the Accessible Beach Program, dedicated to making our coastline more inclusive. Our mission is to ensure that everyone, regardless of their abilities, can enjoy the beauty of our beaches.

In 2024, we undertook several key projects in Anglesea. With \$28,000 in funding, we installed an additional 50 metres of beach matting near the Shark Park playground at the Anglesea Four Kings Carpark, enhancing access for all.

We also received \$10,000 from the State Government to upgrade the all-abilities carpark at Point Roadknight and installed beach matting to connect the carpark to the Anglesea Motor Yacht Club and boat ramp. Additionally, we purchased a new Mobi-Chair and a portable hoist for use in Anglesea with another \$10,000 in funding.

To ensure these improvements met the needs of the community, we launched an eight-week engagement period in December 2023. Through an online survey, email submissions, and phone conversations, we gathered valuable insights on beach mobility equipment preferences, the types of equipment to consider for future purchases, and how we could better communicate about accessible beaches.

The feedback was diverse, with 50% of survey respondents from Anglesea and 50% from visitors to the area, ranging in age from 30 to 79 years old. Notably, 7% of respondents identified as living with a disability, and 40% were caregivers for someone with a disability. These insights have deepened our understanding of the community's needs and will guide our efforts to continue improving beach accessibility along our coast.

As part of our commitment to making beach visits easier for everyone, we have also focused on creating a new and improved booking system for accessible beach equipment. We hope to launch it before the upcoming summer.



Passionate advocate and Anglesea resident Elle Steele. Photo credit: Peter Marshall.

Environment and Coastal Operations (continued)

PROGRAMS

In 2023-24 our Coastal Reserves team:

- Carried out over 7,000 hours on patrols to collect litter from the foreshore and empty 55 bins along walking tracks
- Managed the servicing and maintenance of over 260 general waste and recycle bins from foreshore areas
- Supervised the maintenance, cleaning and waste disposal at 34 public toilets along the Great Ocean Road
- Tripled the number of bookings for our free beach wheelchairs
- Provided Accessible Beaches at Lorne Main Beach, Apollo Bay Main Beach and Fishermans Beach Torquay together with a beach access wheelchair in Lorne. We also provided an Accessible River in Anglesea.
- About 450 people per day used the Accessible Beaches access matting at Fishermans Beach. The program runs over summer from January to Easter with wheelchairs available for free hire in 1.5-hour slots, longer time slots are made available on request.
- Completed Share our Shores patrols with Surf Coast Shire Rangers to ensure responsible pet ownership, prevent littering and promote environmental protection
- Approximately 270 interventions were completed and 57 patrols helped Hooded Plovers to breed successfully in Lorne for the first time

- Maintained the Port of Lorne, including asset maintenance and safety inspections, safe operation of the navigational aid, cleaning and other repairs
- Maintained Torquay, Point Roadknight and Lorne boating facilities
- Carried out 24 playground inspections
- Started the transition to low emissions vehicles by facilitating delivery of our first all-electric van
- Conducted annual expert tree risk inspections and preventative maintenance
- Carried out safety assessments of public spaces, beach access points and safety signage
- Completed programmed maintenance plus more than 1000 maintenance requests from the public
- Assisted with site preparation and maintenance for 190 major and community events
- Erosion and cliff safety monitoring and repairs at erosion hot spots including Whites Beach, Point Danger, Rocky Point and Bird Rock, Anglesea Main Beach, Demons Bluff, Point Roadknight, Fairhaven, North Lorne, Skenes Creek, Apollo Bay and Marengo.

MINOR WORKS

In 2023-24 our Coastal Reserves team delivered:

- Repairs at 51 coastal access stairs and ramps following a safety audit of all coastal access points
- Replacement of weatherboards at Cape Otway Lightstation cottage and laundry areas
- Cape Otway Lightstation perimeter fence replacement
- Marengo Beach access stair extension
- Repairs to access ladders on Lorne Pier
- Cypress tree safety works on Apollo Bay Foreshore to improve safety and amenity
- Repainting of Apollo Bay information centre, skate park and golf club toilets
- Barham River fishing platforms decking replacement
- Wye River painting of public BBQs, path and vegetation clearing to restore access
- Painting and refurbishment of Grove Rd and Lorne Central toilet blocks in Lorne
- Repairs to Four Kings Anglesea and Anderson St public toilets following vandalism
- Installation of new power connections for mobile food vendors at Elephant Walk and Cosy Corner, Torquay
- Replacement of 700m of beach fencing at Point Roadknight following erosion

- Infill planting of 2500 native plants in garden beds at Torquay and Lorne foreshore
- Installation of solar bollard lights at Taylor Park and Torquay Foreshore
- Port Campbell Recreation Reserve overhaul including removal of hard rubbish, vegetation management, garden bed maintenance and other site amenity works
- Removal of sand from access points and paths to maintain accessibility at Apollo Bay and Mounts Bay paths, Cosy Corner, Torquay Back Beach, Jan Juc Creek and Fishermans Beach.

SAFER ACCESS POINT ESTABLISHED AT POINT BUNBURY

In June 2024, we began construction to establish a safe and environmentally responsible access point for walkers at Point Bunbury, starting from the car park on Trafalgar Street, Apollo Bay.

The construction marked the culmination of a collaborative effort that began in early 2023, involving close consultation with the Apollo Bay Golf Club Board, Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation, and the Apollo Bay Community Voice. This partnership not only enhanced mutual understanding but also improved our work together.

The new route was carefully planned to protect environmental and cultural values while avoiding erosion and minimising public safety risks. As part of the project, bollards were installed along a section of the golf course to guide walkers, with safety netting and wayfinding signage added in other areas to support users

The new pathway replaced an informal walking track, which was closed to preserve the primary dune system, protect habitat for local fauna, and safeguard cultural heritage. The closed section was secured to allow natural regeneration, aiding in habitat restoration and stabilising the erosion-impacted primary dune.

The new route for the community to enjoy will open in winter.

CLIFF TRAIL SAFETY BETWEEN JAN JUC AND TORQUAY

The Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority is taking action to ensure trail users can continue moving safely between the Jan Juc Surf Lifesaving Club and Rocky Point.

Due to waves and storm surges impacting the cliff in this area, sections of the trail may become unsafe and have to permanently close within the next few years.

Geotechnical assessments of the area show that it is likely that the section of the trail closer to the Rocky Point Headland will need to be closed sooner than the section closer to the Jan Juc Surf Lifesaving Club.

In January 2024, we engaged with the community to better understand the ways they value this part of the coast, and to share our approach to managing safety issues impacting the cliff trail.

We are grateful for the valuable feedback and support received from the community during our engagement process.

Seventy per cent of survey respondents were supportive of management actions we are taking to ensure trail user safety. The full Engagement Summary Report can be viewed at: [Jan Juc to Torquay Cliff Trail Safety](#)

To prepare for the anticipated impacts, we intend to build a new link that connects the coastal trail to the inland trail that runs alongside the Torquay Golf Course. This will enable the western section of the cliff trail to remain in use, after the expected closure of the eastern section.

This linking trail will preserve the coastal views and experiences treasured by trail users. It will also maintain beach access to the eastern end of Jan Juc Beach, which will assist at high tide.

Scan the QR code to learn more about the Cliff Trail Safety project.



Environment and Coastal Operations (continued)

LOCAL PORT OF LORNE

The Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority is the Port Manager appointed under the Port Management Act 1995, for the Local Port of Lorne, including the pier.

Located in the heart of Lorne, the pier is a bustling hub of activity, with more than 90,000 visitors recorded on average each month during the peak season, from November to January and public holidays.

The satisfaction of users of the Lorne Pier is important to the Authority. In March and April 2024, we undertook the 2024 Lorne Pier User Survey to better understand how the pier is used, and the community's satisfaction levels with its environmental management, public safety, and accessibility. We were also seeking to identify any improvements that could be made to the way we manage the pier.

We received 101 online survey responses and had conversations with more than 40 pier users across two in-person engagements. We heard that 82% of respondents use the pier all throughout the year, while 14% use the pier solely during the summer and public holiday periods.

Throughout the engagement process, respondents shared valuable knowledge and insights into how the pier is used, and their aspirations for the maintenance and conservation of the pier and the surrounding marine environment.

LOCAL PORT OF APOLLO BAY

The Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority will take on responsibility for the management, operations and maintenance of the Local Port of Apollo Bay from 1 July 2024.

The Apollo Bay Harbour is an important feature of the town and the wider Great Ocean Road community. Integral to Apollo Bay's identity, it generates significant economic benefits by helping attract thousands of visitors each year.

The Port of Apollo Bay supports one of the area's larger primary production employers. The harbour's fishing industry alone generates about \$6.5 million per year.

The floating marina at the Port of Apollo Bay affords permanent berthing to 29 vessels – 12 of them commercial fishing boats. Another 17 vessels, mostly recreational, are moored in the harbour on swing moorings. There is also space for visiting fishing boats to berth alongside the wharf seasonally, as required.



The Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority manages the Port of Lorne on behalf of the Department of Transport.



The Port of Apollo Bay harbour is an important feature of the town and the wider Great Ocean Road community.

**OUR COASTAL RESERVES
TEAM MANAGED:**

68
BBQs

75
CAR PARKS

85
STAIRCASES

AN ADDITIONAL
& 60
BEACH ACCESS POINTS

23
OUTDOOR
SHOWERS

11 +
PLAYGROUNDS

2
SKATE PARKS

268+
BINS PLUS BIODEGRADABLE
DOG BAG DISPENSERS

15 OVER
km

OF THE SURF COAST WALK
PLUS OTHER PATHS AND
TRAILS IN TORQUAY,
LORNE AND APOLLO BAY



NEARLY
2.5k

pedestrians per
day on high use
sections of the
Surf Coast Walk



49 AMENITY
BLOCKS
WITH APPROXIMATELY 13,000
TOILET BLOCKS CLEANED

MANAGED
170k
HECTARES



SNAPSHOT

1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024

Environmental Education

Our Environmental Education Programs were created to inspire the next generation of coastal guardians through a blend of natural resource management practices and hands-on conservation activities.

Led by a team of passionate and skilled Environmental Educators, we've empowered thousands of students and visitors with the knowledge and skills needed to understand, respect, and safeguard the natural, cultural, and heritage values of the coastal land and marine waters along the Great Ocean Road.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

Across 2023-24, our Environmental Education Programs have reached new heights, delivering 169 sessions that continue to inspire students from kinder to VCE. These sessions have taught students about ecosystem services, human impacts, and the lifecycles of our native flora and fauna, while encouraging a deeper connection with our natural world. Our goal is simple: to foster a sense of stewardship that will inspire students to protect our beautiful coast.

This year, we expanded our multi-session programs to include more primary school classes and formed new partnerships, including with Anglesea Primary School and Lisieux Catholic College. Over 280 students from Lisieux Catholic Primary School participated in our Term 1 sessions, learning about biodiversity and engaging in Clean-Up Australia Day activities like litter audits and pollution solutions.

We also joined forces with Parks Victoria to offer new education and conservation classes at Block 9, Anglesea Heath.



Possum Pete leads a school group on a rockpool ramble, exploring the fascinating marine life hidden along the coast.

This collaboration introduced us to Year 7 students from Geelong Grammar, who, over five sessions, removed over 10,000 invasive boneseed seedlings—a remarkable achievement demonstrating the power of teamwork and commitment to conservation.

Through our programs, students have dedicated countless hours to conservation efforts, including Tea tree removal, Marram grass weeding, and litter clean-ups. They've explored rockpools, examined tiny marine creatures, and learned about bush tucker, all while developing a lasting connection to the environment we cherish.

COAST GUARDIANS PROGRAM

We're proud of Coast Guardians, our flagship multi-session program tailored for middle school students to help foster next-generation community leaders.

This year, the Coast Guardians program welcomed 367 students from Surf Coast Secondary College, Iona College, and Sacred Heart College, immersing them in crucial topics like cultural heritage, erosion and dune protection, biodiversity surveys, and sustainability. Our sessions spanned a wide range of activities, including litter audits, conservation practices, and natural resource management.

OUR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION TEAM DELIVERED:

OVER

4,000
participants

to environmental education sessions or events



SNAPSHOT

1 July 2023 –
30 June 2024

STUDENTS CONTRIBUTED

over 799 hours

of conservation work through our education program

169

ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION SESSIONS
to 3,696 school students



OVER

1,730
visitors

took part in the Summer Camper Activity Program

SPECIALISED CLASSES FOR

369

students through the Coast Guardians Program



Our Coast Guardian students dedicated 525 hours to conservation efforts across key sites like Point Impossible, Fishermans Beach, and Jan Juc Grasslands. Their hard work included litter clean-ups and the removal of invasive species such as Coast Tea-tree, Sallow wattle, Marram grass, and Flat-weeds.

A highlight of the year was the inclusion of Iona College's entire Year 10 cohort in the program for the first time. Teachers noted the impressive retention of knowledge from their three sessions, with pre and post surveys revealing increased awareness of coastal threats like weed invasion and erosion, a deeper understanding of cultural heritage and coastal biodiversity, and a growing enthusiasm for environmental volunteering.

SUMMER CAMPER EDUCATION PROGRAM

Our 2024 Summer Camper Education Program delivered vital environmental awareness messages to campers at the Great Ocean Road caravan parks. Activities included guided bush walks, rock pooling, beachcombing, and biodiversity education presentations. The 2024 Summer Camper Activities Program was part of the broader marketing and summer events offerings for the caravan parks.

Over the summer, the Environmental Education team delivered 64 activities to over 1,733 campers, making it our busiest summer program on record. In January alone, 64 sessions were held.

This was the third year of offering activities throughout the Central Zone campgrounds and caravan parks from Lorne to Marengo.

We delivered ten sessions in this area to 230 participants, an increase of 30 from the previous year. However, fewer sessions were scheduled between Skenes Creek and Marengo due to staff accommodation shortages in Apollo Bay.

Overall, the summer 2024 program attracted 30% more participants than the previous year.

Environment and Coastal Operations (continued)

COMMUNITY EDUCATION EVENTS

The Environmental Education team engaged with more than 1,000 community attendees throughout the year at a range of community education sessions and engagement events, including:

- ANGAIR Wildflower and Art Show
- ANGAIR and Anglesea Primary School Nature Morning
- Wadawurrung Point Impossible Community Storytelling Day
- Surf Coast Kite Festival
- Torquay One Planet Festival
- Apollo Bay Coastal Projects Open Days
- Anglesea Twilight Village Fair.

CELEBRATING A LEGACY OF LEARNING AND STEWARDSHIP

After thirteen remarkable years, we've concluded a significant chapter in our history, bringing our environmental education services to a close.

Over the years, we've had the privilege of forging meaningful partnerships with schools and organisations from across Victoria and beyond, and we deeply value the opportunities we've had to contribute to the education and enrichment of countless students and visitors to the region.

As we reflect on this final year, it's clear how deeply these programs have shaped our knowledge and understanding of the Great Ocean Road's unique environmental and cultural heritage, leaving a lasting impact on all who have experienced the joy of learning.

Our Environmental Education Team, made up of passionate scientists and educators, have dedicated their efforts to engaging students and visitors with the unique environment along the Great Ocean Road.

They have helped countless individuals understand, respect, and protect the natural, cultural, and heritage values of our coastal lands and marine waters. For this, and the legacy they leave behind, we thank them.

LORNE'S GREEN GUARDIANS LEAD FORESHORE REVIVAL

Works to remove invasive Coast Tea Tree and restore native vegetation on the Lorne foreshore have forged ahead thanks to help from the local community.

On Tuesday 12 September, students from Lorne Kindergarten and a team of local community volunteers joined the Authority for a morning of planting, sun and conservation education, as sections of the Lorne Foreshore were replanted with indigenous seedlings.

Works to replant the area were made possible following a program of community consultation undertaken in June-July 2023, and the release of a What We Heard report released

in August detailing community feedback received by the project.

Indigenous species planted include Stringybark, Mountain grey gum, Kidney weed, Drooping She-oak, Common tussock-grass, Hazel Pomaderris, Knobby club-rush, Prickly currant-bush, Bower spinach, Hop goodenia, Coast tussock-grass, Musk daisy-bush, Weeping grass, Coast beard-heath, Kangaroo Apple and Kangaroo grass.

We'd like to thank the dedicated group of 14 community members and 12 Lorne kinder kids that joined seven coastal rangers to revegetate and revitalise the area.

Scan the QR code to learn more about the Lorne Foreshore Community Planting Day.



Recognising Our Environmental Volunteers

The Great Ocean Road is more than just a scenic drive; it's a vibrant, living testament to the power of community. The region is home to hundreds of passionate environmental volunteers, from community groups, schools, students, and individuals, all driven by a shared passion for preserving the unique ecosystems that make this region so special.

For years, and in some cases, decades, hundreds of passionate volunteers – from community groups, schools, students, and individuals – have been the guardians of its coastal ecosystems, dedicating themselves to the long-term protection and preservation of this unique environment.

Our dedicated and passionate environmental volunteers are the unsung heroes of Victoria's conservation efforts, contributing countless hours to protect and

enhance the natural beauty that defines the Great Ocean Road. With over 20 active volunteer groups, their impact is felt far and wide.

Our volunteer community is as diverse as the coast they protect. Whether it's weeding, revegetation, habitat protection, clean-up days, litter collection, citizen science, environmental advocacy, or coordinating friends' groups, each volunteer plays a crucial role in maintaining and improving the coastal environment. They are also

champions for threatened species like the Hooded Plover, working tirelessly to ensure their survival.

Looking to the future, we are committed to inspiring even more environmental stewardship and expanding volunteering efforts along the Great Ocean Road. Together, we're not just protecting a landscape – we're nurturing a legacy for generations to come.

OUR VOLUNTEERS ALONG THE GREAT OCEAN ROAD ARE MADE UP OF:

OVER

400
community
volunteers

who dedicated more than **2,000 hours** of their time to support conservation work

CONSERVATION STAFF
WHO SPENT OVER

200 hours

guiding volunteer field activities

86 staff

FROM RIP CURL

who volunteered **600 hours** of their time for Rip Curl's Planet Day



OVER

50
Birdlife
volunteers

who gave over **3,000 hours** of their time supporting Hooded Plover protection



SNAPSHOT

1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024



Planning and Infrastructure

Our Planning, Infrastructure, Asset, and Climate Action and Resilience teams collaborate with communities, stakeholders, and government agencies to lead and support new infrastructure development, responsible asset renewal and coastal infrastructure planning.

We are dedicated to implementing long-term coastal hazard risk management and adaptation planning in line with Victoria's Resilient Coast – Adapting for 2100+ framework.

We also manage our statutory planning functions, ensuring compliance with legislative obligations, and drive the education, application, and delivery of the *Marine and Coastal Act 2018* and *Policy 2020*.

Collectively we manage approximately 7,000 assets of various kinds.

Our role includes collecting and analysing information about our assets to prioritise and strategically plan maintenance and replacement programs, to optimise their asset life, performance and condition.

With ever-increasing visitor numbers and the emerging impacts of climate change, we're delivering over \$50 million in grant funded outcomes that provide better amenities for our local communities and visitors. Our work allows us to prepare, anticipate, manage and respond to major coastal erosion events.

Importantly, it's vital that we work collectively, to protect and promote social, economic, environmental and cultural heritage values. We prioritise the preservation of the ecological and landscape integrity of our coastal and marine environments.

Our team also plans for sustainable visitation and travel within the Great Ocean Road region.

PLANNING

RECREATION RESERVE MASTERPLAN DELIVERS VISION FOR THE FUTURE

In October 2023, the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority Board endorsed the Masterplan for the Apollo Bay Recreation Reserve, providing a clear direction for its future.

This endorsement marked a significant milestone in the transformation of a site cherished by many as a favourite escape for holidaymakers and a dynamic sporting hub for both locals and visitors.

The Masterplan outlines a comprehensive ten-year roadmap, guided by the collective aspirations of the community. Its aim is to transform the Reserve into a thriving, year-round community hub, offering a diverse range of activities including sports, recreation, events, and a welcoming spot for holidaymakers.

The community has supported improvements to the Reserve, acknowledging they are well overdue. During the extensive engagement process which included an online survey, as well as in-person and online information sessions, numerous constructive suggestions were put forth, leading to the inclusion of appropriate changes in the final plan.

These enhancements include additional community open space, improved public access along the entire riverfront, and more car parking throughout the Reserve. Enhanced pathways and connections within and around the Reserve are also part of the updated plan.

We extend our sincere gratitude to everyone who generously contributed feedback and ideas. Although we could not accommodate all aspirations and wishes, the Masterplan is designed with inclusivity in mind, considering the diverse needs of all users.

As the plan comes to life, the immediate focus is on collaboration. We are working closely with sporting clubs, the local council, and key stakeholders to secure the essential funding for the implementation of this transformative plan.

Upgrades to sporting facilities will be a joint effort involving the Authority, the Victorian Government, Colac Otway Shire Council, and user groups. While all works will be subject to available funding and feasibility assessments, grant funding is expected to play a key role in many instances.

In line with the Masterplan, major site clearing at the Reserve has begun, to pave the way for increased camping opportunities this summer. We've also commenced detailed design for the campground upgrades as funded through two Victorian Government grants. Construction is set to begin in 2025, following the peak visitor period.

WORK BEGINS ON GREAT OCEAN ROAD COASTAL TRAIL

Following an extensive master planning process, detailed design, planning and construction works are underway on a fantastic new drawcard for the Great Ocean Road region and Victoria. The Great Ocean Road Coastal Trail will be a nationally significant multi-day walk, allowing visitors to experience sweeping coastal views, towering eucalypt forest, waterfalls, and hidden gorges.

The initiative is expected to attract 70,000 visitors per year and see more than 200,000 people stay in the region within its first five years, delivering an extra \$38 million in visitor spending.

The trail – to be made up of existing and new tracks as well as spectacular suspension bridges – replicates regular trade routes and traditional walks of the Gadubanud people, within the Eastern Maar Nation.

As part of initial works on six kilometres of the trail, crews have been carrying out resurfacing and drainage improvements to upgrade existing sections around Moggs Creek, Sheoak Creek and Lorne. This will improve access to the Ocean View lookout from the Moggs Creek Picnic Area; and to Sheoak Falls and Swallow Caves from the Sheoak Falls Picnic Ground near Lorne.

Planning and design activities are also underway on new features across a 55km stretch that forms the first major stage of construction, including a hiker campground, bridges, lookouts, car parks and day visitor areas.

Further community engagement on this stage is likely to occur early in 2025. The Great Ocean Road Coastal Trail has already been shaped by extensive engagement throughout the masterplanning phase, with more than 3,000 responses to the Masterplan received from the community.

The Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority is working with the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, Parks Victoria, and the Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation to deliver the trail.

Once completed, the Great Ocean Road Coastal Trail will offer breathtaking views and a variety of experiences, including lookouts, suspension bridges, boardwalks, river crossings, campgrounds, and day visitor areas. It will offer a range of options, with opportunities for short walks, day walks and multi-day hikes.

In support of the Victorian Government's allocation of \$25.5 million, the Federal Government has contributed \$350,000 for planning through the Geelong City Deal.

GREAT OCEAN ROAD SMART COAST STRATEGY

The Authority has developed and endorsed its inaugural Smart Coast Strategy, which will serve as a blueprint for identifying, prioritising, and leveraging smart technology opportunities while applying data-driven approaches to improve the management of the Great Ocean Road coast and parks.

The concept of a "smart coast" refers to a coastal region where data, technology, and innovation were seamlessly integrated to improve information sharing, decision-making, sustainability, and the wellbeing of both communities and ecosystems.

The Authority's Smart Coast Strategy is the first of its kind in Australia, focused specifically on a coastal region. It sets a new benchmark for data-driven decision-making in coastal land management.

The Strategy aligns to our organisational purpose to protect, conserve, enhance, and manage the iconic landscapes of the Great Ocean Road and the state-owned infrastructure that sits upon them.

Climate Action & Resilience

The Great Ocean Road coastline is diverse, dynamic and always changing. We take seriously our responsibility to plan and prepare for the inevitable natural processes, such as erosion and inundation, that are continually shaping the Great Ocean Road coast.

Natural processes including high winds, waves, and storm activity threatens our environment and the infrastructure that helps all of us enjoy this beautiful part of the world. These ‘hazards’ not only alter the physical landscape but are already changing how we can access and use the coast.

Through our Resilient Coast program, we will ensure a proactive and strategic approach is undertaken to adapt to coastal hazards to ensure the values of the region are retained. This work – like all we do at the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority – will be underpinned by science and research.

Our work aligns with the Marine and Coastal Policy and the new Victoria’s Resilient Coast Guidelines, which provides a seven-stage approach for managing and adapting to coastal hazards and risks in our state.

COASTAL ADAPTATION PLANNING FOR ANGLESEA

From Point Roadknight to Demon’s Bluff, on Wadawurrung Country, we can see how waves, storms, and rising sea levels are shaping Anglesea’s coastline. These natural forces also bring hazards like erosion, cliff failure, and flooding, which can impact the way we access and enjoy the coast.

We’re developing an Anglesea Coastal Adaptation Plan (CAP) in partnership with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners, locals, visitors, community groups, and key stakeholders to enhance the resilience of the Anglesea coast.

Once complete, the CAP will provide a deeper understanding and proactive planning pathway for both short-term and long-term challenges such as erosion, storm tide inundation, estuary dynamics, and cliff stability.

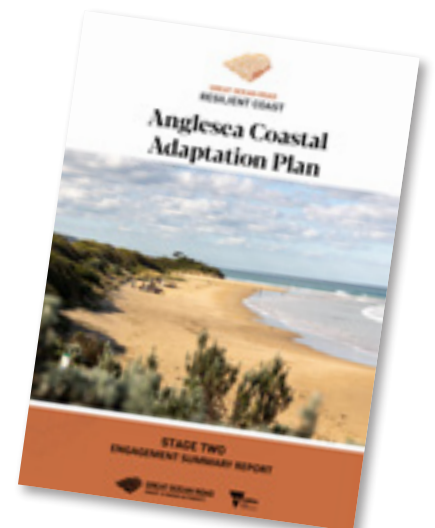
Our approach follows the direction of the Marine and Coastal Policy 2020 and Victoria’s Resilient Coast – Adapting for 2100+ framework and guidelines.

Community involvement is at the heart of the coastal adaptation planning process. We value the longstanding dialogue with the Anglesea community through Anglesea Futures, the Great Ocean Road Communities Network (GORCN) and the Anglesea Community Network.

Our five-week engagement program featured three walk and talk activities, an online survey, five listening posts, two community workshops, a colouring competition, historical photo submissions and three community presentations.

Through stages 1 and 2 of community engagements, we’ve heard that the community values the coast for its natural landscape, healthy ecosystem, environmental significance and recreational opportunities. Importance was also placed on community connection, safe access, and the Traditional Owner values and Aboriginal cultural heritage of the area.

For the full engagement report, visit [Love of the Anglesea Coast](https://loveoftheangleseacoast.com.au) | [Your Great Ocean Road](https://yourgreatoceanroad.com.au) (greatoceanroadauthority.vic.gov.au)



BEACH NOURISHMENT WORKS AT MOUNTS BAY



Beach nourishment works at Mounts Bay facing Point Bunbury.

Over the past 50 years, Mounts Bay, between Apollo Bay and Marengo, and situated on Easter Maar Country, has faced significant challenges due to documented erosion. This persistent issue has demanded consistent attention to safeguard the dunes and the Great Ocean Road from the relentless forces of storm surges and high tides.

Our most recent beach nourishment campaign was triggered following analysis of drone imagery gathered as part of the Victorian Coastal Monitoring Program, it was confirmed that approximately 40,000 cubic metres of sand had been lost from

the beach, which posed a significant threat to ecological, social, amenity values, and critical infrastructure.

Beach nourishment is widely recognised as a reliable and effective first line defence against storm surges. In December 2023, crucial beach nourishment works were conducted as an immediate response to these threats. Guided by an evidence-based approach, the project involved the extraction of sand from the Point Bunbury groyne compartment.

Adjacent to these immediate works, the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action

(DEECA) is working alongside the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority, Department of Transport and Planning, Barwon Water and NBN providers to develop a Coastal Adaptation Plan (CAP) to identify the most appropriate long-term response for the site.

A comprehensive What We Heard report was published in January 2024 and is now available to view online at <https://engage.vic.gov.au/mountsbayadaptationplan>. All feedback will be used to inform how we adapt to and manage coastal hazards in the future.

Planning and Infrastructure (continued)

PLANNING, CLIMATE ACTION & RESILIENCE



SNAPSHOT

1 July 2023 –
30 June 2024

20 *Marine and Coastal Act 2018 consents*
SUBMITTED

17 *Marine and Coastal Act 2018 consents*
APPROVED

6 *Cultural Heritage Permits*
SUBMITTED

1 *Cultural Heritage Management plan*
COMPLETED

60 *Requests for Works Planning submissions*
RECEIVED



Community engagement was a feature of the Jan Juc to Torquay Cliff Trail Safety project, with a walk and talk at Rocky Point.

JAN JUC TO TORQUAY CLIFF TRAIL SAFETY

The Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority is taking action to ensure trail users can continue moving safely between the Jan Juc Surf Lifesaving Club and Rocky Point. Due to waves and storm surges impacting the cliff in this area, sections of the trail may become unsafe and have to permanently close within the next few years.

During January 2024, we engaged with the community to better understand the ways they value this part of the coast, and to share our approach to managing safety issues impacting the cliff trail.

Seventy per cent of survey respondents were supportive of management actions we are taking to ensure trail user safety.

We've captured this feedback and how we are responding in our Engagement Summary Report. The full Engagement Summary Report can be viewed at: [Jan Juc to Torquay Cliff Trail Safety](#)

To prepare for the anticipated impacts, we intend to build a new link that connects the coastal trail to the inland trail that runs alongside the Torquay Golf Course. This will enable the western section of the cliff trail to remain in use, after the expected closure of the eastern section.

This linking trail will preserve the coastal views and experiences treasured by trail users. It will also maintain beach access to the eastern end of Jan Juc Beach, which will assist at high tide. We remain committed to providing safe access for everyone who visits the coast.

Infrastructure

Our Infrastructure team drives innovation and excellence in capital works and major projects. The team effectively manages a wide range of projects, from minor construction and upgrades, to executing multi-million-dollar redevelopment initiatives.

We're continuously striving to improve the way we plan and deliver major projects and infrastructure upgrades to showcase best practice coastal development that reflects the current policy environment and responds to the latest climate science.

FISHERMANS BEACH CAR PARK UPGRADE

In June 2023, we secured full funding to advance the Fisherman's Beach Car Park Upgrade and successfully awarded the construction tender. The upgrade, set to begin in the next financial year, will enhance the car park and surrounding areas at Fishermans Beach in Torquay, affectionately known as "Fishos."

Fishos is renowned for its popularity, particularly when the fish are biting, and the weather is favourable. Given its status as Torquay's only boat ramp, the area can become quite busy. Our goal is to make it safer, easier to access, and more enjoyable.

The precinct current hosts a café and rooftop bar under a trial arrangement, and all-abilities beach access, making it an ideal location for kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding, surfing, fishing, boating, and walking. The Surf Coast Walk also traverses this vibrant area, adding to its diverse range of uses.

The precinct is a vibrant hub for the Torquay Angling Club, Torquay Marine Rescue Service, and Salty Dog Café, and it serves as a key access point for boating and beach activities for both locals and visitors.

The planning process for the Fishos upgrade involved two extensive community engagement periods—one in September 2022 and another in May 2023. During these sessions, designs were presented, discussed, reassessed, and finalised with invaluable input from local residents, user groups, and other project stakeholders.

We gathered 102 survey responses from 69 individuals and saw over 1,000 visits to the Have Your Say page, with more than 80% of respondents from Torquay or Jan Juc. Additionally, we hosted a stakeholder workshop, an online information session, and two face-to-face sessions at the Fishos car park, which collectively attracted over 100 attendees.

We are committed to ensuring that Fishos remains a cherished destination for the community, both now and for future generations.

This upgrade is made possible through generous funding from the Victorian State Government, the Victorian Fisheries Association, and the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action's Great Ocean Road Visitor Experience Uplift grant.



Fishermans Beach in Torquay is renowned for its popularity, as a hub for families, fishing and boating.

Planning and Infrastructure (continued)

GEELONG CITY DEAL

We continue to make significant progress in the delivery of three major Geelong City Deal projects along the Great Ocean Road. We acknowledge the Eastern Maar as the Rights Holders of the lands and waters where these projects are being delivered.

Our commitment to the successful delivery of these projects is underscored by best practices in coastal infrastructure, rigorous technical data and evidence-based decision-making.

Our approach balances community aspirations with the principles and legislative requirements outlined in the *Great Ocean Road Environs Protections Act 2020*, *Marine and Coastal Act 2018*, *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978*, and *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

Community input is actively shaping the delivery of designs for the Apollo Bay Harbour Redevelopment, Improvements to Tourism Infrastructure at Kennett River and the Point Grey Redevelopment in Lorne, supported by three new Community Reference Groups (CRGs).

The Authority has established the groups to refine designs and prepare draft Precinct Plans for each project. They aim to balance community aspirations with best practices in coastal infrastructure, guided by relevant legislation.

Our ongoing local engagement continues to build on extensive research, planning, and design work. The Geelong City Deal projects present a significant opportunity to work hand-in-hand with the community and stakeholders to deliver vital infrastructure for our coastline.

The Geelong City Deal, a \$500 million, 10-year partnership between the Australian and Victorian governments, local councils, and key partners, aims to transform the Geelong and Great Ocean Road economies.

HEAD CONSULTANT APPOINTED TO APOLLO BAY HARBOUR PROJECT

The development of a Precinct Plan for the Apollo Bay Harbour Redevelopment is being supported by head consultant Antarctica Architects. The Melbourne-based practice has been chosen as Head Consultant for the project after applications were received and evaluated via a competitive tender process.

The project aims to provide an improved visitor experience and broaden the commercial and recreational opportunities in the harbour precinct.

The appointment of the Head Consultant follows the completion of an independent review of the Apollo Bay Harbour Development Plan 2020, developed by Colac Otway Shire Council.

In conjunction with the Authority, Antarctica Architects is working with key stakeholders to progress the delivery of the project by preparing the precinct plan and architectural designs for key elements of the harbour.

They are working closely with Traditional Owners to respect the cultural values of the land and waters and with the Apollo Bay Fishermen's Cooperative to deliver improvements to the port.

COMMUNITY VALUES INFORM POINT GREY REDEVELOPMENT

The Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority (the Authority) has appointed NMBW Architecture Studio as the Principal Design Consultant for the Point Grey Redevelopment.

Understanding and responding to community input has been essential for the Point Grey project. The Point Grey Community Reference Group has been tasked with providing input into the revised redevelopment proposal and draft documents at key stages of the project.

Alongside the formation of the Community Reference Group, we have committed to securing a broader understanding of local and visitor values for the site, building on a rich history of previous engagement.

A community values survey was conducted to formally capture the sentiments of community members and visitors about Point Grey over many years and to understand any changes in sentiment. We received 1,141 survey responses, setting a record for our Have Your Say engagement.

The feedback highlighted that the precinct is cherished for its natural setting, cultural heritage, ocean and pier views, and the community-level facilities it hosts. Most respondents want the character and 'feel' of the site, and its history as a fishing hub, to be maintained and recognised in any future development. With this valuable input, work is now progressing on the planning and design phase of the project.



Point Grey is valued for its natural setting, cultural heritage, its history as a fishing hub and its spectacular views.

Master planning will involve a thorough analysis of critical factors such as assessing carrying capacity, environmental values, public safety, local coastal adaptation planning processes, and compliance with relevant legislation and policies.

Jointly working with the Authority, NMBW Architecture Studio will be responsible for outlining the vision, design elements, and functionality of the revitalised precinct and for leading the architectural services, which includes all planning permit and *Marine and Coastal Act 2018* consent processes before handing over to a separate contractor who will deliver the works on the ground.

Collectively we'll be working closely with Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation throughout the project to embed Rights Holder knowledge and assertions in the planning and delivery phases.

NEXT STEPS FOR TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE AT KENNETT RIVER

Tourism infrastructure improvements at Kennett River are one step closer, thanks to extensive community engagement that has paved the way for the establishment of a Community Reference Group for the project.

Kennett River's charm as a wildlife-spotting destination along the iconic Great Ocean Road has led to a significant increase in daily traffic, including tourist buses of various sizes. This surge in visitation has presented challenges for the hamlet, which currently lacks the necessary infrastructure to adequately accommodate the influx of visitors.

Recognising the need for sustainable development, the Improvements to Tourism Infrastructure at Kennett River project aims to address these challenges head-on.

Since late 2023 and into early 2024, engagement initiatives have been diverse, ranging from community barbecues to online questionnaires and interactive workshops, both in person and online. This collaborative approach has allowed Kennett River locals, visitors, and campers to voice their opinions, ideas, and concerns, providing invaluable insights to inform the next steps of the project.

In response we've received 40 online survey responses, 34 additional pieces of online feedback to the proposed scenarios, and over 70 people registered to attend scenario workshops.

Community feedback identified several key themes including congestion, traffic, buses, and pedestrian safety; development of an appropriate visitation strategy; parking restrictions; environmental considerations and respect for local wildlife. For the full engagement report, visit www.haveyoursay.greatoceanroadauthority.vic.gov.au/kennettriver

Since May 2024 the project team has been working the Community Reference Group to develop and refine the preparation of a draft Precinct Plan which will go out for broad community engagement later this year. The Precinct Plan will encompass most of the public land in Kennett River, including the Kennett River Caravan Park, the Kafe Koala carpark, and a small section of the Great Ocean Road. To ensure a cohesive approach and to enhance the overall visitor experience and infrastructure in Kennett River, it is appropriate the Kennett River Caravan Park Masterplan is also being updated.

These plans are informed by technical information including but not limited to people movement, traffic analysis, cultural heritage, stormwater management and erosion management, wastewater analysis and geotechnical considerations.

Planning and Infrastructure (continued)

PIER 2 PUB SWIM RAMP SET FOR TRANSFORMATIVE UPGRADE

The Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority is progressing plans to upgrade the design for the Point Grey swimming ramp next to the Lorne Aquatic and Angling Club.

The ramp is a popular hub for ocean swimmers and has faithfully served its purpose for 40-50 years, but has now reached the end of its life.

Each year the Point Grey swimming ramp is used by thousands of people, both for regular swimming and the annual Pier 2 Pub swim event. After closing it off for safety reasons in 2023, we delivered interim

maintenance works to ensure the ramp is safe for the busy summer period ahead.

From October to November 2023, we invited the community and visitors to share their thoughts and ideas to inform the development of a new ramp design. We received responses from local and event swimmers, through the online survey on our Have Your say webpage.

In our commitment to inclusivity, we engaged with seven local stakeholder groups to gather insights into the existing ramp condition, usage patterns and future plans.

Now, armed with valuable insights from the community, we are actively progressing a permanent upgrade to the Point Grey ramp. All feedback captured and included in the engagement report will now be referred to the Point Grey Precinct masterplanning process.

The interim ramp upgrade was funded by the Victorian Government through the Department of Transport and Planning.



The swimming ramp is situated near the Lorne Aquatic and Angling Club.

Asset Management

The Authority is responsible for managing a portfolio of infrastructure assets with a replacement value of more than \$135.51 million.

The Asset Management team continues to build the various aspects of an Asset Management Framework to appropriately support the Authority in fulfilling its role as a steward and custodian of the Great Ocean Road coast and parks.

The long-term sustainable management of operating assets continues to be a focus right across our asset classes and requires a whole-of-lifecycle approach to managing our infrastructure.

These assets include buildings, roads, marine structures, playgrounds, park furniture, which support us in fulfilling our purpose. Commercial assets such as caravan parks are also vital as the financial return from these facilities is reinvested back into the coast and community and funds our operations.

In December 2023, the Board approved our inaugural Asset Management Strategy, a pivotal step in revolutionising how we oversee our infrastructure. This strategy establishes a framework that will guide the planning, maintenance, operation, and construction of our assets necessary for the Authority to provide services and fulfil its role as a steward and custodian of Crown land.

As we lay the groundwork for a robust Asset Management Framework, we are meticulously refining our Asset Register, accurately mapping our assets, crafting comprehensive Asset Management Plans, and conducting thorough condition assessments of our asset portfolio. This holistic approach ensures that every asset is managed throughout its entire lifecycle, setting the stage for sustainable growth and operational excellence.

The Authority remains committed to managing assets in a way that enables us to appropriately meet the needs of the community, whilst ensuring the protection of the coastal environment whilst maintaining a focus on financial sustainability.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2023-24 INCLUDE:

- The first Asset Management Strategy for The Authority was endorsed by the Board
- Conducted Condition Audits on our network of roads and carparks and the Lorne Pier
- Developed an Asset Mapping tool to ensure the accurate recognition of new assets including those transferred from other land managers
- Developed over 110 maps in support of projects and operational activities.

ASSETS UNDER MANAGEMENT

Issued & managed:

414

BUILDINGS

165,000

SQM CAR PARKS



30km

ROADS (SEALED AND UNSEALED)

222

MARINE STRUCTURES

85 COASTAL ACCESS STAIRS

14 BOAT RAMPS

25 SEA WALLS

85km

PATHS, TRAILS & BOARDWALKS

6,794

OPEN SPACE ASSETS



SNAPSHOT

1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024



Strategy, Engagement and Transformation

The Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority is leading a significant transformation in partnership with government, Rights Holders, communities and broader stakeholders to become the dedicated coast and parks manager across the entire stretch of the Great Ocean Road.

This year, our Communications, Engagement and Transformation teams were at the forefront of this journey, driving the strategic planning, land management transformation, communications and engagement initiatives necessary to successfully transition to this 'end state' and beyond.

As we continue to take on management responsibility of public land further down the coast, communications and engagement will continue to be pivotal to garner a detailed and holistic understanding of the land we care for, protect and manage now and into the future.

The region contains a high concentration of significant cultural heritage sites and stories, and we remain committed to amplifying and embedding voices, assertions, and stories of place prioritised by Rights Holders through our regular communication and engagement activities.

Each of the 21 discrete communities along the Great Ocean Road value the region in their own way and their aspirations for the coast and parks we manage are many and varied. This year we continued to improve our engagement and research capabilities to enable data-based influences on our work.

As part of this effort, we assumed management responsibility for over 2,131 hectares of public land, incorporating 89 new parcels previously managed by eight different land managers.

By 1 November 2025, we will have full responsibility for protecting and managing the coast and parks along this iconic stretch, allowing us to take a holistic approach to the challenges posed by increasing visitation, environmental changes, severe weather events, and climate change.

Protecting and enhancing the Great Ocean Road's coast and parks is both a privilege and a shared responsibility, and we take pride in our role working alongside Rights Holders, community and stakeholders to care for, protect and manage this incredible coastline.

STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

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

Central to this journey is the completion of our first Five Year Business Strategy, a blueprint that will guide us from our formative years into a progressive, evidence-based coast and parks manager committed to doing the right thing, not the easy or popular thing.

Mandated by the *Great Ocean Road and Environs Protection Act 2020*, the preparation of this Five-Year Business Strategy along with the 2024-25 Corporate Plan marks a significant milestone in the establishment of our corporate governance arrangements. These key documents reflect our growing organisational maturity and our focus on driving both immediate and long-term leadership.

As we move forward, the strategy and corporate plan will be the driving forces behind our performance from FY2024-25 through to FY2028-29, bringing us closer to our vision of the Great Ocean Road region thriving as one integrated, living entity.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Engagement Team is dedicated to ensuring that local voices are central to decision-making processes across the coast and parks. With a deep understanding of the region's unique social, environmental, and cultural landscape, our team brings a wealth of expertise in fostering meaningful connections across the communities we serve.

Their work is essential in embedding locals at the heart of decision-making processes, ensuring that the diverse perspectives of Rights Holders, residents, and stakeholders are heard and respected.

Through their commitment to transparent, inclusive and responsive engagement, the team strengthens the trust and collaboration that are vital to the sustainable management of our cherished coastal environment.

Whether through on-the-ground events, digital platforms, or collaborative partnerships, the Engagement Team plays a pivotal role in shaping a future that reflects the values and aspirations of the communities along the Great Ocean Road.

ENGAGING COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE REGION

In 2023-24, our Engagement Team continued to place people at the heart of everything we do, ensuring that the voices of Rights Holders, broader communities, and stakeholders continued to shape our work.

Through a robust commitment to local engagement, our team has been actively involved along the coast at key local forums and events, building strong relationships with residents and visitors and fostering a culture of accountability and respect.

We have embraced a variety of channels and opportunities to invite feedback, robust discussion, and reflection to strengthen our connections and common purpose.

This year, we introduced an expanded and accessible approach to our engagement programs, with the introduction of new in-person experiences, including pop-ups, walk and talks, colouring competitions, town halls, on-location open days, interactive displays and information sessions.

Each of these activities has provided a unique platform for connection, allowing us to reach more people in more places, more often.

To enhance our online engagements, we've incorporated informative videography, making our efforts even more inclusive and far-reaching. These initiatives have fostered wider participation, enabled greater collaboration across our communities, and made it even easier to reach property owners who live elsewhere throughout the year.

In 2023-24, the team delivered an impressive 1,337 days of engagement, facilitated 90 in-person sessions, and organised 36 online sessions. These platforms have empowered participants to exchange information, pose questions, and explore new ideas, reinforcing our commitment to open and meaningful dialogue.

Our digital outreach has also seen significant growth. Through our Have Your Say engagement platform, we launched 23 project engagements, attracting 25,295 page views, and moderated five community message boards. These digital spaces have ensured that everyone has the opportunity to participate, regardless of location.

This year, we furthered our engagement efforts by collaborating with the Great Ocean Road Communities Network and the Apollo Bay Community Voice to openly explore issues of importance to the social, environmental, economic, and cultural future of their respective communities, reflecting our shared interest in their wellbeing and prosperity.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE OF POINT IMPOSSIBLE



Wadawurrung Traditional Owners hosted guided walk and talks on Country at Point Impossible.

Kurrak Panyul, the Wadawurrung name for Point Impossible, holds immense significance as a rich bio-cultural landscape where multi-clan gatherings came for ceremony and celebration over many thousands of years.

This area, affectionately known locally as “Possos,” continues to hold a special place in the hearts of many today. The Authority manages the foreshore at Point Impossible and the associated infrastructure which includes the car park, beach access paths, signage and the toilet.

Recognising its deep cultural and environmental importance, in October 2023 we launched a collaboration with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation to develop a Masterplan for Point Impossible.

Teams from the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation and the Authority combined to host an open day site hub where 100 people attended to learn more about Wadawurrung Cultural values, local history, environmental significance, and challenges such as coastal erosion.

As part of this collaborative effort, Wadawurrung Traditional Owners hosted guided walk and talks on Country. The walk and talks were more than just educational tours; they were profound experiences that connected participants with the deep history and significance of the area.

Participants shared heartfelt feedback, expressing how the tours opened their eyes to the rich history and ongoing challenges facing Point Impossible:

“This was a fantastic opportunity to learn such important information about the cultural and environmental values of a local place that I had never fully understood.”

“I was deeply moved by the cultural insights shared during the walk of which I was previous unaware.”

“I feel very privileged to be able to attend. Walks on Country are an extremely important way of developing a shared responsibility for the protection of this unique country.”

Attendees also shared their own knowledge on how they use and value Point Impossible, and how they think it can be managed into the future. This information will be used alongside feedback received in the community survey to develop an Issues and Opportunities Paper that will inform the Draft Masterplan for Point Impossible.

THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TEAM ACHIEVED:



SNAPSHOT

1 July 2023 –
30 June 2024

36

ONLINE SESSIONS
(UP FROM 24)

2,789

SURVEY RESPONSES
(UP FROM 813)

90

IN PERSON SESSIONS
(UP FROM 43)

174

EMAIL SUBMISSIONS
(UP FROM 111)

1,337

DAYS OF ENGAGEMENT
(UP FROM 424)

COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUPS GUIDE GCD PROJECTS

In 2023-24, the Engagement Team established three Community Reference Groups (CRGs) to play a pivotal role in shaping the Geelong City Deal projects in Lorne, Kennett River, and Apollo Bay.

The primary purpose of these CRGs is to ensure that local voices are heard and integrated into the planning process, helping to inform the refinement of designs to support the preparation of draft Precinct Plans that align with community needs.

Each CRG is supported by observers from the Authority Board, the relevant council and Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation (EMAC).

We would like to acknowledge Board Chair Libby Mears, Mark Bridges (EMAC), David Pope (Board), Terry Bracks (Board), Dr Danial Ierodiaconou (Board), Cr Gary Allen (Surf Coast Shire), and Cr Chris Potter (Colac Otway Shire) for their service.

Both Lorne and Kennett River groups have been instrumental in providing local insights that have helped inform the initial stages for each project. The Apollo Bay group are set to meet for the first time in July 2024.

The depth of knowledge, ideas, and history shared by community members through the CRGs has been invaluable in guiding the projects. Collaborating with local communities has been a rewarding experience, and we are excited to continue building on this momentum as we work together to bring these projects to life.

COSY UP – PLANNING FOR A RESILIENT FUTURE



Community engagement included local conversations with the Friends of Cosy Corner.



Cosy Corner, one of the most cherished beaches on the Surf Coast, is more than just a beautiful stretch of sand. Nestled close to Torquay, it's a haven for recreation, a place where natural beauty, cultural significance, and environmental values converge. Known for its protection from rough seas and its typically safe conditions, Cosy Corner welcomes people of all ages and abilities, making it a beloved destination for locals and visitors alike.

In 2024, we embarked on an ambitious community engagement program to support the development of an adaptation plan for the deteriorating timber seawall at Cosy Corner. This 160-metre-long seawall, extending from the toilet block to the access ramp near Point Danger, has been a steadfast guardian of the shoreline since it was first constructed in the 1950s and later rebuilt in the mid-1990s. However, time and the relentless forces of nature have taken their toll, and the seawall is now beyond repair.

To prevent further damage while we developed a long-term solution, a row of rock bags was placed at the base of the structure in March 2023. These temporary measures bought us time to carefully consider the

best path forward for upgrading the seawall. The goal is clear: to enhance Cosy Corner's resilience and protect it against the increasing threats posed by coastal hazards, which are expected to become more frequent and severe due to climate change.

Supported by a Victorian Government Coastal Erosion Preparedness grant, our project aligns with the Marine and Coastal Policy 2020 and Victoria's Resilient Coast – Adapting for 2100+ framework and guidelines. Our coastal hazard study area spans from Point Danger to Yellow Bluff, ensuring a comprehensive approach to managing the risks facing this treasured coastline.

Cosy Corner is one of the most highly utilised and treasured beaches on the Surf Coast, valued for its recreational opportunities, natural beauty, cultural and environmental values, close proximity to Torquay, protection from rough seas and usually safe conditions for people of all ages and abilities.

Central to our approach is engaging with the community every step of the way. Pre-engagement meetings with the Friends of Cosy Corner and the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation

(WTOAC) laid the groundwork for a meaningful dialogue. The seven-stage adaptation planning process includes community input at every turn, ensuring that local voices are heard and respected.

During Stage 2, our Cosy Up 'walk and talks' and community information sessions brought together 24 community members across seven sessions. These onsite engagements connected us with a diverse range of stakeholders, including Friends of Cosy Corner, Life Saving Victoria, WTOAC representatives, local surf instructors, former staff of the Great Ocean Road Coast Committee, the wind and kite surfing community, and passionate locals who share a deep connection to the area.

Our online survey, hosted on the Cosy Up Have Your Say page, received 94 responses, offering valuable qualitative and quantitative insights that complemented our in-person discussions. This robust engagement process has provided a solid foundation to confirm local aspirations and values, directly informing the scope of work in future stages of the project.

LAND MANAGEMENT TRANSFERS

Our Strategy and Transformation team has been instrumental in navigating the complex process of assuming new responsibilities across a vast and diverse landscape. Their expertise has enabled the Authority to expand its oversight from Torquay to the western reaches of the Great Ocean Road, including key areas in Peterborough, Port Campbell, Anglesea, Lorne, and Aireys Inlet.

In 2023-24, the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority significantly expanded its management responsibilities, taking on stewardship of key land parcels and assets along the coast and parks. These transfers mark a major milestone in our mission to protect and enhance the natural and cultural values of these cherished landscapes.

PETERBOROUGH AND PORT CAMPBELL

On 1 November, 2023, the Authority took its first step into the western end of the Great Ocean Road, assuming management responsibility for nearly 830 hectares of land and sea previously overseen by DEECA, Corangamite Shire Council, Moyne Shire Council, and Parks Victoria.

This area includes the Curdies Inlet foreshore, Irvine Reserve, and Peterborough beach foreshore in Peterborough, as well as bush areas along the headland and a roadside reserve in Port Campbell.

Additionally, we now hold landlord responsibilities for the Port Campbell Caravan Park and Peterborough Caravan Park. This transfer represents a significant expansion of our remit, as we extend our protective efforts beyond the land and sea areas we've historically managed from Torquay to Cape Otway.

PRINCETOWN & PORT CAMPBELL RECREATION RESERVES

On 13 May, 2024, the Authority was appointed as the land manager for the Princetown Recreation Reserve and the Port Campbell Recreation Reserve, bringing the total number of Great Ocean Road parks under our care to ten.

These reserves, which offer a mix of powered and unpowered campsites in natural settings, serve as a gateway for visitors to explore the Twelve Apostles precinct and Port Campbell National Park. Previously managed by dedicated volunteer committees on behalf of DEECA, the reserves were transferred to us with a commitment to building on the great work of these volunteers, ensuring the conservation and enhancement of these much-loved public reserves.

ANGLESEA, LORNE, PETTICOAT CREEK, MARENGO AND PRINCETOWN

On 30 June, 2024, the Authority assumed management responsibility for several land and sea parcels across Anglesea, Lorne, Petticoat Creek, Marengo, and Princetown. This transfer, directed by the *Great Ocean Road and Environs Protection Act 2020*, involved a close collaboration with DEECA to ensure a smooth transition.

While our immediate management approach will align with DEECA's previous strategies, we are actively engaging with local communities and Traditional Owners to shape our long-term management plans, respecting cultural values and progressing aspirations for the land.

ANGLESEA (COOGORAH PARK) & AIREYS INLET

In 2024, the Authority expanded its estate further to include key land parcels in Anglesea and Aireys Inlet. On 1 February 2024, we assumed management responsibility for land along the banks of the Anglesea River on the ocean side of the Great Ocean Road, as well as several community and recreational areas.

These included Lions Park Playground and car park, Cameron Park (which encompasses the Anglesea Tennis Club, Bowling Club, and Arts Centre), Edna Bowman Reserve, Loveridge Lookout Reserve, a bushland reserve in Aireys Inlet, and the Aireys Inlet Recreation Reserve.

Subsequently, on 1 June, 2024, the Authority took on additional parcels, including both sides of the Anglesea River north of the Great Ocean Road and the expansive reserve that makes up Coogoorah Park.

Strategy, Engagement and Transformation (continued)

LORNE

On 1 May 2024, the Authority was appointed to manage public land in Lorne, previously overseen by DEECA and Surf Coast Shire Council. This includes the foreshore skate park and forested areas between the Great Otway National Park and the Lorne township. This land, situated on Eastern Maar Country, represents an important addition to our management portfolio.

SPLIT POINT LIGHTHOUSE, AIREYS INLET

Also on 1 May 2024, the Authority assumed responsibility of public land in the Split Point Lighthouse precinct in Aireys Inlet, following a transfer from Surf Coast Shire Council. As the new land manager, we entered a lease arrangement with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) in line with the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978* to provide them with tenure of the lighthouse to deliver their maritime safety service. AMSA, in

turn issued a Tourist Access Licence to the Authority which allows the delivery of lighthouse tours. This is typical practice between land managers and AMSA.

To facilitate this transition, we conducted a comprehensive safety audit of the land parcel and inspected the structural integrity of the lighthouse. This included an independent capacity assessment to ensure that the number of patrons entering the lighthouse complied with health and safety standards.

These measures were crucial in establishing the parameters for the safe operation of commercial guided tours from the lighthouse. Conducting business on Crown Land reserve is a special privilege, and the Authority is committed to upholding proper procedures in awarding this license. A public Expression of Interest process (EOI) inviting experienced operators interested in conducting lighthouse tours under this new sub-license will run in July 2024.

LAND MANAGEMENT TRANSFERS

ADDITIONAL 2,131 hectares of public coast and parks management	TRANSFERRED 89 new parcels from eight land managers
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Standing tall against the coastal winds, Split Point Lighthouse at Aireys Inlet has guided sailors for over a century, offering breathtaking views of the rugged coastline.

CORPORATE AFFAIRS & COMMUNICATIONS

Our Communications Team plays a crucial role in connecting our communities, Rights Holders, and stakeholders with the vital work we do.

We manage all aspects of the Authority's media and communications, including external and internal channels, design and branding, marketing and promotions, project communications, public relations, and content creation.

Over the past year, we've continued to evolve, embracing more collaborative and engaging approaches. We've enriched our storytelling through dynamic visual content, proactive media outreach, and thoughtful editorials.

Responding to community feedback, we've also refined and added to our communication channels, ensuring we reach our audience where they prefer to receive information. Together, we are not just telling the story of the Great Ocean Road – we are actively shaping its legacy for generations to come.

DEVELOPING OUR INAUGURAL COMMUNICATIONS AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS STRATEGY

In 2023-24, we developed the draft inaugural Communications and Corporate Affairs Strategy for the Authority, marking a crucial step in our evolution. This strategy is a key action item within both the Five-Year Business Strategy and the 2024-2025 Corporate Plan.

The 2024-2029 Communications & Corporate Affairs Strategy is designed to bring the Authority's vision, purpose, values, and principles to life through compelling storytelling, with a focus on environmental management and sustainable tourism



Photography plays a vital role in capturing our community engagement at Rocky Point, Torquay.

along the Great Ocean Road and beyond. Closely aligned with the Community Engagement Strategy, it builds on and supersedes the 2022-2023 Public Relations Strategy.

The draft strategy represents a shift towards proactive, campaign-driven communication efforts that aim to inspire greater understanding and empower audiences to amplify the Authority's story.

We remain committed to providing communications that are welcoming, safe, and inclusive for all segments of our community, including Rights Holders, members of the LGBTQI+ community, and people of all ages and abilities.

PAVING THE WAY FOR PROJECT SUCCESS

In the dynamic landscape of project delivery, the role of strategic communications cannot be overstated. Over the past year, our Communications team has been instrumental in driving the success of several major initiatives, ensuring that our projects are communicated simply and clearly.

Among our most significant undertakings are the three Geelong City Deal projects. These transformative initiatives, have required meticulous planning and clear communication to align multiple stakeholders, inform the public, and maintain momentum. Our strategic communications efforts have ensured that these projects are understood, supported, and engaged with by the community.

In addition to the City Deal projects, we have focused on several other key initiatives, including the Apollo Bay Recreation Reserve, the Jan Juc to Torquay Cliff Top Trail Safety enhancements, and the Anglesea Coastal Adaptation Plan. Each of these projects plays a crucial role in protecting and enhancing the Great Ocean Road's unique environment, and each has benefited from a tailored communications strategy that engages the community and encourages active participation.

PROTECTING THE GREAT OCEAN ROAD

Scientific research tells us that Australia's coastline is changing. With global sea levels expected to rise by over a metre by 2100, planning for the future of the Great Ocean Road requires a delicate balancing act.

Our mission is two-fold: we exist to protect, conserve, and manage the Great Ocean Road coast and parks, and safeguard its cultural values, while nurturing responsible economic development and sustainable visitation.

At the heart of our approach is evidence-based decision-making.

In a world affected by the impacts of a changing climate, and an ever-increasing number of visitors, evidence-based decision-making provides the tools we need to navigate these complex issues.

This involves the gathering, evaluation, and application of a wide range of relevant information, scientific research, history, Traditional Owner knowledges, local insights, and other credible sources.

Data is all around us, and it significantly informs the way we manage our coast and parks.

As part of our Coastal Monitoring Program, we undertake post-storm erosion assessments and complete drone surveys to monitor the diverse ways our coastline is changing. The drone surveys capture aerial images of the coast, which we stitch together to observe both the short- and long-term changes to foreshore position and cliff structure.

Importantly, we can compare surveys to see where sand has been lost and where it has been gained, which helps us to understand our vulnerability and focus our attention on the areas that need it most.

Our monitoring program is currently going through a significant uplift with the support of the Victorian Coastal Monitoring Program to refine our data capture and analysis potential.

Currently, we're working with the local community to share information on the safety of the cliff trail between Jan Juc Surf Lifesaving Club and Rocky Point in Torquay, where coastal erosion is impacting the cliff. This is just one example of how the latest geotechnical data is driving community-centred adaptation planning.

The Great Ocean Road region attracts a growing number of visitors each year, presenting a unique challenge: how to encourage sustainable visitation while preserving its unique identity.

Evidence-based decision-making will help guide the future development of the region's visitation policies and strategies, aiming to strike a balance which delivers much-needed reinvestment locally and prioritises sustainable, responsible decisions over easy or popular ones.

The value of data in our daily lives extends far beyond the realms of technology and business; every aspect, from visitation patterns to car parking usage, to toilet maintenance and litter collection, is intrinsically tied to the data we gather and analyse.

The impact of a changing climate is perhaps the most pressing issues we face. Rising temperatures and sea levels, altered rainfall patterns, and more frequent extreme weather events compel us to consider new ways to adapt and build resilience to protect our precious natural, community and cultural assets.

Evidence-based decision-making empowers us to anticipate, investigate and mitigate these impacts more effectively.

Our journey toward evidence-based decision-making is marked by the profound recognition of Traditional Owners' wisdom.

The Eastern Maar and Wadawurrung Peoples, the Traditional Owners of the lands and waters of the Great Ocean Road coast and parks for millennia, offer a unique perspective.

As the First Peoples of Country, their biocultural insights are invaluable, encompassing not only ecological aspects but also cultural, spiritual, and emotional connections to the land.

Importantly, the voices of locals and visitors play a significant role in our decision-making process.

This past year we've been deliberate in our efforts to bring together and listen to a wide range of diverse voices, building our collective knowledge of what's important locally to develop a better understanding of our shared priorities.

This is a nuanced, yet distinct shift. We're undoubtedly better together, and our efforts to preserve this iconic stretch of Victorian coastline rests on the foundation of evidence-based decision-making.

Hand in hand with our communities, Traditional Owners, and stakeholders we'll strive towards our vision with great purpose, leadership, and courage to make the right decisions for the future of the Great Ocean Road region and all who live and visit here.

Together, we can safeguard this iconic stretch of Victoria's coastline and ensure it remains a place of significance that continues to captivate and inspire, not only all Australians but indeed the world.

There is another way.

THE COMMUNICATIONS TEAM ACHIEVED:

68,027 new visitors to our website 



FACEBOOK LIKES
2,817 
up **60%**

FACEBOOK VISITS 
155,096
up **121%**

FACEBOOK REACH
291,600
up **76.7%**

3,092 This coverage reached a cumulative potential audience reach of **58,942,555 people** and an advertising space rate of **AUD \$50,192,836**.



EXPANDING REACH AND INFLUENCE

This year has been a dynamic period for our public relations efforts, marked by both significant successes and the challenges that come with managing a complex media environment. Our proactive and reactive strategies have been instrumental in amplifying our message while also addressing and correcting inaccuracies in public reporting.

Our media activities resulted in 3,092 mentions across various platforms, reaching nearly 59 million people, with an impressive Advertising Space Rate (ASR) of AUD \$50,192,836. These figures reflect the strength of our media presence and the effectiveness of our storytelling.

Our focus on thought leadership and feature articles has continued to position our organisation as a trusted voice in discussions on environmental conservation across the region. Outlets like the Surf Coast Times, with 415 mentions, and the Herald Sun, with a potential reach of over 6.8 million people, have been crucial in spreading our message.

Yet, we remained vigilant in addressing any misrepresentations, ensuring our work was portrayed accurately and fairly.

Our efforts across different media types – online, print, and radio – were well-balanced, with online platforms generating the highest volume of mentions and newspapers achieving the broadest reach. This multi-channel approach allowed us to engage diverse audiences while ensuring our message was consistent and clear.



Great Ocean Road News Thought Leadership Column – Adapting to change.

Tourism Operations



As the proud caretakers of the Heritage-listed Great Ocean Road, one of the world's most iconic coastal touring routes and Victoria's top tourism asset, we embrace a unique dual role.

Not only are we the largest accommodation provider along this renowned stretch, but our commitment to preserving its natural and cultural treasures relies on the revenue generated from our Great Ocean Road parks and commercial operations.

This year, we achieved a significant milestone, generating more than 24 million in caravan park revenue and hosting over 780,000 visitor-night stays at our ten parks from Torquay to Port Campbell.

We expanded our management estate to include the Princetown and Port Campbell recreation reserves, further enhancing our ability to offer exceptional experiences along the Victorian coastline.

As the lead agency for coordinating visitation management, we want to ensure that visitors to the region have an amazing experience. We want them to relax, stay longer, and

encourage others to visit. We also want them to tread lightly and respect the environment. We design and manage our parks with that in mind.

Like so many others, we've been impacted by the challenging international economic conditions post-COVID, compounded by local cost of living pressures. However, while international visitations may be declining, Australians who are reassessing their overseas travel plans and budgets, in favour of a local holiday have emerged as a growing market.

Our newly launched Great Ocean Road Parks website is a key tool in this effort, offering an easy-to-use platform for tourist information and park bookings, and complemented by our new co-branded social media presence.

We've also continued to expand holiday accommodation options and price points. Three furnished pods at

Torquay are already proving to be very popular. These elegant, well-equipped tiny timber houses, designed for people who prefer not to tow a van or pitch a tent, have quickly become a hit among visitors.

We understand the importance of our work. More than five million visitors travel down the Great Ocean Road each year seeking an unforgettable experience. And more than 30 per cent of the jobs in the area are directly reliant on tourism.

We're proud of a busy and productive year of upgrades and additions to our network of tourism parks and reserves. Nevertheless, we know there's much yet to be done.

We're driven by our dedication to providing an exceptional experience while ensuring that visitors respect and cherish the environment we strive to protect.

We're excited by that challenge.

MORE PARKS, GREATER CAMPER CHOICE

This year marked a significant expansion in our role as stewards of the Great Ocean Road, appointed as the land manager of the Princetown and Port Campbell recreation reserves in May. They were previously managed by two dedicated volunteer committees of management, on behalf of the Department of Energy, Environment, and Climate Action (DEECA).

Both reserves provide a mix of powered and unpowered campsites in natural settings. The reserves are designed for families and include amenities such as barbecues, a camp kitchen, and a children’s play area.

Following the transfer, we conducted an asset review and comprehensive works at both Princetown and Port Campbell reserves to ensure the facilities align with the high standards visitors expect.

We’re building on the excellent work of the former volunteer committees of management to enhance these well-located sites, which offer visitors prime access to the Twelve Apostles precinct and Port Campbell National Park.

The dedication of each volunteer committee has played a pivotal role in shaping the spaces we are now entrusted with. We are deeply thankful for the decades of countless hours and hard work invested by both current and past committee members.

The Great Ocean Road remains Australia’s most visited environmental destination, and this past year, our park campsites and cabins recorded approximately 780,000 visitor-night stays.

Even during the typically quieter winter season, we recorded a 70 per cent occupancy rate, with more than 2,000 nights booked, over the wintry King’s Birthday long weekend. The figures confirm that the Great Ocean Road region is appealing in all seasons.

Our aim is to provide a diverse range of quality, sustainable accommodation that makes the least possible impact on our environment.



The Memorial Arch is amongst the most captured location for travellers on the Great Ocean Road, marked by the iconic Great Ocean Road sign.

Tourism Operations (continued)

GUESTS LOVE GREAT OCEAN ROAD CARAVAN PARKS AND ICONIC LIGHTSTATION

New data shows guests love the services offered at caravan parks and a popular lightstation on the Great Ocean Road.

Data from 2023-24 has revealed the total average Net Promoter Score rating across the Authority's ten caravan parks and the Cape Otway Lightstation was 54.42, in line with tourist industry benchmarks.

Guests visiting the Cape Otway Lightstation and holidaying at the ten caravan parks managed by the Authority are asked to complete a departure survey after check-out.

Their feedback is analysed and calculated into a Net Promoter Score framework, revealing whether guests would recommend the accommodation to a family member, friend, or colleague.

We're incredibly proud of these results and the way the Great Ocean Road's tourism industry is bouncing back from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Cape Otway Lightstation is the oldest surviving lighthouse on mainland Australia and considered the most significant.

LIGHTSTATION CARE A PRIVILEGE

We're now privileged to manage two of Australia's most iconic light stations – the Split Point Lighthouse at Aireys Inlet, built in 1891, and the Cape Otway Lightstation built in 1848.

In May, the Surf Coast Shire Council transferred management of the Split Point Lighthouse and surrounding land to the Authority. A popular tourist destination, the 34-metre structure provides 360-degree views along the magnificent coastline to watch whales, dolphins and other marine life.

We've since engaged with the local community and Wadawurrung Traditional Owners to help shape our plans for managing this and its environmentally significant surrounds.

In June, we called for Expressions of Interest for a tour operator at the lighthouse. That process will be finalised in the next reporting period.

We continue to operate the Cape Otway Lightstation as a significant natural, cultural and visitor destination. The lighthouse is part of a larger complex of historic assets overseen by the Authority, including an 1859 Telegraph Station and a World War II Radar Bunker.

In May 2024, we began community engagement with nearby residents, visitors, stakeholders and Traditional Owners, to help plan for the future conservation and management of this special site. We worked closely with Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation throughout this project and community engagement and will continue to work alongside them to deliver the Conservation Management Plan.

We currently lease the site from Parks Victoria and will take on land management responsibility by 1 November 2025.

FURNISHED ECO-ACCOMMODATION OFFERS DIVERSITY AT TORQUAY

We're rolling out solutions for people looking for a unique Great Ocean Road camping experience but who don't want to tow a caravan or pitch a tent.

Our range of up-market camping options at Torquay and Lorne recorded a 40 per cent increase in occupancy during the year.

Campers can stay in one of our three new luxury furnished pods conveniently located in Torquay, at the eastern end of the Great Ocean Road. Similar pods are located at Lorne.

These tiny timber houses provide a cosy getaway a short walk from the beach. Each pod sleeps two adults and is suited for a romantic retreat with a friend.

Pods contain a queen bed, bar fridge, toaster, cutlery and crockery, heater and fan and are serviced with linen, towels and doona.

Also at Torquay are ten Furnished Eco-accommodation offering up-market camping without the setup. Each tent caters for two people, with a deck, outdoor setting, queen bed, bar fridge, heater and fan.

The furnished pods and tents are part of our ongoing work to upgrade and diversify the accommodation and pricing options available at our beachside parks along the Great Ocean Road.

NEW WEBSITE FOR PARKS

Finding and booking Great Ocean Road beachside camping and caravan parks has never been easier with our new website – greatoceanroadparks.com.au

Launched in March 2024, the Great Ocean Road Parks website features a large, easy-to-navigate map showing the location of our ten camping and caravan sites.

The new website design delivers a modern, clean layout and features an accessibility tool that includes options for various accessibility profiles and a language translation, to provide an easier user experience.

Details of facilities at each camping site, the relevant fees and availability, nearby tourist attractions or activities, and an online booking function take the hassle out of holiday planning and booking.

The site also shows any special accommodation deals on offer and allows people to sign up for information updates and connect with our social media sites on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.

LEASES, LICENCES AND PERMITS

Over the past financial year, our coastlines were bustling with activity, thanks to the 45 leases, 18 general licences, and 35 Tour Operator Licences we issued and managed.

From lively markets to music festivals, over 110 events brought more than 43,600 participants to our shores, generating over \$180,000 in revenue – all of which was reinvested back into our coast and parks.

Every permit and licence we issue does more than just authorise an activity –

it breathes life into our community. We facilitated an incredible range of foreshore activities: couples exchanged vows with the ocean as their witness, filmmakers captured the raw beauty of our landscapes, food vans served up local flavours, and surf schools taught thousands how to master the waves.

We also issued and managed leases for a range of coastal-dependent businesses, including the caravan park at Cumberland River and the Mantra Lorne. These leases also include restaurants, sailing clubs and kiosks.

Licensed operations and events are more than just a boost to the economy – they're the heartbeat of our coastal towns. They support local jobs, keep our beaches vibrant, and ensure that every dollar earned is a dollar spent protecting and enhancing the coast we all love.

CARAVAN PARKS & COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS

RECORDED OVER

780,000
visitor nights

GENERATED

\$24 million

in caravan park revenue



MANAGED

10 caravan parks

WELCOMED

two new parks, **Princetown Recreation Reserve** and **Port Campbell Recreation Reserve**

TICKETED

113,400 visitors

to tour the Cape Otway Lightstation



SNAPSHOT

1 July 2023 –
30 June 2024

Tourism Operations (continued)

THOUSANDS GATHER TO EMBRACE TRUTH-TELLING AT PILK PURRIYN

We proudly supported the second-annual Pilk Purriyn truth-telling event against the backdrop of Warri Dja (Sea Country) at Cosy Corner in Torquay on 26 January.

Around 2,500 people gathered at dawn to attend the event, which was hosted by Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation in collaboration with Surf Coast Shire Council, supported by the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority and the generosity of GeelongPort and Give Where You Live Foundation.

Following the success of last year's inaugural event, Pilk Purriyn provided another opportunity for members of all communities to listen to testimonials from Wadawurrung Traditional Owners. Three generations of Wadawurrung people attended the event which opened with a traditional Welcome to Country, and smoking and dancing ceremonies.

Aunty Mary Shuttleworth shared the stories of generations of women in her family line and the struggles they faced due to the impacts of colonisation. The event recognised the proud survival and resilience of First Nations people and their culture for tens of thousands of years.

Great Ocean Road Coast & Parks Authority CEO Jodie Sizer thanked Wadawurrung Traditional Owners for generously sharing their wisdom in a spirit of recognition and reconciliation.

Poignantly, Pilk Purriyn means sunrise in the Wadawurrung language.

ANZAC LEGACY NEVER FORGOTTEN

Stretching majestically along the southern coast, the Great Ocean Road stands as a stunning monument to the soldiers and sailors lost during the First World War.

Each year, ANZAC Day holds a special place in our hearts. It's a day to reflect on the remarkable efforts of the returned servicemen who transformed this rugged landscape into the Great Ocean Road.

This year, we proudly provided both financial and in-kind support to ANZAC services along the Great Ocean Road in Anglesea, Lorne and Apollo Bay, including the largest local service at Point Danger Reserve, Torquay.

Our Coastal Operations teams worked diligently to prepare the public reserves in readiness for the crowds of locals eager to pay their respects and recognise the road's profound legacy.

Returned servicemen carved the Great Ocean Road into the sheer rock cliffs by hand, using picks, shovels, and dynamite, during the 13 years of construction in the 1920s and early 1930s.

The Great Ocean Road remains a permanent memorial to the returned servicemen and their fallen comrades. We're honoured to be the caretakers of that legacy. Lest we forget.

CHARITY TREK BREAKS RECORD

In April 2024, we proudly supported and sponsored the Surf Coast Trek, a hallmark event now in its ninth year, that is quickly becoming one of the region's most challenging and rewarding charity experiences.

This year, saw more than 1,000 participants rise to the fundraising challenge, collectively raising a record-breaking \$290,000.

The trek kicked off at the crack of dawn from Airey's Inlet (40km) or 9am from Anglesea (26km), guiding participants along stunning beaches, awe-inspiring clifftops, and through the unique Ironbark Basin, all in the company of supportive and uplifting community members.

Each rest stop along the journey held activations, motivational volunteers, and plenty of snacks to keep energy levels high. Notably, the Point Addis rest stop featured a performance by the local drumming group, Wild Moves, adding an extra boost of energy after a challenging beach walk along Red Rocks Beach.

Our Coastal Operations and Commercial teams supported the event organisers, Give Where You Live Foundation and Kids+, providing assistance in Torquay and along the trail. The event also celebrated the region's culture with a Wadawurrung Welcome to Country, local music, community activities, and food stalls.

The funds raised through the Surf Coast Trek were directed to vital causes, helping people and families facing unemployment, homelessness, and food insecurity. Additionally, the funds provided essential support services for babies, children, and young adults with disabilities through Kids+ and The Give Where You Live Foundation.

SHOWCASING WORLD-CLASS CYCLING ON THE GREAT OCEAN ROAD

The breathtaking scenery of the Great Ocean Road and its rainforest hinterland continues to draw international cycling events, placing our region on the global stage.

In April 2024, the Great Ocean & Otway Classic Ride attracted 3,200 cyclists to the area. This 145km ride challenged participants as they traversed the Otway Ranges to Lorne and then returned along the iconic Great Ocean Road to Torquay.

As public land managers, we supported this event through practical measures, including logistics and planning, to ensure participant safety while minimising disruption to other users.

Throughout the year, we also prepared for the return of Amy's Great Ocean Road Gran Fondo, scheduled for September 2024, as part of the UCI World Gran Fondo Series.

The event marshalling areas are located on public land reserves we manage.

Additionally, planning is also underway for the 2025 UCI Gran Fondo World Championships, set to be held in October of that year in partnership with AusCycling and the Victorian Government's Visit Victoria.

This will mark only the third time since the event's inception in 2011 that the Gran Fondo World Championship has been held outside Europe.



Amy's Gran Fondo expected to welcome thousands to the Great Ocean Road region in 2025.

LEASES, LICENCES AND PERMITS

Issued & managed:

45
LEASES




18 GENERAL LICENCES

35 TOUR OPERATOR LICENCES

MORE THAN
46,600
participants in activities

MORE THAN
110 EVENTS, GENERATING OVER
\$180,000
in permit fees



GENERATED
\$1.77 million
from lease fees

MORE THAN
\$84,700
in revenue from licencing fees



SNAPSHOT

1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024

Financial Summary

FINANCIAL SUMMARY	2023-24 \$ 000	2022-23 \$ 000	2021-22 \$ 000	2020-21 \$ 000
Continuing operations				
Revenue and income from transactions				
Fair value of assets transferred from other entities	31,670	1,944	–	83,788
Sale of goods and services	24,531	22,409	17,466	12,487
Government funding	1,964	8,067	1,397	105
Interest	763	521	13	1
Other income	2,116	452	373	245
Total revenue	61,044	33,393	19,249	96,626
Expenses from transactions				
Employee benefits expenses	20,416	17,234	11,767	5,294
Depreciation and amortisation	3,976	3,925	3,467	1,824
Interest expense	106	172	100	–
Operating expenses	11,257	10,820	8,441	5,613
Government grants operating expenses	1,019	2,114	183	4
Net gain/loss on non-financial assets	(17)	603	1,609	(5)
Total expenses	36,757	34,868	25,567	12,735
Comprehensive result	24,287	(1,475)	(6,318)	83,896
Financial assets	14,246	17,793	26,382	17,115
Non-financial assets	132,878	90,322	85,376	84,946
Total assets	147,124	108,115	111,758	102,061
Total equity	115,285	80,044	81,519	87,837

Current Year Financial Review

In FY 2023-24, the financial performance of the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority reflects our strategic focus on environmental protection, sustainable asset management, land management transformation and sustainable revenue generation.

With a notable increase in total operating income and assets, primarily due to the fair value of assets transferred from other entities and robust income from our commercial operations, caravan parks and Cape Otway Lightstation, we continue to reinvest in the future of the region.

As part of the Great Ocean Road reform land transfer process the Authority has been able to manage its financial obligations and performance to date associated with public land transferred from Local Government entities and Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA).

However, this rapid expansion underscores a critical need: securing and realising additional revenue streams to sustain our progress and effectively manage the risks associated with our new land management responsibilities.

TOTAL OPERATING INCOME

The Authority generates income from the use of its land and coastal assets to fulfil its objectives. In FY2023-24, total income reached \$61.04 million, a notable increase of \$27.65 million from the previous year.

This income consisted of:

- \$31.67 million from assets transferred from other entities at fair value;

- \$22.72 million revenue raised by caravan park operations and the Cape Otway Lightstation;
- \$1.77 million generated on reserves through leases, licences and permits;
- \$1.96 million from government grants;
- \$763,000 in interest received;
- \$2.12 million from other sources.

Caravan parks and the Cape Otway Lightstation were our primary source of revenue generated on land that we manage, contributing 77% of total income. In FY2023-24, this translates to \$22.72 million, reflecting a 7% increase from the previous year.

Income generated on reserves that we manage from leases, licences and permits contributed 6% of total income. Additionally, Other Income totalled \$2.12 million, which was \$1.66 million higher than FY2022-23, due to one-off insurance claims.

TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE

Operational expenses, excluding net gains or losses on non-financial assets, totalled \$36.77 million in FY2023-24, reflecting a \$2.51 million (7%) increase from the previous year.

These expenses were primarily driven by the management of our caravan parks and public reserves, including the maintenance of tracks and ports, pest and weed control, and cultural heritage protection.

These expenses consisted of:

- \$11.26 million in operating expenses;
- \$20.42 million in employee expenses;

- \$3.98 million in depreciation and amortisation;
- \$106,000 in interest expenses;
- \$1.02 million in government grant operating expenses.

The rise in operational expenses this year was mainly due to the increased costs associated with managing public land transferred from local government entities and DEECA.

ASSETS

The Authority manages a range of assets, including buildings and infrastructure, which are essential to fulfilling our objectives and supporting our activities. These core assets are the resources entrusted to us for the delivery of our core function as the dedicated manager of the Great Ocean Road coast and parks.

Over the past year, the Authority invested \$3.83 million in acquiring new assets and recognised an additional \$31.67 million in assets transferred from other entities at fair value, bringing the total net value of our assets to \$115.29 million. This represents a significant increase of \$35.24 million (44%) compared to FY2022-23.

GRANTS

As at June 30, 2024, the Authority held \$21 million in deferred capital grants revenue, recorded within liabilities, to fund future infrastructure improvements, coastal erosion prevention, and risk mitigation. This represents a \$3.55 million (20%) increase compared to FY2022-23.

Subsequent Events

Ministerial approval was received in financial year 2024-25 for the transfer of 119 parcels of land from Parks Victoria and Port management responsibilities to the Authority, pursuant to the *Great Ocean Road and Environs Protection Act 2020*.

In accordance with Financial Reporting Direction 119 Transfers through contributed capital (FRD 119), Requirement 4.2(d) Other transfers and AASB 1004, these asset transfers are required to be treated as capital contributions and income through the comprehensive income statement for the financial year 2024-25 for the Authority.

The total value of assets transferred is estimated at \$66.7 million and occurred after the balance date, therefore as a non-adjusting event, no adjustments have been made to the financial statements as of the 30 June 2024.

This asset transfer is expected to materially impact the Authority's financial position although not its liquidity, as it is funded by existing Government funding arrangements for National Parks and Ports.

Subsequent to 30 June 2024, the Authority received support for a Letter of Comfort from the Department of Treasury and Finance, confirming the State's ongoing financial support. This support reinforces the entity's ability to meet its financial obligations and continue operations.

In addition, a Treasurer's Advance of \$6.1 million was received on 1 August 2025. The advance was provided to support the entity's short-term liquidity and operational funding requirements.

These events occurred after the end of the reporting period but prior to the authorisation of the financial statements. While they do not affect the financial position as at 30 June 2024, they have been considered in the assessment of the the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern.

Grants Summary

GRANT NAME	SUMMARY OF WHAT THE GRANT WILL DELIVER	SHORT STATEMENT ON PROGRESS, NOTING WHAT HAS BEEN DELIVERED THIS YEAR	TOTAL VALUE OF GRANT FUNDS	TOTAL VALUE OF GRANT FUNDS RECEIVED TO DATE BY FINANCIAL YEAR (30 JUNE 2024)
Camping Uplift for the Great Ocean Road Region – Apollo Bay	Funding will be used to improve the camping offerings at the Apollo Bay Recreation Reserve ensuring safety for all users. Improve the standards of all Reserve facilities and creating access for new user groups.	Masterplan complete. Initial site clearing and preparation has been complete with construction to commence in 2025	\$2M	\$2M
Corangamite Catchment Management Authority	Funding will deliver dune restoration projects at three locations: Painkalac, Barham River and Eastern View.	All dune restoration projects have been completed.	\$328,000	\$326,875
Coastal Erosion Preparedness Grant	Funding provided to build the Authority's preparedness for coastal erosion including studies to understand the Authority's coastal landscape and adaptation planning.	Several coastal hazard adaptation and resilience plans have commenced, coastal monitoring software and equipment purchased, and rock bags purchased and installed at Cosy Corner, Torquay.	\$6.8M	\$6.3M
Coastal Public Access & Risk	Funding will deliver several upgrades to beach and water access points at Jan Juc, Marengo and Point Grey.	Projects are at different stages from pre-planning to concept designs.	\$664,720	\$664,720
Distinctive Area Landscape	Funding will deliver improvements to places of cultural significance including the Koori Cultural Walk and Point Impossible.	Planning has commenced for both projects with consultants onboarded.	\$256,000	\$256,000
Great Ocean Road – Visitor Experience Uplift	Funding is provided to undertake a number of visitor facilities and infrastructure projects. This includes improvements to public toilets and amenities, enhanced accommodation offerings, smart coast infrastructure and enhanced cultural experiences (including trails).	Several projects have been completed with others underway. Completed projects include upgrades to beach accesses, enhanced accommodation offerings at Anglesea, Lorne and Skenes Creek, smart BBQ installation and new coastal viewing platforms.	\$18,197,760	\$18,197,760
Department of Transport and Planning – Lorne Pier Deck Repairs	Funding will be used to replace timber decking and capping beams on the Lorne Pier.	Options provided to DTP for project scope, with quotes to be requested.	\$163k	\$163k
Geelong City Deal – Great Ocean Road Commitment	Funding will be used to deliver Apollo Bay Harbour Redevelopment, Point Grey (Lorne) Redevelopment and Improvements to Tourism Infrastructure at Kennett River.	The grant agreement has been executed and project planning has commenced for each project.	\$22.25M	\$2.2M
Universal Design Funding	Funding will be used for the installation of DDA car space and accessibility upgrades to paths at Point Roadknight.	Project Complete	\$55k	\$54,779
Victorian Resilient Coasts	Funding to commence Coastal Adaptation Planning for sites along the Great Ocean Road	Initial Project stages have been complete (Scoping studies)	\$180k	\$180k
First Nations Heritage Grant	Funding to discover new heritage sites, artifacts and values	Grant agreement recently signed late in FY23/24. Project to commence.	\$250k	\$112k
TOTAL			\$51.14M	\$30.46M

Governance and Organisational Structure

The Authority is a statutory authority governed by a Board of Directors. We were established on 1 December 2020 and operate under the *Great Ocean Road and Environs Protection Act 2020*.

The responsible Minister is the Hon. Steve Dimopoulos MP, Minister for Environment.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

BOARD MEMBERS			
Libby Mears (Chair)			
Peter Dorling (Deputy Chair)		Terry Bracks	Sarah Eccles
Douglas Humann	Daniel Ierodiconou	Jodie Leonard [#]	Jenny McMahon
Jason Mifsud	David Pope	Christine Wyatt	

FINANCE, AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE			
Jenny McMahon (Chair)			
Tony Ficca [*]	Peter Dorling	Jodie Leonard [#]	Libby Mears [^]
David Pope	Daniel Ierodiconou		

^{*}External member. [^]Ex-officio member. [#]Resigned in September 2023.

OUR BOARD

Our Authority Board was appointed by the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change in November 2020 for a term of four years.

Our Board includes a nominee of each recognised Traditional Owner group in the region, the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation and the Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation.

Board members have strong links to local community groups and organisations along the Great Ocean Road and include individuals with substantial experience in marine and coastal environmental conservation, public administration and governance, tourism, and planning.

BOARD MEMBERSHIP AND ROLES

The Authority was established under the *Great Ocean Road and Environs Protection Act 2020*.

Our sole purpose is to protect, conserve, enhance and manage public land within the Great Ocean Road coast and parks.

The 12 directors that comprise the board of the Authority are appointed by the Governor in Council on the recommendation of the Minister. We currently have 10 serving members and two vacancies.

The Board consists of a chairperson, a deputy chairperson, a nominee from each specified Aboriginal party and other directors who are responsible for guiding the Authority and overseeing the application of its functions.

MEMBERSHIP



**Libby Mears
(Chair)**

Libby is a highly credentialed Board Chair, Non-Executive Director and CEO, bringing strong governance, risk and strategic leadership skills. She excels in leading boards and executives through transformation and change, fostering a positive culture for high performance and respectful engagement.

As Chair, Libby has a strong commitment to genuine partnering with the two Traditional Owner groups, local communities and other stakeholders across the Great Ocean Road environs to inform the Authorities' priorities and land management functions.

Currently Libby serves as Chair of the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority and Western Leisure Services Ltd, and as a Non-Executive Director at Barwon Health and Mercy Community Services Australia Ltd.

Former roles include CEO of Leisure Networks, Mayor and Councillor of Surf Coast Shire, Chair of the Victorian Coastal Council, Inaugural Trustee – Kardinia Park Stadium Trust, Director – G21 Regional Alliance, Director – Australian Coastal Councils Alliance among others.

Libby has been a permanent resident of the Great Ocean Road region for more than 24 years..



**Peter Dorling
(Deputy Chair)**

Peter Dorling is the Business Development Manager for Avalon Airport Australia, a Member of the Barwon South-West Regional Development Australia Committee, a Member of the Victorian Government Barwon Regional Partnership and a Director with the 13th Beach Golf Links.

Peter has previously held Board and Chair positions in other regional organisations including the Geelong Authority and Victorian Regional Channels Board.



Terry Bracks AM

Terry Bracks is an experienced Non-Executive Director. She is currently the Founding Chair of Western Chances, the Executive Officer of the Balibo House Trust, and Patron of the Williamstown Literary Festival and Heide Gallery.

Terry has previously been a Board Member of Breast Cancer Network Australia, the National Film and Sound Archive, the Australian Children's Television Foundation, the Melbourne Theatre Company Foundation, and a Trustee of the Victorian Arts Centre Trust.

Terry has a long-standing connection to Wye River.



Sarah Eccles

Sarah Eccles is a Wadawurrung woman who is passionate about looking after Country and seeing First Nations values and cultural connections incorporated in continuing to look after the coast for the benefit of everyone.

Working for the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (WTOAC) in the Gobata Dja – Caring for Country team, Sarah's work looks after culture and Country, with a focus on warre (sea) and coastal Dja (Country) along the surf coast.

Sarah has over 20 years' experience working in Caring for Country, including planning, community engagement, business development, conservation and cultural heritage management in a range of government and non-government roles within Victoria and throughout Australia.

Governance and Organisational Structure (continued)

Sarah brings a mix of experience from governance to on the ground practical management activities towards seeing the sustainable management of Dja along the Great Ocean Road, for all to enjoy and value it into the future.



**Douglas
Humann AM**

Doug Humann runs his own consulting business focusing on natural resource and cultural heritage management. He works with a range of groups in the community sector, including in his current roles as Chairman of Landcare Australia, Advisory Board Member of the Conservation Ecology Centre at Cape Otway, Board Member of the Australian Land Conservation Alliance and others.

Doug has previously been Convenor of the Victorian National Parks Advisory Council, CEO of Bush Heritage Australia and Executive Director of the Victorian National Parks Association.

Doug resides in the Great Ocean Road region.



**Associate
Professor
Dr Daniel
Ierodionou**

Dr Daniel Ierodionou is an experienced marine scientist and Associate Professor in Marine Science at Deakin University (based at Warrnambool).

He is currently a Principal Scientist for the Victorian Coastal Monitoring Program and leads the Deakin Marine Mapping Group.

Through his work, Daniel has developed new techniques to map coasts and oceans which provide accurate and comprehensive pictures of coastal processes, life, and the diversity of marine environments.

He is a marine scientist, strategic leader and board director with a passion for discovery and knowledge sharing supporting a harmony between people and place to ensure economic, environmental and social prosperity.

Daniel resides in the Great Ocean Road region.



**Jodie
Leonard**

Jodie Leonard is an experienced Non-Executive Director and commercial leader with a focus on strategic marketing and digital transformation. Her experience spans a diverse range of categories including travel and tourism, financial services, health, consumer goods, technology, and media and entertainment. Her board portfolio focuses on companies undergoing strategic and digital transformation.

Jodie has held numerous Non-Executive Director positions and is currently on the board of Regis Aged Care, Pacific Smiles Group and Barwon Water. She was formerly a Board Director of Beyond Bank Australia, RACV, Flexigroup, BWX, Kinetic Superannuation, Tourism East (Victoria) and on the Marketing Advisory Board at Monash University.

Jodie is a resident of the Great Ocean Road region.

**Resigned 18 September 2023.*



**Jenny
McMahon**

Jenny McMahon is an experienced Non-Executive Director and current Board Member of IPC Health Ltd and Kardinia Health.

She has 20 years' experience as a Senior Executive with several local governments within Victoria, with responsibility for delivery of services, strategy and policy across a range of council services and is currently the Director of her own consulting business, providing coaching and consulting services.

Jenny is a resident of the Great Ocean Road region.



Jason Mifsud

Jason Mifsud is a proud and active member of the Kirrae, Peek and Tjab Whurrong people of the Gunditjmara nation in south-west Victoria.

He is an experienced Non-Executive Director and is known as a forward thinker and visionary, having led significant cultural and organisational change through a number of high-profile positions over the past 20 years.

Jason is currently the Head of First Nations Affairs and Enterprise at Wesfarmers and also sits on numerous boards.

His career has been underpinned by fearless leadership and tireless advocacy and negotiation of social justice outcomes, Indigenous rights, and reconciliation.



David Pope

David Pope is a Director of Popes Timboon, a fourth-generation family business in Corangamite Shire. He was a founding member of the Great South Coast Regional Partnership and has held positions as Deputy Chair and Acting Chair.

David has worked in a range of strategic and advisory roles alongside the family business, these include Ex Officio Board Member of Great South Coast Food and Fibre Council, Advisory Panel Member of the Regional Arts Victoria Great South Coast, Control Group Member of the Port Campbell Streetscape Project, Inaugural Chair of Twelve Apostles Coast and Hinterland Destination Management Plan, President of

the Twelve Apostles Tourism and Business Association (presiding over its transition with Great Ocean Road Regional Tourism) and Committee Chair of the recently completed Twelve Apostles Trail Stage 1.

David is a lifelong resident of the Twelve Apostles coast and hinterland region.



Christine Wyatt

Christine Wyatt is an independent adviser and Non-Executive Director with substantial private sector and government executive leadership and experience in urban strategy, infrastructure delivery and governance.

As former Deputy Secretary of Planning at the Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and

Planning, and Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure, Christine led the state's Planning, Building and Heritage policy portfolio and regulatory systems. Before joining the public service, Christine was a senior executive in global consulting firms, working on a wide range of projects with public and private organisations across Australia and internationally.

She is Deputy Chair of the Suburban Rail Loop Authority Board and is a non-executive director on the Royal Botanical Gardens Victoria and Melbourne Arts Precinct Corporation Boards. She has served on the boards of Places Victoria, Development Victoria, and the Victorian Planning and Environmental Law Association.

FINANCE, AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AND ROLES

1 December 2020 to 30 November 2024

The Finance, Audit and Risk Management Committee's responsibilities are set out in Standing Direction 3.2.1.1.

Key responsibilities are to:

- review and report independently to the Board on the Annual Report and all other financial information published by the Authority
- assist the Board in reviewing the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control environment covering effectiveness and efficiency of operations; reliability of financial reporting; and compliance with applicable laws and regulations

- determine the scope of the internal audit function and ensure its resources are adequate and used effectively, including coordination with the external auditors
- maintain effective communication with external auditors, consider recommendations made by internal and external auditors and review the implementation of actions to resolve issues raised
- oversee the effective operation of the risk management framework.

Members are appointed by the Board and are subject to the committee's terms of reference. Meetings are held quarterly and at any other time on request of a committee member or the internal or external auditor.

In 2023-24, the committee met four times. Committee member attendance is detailed in the table on the following page.

MEMBERSHIP

Board members

Libby Mears
Peter Dorling
Jodie Leonard (*resigned effective 18 September 2023*)
Jenny McMahon
Daniel Ierodionou (*from November 2023*)
David Pope (*from November 2023*)
External members Tony Ficca (*from February 2022*)

Governance and Organisational Structure (continued)

BOARD AND AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AND MEETING ATTENDANCE 2023-24

Member	Term	BOARD		AUDIT & RISK	
		Attended	Eligible to attend	Attended	Eligible to attend
Terry Bracks	4 years	6	8	0	0
Peter Dorling	4 years	8	8	4	4
Sarah Eccles	4 years	5	8	0	0
Tony Ficca*	2 years 10 months	0	0	4	4
Douglas Humann	4 years	5	8	0	0
Daniel Ierodiaconou	4 years	7	8	2	3
Jodie Leonard**	4 years	2	2	1	1
Jenny McMahon	4 years	8	8	4	4
Libby Mears	4 years	8	8	3	4
Jason Mifsud	4 years	4	8	0	0
David Pope	4 years	5	8	2	3
Christine Wyatt	4 years	5	8	0	0

*External member from February 2022

** Resigned effective 18 September 2023.

EXECUTIVE ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

GREAT OCEAN ROAD COAST AND PARKS AUTHORITY BOARD

Chief Executive Officer | **Jodie Sizer**

Director Community, Corporate Affairs and Visitor Economy | **Andy Mathers**

Director Corporate Services and CFO | **Steve Major**

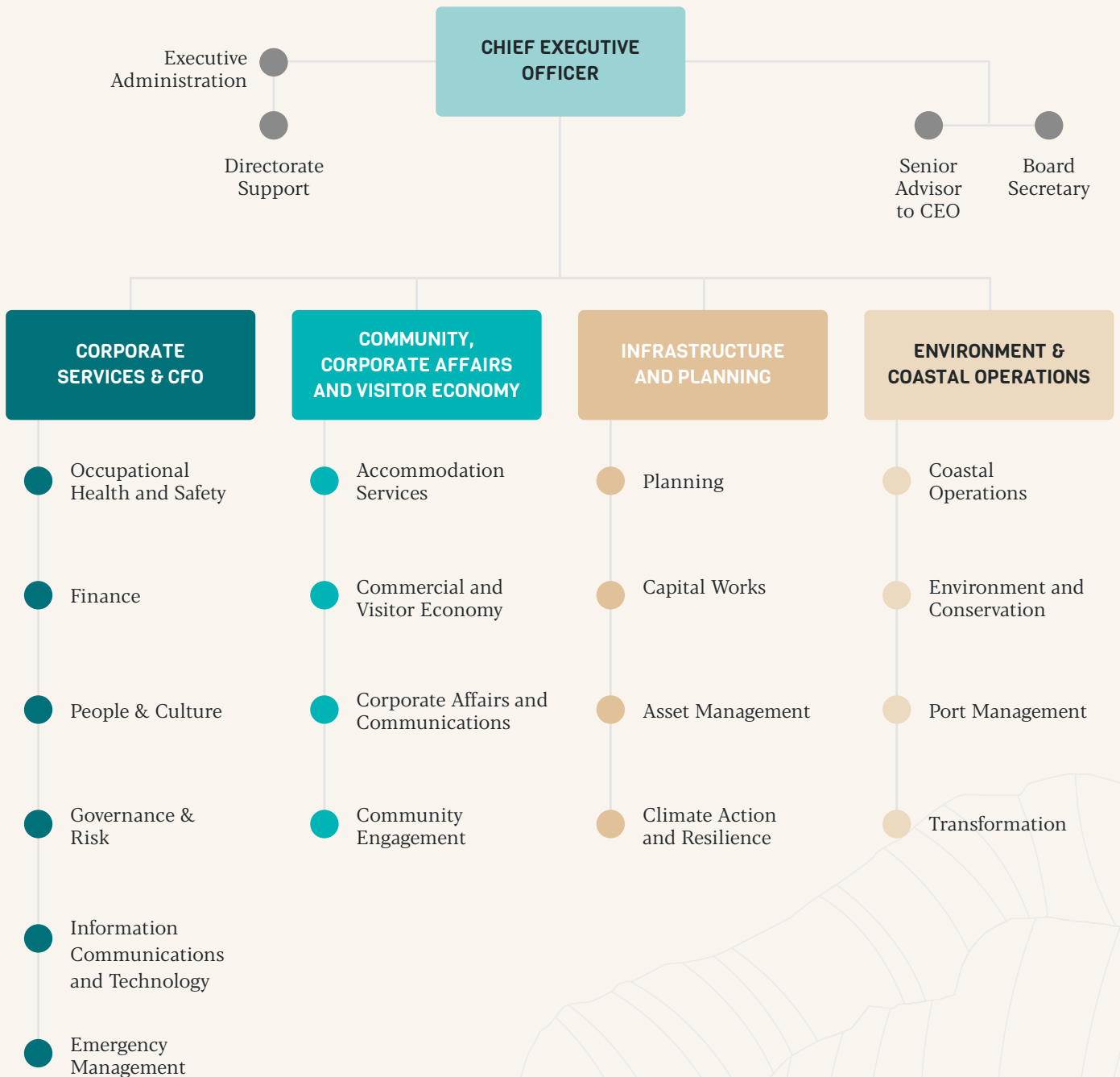
Director Infrastructure & Planning | **Cath Olive**

Director Environment & Coastal Operations | **Lisa Mills**

Director Strategy, Engagement & Transformation | **Carley Scott***

*(until May 2024)

OUR ORGANISATION



People and Culture

Over the past 12 months we have focused on reviewing, developing and implementing a suite of policies and procedures for the Authority.

These included:

- Grievance, Complaints and Dispute Resolution Policy and Procedure
- Learning and Development Policy
- Performance Management Counselling and Disciplinary Policy
- Workplace Discrimination Bullying and Harassment Policy
- Delegations Policy
- Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy
- Study Leave Policy
- Borrowing Policy
- Liquor Licensing Policy
- Memorials and Plaques Policy
- Sponsorship Procedure
- Occupational Health and Safety Policy
- Workcover and Return to Work Procedure
- Working in Heat Policy
- BYO Device Policy
- COVID-19 Vaccination Requirements Policy
- Tree Management Policy
- Extreme or Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating Policy
- Pricing Policy
- Roles and Responsibilities (Financial Management) Policy
- Risk Management Policy
- Financial Management Compliance Policy
- Financial Planning and Managing Financial Performance Policy

- Managing Financial Information Policy
- Board Conflict of Interest Policy
- Board Dispute Resolution Policy
- Board Induction and Education Policy
- Board Performance Assessment Policy
- Board Legislative Compliance Policy
- Board Integrity Framework (Consolidated Code of Conduct) Policy
- Board Travel and Expense Policy.

Recruitment

The Authority is committed to applying merit and equity principles when appointing staff. The selection process ensures applicants are assessed and evaluated fairly and equitably on the basis of the key selection criteria and other accountabilities without discrimination. Employees have been correctly classified in workforce data collections.

This financial year, we raised a total of 133 recruitment requisitions across the organisation. Positions were advertised for an average of 23 days, with an annual cost to the business of \$22,000. On average, it took us 47 days to fill a vacancy at the Authority.

We saw the majority of candidates applying via Seek.com (48%), while 23% approached the organisation directly. An additional 12% applied through alternative external platforms, 11% were internal candidates through the ELMO careers module, and the remaining 6% came from the ELMO talent pool.

Employee Learning, Development and Onboarding

From December 2023, we have onboarded all new employees through the ELMO Human Resource Information System. This system standardises our approach to Human Resources, Payroll, OHS, Governance, Finance, and ICT inductions, while also enrolling new hires in compulsory eLearning courses. All full-time and part-time employees received a welcome pack, were invited to a Welcome Day, and were encouraged to participate in the DiSC assessment process.

Beyond onboarding, we provided training opportunities for individual, team, and organisation-wide development throughout the year, tailoring these educational opportunities to meet the specific needs of various roles and departments.

Employees can discuss their development opportunities during the Annual Commitment Plan process, which may include training requests. We maintain a training register throughout the year to ensure all required tickets and licences are up to date.

This year, we continued to offer Diversity and Inclusion Training, including our Inclusive Leadership Program, an IDAHOBIT event, a seminar on Upholding Children's Rights, and a seminar on Bystander Strategies.



Meet the inspiring women shaping the future of the Great Ocean Road as part of International Women's Day celebrations.

Building Cultural Capability

To support our important work in building genuine partnerships with Traditional Owners across the Great Ocean Road, we offered an in-depth Cultural Capability Program to all employees.

In 2023-24, we had the privilege of working with Marsha Uppill from Arranyinha to deliver our Cultural Capability Program. Marsha's expertise and passion helped guide 118 team members through both "Introduction to Unconscious Bias and Privilege: First Nations Impact" and "Foundational Cultural Respect: Connection to Country and Identity." Another 31 team members delved into either "Introduction to Unconscious Bias and Privilege: First Nations Impact" or "Foundational Cultural Respect: Connection to Country and Identity."

To further enrich our cultural understanding, Marsha also spoke to all staff during NAIDOC week, sharing invaluable personal insights and fostering a deeper connection to First Nations culture.

Additionally, selected team members had the opportunity to attend specialised training in Native Title and Aboriginal Heritage, further solidifying our commitment to cultural competence and respectful engagement with Traditional Owners.

Organisational Learning and Development

This year, we dedicated 400 hours to specialist professional development training, ensuring our team had the skills and knowledge needed for success. Our training offerings included Contractor Management, Crown Land Management, IAP2 Engagement, Microsoft Excel, PRINCE2 Project Management, and Skilled Minute Taking.

All staff were invited to attend a seminar on Effectively Using MS Teams, exploring the benefits of IPAA membership, and had the opportunity to access optional ELMO eLearn courses on Stress Management and Communication Skills. We also expanded our DiSC profiling initiative, with an additional 45 team members participating and 15 Group Culture Reports created and workshopped, further enhancing our team dynamics and collaboration.

October 2023 saw the launch of a new Annual Commitment Plan process via ELMO with sections covering Living our Values; Achieving our Goals; and Learning and Developing. This opportunity was extended to all full-time and part-time team members.

Compliance Education

In the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, 2,488 hours of Compliance Education was provided to our employees. Courses included:

- Child Safety & Wellbeing
- Information Security Management
- Password Management
- Risk Management for Managers
- Code of Conduct
- OHS Awareness
- Appropriate Workplace Behaviours
- Conflict of Interest
- Public Interest Disclosures
- Privacy & Data Protection
- Fraud & Corruption Awareness.

People and culture (continued)

Occupational Health and Safety Training

Our comprehensive OHS Training Needs Analysis resulted in 1,274 hours of external OHS training, demonstrating our commitment to workplace safety. This analysis also led to the creation of new eLearning modules housed in ELMO, covering essential topics such as Bushfire Safety for Workers, Emergency Warden Instruction, Heat and UV Exposure, and Hazardous Chemicals.

In addition to these training initiatives, we widely promoted Ride to Work Day and RUOK Day, reinforcing our focus on both physical and mental well-being in the workplace.

Programs offered in 2023-24 included:

- Provide First Aid
- CPR Refresher
- Mental Health First Aid
- Chief Fire Warden
- Fire Warden
- Diffusion Techniques
- Snake Awareness
- 4WD Safety
- Initial Health & Safety Representative
- Refresher Health & Safety Representative
- Felling Small Trees
- Operate & Maintain Chainsaws
- Heavy Rigid Truck Licence
- Basic Oxygen Administration
- Aquatic Technical Operator
- Do Food Safely Assessment
- Safe Chemical Handling
- Remotely Pilot Aircraft Operator Accreditation
- Emergency Management Liaison Officer

- Prepare to Work Safely in the Construction Industry (White Card)
- AgVet Chemical Users Course
- Tractor & Front-End Loader Operations.

On-going internal Safety Talks covered Occupational Violence & Aggression and Mental Health Awareness.

Staff Wellbeing Education

This year, our Education Team conducted two insightful Staff Wellbeing sessions to educate our staff about the unique environment along the Great Ocean Road, specifically focusing on Marengo and Anglesea.

In addition, the Coastal Reserves and Conservation Teams offered practical sessions, including Purge the Spurge at Kennett River, Clean up Torquay Common, and Restore Hooded Plover Habitat at Point Roadknight. These hands-on activities allowed our staff to engage directly with environmental conservation efforts.

These outdoor sessions not only provided opportunities for staff to meet and connect across various locations and departments within the Authority, but also increased awareness of the environmental values and familiarisation with the lands we manage.

Leadership Development

This year, we implemented a Senior Leadership Team Leadership Program within the framework of Leading Me; Leading We; Leading Us. The program content covered crucial areas such as Accountability, Constructive Behaviours with LifeStyle Inventory, Conscious Communication, and Inclusive Leadership, with an emphasis on active reflective practice for all participants.

Additionally, all senior leaders were invited to attend a Mental Health for Leaders seminar, underscoring our commitment to fostering a supportive and inclusive leadership environment.

New Employee Assistance Program

We were pleased to introduce a new Employee Assistance Program (EAP) through Acacia EAP, available 24/7 to support all our employees. Acacia EAP offered confidential counselling and support for personal or work-related issues, providing up to four hours of short-term counselling per employee and their immediate family each year. We encouraged employees to take advantage of this valuable resource for support and wellbeing.

STATEMENT ON INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

The Authority's workplace policies, procedures and undertakings accord with the applicable industrial awards, the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority Enterprise Bargaining Agreement 2021-2025 and the *Fair Work Act 2009 (Cth)*.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority continues to prioritise and strengthen its Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) performance.

The 2023-24 financial year has been marked by exceptional safety performance indicator results, most notably achieving zero lost time injuries (LTIs). This significant milestone underscores the Authority's unwavering commitment to maintaining safe work practices. Key developments during the year include:

- **Enhanced Safety Systems:** Significant progress has been made in the development and implementation of safety procedures. These systems have streamlined existing safety protocols, improved hazard identification processes, and facilitated more efficient reporting and response mechanisms.
- **Building a Strong Safety Culture:** A robust safety culture has been established through conscious education, engagement, and communication with Authority workgroups. Regular safety planning, training sessions, emergency exercises and awareness campaigns have empowered teams to prioritise safety and be proactive in risk mitigation.

Our safety performance highlights the Authority's dedication to fostering a safety-first workplace ethos and environment. This strong foundation sets the stage for further growth in safety and wellbeing systems and culture over the coming years.

INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

A total of 206 incidents were reported between 1 July 2023 and 30 June 2024. These incidents encompassed injuries, near misses, and instances of property and environmental damage, reported by both employees and visitors. Notably, 100 of these incidents were related to visitors.

There were zero lost time injuries reported during the period resulting in a Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate (LTIFR) of 0. The LTIFR measures the number of lost-time injuries per million hours worked during a single financial year. Additionally, two incidents required notification to the OHS Regulator (WorkSafe Victoria).

INJURY MANAGEMENT

There were no claims lodged for the 2023-24 financial year, which is expected to have a favourable impact on our workers compensation premium in future years.

Our focus remains on implementing robust injury management protocols in conjunction with supportive return to work practices. These efforts are key to ensuring injured employees return to work content with the care they receive.

The average cost per claim decreased slightly from \$47,486 to \$33,346, reflecting the complexities of managing some of the injuries from previous years.

Our WorkCover Premium rate of 3.5492% is higher than the weighted industry rate of 2.2490%. We remain focussed on enhancing injury management protocols and consultative return-to-work planning. These efforts aim to facilitate the safe and timely return to work for our employees, ultimately striving to positively impact our workers' compensation insurance premiums over the coming years.

People and culture (continued)

INCIDENT MANAGEMENT DATA FROM 1 JULY 2023 TO 30 JUNE 2024

MEASURE	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Incidents	No. of incidents	132	235	206
	Rate per 100 FTE	81.3	139	122
	No. of incidents requiring first aid and/or further medical treatment for employees	31	21	25
Claims	Number of standard claims	3	4	0
	Rate per 100 FTE	2.2	2 ¹	0
	Number of lost time claims	2	4	0
	Rate per 100 FTE	1.5	2	0
	Number of claims exceeding 13 weeks	0	2	0
	Rate per 100 FTE	0	1	0
	Average cost per standard claim	\$21,458	\$47,486	\$33,346
Fatalities	Fatality claims	0	0	0
Management commitment	Evidence of OHS policy statement, OHS objectives, regular reporting to senior management of OHS.	OHS Policy and OHS Objectives and Targets established.	Ongoing	Ongoing – bi-monthly reporting of safety performance to Executive and Board.
Consultation and participation	Evidence of agreed structure of designated workgroups (DWGs), health and safety representatives (HSRs), and issue resolution procedures (IRPs).	12 DWGs agreed and in place	12 DWGs agreed and in place	11 DWGs agreed and in place
	Compliance with agreed structure of DWGs, HSRs and IRPs.	1 HSR and 1 Deputy position for each DWG.	5 active HSR's <i>(Staff movement main cause of vacancy, HSR elections currently underway for vacant positions)</i>	13 Active HSRs <i>(HSR elections currently underway for vacant positions)</i>
	Number of quarterly OHS Committee meetings.	4	4	4
Risk Management	No. of Improvement Notices issued across the Authority by WorkSafe	2	1	0
	Percentage of issues identified and actioned from WorkSafe notices	100%	100%	N/A
Training	Percentage of HSRs that have completed initial training	100%	100%	
	Percentage of HSRs that have completed refresher training	100%	100%	77% <i>(recently elected HSRs (3) require training)</i>

1 Rates have been calculated based on an FTE of 170.79.

WORKFORCE DATA

The following table discloses the head count and full-time staff equivalent (FTE) of all active employees of the Authority, employed in the last full pay period in June of the current reporting period (2024).

	JUNE 2024						JUNE 2023						JUNE 2022								
	All Employees		Ongoing		Fixed Term & Casual Numbers		All Employees		Ongoing		Fixed Term & Casual Numbers		All Employees		Ongoing		Fixed Term & Casual Numbers				
	Head count	FTE	Full-Time (Head count)	Part-Time (Head count)	FTE	Head count	FTE	Head count	FTE	Full-Time (Head count)	Part-Time (Head count)	FTE	Head count	FTE	Full-Time (Head count)	Part-Time (Head count)	FTE	Head count			
Gender																					
Women	90	70.96	37	13	46.20	40	24.76	106	78.76	40	20	53.87	46	24.89	75	60.85	33	13	41.64	29	19.21
Men	83	74.90	55	1	55.80	27	19.10	90	81.45	59	0	59.00	31	22.45	62	57.58	38	2	39.84	22	17.74
Self-described	1	1.00	1	0	1.00	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Prefer not to say	19	16.04	11	1	11.60	7	4.44	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Age																					
>19	3	1.38	0	0	0.00	3	1.38	7	1.99	0	0	0.00	7	1.99	1	0.49	0	0	0	1	0.49
20-29	35	23.41	12	1	12.60	22	10.81	44	34.09	19	2	20.40	23	13.69	24	18.79	8	1	8.92	15	9.87
30-39	51	45.54	30	3	32.10	18	13.44	35	30.80	21	3	22.70	11	8.10	30	25.4	17	5	20.09	8	5.31
40-49	56	49.16	34	7	38.70	15	10.46	60	50.46	31	9	36.94	20	13.52	38	34.5	21	3	23.03	14	11.47
50-59	28	25.98	16	3	18.40	9	7.58	31	27.98	20	5	23.99	6	3.99	30	27.27	18	2	19.45	10	7.82
60-69	19	16.43	11	1	11.80	7	4.63	19	14.89	8	1	8.84	10	6.05	13	11.59	7	4	9.99	2	1.6
70+	1	1.00	0	0	0.00	1	1.00	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.39	0	0	0	1	0.39
Total Employees	193	162.90	103	15	114.60	75	49.30	196	160.21	99	20	112.87	77	47.34	137	118.43	71	15	81.48	51	36.95
EBA Classification																					
Level 1	38	17.84	2	0	2.00	36	15.84	42	21.49	4	1	4.80	37	16.69	23	13.68	2	0	2	21	11.68
Level 2	23	17.90	10	4	12.80	9	5.10	23	17.13	7	4	9.94	12	7.19	11	7.27	0	1	0.59	10	6.68
Level 3	24	22.27	14	3	16.20	7	6.07	32	29.53	20	4	23.19	8	6.34	25	22.85	14	6	18.86	5	3.99
Level 4	7	7.00	7	0	7.00	0	0.00	7	6.20	6	0	6.00	1	0.20	4	4	4	0	4	0	0
Level 5	18	16.59	9	3	10.90	6	5.69	15	12.46	7	5	10.34	3	2.12	12	11.04	6	3	8.24	3	2.8
Level 6	10	10.00	7	0	7.00	3	3.00	6	6.00	3	0	3.00	3	3.00	5	4.6	3	1	3.6	1	1
Level 7	31	30.40	21	2	22.60	8	7.80	28	26.80	21	3	22.80	4	4.00	16	14.99	12	2	13.19	2	1.8
Level 8	20	18.90	16	3	18.10	1	0.80	20	17.60	13	3	14.80	4	2.80	18	17	12	2	13	4	4
Level CPI	12	12.00	12	0	12.00	0	0.00	14	14.00	14	0	14.00	0	0.00	10	10	10	0	10	0	0
Level CP2	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	1.00	1	0	1.00	0	0.00	5	5	5	0	5	0	0
Level CP3	5	5.00	5	0	5.00	0	0.00	3	3.00	3	0	3.00	0	0.00	3	3	3	0	3	0	0
Level SES 1	4	4.00	0	0	0.00	4	4.00	4	4.00	0	0	0.00	4	4.00	4	4	0	0	0	4	4
Level SES 3	1	1.00	0	0	0.00	1	1.00	1	1.00	0	0	0.00	1	1.00	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
Total Employees	193	162.9	103	15	113.6	75	49.30	196	160.21	99	20	112.87	77	47.34	137	118.43	71	15	81.48	51	36.95
Demographic Data																					
Classification Data																					

People and culture (continued)

Our workforce numbers have remained steady over the past financial year with three additional headcount (2.51 FTE) overall.

We have seen a change in the gender data in the 2023/24 period with the introduction of a fourth option to the data set where employees have a choice of preferring not to say. This has resulted in a reduction in the traditional responses for women and men.

The age demographic data has also changed in the past year with a reduction in junior and under 29-year-olds and an increase to the 30-39 age bracket.

The split between classification levels has remained consistent with the previous year.

Our staff numbers increased over the summer period across all caravan parks with the addition of seasonal casual staff members.

ANNUALISED TOTAL SALARY FOR EXECUTIVES

Senior Executive Service (SES) Level	Total Remuneration Package (TRP) Range (inc. Superannuation)	Directors	CEO
SES 1	\$216,376 to \$279,238	4	
SES 2	\$279,239 to \$401,017		
SES 3	\$401,018 to \$533,431		1
Totals		4*	1

*** Notes:**

One SES 1 role was made redundant in April 2024.

Organisational Change

In April 2024, an extensive structural review of the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority was initiated, which resulted in subsequent changes to the organisational structure.

Through careful consideration and consultation with affected colleagues, Education services were discontinued. Additionally, two management roles were consolidated within their respective directorates, and the number of directorates was reduced, resulting in the removal of one Director position.

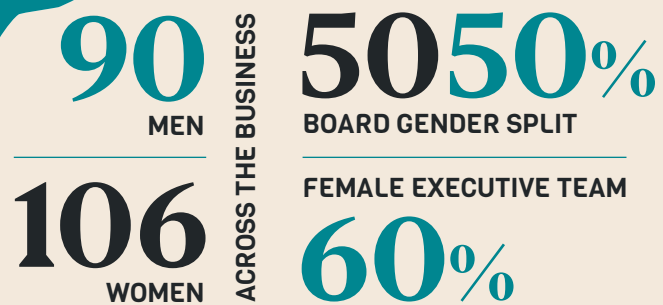
We extend our sincere thanks to all outgoing staff members for their contributions to the organisation and the community, and for their dedication to the sustainability of the Great Ocean Road coast and parks.

STATEMENT OF DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Declarations of pecuniary interests have been duly completed and are updated by all Board members and relevant officers. A 'Register of Private Interest Declarations' is retained by the Chief Executive Officer (the Authority's Accountable Officer) and is available on request to the relevant Ministers, Members of Parliament, and the public, subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act.

WORKFORCE INCLUSION

The Authority is working towards creating a balanced working environment where equal opportunity and diversity are valued. The Board has five women and five men at the end of June 2024. On 30 June 2024, the Executive team comprised 60% females. Across the business, we have a relatively equal gender split with 106 (78.92FTE) women to 90 (81.47 FTE) men.



Other Disclosures

LOCAL JOBS FIRST (FRD 25D)

The *Local Jobs First Act 2003* introduced in August 2018 brings together the Victorian Industry Participation Policy (VIPP) and Major Project Skills Guarantee (MPSG) policy which were previously administered separately. The Authority is required to apply the Local Jobs First policy in all projects valued at \$3 million or more, or \$1 million or more for projects in regional Victoria. The MSPG applies to all construction projects valued at \$20 million or more.

Projects commenced— Local Jobs First Standard

During 2023–24, the Authority applied the Local Jobs First policy to two projects in the tendering phase that were estimated to be over the \$1 million threshold. These projects are currently underway.

The MSPG did not apply to these projects.

Project name	Contract value	Targeted LJF commitment values in tender response
Point Grey Redevelopment Design – Tender RFT 23-0025	\$1,053,813.98	97% local content Localisation values: Cadetships hours created 0.9 Cadetships retained 0.05 Standard employment retained 0.80
Fisherman’s Beach Carpark upgrade – Tender RFT 24-001	\$981,398.70	100% local content Localisation values: Created & retained employees & cadets – 0.65

Projects completed— Local Jobs First Standard

During 2023–24, the Authority did not complete any Local Jobs First Standard projects. Currently listed projects are underway.

Reporting requirements— All projects

The Authority did not commence any MSPG-applicable and VIPP-applicable contracts prior to 15 August 2018.

Reporting requirements—Grants

The Authority did not provide any grants during 2023–24.

SOCIAL PROCUREMENT

Social Procurement Framework

The Authority is committed to supporting the Victorian Government’s directions under the Social Procurement Framework (SPF), recognising that it plays a key role in advancing social and sustainable outcomes for Victorians.

We use the Framework’s Procurement Policy and Procedures to ensure that it applies Victoria’s Social Procurement Framework to deliver social and sustainable outcomes via the market approach stage in accordance with the Framework.

In accordance with the SPF, for individual procurement activity below \$1 million, social and sustainable outcomes are considered in the initial procurement planning phase and where appropriate are included as a weighted evaluation criterion of no less than 5%. For procurement

activities between \$1 million and \$20 million, the inclusion of SPF objectives as a weighted criterion of between 5%-10% is compulsory.

Achievements

The Authority is in the process of developing a new social procurement framework and strategy which is planned for completion in the 2024/25 year. The aim of the strategy is to align our operations with the SPF and to engage with suppliers who have the capability to deliver our procurement requirements, while delivering social benefits to the Victorian community in the following key areas:

- Women’s equality and safety
- Sustainable Victorian social enterprise and Aboriginal business sectors
- Environmentally sustainable business practices.

Other Disclosures (continued)

Our team is committed to pursuing all opportunities to advance social and sustainable outcomes for Victorians. We also ensure that our operations and supply chains comply with the *Modern Slavery Act 2018 (Cth)*.

Most of the individual procurement activities undertaken in 2023–24 fell below the threshold of Victoria's Social Procurement Framework, where social procurement approaches are encouraged but not mandatory. One procurement activity was within the 'lower band' of the framework and the Authority used the evaluation criteria to highlight businesses that align with the Social and Sustainable Procurement Framework and the employment of Aboriginal people.

REPORTING OF OFFICE-BASED ENVIRONMENTAL DATA BY GOVERNMENT ENTITIES (FRD 24D)

The Authority's commitment to capturing, reporting on and actioning sustainability and environmental data is driven by our obligations under the Financial Reporting Direction 24D (FRD24D) and our existing Coastal and Marine Management Plan.

The following data table outlines our reporting obligations.

Electricity Use	
Indicator	2023-2024
EL1. Total electricity consumption segmented by source (MWh)	2,539
• Purchased electricity (MWh)	2,539
• Not Directly purchased but from outside the organisation (MWh)	NA
• Self-Generated (MWh)	NA
EL4. Total electricity offsets segmented by offset type (MWh)	473,715
• LGC's voluntarily retired by the Entity	473,715
• LGC's voluntarily retired by Entity's behalf	NA
• Greenpower	NA
• Certified carbon neutral electricity purchased	NA
• LGC's mandatorily retired or LGC's conveyed to an entity's retailer for mandatory retirement	NA

Transportation		
Indicator	2023-2024	Percentage
T2. Number and proportion of vehicles in the organisational boundary segmented by vehicle category and engine/ fuel type (Number and %)	71	100
Road vehicles	54	76
Passenger vehicles	49	69%
<i>Internal combustion engines</i>	44	61%
• Petrol	8	11%
• Diesel/biodiesel	36	51%
• LPG	0	
Hybrid	5	7%
• Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle (PHEV)	4	6%
• Range-extended electric vehicle	1	1%
• Electric propulsion	0	
• Battery Electric Vehicle (BEV)	0	
• Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle (FCEV)	0	
Goods Vehicles	5	7%
<i>Internal combustion engines</i>	5	7%
• Petrol	0	0%
• Diesel/biodiesel	5	7%
• LPG	0	
Non-road vehicles	17	24%
<i>Internal combustion engines</i>	4	6%
• Petrol	2	2%
• Diesel/biodiesel	2	2%
• LPG	0	
• Fuel oil	0	
Hybrid	13	18%
• Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle (PHEV)	0	
• Range-extended electric vehicle	13	18%
• Electric propulsion	0	
• Battery Electric Vehicle (BEV)	0	
• Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle (FCEV)	0	

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING EXPENDITURE (FRD 22I)

Nil reports. The Authority's expenditure in the 2023-24 reporting period on government campaign expenditure did not exceed \$100,000.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

The Authority manages a range of capital projects. No capital projects were completed during the reporting period that exceeded the disclosure threshold of \$10 million Total Estimated Investment (TEI).

For information on recent capital projects managed by the Authority and the broader Victorian public sector, please refer to the most recent Budget Paper No. 4 State Capital Program (BP4) available on the Department of Treasury and Finance's website at this link: www.budget.vic.gov.au/budget-papers.

Other Disclosures (continued)

CONSULTANCY EXPENDITURE (FRD 22I)

In 2023-24, there were 28 consultancies where the total fees payable to the consultants were \$10,000 (excluding GST) or greater. The total expenditure incurred during 2023-24 in relation to this consulting expenditure was \$1,330,065 (excl. GST). See table below for details.

Name of Consultant	Summary or Purpose of Project	Total Approved Project Fees	Total Fees Incurred for period	Future Commitments
Alluvium Consulting Australia Pty Ltd	Project Management Advisory	178,610	178,610	Nil
Delos Delta Pty Ltd	Smart Coast Strategy Plan	109,960	109,960	Nil
BMT Commercial Australia Pty Ltd	Coastal Adaptation Plan	98,464	98,464	Nil
Avant Group Pty Ltd	Business Case Development and Grant Application	93,007	93,007	Nil
Arterial Design Pty Ltd	Great Ocean Road Signage Strategy	92,003	92,003	Nil
TRC Tourism Pty Ltd	Regional Trail Management Strategy	89,243	89,243	Nil
Extent Heritage Pty Ltd	Conservation Management Plan	86,507	86,507	Nil
Hansen Partnership Pty Ltd	Point Impossible Landscape Masterplan	63,567	63,567	Nil
Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation	Traditional Owner Engagement	60,940	60,940	Nil
Arup Australia Pty Ltd	Strategic Decision-Making Framework	51,682	51,682	Nil
Change Playbook	Change Management and Executive Leadership Support	49,750	49,750	Nil
Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation	Traditional Owner Engagement	47,997	47,997	Nil
ODIN360	Business Case and Feasibility Study	46,220	46,220	Nil
Sustainable Project Management Pty Ltd	Projects Sustainability Review	37,813	37,813	Nil
Infrastructure Management Group Pty Ltd	Conditional Audit of Car Parks and Roads	32,800	32,800	Nil
Rapid Consulting Engineers Pty Ltd	Structure Assessment	24,100	24,100	Nil
Tonkin & Taylor Pty Ltd	Erosion Hazard Assessment	20,300	20,300	Nil
Beacon Ecological	Biodiversity Assessment	18,800	18,800	Nil
Just Add Colour Management Consulting	Strategic Engagement Plan	16,500	16,500	Nil
Paige Williams Pty Ltd	Change Management and Executive Leadership Support	14,995	14,995	Nil
HR Legal	People and Culture Strategic Plan	13,650	13,650	Nil
Sureside Consulting Pty Ltd	Conditional and Structural Assessments	13,586	13,586	Nil
ArcBlue	Procurement Advisory	13,298	13,298	Nil
Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry	Policy and Framework Review	13,078	13,078	Nil
ACNL ENGINEERS PTY LTD	Provision of Designs and Site Inspections	12,364	12,364	Nil
Herron Todd White	Commercial Lease Valuations	10,450	10,450	Nil
Case Meallin	Project Management Advisory	10,303	10,303	Nil
Agile Analytics	Reporting and Data Analytics	10,000	10,000	Nil
Total (Excluding GST)		1,330,065	1,330,065	Nil

DETAILS OF CONSULTANCIES UNDER \$10 000

In 2023-24, there were 31 consultancies engaged during the year where the total fees payable to the individual consultancies was less than \$10 000. The total expenditure incurred during 2023-24 in relation to these consultancies was \$144,998 (excl. GST).

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY EXPENDITURE (FRD 22I)

For the 2023-24 reporting period, the Authority had a total ICT expenditure of \$901,999 –details shown below.

All operational ICT expenditure	ICT expenditure relating to projects to create or enhance ICT capabilities		
Business As Usual (BAU) ICT expenditure	Non Business as Usual (non BAU) ICT expenditure	Operational expenditure (OPEX)	Capital expenditure (CAPEX)
(Total)	(Total = Operational expenditure and Capital Expenditure)		
\$815,404	\$86,595	\$18,720	\$67,875

Notes:

ICT expenditure refers to the Authority's costs in providing business enabling ICT services within the current reporting period. It comprises Business As Usual (BAU) ICT expenditure and Non-Business As Usual (Non-BAU) ICT expenditure.

Non-BAU ICT expenditure relates to extending or enhancing the Authority's current ICT capabilities.

BAU ICT expenditure is all remaining ICT expenditure, which primarily relates to ongoing activities to operate and maintain the current ICT capability.

MAJOR CONTRACTS (FRD 12B)

The Authority did not enter into any major contracts during 2023-24. A 'major contract' is a contract entered into during the reporting period valued at \$10 million or more.

DISCLOSURE OF PROCUREMENT COMPLAINTS (FRD 22)

Nil reports. The Authority did not receive any procurement complaints during the 2023-24 reporting period.

REVIEW AND STUDIES EXPENDITURE (FRD 22)

During 2023-24, there was one review undertaken with the total cost of \$71,775. Details of the review is outlined below.

Name of the review and output (agency responsible)	Reasons for review/ study	Terms of reference/ scope	Anticipated outcomes	Estimated cost for the year (excl. GST)	Final cost if completed (excl. GST)	Publicly available (Y/N) and URL
Apollo Bay Harbour Development Plan Review (Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority)	An independent review of the Apollo Bay Harbour Development plan to determine if the Geelong City Deal goals could be achieved within the current legislative and policy environment.	To assess each proposed element of the Apollo Bay Harbour Development to determine if they could achieve relevant statutory consents.	A detailed risk assessment including recommendations to be considered during the strategic planning phase.	\$80,000 inc GST	\$71,775 inc GST	No

DISCLOSURE OF EMERGENCY PROCUREMENT (FRD 22)

In 2023-24, there were nil reports to disclose. Emergency procurement was not activated by the Authority, resulting in nil spending for emergency procurements.

Other Disclosures (continued)

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (FRD 221)

The *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the Act) allows the public a right of access to documents held by the Authority. The purpose of the Act is to extend as far as possible the right of the community to access information held by government departments, local councils, Ministers and other bodies subject to the Act.

An applicant has a right to apply for access to documents held by the Authority. This comprises documents both created by the Authority or supplied to the Authority by an external organisation or individual, and may also include maps, films, microfiche, photographs, computer printouts, computer discs, tape recordings and videotapes. Information about the type of material produced by the Authority will be available on the Authority's website under its Part II Information Statement.

The Act allows the Authority to refuse access, either fully or partially, to certain documents or information. Examples of documents that may not be accessed include:

- cabinet documents
- some internal working documents
- law enforcement documents
- documents covered by legal professional privilege, such as legal advice
- personal information about other people
- information provided to the Authority in confidence and information that is confidential under another Act.

Under the Act, the FOI processing time for requests received is 30 calendar days. However, when external consultation is required under ss29, 29A, 31, 31A, 33, 34 or 35, a 15 day automatic extension applies.

Processing time may also be extended by periods of 30 days, in consultation with the applicant. With the applicant's agreement this may occur any number of times. However, obtaining an applicant's agreement for an extension cannot occur after the expiry of the timeframe for deciding a request.

If an applicant is not satisfied by a decision made by the Authority, under section 49A of the Act, they have the right to seek a review by the Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner (OVIC) within 28 days of receiving a decision letter.

If an applicant is not satisfied by a decision made by the Authority, under section 49A of the Act, they have the right to seek a review by the Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner (OVIC) within 28 days of receiving a decision letter.

Making a request

Requests for documents in the possession of the Authority should be addressed to:

Governance and Risk Team
foi@greatoceanroadauthority.vic.gov.au

The Great Ocean Road and Coast Authority
25 Baines Crescent, Torquay,
Victoria 3228

An application fee of \$32.70 applies. Access charges may also be payable if the document pool is large and the search for material is time consuming.

Access to documents can also be obtained through a written request to the Authority's Governance and Risk Team, as detailed in s17 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.

When making an FOI request, applicants should ensure requests are in writing, and clearly identify what types of material and documents are being sought.

FOI statistics/timeliness

During 2023-24, the Authority received no FOI applications. The Authority made one FOI decision during the 12 months ending 30 June 2024.

COMPLIANCE WITH THE DISABILITY ACT 2006

The *Disability Act 2006* reaffirms and strengthens the rights of people with a disability and recognises that this requires support across the government sector and within the community.

The Authority is working towards the preparation of its inaugural Disability Action Plan to achieve compliance with its obligations under the Act. This is an identified action to be achieved once the Authority reaches its transformation end-state on 1 November 2025.

The Plan will consider reducing barriers to access goods, services and facilities; reducing barriers to a person with a disability obtaining and maintaining employment; and promoting inclusion and participation in the community and achieving tangible changes in attitudes and practices that discriminate against people with a disability.

As required by the Disability Act, the Authority reports annually on the progress towards the implementation of its Disability Action Plan in its annual report.

BUILDING ACT 1993 (FRD 221)

Compliance with the Building Act 1993

The Authority owns or manages 312 government buildings located along the foreshore and ten caravan parks between Torquay and Peterborough. We are required to include a statement on our compliance with the building and maintenance provisions of the *Building Act 1993* in relation to these buildings.

It is a requirement that appropriately qualified consultants and contractors are engaged for all proposed works on the land we manage and that their work and services comply with current building standards. All consultants and contractors are expected to have appropriate mechanisms in place to ensure compliance with the building and maintenance provisions of the *Building Act 1993*, Building Regulations 2018 and the National Construction Code.

In relation to existing buildings, mandatory testing and preventative maintenance of emergency and exit lighting audits in accordance with relevant standards is undertaken as a minimum at six monthly intervals with fire service audits carried out on a six-monthly basis. These inspections then inform the works program which is delivered annually through existing maintenance contracts.

In 2023-24:

Number of major works projects undertaken (>\$50 000)	1 major works project
Number of building permits, occupancy permits, or certificates of final inspection issued in relation to buildings owned	0 building permits 0 occupancy permits 0 certificates of final inspection
Number of emergency orders and building orders issued in relation to buildings	0 emergency order 0 building orders
Number of buildings that have been brought into conformity with building standards during the year	0 buildings brought into conformity

COMPETITIVE NEUTRALITY POLICY (FRD 221)

Competitive Neutrality Policy

Competitive neutrality requires government businesses to ensure where services compete, or potentially compete with the private sector, any net advantage arising solely from their government ownership is accounted for if it is not in the public interest.

Government businesses are required to set a competitively neutral price, which accounts for any net advantage that comes from public ownership. Competitive neutrality policy supports fair competition between public and private businesses and provides government businesses with a tool to enhance decisions on resource allocation. This policy does not override other policy objectives of government and focuses on efficiency in the provision of service.

The Authority continues to comply with the requirements of the Competitive Neutrality Policy.

PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURE ACT 2012 (FRD 221 & PID ACT)

The *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012* (PID Act) enables people to make a disclosure about corrupt or improper conduct by a public officer or a public body.

The Authority is a public body for the purposes of the PID Act.

What is a public interest disclosure?

A public interest disclosure is a complaint of corrupt or improper conduct or detrimental action by a public officer or a public body.

'Improper or corrupt conduct' involves substantial mismanagement of public resources, risk to public health or safety or the environment, or corruption.

'Detrimental action' is action taken against a person in reprisal for making a public interest disclosure.

How do I make a public interest disclosure?

You can make a public interest disclosure about the Authority or its board members, officers or employees by contacting IBAC (details below).

The Authority is not able to receive public interest disclosures.

The Authority has established procedures for the protection of persons from detrimental action in reprisal for making a public interest disclosure about the Authority, its board members, officers or employees. You can access the Authority's Public Interest Disclosure Policy and Procedure on our website.

Independent Broad-Based Anti-Corruption Commission (IBAC) Victoria

Address: Level 1, North Tower,
459 Collins Street,
Melbourne Victoria 3000.

Mail: IBAC, GPO Box 24234,
Melbourne Victoria 3001

www.ibac.vic.gov.au
1300 735 135

Other Disclosures (continued)

ASSET MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK (AMAF) MATURITY ASSESSMENT [FRD 22]

The following sections summarise the Authority’s assessment of maturity against the requirements of the Asset Management Accountability Framework (AMAF). The AMAF is a non-prescriptive, devolved accountability model of asset management that requires compliance with 41 mandatory requirements. The AMAF applies to our non-current assets (physical and intangible) but not financial assets.

The Authority’s target maturity rating is ‘competence’, meaning systems and processes fully in place, consistently applied and systematically meeting the AMAF requirement, including a continuous improvement process to expand system performance above AMAF minimum requirements.

Leadership and Accountability (requirements 1-19)

The Authority is working towards its target maturity level under most requirements within this category. The Authority did not comply with some requirements in the areas of allocating asset management responsibility and other requirements. A plan for improvement is in place to improve the Authority’s maturity rating in these areas.

Planning (requirements 20-23)

The Authority is working towards its target maturity level under most requirements within this category with the finalisation and endorsement of its inaugural Asset Management Strategy.

Acquisition (requirements 24 and 25)

The Authority has met or exceeded its target maturity level in this category.

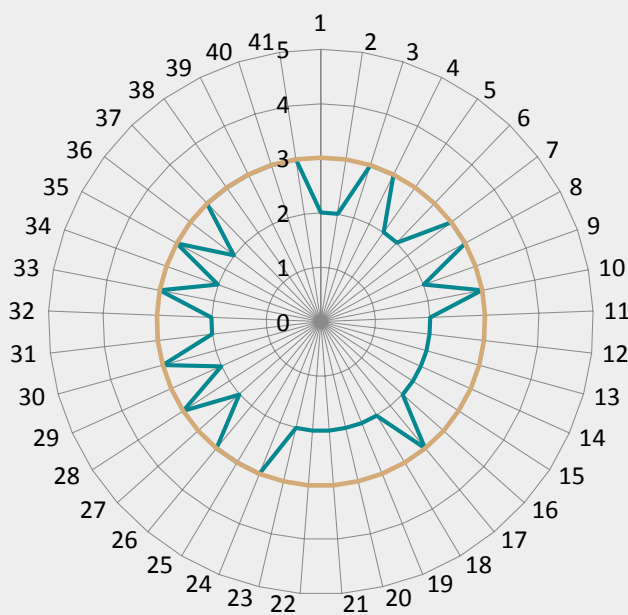
Operation (requirements 26-40)

The Authority has met its target maturity level under most requirements within this category. The Authority did not comply with some requirements in the areas of maintenance of assets, monitoring and preventative action and information management. The Authority is developing a plan for improvement to establish processes to proactively identify potential asset performance failures and identify options for preventative action.

Disposal (requirement 41)

The Authority has met its target maturity level in this category.

CURRENT ASSET MANAGEMENT MATURITY



LEGEND

Status	Scale
Not Applicable	N/A
Innocence	0
Awareness	1
Developing	2
Competence	3
Optimising	4
Unassessed	U/A

AMAF MATURITY ASSESSMENT-STATUS

—	Current Maturity Score
—	Target Score

STATEMENT OF AVAILABILITY OF OTHER INFORMATION (FRD 22I)

In compliance with the requirements of the Standing Directions of the Minister for Finance, details in respect of the items listed below have been retained by the Authority and are available (in full) on request, subject to the provisions of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*:

- (a) details of publications produced by the Authority about itself, and how these can be obtained
- (b) details of any major external reviews carried out on the Authority
- (c) details of major research and development activities undertaken by the Authority
- (d) details of major promotional, public relations and marketing activities undertaken by the Authority to develop community awareness of the entity and its services
- (e) details of changes in prices, fees, charges, rates and levies charged.

The information is available on request from:

Governance Coordinator
Great Ocean Road Coast and
Parks Authority

Phone: 1300 736 533

foi@greatoceanroadauthority.vic.gov.au

Additional information included in the Annual Report

Details in respect to the following items have been included in the Authority's Annual Report, on the pages indicated below:

- (f) assessments and measures undertaken to improve the occupational health and safety of employees (on page 78)
- (g) a statement on industrial relations within the Authority (on page 78)
- (h) a list of the Authority's major committees, the purposes of each committee, and the extent to which the purposes have been achieved (on page 73-74)
- (i) a statement of completion of declarations of pecuniary interests by relevant officers (on page 82).

Information that is not applicable to the Authority

The following information is not relevant to the Authority for the reasons set out below:

- (j) a declaration of shares held by senior officers (no shares have been issued in the Authority)
- (k) details of overseas visits undertaken (no board members or senior executives took overseas work-related trips).

GREAT OCEAN ROAD COAST AND PARKS AUTHORITY FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT COMPLIANCE ATTESTATION STATEMENT

I, Libby Mears, on behalf of the Responsible Body, certify that the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority has no Material Compliance Deficiency with respect to the applicable Standing Directions under the *Financial Management Act 1994* and Instructions.



Libby Mears
27 November 2024



Financial Statements

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Audited Financial Statements for 12 months of financial year 2023 - 24

Comprehensive Income Statement

For the period ended 30 June 2024

	Notes	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Continuing operations			
Revenue and income from transactions			
Sale of goods and services	2.2.1	24,531	22,409
Government funding	2.2.2	1,964	8,067
Interest	2.2.3	763	521
Other income	2.2.4	33,786	2,396
Total revenue and income from transactions		61,044	33,393
Expenses from transactions			
Employee benefits expenses	7.1.1	20,416	17,234
Depreciation and amortisation	3.1.3	3,976	3,925
Interest expense		106	172
Operating expenses	2.3.1	11,257	10,820
Government grant operating expenses	2.3.2	1,019	2,114
Total expenses from transactions		36,774	34,265
Net result from transactions		24,270	(872)
Other economic flows included in net result			
Net gain/(loss) on non-financial assets		17	(603)
Total other economic flows included in net result		17	(603)
Net result		24,287	(1,475)
Other economic flows – other comprehensive income			
Items that will not be reclassified to net result			
Other gain/(loss) on non-financial assets		-	-
Changes in physical asset revaluation surplus		-	-
Total other economic flows – other comprehensive income		-	-
Comprehensive result		24,287	(1,475)

The above Comprehensive Income Statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Financial Position

As at 30 June 2024

	Notes	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Assets			
Financial assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	5.1	12,762	17,174
Receivables	4.1	1,484	619
Total financial assets		14,246	17,793
Non-financial assets			
Property, plant and equipment	3.1	132,434	89,934
Other non-financial assets	4.2	444	388
Total non-financial assets		132,878	90,322
Total assets		147,124	108,115
Liabilities			
Payables	4.3	2,577	2,157
Contract liabilities	5.2	24,342	20,972
Interest bearing liabilities	5.3	3,214	3,615
Employee related provisions	7.1.2	1,706	1,327
Total liabilities		31,839	28,071
Net assets		115,285	80,044
Equity			
Accumulated surplus/(deficit)	6.2.2	100,390	76,103
Contributed capital	6.2.1	14,895	3,941
Total equity		115,285	80,044

The above Balance Sheet should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the period ended 30 June 2024

	Physical Asset Revaluation Surplus	Accumulated Surplus/(Deficit)	Contributed capital	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Balance as at 1 July 2022	-	77,578	3,941	81,519
Net result for the year	-	(1,475)	-	(1,475)
Balance as at 30 June 2023	-	76,103	3,941	80,044
Balance as at 1 July 2023	-	76,103	3,941	80,044
Net result for the year	-	24,287	-	24,287
Other comprehensive income for the year	-	-	-	-
Contributions by owners	-	-	10,954	10,954
Balance as at 30 June 2024	-	100,390	14,895	115,285

The Statement of Changes in Equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Cash Flows

For the period ended 30 June 2024

	Notes	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts			
Receipts from caravan parks and reserves		28,215	25,488
Receipts from government - other		754	468
Receipts from government - capital		4,937	4,549
Interest received		763	521
Total receipts		34,669	31,026
Payments			
Payments to trade creditors, other creditors and employees		33,370	30,432
Repayments of government grants		-	981
Goods and services tax (paid to) / refunded from the Australian Taxation Office		1,373	992
Interest Paid		106	171
Total payments		34,849	32,576
Net cash inflow from operating activities	5.1.1	(180)	(1,550)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Payments for infrastructure, property, plant and equipment		(3,832)	(6,602)
Proceeds from sale of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment		9	-
Net cash inflow (outflow) from investing activities		(3,823)	(6,602)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Lease payments		(409)	(226)
Net cash inflow (outflow) from financing activities		(409)	(226)
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(4,412)	(8,378)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		17,174	25,552
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	5.1	12,762	17,174

The GST component of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities, which is recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO, is classified as operating cash flows and disclosed therein.

The above Statement of Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Notes to the Financial Statements

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SECTION 1 - ABOUT THIS REPORT

Structure

- 1.1 Corporate information
- 1.2 Basis of accounting preparation and measurement
- 1.3 Compliance information
- 1.4 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

1.1 Corporate information

Great Ocean Road Coast & Parks Authority (the Authority) is a Victorian statutory authority established by the Victorian Government under the *Great Ocean Road and Environs Protection Act 2020 (Vic)*. The financial statements cover the Authority as an individual reporting entity. The Board of the Authority is directly accountable to the Victorian Government through the Minister for Environment. The principal address of the Authority is 25 Baines Cres, Torquay VIC 3228.

The principal activities of the Authority are outlined under Part 5 of the *Great Ocean Road and Environs Protection Act 2020 (Vic)*, being the objective is to protect, conserve, rehabilitate and manage Crown land and coastal assets within the Great Ocean Road coast and parks.

These annual financial statements represent the audited general purpose financial statements for Authority for the period ended 30 June 2024. The purpose of the report is to provide users with information about the Authority's stewardship of resources entrusted to it.

The Authority is not designated to apply for the National Tax Equivalent Regime (NTER).

1.2 Basis of accounting preparation and measurement

The financial report is prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention and on a going concern basis.

These financial statements are in Australian dollars and the historical cost convention is used unless a different measurement basis is specifically disclosed in the note associated with the item measured on a different basis.

The accrual basis of accounting has been applied in preparing these financial statements, whereby assets, liabilities, equity, income and expenses are recognised in the reporting period to which they relate, regardless of when cash is received or paid.

Consistent with the requirements of *AASB 1004 Contributions*, contributions by owners (that is, contributed capital and its repayment) are treated as equity transactions and, therefore, do not form part of the income and expenses of the Authority. Additions to net assets which have been designated as contributions by owners are recognised as contributed capital. Other transfers that are in the nature of contributions to or distributions by owners have also been designated as contributions by owners. In accordance with *Financial Reporting Direction 119* transfers of land from a local government entity is not a contribution by owner and is recognised as other income.

Judgements, estimates and assumptions are required to be made about financial information being presented. The significant judgements made in the preparation of these financial statements are disclosed in the notes where amounts affected by those judgements are disclosed. Estimates and associated assumptions are based on professional judgements derived from historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

Judgements and assumptions made by management in applying AAS that have significant effects on the financial statements and estimates are disclosed in the notes under the heading: 'Critical Accounting Judgements'.

All amounts in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest \$1,000 unless otherwise stated.

Consistent with *AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement*, the Authority determines the policies and procedures for both recurring fair value measurements such as property, plant and equipment and financial instruments and for non-recurring fair value measurements such as non-financial physical assets held for sale, in accordance with the requirements of AASB 13 and the relevant Financial Reporting Directions.

SECTION 1 - ABOUT THIS REPORT (continued)

1.2 Basis of accounting preparation and measurement (continued)

All assets and liabilities for which fair value is measured or disclosed in the financial statements are categorised within the fair value hierarchy, described as follows, based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole:

- Level 1 — Quoted (unadjusted) market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities;
- Level 2 — Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is directly or indirectly observable; and
- Level 3 — Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is unobservable.

For the purpose of fair value disclosures, the Authority has determined classes of assets and liabilities on the basis of the nature, characteristics and risks of the asset or liability and the level of the fair value hierarchy as explained above.

In addition, the Authority determines whether transfers have occurred between levels in the hierarchy by re-assessing categorisation (based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole) at the end of each reporting period.

The Authority monitors changes in the fair value of each asset and liability through relevant data sources to determine whether revaluation is required.

1.2.1 Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis, which assumes that the Authority will be able to realise its assets and settle its liabilities in the normal course of business.

If the Authority is unable to secure additional operating income to fund its expanded functions, legislative responsibilities and meet the Minister's Statement of Expectations, its ability to continue as a going concern may be affected.

The Authority has been impacted by the increased operating costs associated with the scale up of park management operations, as required by the GOREP Act, which have not been matched by a corresponding increase in operating revenue.

There has been no change in government policy or direction that materially impact the Authority's functions, therefore the Authority remains optimistic about its ability to generate future revenue for its operating future.

The Authority is actively pursuing various strategies to minimise expenditure, including deferring discretionary internal projects, while maintaining core activities and focusing on strategies to maximize existing revenue streams.

Financial forecasts prepared by management support the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern based on the responsible Minister's commitment to provide financial support through a Letter of Comfort for the period up to October 2026.

This disclosure provides an overview of the issues facing the Authority and management's plans to address them.

SECTION 1 - ABOUT THIS REPORT (continued)

1.3 Compliance information

These general-purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Management Act 1994 (Vic) (FMA) and applicable Australian Accounting Standards (AASs), which include Interpretations, issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB). In particular, they are presented in a manner consistent with the requirements of AASB 1049 Whole of Government and General Government Sector Financial Reporting.

Where appropriate, those AASs paragraphs applicable to not-for-profit entities have been applied. Accounting policies selected and applied in these financial statements ensure that the resulting financial information satisfies the concepts of relevance and reliability, thereby ensuring that the substance of the underlying transactions or other events is reported.

1.4 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of AAS, management is required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis of making the judgements. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors including expectations of future events that may have a financial or disclosure impact on the Authority and are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

1.4.1 Critical accounting judgements

Critical judgements that management has made in the process of applying Authority's accounting policies and that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements are:

Impairment of non-financial assets

The Authority assesses impairment of all assets at each reporting date by evaluating conditions specific to the Authority and to the particular asset that may lead to impairment. These include obsolescence or physical damage, technology, economic and political environments and future product expectations. If an impairment trigger exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is determined.

Fair value of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment

All non-current physical assets are initially recorded at cost and subsequently revalued at fair value in accordance with FRD 103. As of 30 June 2024, the Authority has assessed the fair value of its non-current physical assets and determined that their carrying values approximate their fair values. Consequently, no revaluation adjustments were made for the year ended 30 June 2024. Independent fair value assessments were conducted for assets transferred from other government entities during the year (refer to note 3.1.2). For all other assets, fair value assessments are based on management's evaluations. In the absence of observed market inputs, future-oriented estimates are used to determine the recoverable amounts of classes of property, plant, and equipment. Estimating the carrying amounts of these assets involves forecasting the impact of uncertain future events as of the end of the reporting period.

SECTION 2 - PERFORMANCE

Introduction

Great Ocean Road Coast & Parks Authority's (the Authority's) overall objective is to protect, conserve, rehabilitate and manage Crown land and coastal assets within the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks.

To enable the Authority to fulfil its objective and provide outputs, it receives income from the use of its land and coastal assets. Section 2.3 in this note discloses the costs associated with delivery of the services.

Structure

- 2.1 Summary of revenue and income that funds the delivery of our services
- 2.2 Income from transactions
- 2.3 Expenses incurred in delivery of services

2.1 Summary of revenue and income that funds the delivery of our services

	Notes	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Sale of goods and services	2.2.1	24,531	22,409
Government funding	2.2.2	1,964	8,067
Interest	2.2.3	763	521
Other income	2.2.4	33,786	2,396
Total revenue and income from transactions		61,044	33,393

Revenue and income that fund delivery of the Authority's services are accounted for consistently with the requirements of the relevant accounting standards disclosed in the following notes.

2.2 Income from transactions

2.2.1 Sale of goods and services

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Income from Caravan Parks and Lightstation	22,722	21,192
Income from Reserves, Leases and Licences	1,768	1,204
Income from Other Activities	41	13
Total sale of goods and services	24,531	22,409

The revenue included in the table above are transactions that the Authority has determined to be classified as revenue from contracts with customers in accordance with AASB 15.

Performance obligations and revenue recognition policies

Revenue is measured based on the consideration specified in the contract with the customer. The Authority recognises revenue when it transfers control of a service to the customer, i.e. when, or as, the performance obligations for the services to the customer are satisfied.

Where revenue is received of a fixed amount over the term of the contract (eg monthly or annual lease payments) and the customer consumes the benefits of the services as the Authority provides them, the revenue is recognised on a straight line basis over the term of the contract.

Revenue from the performance of accommodation services is recognised upon the completion of services performed or when the accommodation was provided.

Consideration received in advance of recognising the associated revenue from the customer is recorded as a contract liability (Note 5.2.2).

SECTION 2 - PERFORMANCE (continued)

2.2 Income from transactions (continued)

2.2.2 Government funding

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Government grants - Capital	1,378	7,266
Government grants - Operational	586	801
Total government funding	1,964	8,067

Grants recognised under AASB 1058

Income from grants that are enforceable and with sufficiently specific performance obligations are accounted for under AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers, with revenue recognised as these performance obligations are met.

Where the entity receives a transfer of financial assets to enable it to acquire or construct a recognisable non-financial asset that it controls, a liability is recognised for the excess of the initial carrying amount of the financial asset received over the value of the related capital works completed up to reporting date. The liability is recognised until such time that the entity satisfies its obligations under the transfer, at which point it is recorded as revenue.

Capital grants received by the entity from the Victorian Government in accordance with the funding agreement meet the criteria for revenue recognition under AASB 1058, Income for Not For Profit Entities so far as they represent transfers of financial assets (cash) to enable the entity to acquire or construct recognisable non-financial assets (specific capital works along the Great Ocean Road) that are controlled by the entity.

Accordingly, the entity will initially account for each capital related grant payment received as a liability (deferred income) on its balance sheet and progressively bring to account income from this source in the profit or loss statement, as the capital works obligations of the funding deed are met.

2.2.3 Interest

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Interest on bank deposits	763	521
Total interest	763	521

Interest income includes interest received or receivable on bank term deposits. There are no bank term deposits therefore interest income is recognised when received.

2.2.4 Other income

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Workcover Receipts	87	93
Assets transferred to the Authority from Local Government	31,670	1,944
Insurance Proceeds	700	-
Infrastructure Contributions	768	-
Other Income	561	359
Total Other Income	33,786	2,396

Other income is various revenue generated throughout the year and is recognised when earned. In accordance with *Financial Reporting Direction 119* (FRD119) transfers of land from a local government entity is not a contribution by owner and is recognised as other income at fair value.

SECTION 2 - PERFORMANCE (continued)

2.3 Expenses incurred in delivery of services

	Notes	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Employee benefits expenses	7.1.1	20,416	17,234
Operating expenses	2.3.1	11,257	10,820
Government grant operating expenses	2.3.2	1,019	2,114
Total expenses incurred in delivery of services		32,692	30,168

2.3.1 Operating expenses

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Operating expenses		
External Audit Fees	29	24
Cleaning	581	433
Insurance	137	115
Repairs & Maintenance	2,992	3,864
Supplies & Equipment	1,424	1,183
Short term lease expenses	88	201
Utilities	1,151	999
General & Administrative	1,956	2,389
Marketing & Public Relations	539	492
Other	2,360	1,120
Total Operating expenses	11,257	10,820

Operational services are expenses incurred on delivering works on the ground across the Authority's managed caravan parks and reserves to maintain tracks, ports, manage pest and weeds, and protecting cultural heritage.

Where the organisation incurs operating expenses in order to fulfil the performance obligations of recurrent government grant, they are recognised as expenses funded by government grants.

The following lease payments are recognised on a straight-line basis:

- Short-term leases – leases with a term 12 months or less; and
- Low value leases – leases with the underlying asset's fair value (when new, regardless of the age of the asset being leased) is no more than \$10 000.

The Authority did not recognise any low value leases in the 2023 and 2024 financial years.

Variable lease payments that are not included in the measurement of the lease liability (i.e. variable lease payments that do not depend on an index or a rate and which are not, in substance fixed) such as those based on performance or usage of the underlying asset, are recognised in the Comprehensive operating statement (except for payments which has been included in the carrying amount of another asset) in the period in which the event or condition that triggers those payments occur.

All expenses are recognised in the reporting period in which they are incurred.

SECTION 2 - PERFORMANCE (continued)

2.3 Expenses incurred in delivery of services (continued)

2.3.2 Government grant operating expenses

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Grant expenses	1,019	2,114
Total Government grant operating expenses	1,019	2,114

Grant expenses are contributions of the Authority's resources to another party for specific or general purposes where there is no expectation that the amount will be repaid in equal value (either by money, goods or services). It also includes other payments made towards specific projects inline with the Authority's operational requirements.

Grants can either be operating or capital in nature. Grants can be paid as general-purpose grants, which refer to grants that are not subject to conditions regarding their use. Alternatively, they may be paid as specific purpose grants which are paid for a particular purpose and/or have conditions attached regarding their use.

Grant expenses are recognised in the reporting period in which they are paid or payable. Grants can take the form of money, assets, goods, services or forgiveness of liabilities.

SECTION 3 - CORE ASSETS

Introduction

The Authority controls infrastructure that is utilised in fulfilling its objectives and conducting its activities. The core assets represent the resources that have been entrusted to the Authority to be utilised for delivery of those outputs.

Fair value measurement

Where the assets included in this section are carried at fair value, additional information is disclosed in Note 3.2 in connection with how those fair values were determined.

Structure

3.1 Total property, plant and equipment

3.2 Fair value

3.1 Total property, plant and equipment

	Gross Carrying Amount		Accumulated Depreciation	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Land at fair value	34,932	5,817	-	-
Buildings at fair value	62,632	52,314	(9,711)	(3,515)
Plant, equipment and vehicles at fair value	3,659	2,916	(1,858)	(1,219)
Assets under construction at cost	5,442	2,549	-	-
Open space assets at fair value	47,681	34,860	(10,343)	(3,788)
Total carrying amount	154,346	98,456	(21,912)	(8,522)

	Net Carrying Value	
	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Land at fair value	34,932	5,817
Buildings at fair value	52,921	48,799
Plant, equipment and vehicles at fair value	1,801	1,697
Assets under construction at cost	5,442	2,549
Open space assets at fair value	37,338	31,072
Total carrying amount	132,434	89,934

Buildings at fair value and plant, equipment and vehicles at fair value includes right of use assets (refer note 3.1.1).

SECTION 3 - CORE ASSETS (continued)

3.1 Total property, plant and equipment (continued)

3.1.1 Total right-of-use assets

	Gross Carrying Amount		Accumulated Depreciation	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Buildings at fair value	3,396	3,711	(934)	(647)
Plant, equipment and vehicles at fair value	611	285	(164)	(36)
Total carrying amount	4,007	3,996	(1,098)	(683)

	Net Carrying Value	
	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Buildings at fair value	2,462	3,064
Plant, equipment and vehicles at fair value	447	249
Total carrying amount	2,909	3,313

The Authority initially recognises a right-of-use assets and a lease liability at the lease commencement date. The right-of-use asset is initially measured at cost which comprises the initial amount of the lease liability adjusted for:

- Any lease payments made at or before the commencement date less any lease incentive received; plus
- Any initial direct costs incurred; and
- An estimate of costs to dismantle and remove the underlying asset or to restore the underlying asset or the site on which it is located.

The Authority depreciates the right-of-use assets on a straight-line basis from the lease commencement date to the earlier of the end of the useful life of the right-of-use asset or the end of the lease term. The right-of-use assets are also subject to revaluation. In addition, the right-of-use asset is periodically reduced by impairment losses, if any and adjusted for certain remeasurements of the lease liability.

3.1.2 Additions and transfers received at fair value

The Authority received a number of land and assets transfers during the year from both Local Government and the Department. There assets were recorded at fair value when the Authority obtain control of the assets. A summary of these additions is noted below:

- \$31.7m transferred from Local Government (refer note 2.2.4)
- \$11m transferred from DEECA (refer note 6.2.1)

SECTION 3 - CORE ASSETS (continued)

3.1 Total property, plant and equipment (continued)

3.1.3 Depreciation and amortisation

	2024	2023
Charge for the period	\$'000	\$'000
Buildings at fair value	1,454	1,786
Plant, equipment and vehicles at fair value	664	561
Open space assets at fair value	1,858	1,578
Closing Balance	3,976	3,925

All infrastructure assets, buildings, plant and equipment and other non-financial physical assets that have finite useful lives, are depreciated. The exceptions to this rule include items under assets held for sale, land and investment properties.

Depreciation is calculated on a straight-line basis, at rates that allocate the asset's value, less any estimated residual value, over its estimated useful life. Typical estimated useful lives for the different asset classes for current and prior years are included in the table below.

Depreciation rates and methods are reviewed at least annually and, where changed, shall be accounted for as a change in accounting estimate. Where depreciation rates or methods are changed, the net written down value of the asset is depreciated from the date of the change in accordance with the new depreciation rate or method. Depreciation recognised in prior financial years shall not be changed, that is, the change in depreciation rate or method shall be accounted for on a prospective basis.

	2024	2023
Useful life	years	years
Buildings at fair value	25 to 100	25 to 100
Plant, equipment and vehicles at fair value	2 to 7	2 to 7
Open space assets at fair value	20 to 100	20 to 100

The estimated useful lives, residual values and depreciation method are reviewed at the end of each annual reporting period, and adjustments made where appropriate.

Indefinite life assets, being land, earthworks, and core cultural assets, which are considered to have an indefinite life, are not depreciated. Depreciation is not recognised in respect of these assets because their service potential has not, in any material sense, been consumed during the reporting period.

SECTION 3 - CORE ASSETS (continued)

3.1 Total property, plant and equipment (continued)

3.1.4 Carrying values by 'purpose' groups

Property, plant and equipment are classified primarily by the 'purpose' for which the assets are used, according to one of six purpose groups based upon government purpose classifications. All assets in a purpose group are further sub-categorised according to the asset's 'nature' (e.g. buildings, plant), with each sub-category being classified as a separate class of asset for financial reporting purposes (as detailed below).

	Environmental Protection		Accumulated Depreciation	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Land at fair value	34,932	5,817	-	-
Buildings at fair value	62,632	52,314	(9,711)	(3,515)
Plant, equipment and vehicles at fair value	3,659	2,916	(1,858)	(1,219)
Assets under construction at cost	5,442	2,549	-	-
Open space assets at fair value	47,681	34,860	(10,343)	(3,788)
Total carrying amount	154,346	98,456	(21,912)	(8,522)

	Total	
	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Land at fair value	34,932	5,817
Buildings at fair value	52,921	48,799
Plant, equipment and vehicles at fair value	1,801	1,697
Assets under construction at cost	5,442	2,549
Open space assets at fair value	37,338	31,072
Total carrying amount	132,434	89,934

SECTION 3 - CORE ASSETS (continued)

3.1 Total property, plant and equipment (continued)

3.1.5 Reconciliation of movements in carrying amount of property, plant and equipment

	Land at fair value	Buildings at fair value	Plant, equipment and vehicles at fair value	Assets under construction at cost	Open space assets at fair value
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Opening Balance as at 1 July 2023	5,817	48,799	1,697	2,549	31,072
Additions*	29,115	5,430	601	3,619	7,783
Transfers from Assets under Construction	-	146	167	(683)	370
Write off of Assets under Construction	-	-	-	(43)	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-	(29)
Depreciation and Amortisation	-	(1,454)	(664)	-	(1,858)
Closing Balance as at 30 June 2024	34,932	52,921	1,801	5,442	37,338

	Total \$'000
Opening Balance as at 1 July 2023	89,934
Additions*	46,548
Transfers from Assets under Construction	-
Write off of Assets under Construction	(43)
Disposals	(29)
Depreciation and Amortisation	(3,976)
Closing Balance as at 30 June 2024	132,434

*Refer note 3.1.2 for additions and transfers.

SECTION 3 - CORE ASSETS (continued)

3.1 Total property, plant and equipment (continued)

3.1.5 Reconciliation of movements in carrying amount of property, plant and equipment

	Land at fair value	Buildings at fair value	Plant, equipment and vehicles at fair value	Assets under construction at cost	Open space assets at fair value
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Opening Balance as at 1 July 2022	3,941	46,999	1,441	769	31,870
Additions	1,876	609	817	6,186	109
Transfers from Assets under Construction	-	3,342	-	(4,250)	908
Write off of Assets under Construction	-	-	-	(156)	-
Disposals	-	(365)	-	-	(237)
Depreciation	-	(1,786)	(561)	-	(1,578)
Closing Balance as at 30 June 2023	5,817	48,799	1,697	2,549	31,072

	Total \$'000
Opening Balance as at 1 July 2022	85,020
Additions	9,597
Transfers from Assets under Construction	-
Write off of Assets under Construction	(156)
Disposals	(602)
Depreciation	(3,925)
Closing Balance as at 30 June 2023	89,934

SECTION 3 - CORE ASSETS (continued)

3.2 Fair value

This section sets out information on how the Authority determined fair value for financial reporting purposes. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date

The following assets and liabilities are carried at fair value:

- land, buildings, infrastructure, plant and equipment;

In addition, the fair values of other assets and liabilities that are carried at amortised cost, also need to be determined for disclosure purposes. The Authority determines the policies and procedures for determining fair values for both financial and non-financial assets and liabilities as required.

In determining fair values, a number of inputs are used. To increase consistency and comparability in the financial statements, these inputs are categorised into three levels, also known as the fair value hierarchy. The levels are as follows:

- Level 1 – quoted (unadjusted) market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities;
- Level 2 – valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is directly or indirectly observable; and
- Level 3 – valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is unobservable.

The Authority determines whether transfers have occurred between levels in the hierarchy by reassessing categorisation (based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole) at the end of each reporting period.

The Authority performs annual impairment testing of its assets. There were no impairment losses recognised in FY2024.

3.2.1 Fair value measurement hierarchy for assets

	Carrying Amount \$'000	Fair value measurement at the end of reporting period		
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Land at fair value	34,932	-	-	34,932
Buildings at fair value	52,921	-	-	52,921
Plant, equipment and vehicles at fair value	1,801	-	-	1,801
Assets under construction at cost	5,442	-	-	5,442
Open space assets at fair value	37,338	-	-	37,338
Total as at 30 June 2024	132,434	-	-	132,434

	Carrying Amount \$'000	Fair value measurement at the end of reporting period		
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Land at fair value	5,817	-	-	5,817
Buildings at fair value	48,799	-	-	48,799
Plant, equipment and vehicles at fair value	1,697	-	-	1,697
Assets under construction at cost	2,549	-	-	2,549
Open space assets at fair value	31,072	-	-	31,072
Total as at 30 June 2023	89,934	-	-	89,934

There have been no transfers between levels during the period.

SECTION 3 - CORE ASSETS (continued)

3.2 Fair value (continued)

3.2.2 Reconciliation of Level 3 fair value movements

	Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income	
	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Opening Balance	89,934	85,020
Total gains or losses recognised in net result	17	(603)
Purchases	42,483	5,517
Closing Balance	132,434	89,934

All non-financial physical assets are measured initially at cost and subsequently revalued at fair value less accumulated depreciation and impairment. Where an asset is acquired for no or nominal cost, the cost is its fair value at the date of acquisition.

Non-financial physical assets such as land are measured at fair value with regard to the property's highest and best use after due consideration is made for any legal or constructive restrictions imposed on the asset, public announcements or commitments made in relation to the intended use of the asset. Theoretical opportunities that may be available in relation to the asset are not taken into account until it is virtually certain that the restrictions will no longer apply. Therefore, unless otherwise disclosed, the current use of these non-financial physical assets will be their highest and best uses.

The fair value of infrastructure, plant, equipment and vehicles, is normally determined by reference to the asset's current replacement cost. This cost generally represents the replacement cost of the building/component after applying depreciation rates on a useful life basis. For plant, equipment and vehicles, existing depreciated historical cost is generally a reasonable proxy for current replacement cost because of the short lives of the assets concerned.

3.2.3 Revaluations of non-financial physical assets

Non-financial physical assets are measured at fair value on a cyclical basis, in accordance with the Financial Reporting Directions (FRDs) issued by the Assistant Treasurer. A full revaluation normally occurs every five years based upon the asset's classification but may occur more frequently if fair value assessments indicate material changes in values. Independent valuers are generally used to conduct these scheduled revaluations and are engaged through the Valuer General Victoria. Certain infrastructure assets are revalued using specialised advisors. Any interim revaluations are determined in accordance with the requirements of the FRDs.

Revaluation increases or decreases arise from differences between an asset's carrying value and fair value. Net revaluation increases (where the carrying amount of a class of asset is increased as a result of a revaluation) are recognised in 'Other economic flows – other comprehensive income', and accumulated in equity under the asset revaluation surplus. However, the net revaluation increase is recognised in the net result to the extent that it reverses a revaluation decrease in respect of the same asset previously recognised as an expense (other economic flows) in the net result.

Net revaluation decrease is recognised in 'Other economic flows – other comprehensive income' to the extent that a credit balance exists in the asset revaluation surplus in respect of the same asset. Otherwise, net revaluation decreases are recognised immediately as other economic flows in the net result. The net revaluation decrease recognised in 'Other economic flows – other comprehensive income' reduces the amount accumulated in equity under the asset revaluation surplus.

SECTION 3 - CORE ASSETS (continued)

3.2 Fair value (continued)

3.2.3 Revaluations of non-financial physical assets (continued)

Revaluation increases and decreases relating to individual assets in a class of property, plant and equipment, are offset against one another in that class but are not offset in respect of assets in different classes. The asset revaluation surplus is not transferred to accumulated funds on derecognition of the relevant asset.

It was determined that the valuation of the non-financial assets approximated fair value at 30 June 2024. Independent valuations have been obtained for all non-financial physical assets. These valuations were fair value assessments under AASB13.

3.2.3.1 Land and Buildings

Non-specialised land is valued using the market approach. Under this valuation method, the assets are compared to recent comparable sales or sales of comparable assets which are considered to have nominal or no added improvement value. The market approach is also used for specialised land, although adjusted for the community service obligation (CSO) to reflect the specialised nature of the land being valued.

The CSO adjustment is a reflection of the valuer's assessment of the impact of restrictions associated with an asset to the extent that is also equally applicable to market participants. This approach is in light of the highest and best use consideration required for fair value measurement and takes into account the use of the asset that is physically possible, legally permissible and financially feasible. As adjustments of CSO are considered as significant unobservable inputs, specialised land would be classified as Level 3 assets.

The value of specialised buildings was determined by the Valuer-General Victoria after deducting allowances for any physical deterioration and functional and economic obsolescence already occurred or expired (depreciated replacement cost). As depreciation adjustments are considered as significant unobservable inputs, specialised buildings are classified as Level 3 fair value measurements.

3.2.3.2 Vehicles

Vehicles are valued using their original cost less depreciation (which approximately equals the Current Replacement cost method). The Authority acquires new vehicles and at times disposes of them before the end of their economic life. The process of acquisition, use and disposal in the market is managed by experienced fleet managers in the Department of Treasury and Finance who set relevant depreciation rates during use to reflect the utilisation of the vehicles.

As depreciation adjustments are considered as significant unobservable inputs, these assets are classified as Level 3 fair value measurements.

3.2.3.3 Plant and equipment

Plant and equipment are held at fair value. When plant and equipment is specialised in use such that it is rarely sold other than as part of a going concern, fair value is determined using the original cost less depreciation (which approximately equals the Current Replacement cost method). For all assets measured at fair value, the current use is considered the highest and best use.

As depreciation adjustments are considered as significant unobservable inputs, these assets are classified as Level 3 fair value measurements.

SECTION 3 - CORE ASSETS (continued)

3.2 Fair value (continued)

3.2.3 Revaluations of non-financial physical assets (continued)

3.2.3.4 Open space assets

Open Space Assets are those assets other than buildings, plant, equipment and vehicles. They include various public open space assets such as pathways, carparks, roads, bridges, boardwalks, lookouts, retaining walls, boat ramps, and playgrounds.

Open space assets are valued using the Current Replacement cost method. This cost represents the replacement cost of the component after applying depreciation rates on a useful life basis. Replacement costs relate to costs to replace the current service capacity of the asset.

Where it has not been possible to examine hidden works such as structural frames and floors, the use of reasonable materials and methods of construction have been assumed bearing in mind the age and nature of the building. The estimated cost of reconstruction including structure services and finishes as applicable.

As depreciation adjustments are considered as significant unobservable inputs, these assets are classified as Level 3 fair value measurements.

3.2.4 Description of significant unobservable inputs to Level 3 valuations

	Valuation Technique & Significant unobservable inputs	Sensitivity of fair value measurement to changes in significant unobservable inputs
Land at fair value	Market approach	(1) Community service obligation (CSO) adjustment.
Buildings at fair value (excluding right to use assets)	Current replacement cost	(1) Cost per building; (2) Condition of asset; and (3) Relationship between current condition and remaining service potential.
Plant, equipment and vehicles at fair value	Current replacement cost Useful life of plant and equipment	(1) Cost per unit; and (2) Useful life.
Open space assets at fair value	Current replacement cost	(1) Cost per building; (2) Condition of asset; and (3) Relationship between current condition and remaining service potential.

There were no changes in significant unobservable inputs to level 3 valuations in FY2023-24.

SECTION 4 - WORKING CAPITAL

Introduction

This section sets out those working capital assets and liabilities that arose from the Authority's controlled operations.

Structure

- 4.1 Receivables
- 4.2 Other non-financial assets
- 4.3 Payables

4.1 Receivables

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Contractual		
Trade receivables	971	416
Less: Allowance for impairment losses of contractual receivables	(11)	-
Other receivables	524	161
Statutory		
GST receivable	-	42
Total receivables	1,484	619
<i>Represented by:</i>		
Current receivables	1,484	619

All amounts are short-term. The net carrying value of trade receivables is considered a reasonable approximation of fair value. An assessment of receivables is performed on an individual basis and expected losses from all possible default events over the expected life of the receivable is recognised in the form of impairment losses of receivables when there is an objective evidence that the Authority will not be able to collect all amount due according to the original terms of the receivables.

4.1.1 Contractual receivables

Contractual receivables are classified as financial instruments and categorised as 'financial assets at amortised costs'. They are initially recognised at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. The Authority holds the contractual receivables with the objective to collect the contractual cash flows and therefore subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment. The average credit period on sales of goods or provision of services is 30 days.

4.2 Other non-financial assets

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Prepayments	432	377
Deposits	12	11
Total non-financial assets	444	388
<i>Represented by:</i>		
Current other assets	444	388

SECTION 4 - WORKING CAPITAL (continued)

4.2 Other non-financial assets (continued)

Other non-financial assets include prepayments, which represent payments in advance of receipt of goods or services or the payments made for services covering a term extending beyond that financial accounting period.

4.3 Payables

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Contractual		
Accounts payable	1,305	1,060
Deposits and bonds	12	12
Other payables	929	997
Statutory		
GST Payable	-	-
Other taxes payable	331	88
Total payables	2,577	2,157
<i>Represented by:</i>		
Current payables	2,577	2,157

Payables for supplies and services have an average credit period of 30 days. No interest is charged on the contractual payables. The terms and conditions of amounts payable vary according to the particular agreements.

4.3.1 Contractual payables

Contractual payables, classified as financial instruments and measured at amortised cost. Accounts payable represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Authority prior to the end of the financial year that are unpaid.

4.3.2 Statutory payables

Statutory payables, that are recognised and measured similarly to contractual payables, but are not classified as financial instruments and not included in the category of financial liabilities at amortised cost, because they do not arise from contracts.

SECTION 5 - OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Introduction

This section sets out those other assets and liabilities that arose from the Authority's controlled operations.

Structure

- 5.1 Cash and cash equivalents
- 5.2 Contract liabilities and deferred income
- 5.3 Leases

5.1 Cash and cash equivalents

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Cash and deposits	12,762	17,174
Total cash and cash equivalents	12,762	17,174

Cash and deposits, including cash equivalents, comprise cash on hand and cash at bank, deposits at call and those highly liquid investments with an original maturity of three months or less, which are held for the purpose of meeting short-term cash commitments rather than for investment purposes, and which are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

5.1.1 Reconciliation of net result for the period to cash flow from operating activities

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Net result for the period	24,287	(1,475)
Non-cash movements:		
Depreciation and amortisation	3,977	3,925
(Gain)/loss on sale or disposal of non-current assets	(17)	603
Assets transferred to the Authority	(31,670)	(1,944)
Change in operating assets and liabilities:		
Decrease / (increase) in receivables	(900)	211
Decrease / (increase) in other assets	(56)	(32)
Increase / (decrease) in payables	451	729
Increase / (decrease) in employee benefit provisions	379	59
Increase / (decrease) in deferred government grants	3,911	(3,651)
Increase / (decrease) in deposits in advance	(542)	25
Net cash inflow from operating activities	(180)	(1,550)

SECTION 5 - OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES (continued)

5.2 Contract liabilities and deferred income

	Notes	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Deferred capital grant revenue	5.2.1	21,002	17,449
Deferred operating grant revenue	5.2.2	1,265	908
Accommodation services	5.2.3	2,075	2,615
Total Contract Liabilities		24,342	20,972

5.2.1 Deferred capital grant revenue

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Opening balance	17,449	20,209
Grant consideration for capital works received during the year	4,937	4,549
Grants repaid during the year	-	(43)
Grant revenue for capital works recognised consistent with the capital works undertaken during the year	(1,378)	(7,266)
Transfer to operating grant	(5)	-
Closing balance of deferred grant consideration received for capital works	21,003	17,449

Capital grant consideration was received from the following:

- Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions for various capital projects; and
- Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action for various projects.

Capital grant revenue is recognised progressively as the asset is constructed, since this is the time when the Authority satisfies its obligations under the transfer by controlling the asset as and when it is constructed. The progressive percentage costs incurred is used to recognise income because this most closely reflects the progress to completion as costs are incurred as the works are done. As a result, the authority has deferred recognition of a portion of the grant consideration received as a liability for the outstanding obligations.

5.2.2 Deferred operating grant revenue

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Opening balance	908	1,798
Grant consideration received during the year	716	417
Grants repaid during the year	-	(938)
Grant revenue recognised consistent with performance obligations	(364)	(369)
Transfer from capital grant	5	-
Closing balance of deferred grant consideration received for operating grants	1,265	908

SECTION 5 - OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES (continued)

5.2 Contract liabilities (continued)

5.2.3 Accommodation services

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Opening balance	2,615	2,591
Add: Payments received for performance obligations yet to be completed during the period	2,075	2,615
Less: Revenue recognised in the reporting period for the completion of a performance obligation	(2,615)	(2,591)
Total other contract liabilities	2,075	2,615
<i>Represented by:</i>		
Current contract liabilities	2,075	2,615

Contract liabilities include consideration received in advance for reservation deposits for future bookings. Invoices are raised once the goods and services are delivered or provided to them.

SECTION 5 - OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES (continued)

5.3 Leases

Information about leases for which the Authority is a lessee is presented below.

5.3.1 The Authority as a lessee

For any new contracts entered into, the Authority considers whether a contract is, or contains a lease. A lease is defined as 'a contract, or part of a contract, that conveys the right to use an asset (the underlying asset) for a period of time in exchange for consideration'. To apply this definition the Authority assesses whether the contract meets three key evaluations:

- Whether the contract contains an identified asset, which is either explicitly identified in the contract or implicitly specified by being identified at the time the asset is made available to the Authority and for which the supplier does not have substantive substitution rights;
- Whether the Authority has the right to obtain substantially all of the economic benefits from use of the identified asset throughout the period of use, considering its rights within the defined scope of the contract and the Authority has the right to direct the use of the identified asset throughout the period of use; and
- Whether the Authority has the right to take decisions in respect of 'how and for what purpose' the asset is used throughout the period of use.

Short-term leases and leases of low-value assets

The Authority has elected to account for short-term leases and leases of low-value assets using the practical expedients. Instead of recognising a right-of-use asset and lease liability, the payments in relation to these are recognised as an expense in profit or loss on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

5.3.2 Amounts recognised in the Balance Sheet

The following amounts are recognised in the Balance Sheet relating to leases:

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Current	469	333
Non-current	2,745	3,282
Total amounts recognised in the Balance Sheet	3,214	3,615

Right-of-use assets are presented in note 3.1.1.

SECTION 5 - OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES (continued)

5.3 Leases (continued)

5.3.3 Amounts recognised in the Comprehensive Operating Statement

The following amounts are recognised in the Comprehensive Operating Statement relating to leases:

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Interest expense on lease liabilities	106	172
Expenses relating to short term leases	88	201
Total amounts recognised in the Comprehensive Operating Statement	194	373

5.3.4 Amounts recognised in the Statement of Cashflows

The following amounts are recognised in the Statement of Cashflows relating to leases:

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Interest expense on lease liabilities	106	172
Expenses relating to short term leases	88	201
Total amounts recognised in the Statement of Cashflows	194	373

SECTION 6 - CAPITAL AND RISK MANAGEMENT

Introduction

The Authority is exposed to risk from its activities and outside factors. In addition, it is often necessary to make judgements and estimates associated with recognition and measurement of items in the financial statements. This section sets out financial instrument specific information.

Structure

- 6.1 Dividend
- 6.2 Equity
- 6.3 Financial Instruments
- 6.4 Environmental Risk

6.1 Dividend

The Authority is a not for profit Victoria Statutory Authority and does not declare dividends.

6.2 Equity

6.2.1 Contributed capital

Consistent with the requirements of AASB 1004 *Contributions*, contributions by owners (that is, contributed capital and its repayment) are treated as equity transactions and, therefore, do not form part of the income and expenses of the Authority.

Additions to net assets which have been designated as contributions by owners are recognised as contributed capital. The Authority received land at fair value during the year from the Department.

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Balance at the beginning of the year	3,941	3,941
Contribution of land at fair value	10,954	-
Balance at the end of the year	14,895	3,941

6.2.2 Accumulated surplus/(deficit)

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Balance at the beginning of the year	76,103	77,578
Net result for the year	24,287	(1,475)
Balance at the end of the year	100,390	76,103

SECTION 6 - CAPITAL AND RISK MANAGEMENT (continued)

6.3 Financial Instruments

Due to the nature of the Authority's activities, certain financial assets and financial liabilities arise under a statute rather than a contract. Such assets and liabilities do not meet the definition of financial instruments in AASB 132 Financial Instruments: Presentation.

6.3.1 Categories of financial assets and financial liabilities

Financial assets at amortised cost

Financial assets are measured at amortised costs if both of the following criteria are met and the assets are not designated as fair value through net result:

- the assets are held by the Authority to collect the contractual cash flows; and
- the assets' contractual terms give rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interests.

These assets are initially recognised at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method less any impairment.

The Authority recognises the following assets in this category:

- cash and cash deposits; and
- receivables (excluding statutory receivables).

Upon disposal of these debt instruments, any related balance in the fair value reserve is reclassified to profit or loss. However, upon disposal of these equity instruments, any related balance in fair value reserve is reclassified to retained earnings.

Financial liabilities at amortised cost are initially recognised on the date they are originated. They are initially measured at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial recognition, these financial instruments are measured at amortised cost with any difference between the initial recognised amount and the redemption value being recognised in profit and loss over the period of the interest-bearing liability, using the effective interest rate method. The Authority recognises the following liabilities in this category:

- payables (excluding statutory payables).

Some master netting arrangements do not result in an offset of balance sheet assets and liabilities. Where the Authority does not have a legally enforceable right to offset recognised amounts, because the right to offset is enforceable only on the occurrence of future events such as default, insolvency or bankruptcy, they are reported on a gross basis.

Derecognition of financial assets: A financial asset (or, where applicable, a part of a financial asset or part of a group of similar financial assets) is derecognised when:

- the rights to receive cash flows from the asset have expired; or
- the Authority retains the right to receive cash flows from the asset, but has assumed an obligation to pay them in full without material delay to a third party under a 'pass through' arrangement; or
- the Authority has transferred its rights to receive cash flows from the asset and either:
 - a) has transferred substantially all the risks and rewards of the asset; or
 - b) has neither transferred nor retained substantially all the risks and rewards of the asset but has transferred control of the asset.

Where the Authority has neither transferred nor retained substantially all the risks and rewards or transferred control, the asset is recognised to the extent of the Authority's continuing involvement in the asset.

SECTION 6 - CAPITAL AND RISK MANAGEMENT (continued)

6.3 Financial Instruments (continued)

6.3.1 Categories of financial assets and financial liabilities (continued)

Derecognition of financial liabilities: A financial liability is derecognised when the obligation under the liability is discharged, cancelled or expired.

When an existing financial liability is replaced by another from the same lender on substantially different terms, or the terms of an existing liability are substantially modified, such an exchange or modification is treated as a derecognition of the original liability and the recognition of a new liability. The difference in the respective carrying amounts is recognised as an 'other economic flow' in the comprehensive operating statement.

Reclassification of financial instruments: Subsequent to initial recognition, reclassification of financial liabilities is not permitted. Financial assets are required to be reclassified between fair value through net result, fair value through other comprehensive income and amortised cost when and only when the Authority's business model for managing its financial assets has changed such that its previous model would no longer apply.

If under rare circumstances an asset is reclassified, the reclassification is applied prospectively from the reclassification date and previously recognised gains, losses or interest should not be restated. If the asset is reclassified to fair value, the fair value should be determined at the reclassification date and any gain or loss arising from a difference between the previous carrying amount and fair value is recognised in net result.

Categorisation of financial instruments and net holding gain/(loss) on financial instruments by category

	Notes	Financial assets at amortised cost \$'000	Financial liabilities at amortised cost \$'000	2024 \$'000
Financial assets				
Cash and cash deposits	5.1	12,762	-	12,762
Receivables (a)	4.1	1,484	-	1,484
Total financial assets		14,246	-	14,246
Financial liabilities				
Payables (a)	4.3	-	2,246	2,246
Lease liabilities	5.3	-	3,214	3,214
Total financial liabilities		-	5,460	5,460
Net holding gain/(loss) on financial instruments by category				
Total interest income/(expense)		-	106	106
Total		-	106	106

(a) The total amounts disclosed exclude statutory amounts (e.g. amounts owing from Victorian Government and GST input tax credit recoverable and taxes payable).

SECTION 6 - CAPITAL AND RISK MANAGEMENT (continued)

6.3 Financial Instruments (continued)

6.3.1 Categories of financial assets and financial liabilities (continued)

Categorisation of financial instruments and net holding gain/(loss) on financial instruments by category

	Notes	Financial assets at amortised cost \$'000	Financial liabilities at amortised cost \$'000	2023 \$'000
Financial assets				
Cash and cash deposits	5.1	17,174	-	17,174
Receivables (a)	4.1	577	-	577
Total financial assets		17,751	-	17,751
Financial liabilities				
Payables (a)	4.3	-	2,069	2,069
Lease liabilities	5.3	-	3,615	3,615
Total financial liabilities		-	5,684	5,684
Net holding gain/(loss) on financial instruments by category				
Total interest income/(expense)		-	172	172
Total		-	172	172

(a) The total amounts disclosed exclude statutory amounts (e.g. amounts owing from Victorian Government and GST input tax credit recoverable and taxes payable).

The net holding gains or losses disclosed above are determined as follows:

For cash and cash equivalents, loans or receivables and available for sale financial assets, the net gain or loss is calculated by taking the movement in the fair value of the asset, the interest income, plus or minus foreign exchange gains or losses arising from revaluation of the financial assets, and minus any impairment recognised in the net result.

6.3.2 Financial risk management objectives

The Authority's activities do not expose it to any material financial risks such as changes in interest rates. The Authority does not enter into derivative financial instruments to manage its exposure to interest rate risk.

Details of the significant accounting policies and methods adopted, including the criteria for recognition, the basis of measurement and the basis on which income and expenses are recognised, in respect of each class of financial asset and financial liability and equity instrument are disclosed in relevant notes of the financial statements.

The Authority does not enter into or trade financial instruments, including derivative financial instruments for speculative purposes as per the *Victorian Governments Borrowing and Investment Powers Act 1987* and subsequent amendments.

The approach for managing these risks is discussed in more detail below.

SECTION 6 - CAPITAL AND RISK MANAGEMENT (continued)

6.3 Financial Instruments (continued)

6.3.3 Credit risk

Credit risk arises from the financial assets of the Authority, which comprise of cash and cash equivalents, trade and other receivables. The Authority's exposure to credit risk arises from the potential default of counter party on their contractual obligations resulting in financial loss to the Authority. Credit risk is measured at fair value and is monitored on a regular basis.

Credit risk associated with the Authority's financial assets is minimal because the main debtors are Lessees. For debtors other than Lessees, it is the Authority's policy to only deal with entities with high credit ratings and/or to obtain a contractual agreement where appropriate, such as Twelve Month Permit holder agreements.

The Authority does not engage in hedging for its financial assets. The Authority's policy is to only deal with banks with high credit ratings.

Allowance for impairment losses of contractual receivables is recognised when there is objective evidence that the Authority will not be able to collect a receivable. The Authority applies AASB 9 simplified approach for all contractual receivables to measure expected credit losses using a lifetime expected loss allowance based on the assumptions about risk of default and expected loss rates. The Authority has grouped contractual receivables on shared credit risk characteristics and days past due and select the expected credit loss rate based on the Authority past history, existing market conditions, as well as forward looking estimates at the end of the financial year. At 30 June 2024 the allowance for impairment losses was assessed to be nil.

The Authority's maximum exposure to credit risk is limited to the carrying amount of financial assets recognised at the reporting date, as summarised below:

Financial assets that are neither past due nor impaired

		Financial institutions (AAA credit rating)	Other	2024
Credit quality of financial assets (a)	Notes	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Financial assets:				
Cash and deposits	5.1	-	12,762	12,762
Receivables	4.1	-	1,484	1,484
Total financial assets		-	14,246	14,246
		Financial institutions (AAA credit rating)	Other	2023
Credit quality of financial assets (a)	Notes	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Financial assets:				
Cash and deposits	5.1	-	17,174	17,174
Receivables	4.1	-	577	577
Total financial assets		-	17,751	17,751

(a) The total amounts disclosed exclude statutory amounts (e.g. amounts owing from Victorian Government and GST input tax credit recoverable and taxes payable).

SECTION 6 - CAPITAL AND RISK MANAGEMENT (continued)

6.3 Financial Instruments (continued)

6.3.3 Credit risk (continued)

Impairment of financial assets under AASB 9

The Authority records the allowance for expected credit loss for the relevant financial instruments applying AASB 9's Expected Credit Loss approach. Subject to AASB 9 impairment assessment include the Authority's contractual receivables and statutory receivables.

Equity instruments are not subject to impairment under AASB 9. Other financial assets mandatorily measured or designated at fair value through net result are not subject to impairment assessment under AASB 9. While cash and cash equivalents are also subject to the impairment requirements of AASB 9, the identified impairment loss was immaterial.

Contractual receivables at amortised cost

The Authority applies AASB 9 simplified approach for all contractual receivables to measure expected credit losses using a lifetime expected loss allowance based on the assumptions about risk of default and expected loss rates. The Authority has grouped contractual receivables on shared credit risk characteristics and days past due and select the expected credit loss rate based on the Authority's past history, existing market conditions, as well as forward looking estimates at the end of the financial year.

The expected credit loss are assessed annually, please refer to disclosure notes 4.1 Receivables for the allowance for impairment of contractual receivable as at 30 June 2024.

Credit loss allowance is classified as other economic flows in the net result. Contractual receivables are written off when there is no reasonable expectation of recovery and impairment losses are classified as a transaction expense. Subsequent recoveries of amounts previously written off are credited against the same line item.

Statutory receivables at amortised cost

The Authority's non-contractual receivables arising from statutory requirements are not financial instruments. However, they are nevertheless recognised and measured in accordance with AASB 9 requirements as if those receivables are financial instruments.

The statutory receivables are considered to have low credit risk, taking into account the counterparty's credit rating, risk of default and capacity to meet contractual cash flow obligations in the near term. As the result, the loss allowance recognised for these financial assets during the period was limited to 12 months of expected losses. No loss allowance has been recognised.

6.3.4 Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk arises when the Authority is unable to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The Authority operates under the policy of settling financial obligations within 30 days and in the event of a dispute, making payments within 30 days from the date of resolution. It also continuously manages risks through monitoring future cash flows and maturities planning to ensure adequate holding of high quality liquid assets and dealing in highly liquid markets.

The Authority's maximum exposure to liquidity risk is the carrying amount of financial liabilities as disclosed on the face of the balance sheet.

The Authority manages its liquidity risk to ensure that adequate cash funds are available at all times to meet its commitments as they arise. This objective is met through:

- careful maturity planning of its financial obligations based on forecasts of future cash flows; and
- sound cash management practices.

SECTION 6 - CAPITAL AND RISK MANAGEMENT (continued)

6.3 Financial Instruments (continued)

6.3.5 Market risk

The Authority's exposures to market risk is primarily through interest rate risk.

Interest rate risk is deemed as an insignificant market risk.

There are no financial assets that have had their terms renegotiated so as to prevent them from being past due or impaired, and they are stated at the carrying amounts as indicated. The following table discloses the ageing only of financial assets that are past due but not impaired.

6.3.6 Interest rate risk analysis

The exposure to interest rate risks and the effective weighted average interest rates for financial assets and financial liabilities at the reporting date are as follows:

	Floating interest	Non-interest bearing	2024
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Financial assets:			
Cash and deposits	12,762	-	12,762
Receivables (a)	-	1,484	1,484
Total financial assets	12,762	1,484	14,246
<i>Weighted average interest rate</i>	<i>0.4%</i>		
Financial liabilities			
Payables (a)	-	2,246	2,246
Lease liabilities	3,214	-	3,214
Total financial liabilities	3,214	2,246	5,460
Net financial assets/(liabilities)	9,548	(762)	8,786

	Floating interest	Non-interest bearing	2023
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Financial assets:			
Cash and deposits	17,174	-	17,174
Receivables (a)	-	577	577
Total financial assets	17,174	577	17,751
<i>Weighted average interest rate</i>	<i>0.1%</i>		
Financial liabilities			
Payables (a)	-	2,069	2,069
Lease liabilities	3,615	-	3,615
Total financial liabilities	3,615	2,069	5,684
Net financial assets/(liabilities)	13,559	(1,492)	12,067

(a) The total amounts disclosed exclude statutory amounts (e.g. amounts owing from Victorian Government and GST input tax credit recoverable and taxes payable).

SECTION 6 - CAPITAL AND RISK MANAGEMENT (continued)

6.3 Financial Instruments (continued)

6.3.7 Foreign exchange risk

The Authority is not exposed to any foreign exchange risk.

6.3.8 Net fair value of financial assets and liabilities

The net fair value of the Authority's cash and deposits and non interest bearing financial assets and liabilities is equal to their carrying value.

	Notes	Carrying amount 2024 \$'000	Fair value 2024 \$'000
Financial assets:			
Cash and deposits	5.1	12,762	12,762
Receivables	4.1	1,484	1,484
Total financial assets		14,246	14,246
Financial liabilities			
Payables	4.3	2,577	2,577
Lease liabilities	5.3	3,214	3,214
Total financial liabilities		5,791	5,791
Financial assets:			
Cash and deposits	5.1	17,174	17,174
Receivables	4.1	619	619
Total financial assets		17,793	17,793
Financial liabilities			
Payables	4.3	2,157	2,157
Lease liabilities	5.3	3,615	3,615
Total financial liabilities		5,772	5,772

SECTION 6 - CAPITAL AND RISK MANAGEMENT (continued)

6.3 Financial Instruments (continued)

6.3.8 Net fair value of financial assets and liabilities (continued)

Fair value measurement on the balance sheet

Certain financial instruments that are measured subsequent to initial recognition at fair value are grouped into levels 1, 2 or 3 based on the degree to which fair value is observable.

- Level 1 fair value measurements are those derived from quoted priced (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.

- Level 2 fair value measurements are those derived from inputs other than quoted prices included with level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability either directly (ie as prices) or indirectly (ie derived from prices).

- Level 3 fair value measurements are those derived from valuation techniques that include inputs for the asset or liability that are not based on observable market data (unobservable inputs).

At 30 June 2023, no financial assets or liabilities held by the Authority required fair value measurement subsequent to initial recognition.

6.3.9 Ageing analysis of contractual financial assets

	Notes	Carrying amount \$'000	Not passed due and not impaired \$'000	Less than 3 mths \$'000	3 mths – 1 yr \$'000
2024					
Receivables*	4.1	1,484	1,258	38	188
Total		1,484	1,258	38	188

	Notes	Carrying amount \$'000	Not passed due and not impaired \$'000	Less than 3 mths \$'000	3 mths – 1 yr \$'000
2023					
Receivables*	4.1	577	199	179	199
Total		577	199	179	199

*Receivables that are over 3 months primarily relate to annual invoices that have monthly repayments in place.

SECTION 6 - CAPITAL AND RISK MANAGEMENT (continued)

6.3 Financial Instruments (continued)

6.3.10 Nature and extent of risk arising from investments and other financial assets

There are no material financial assets which are individually determined to be impaired. Currently the Authority does not hold any collateral as security nor credit enhancements relating to any of its financial assets. There are no financial assets that have had their terms renegotiated so as to prevent them from being past due or impaired, and they are stated at the carrying amounts as indicated.

6.3.11 Maturity analysis of contractual financial liabilities

	Notes	Carrying amount \$'000	Nominal amount \$'000	Less than 1 month \$'000	1 to 3 months \$'000
2024					
Financial liabilities					
Payables	4.3	2,246	941	1,285	20
Total financial liabilities		2,246	941	1,285	20

	Notes	Carrying amount \$'000	Nominal amount \$'000	Less than 1 month \$'000	1 to 3 months \$'000
2023					
Financial liabilities					
Payables	4.3	2,069	1,009	1,058	2
Total financial liabilities		2,069	1,009	1,058	2

SECTION 6 - CAPITAL AND RISK MANAGEMENT (continued)

6.4 Environmental Risk

The Authority is committed to environmental sustainability in its operations. Sustainability and greenhouse gas emissions reduction form core parts of the Authority's corporate strategy. The Authority supports the Victorian public sector in adopting new technology that lowers emissions and increases environmental sustainability.

6.4.1 Climate-related risk

Climate change has the potential to directly and indirectly impact the services and programs that the Authority delivers. This requires ongoing effort to understand and respond to risks, develop opportunities, and build resilience to climate impacts.

The Authority's Board leads its risk management framework and is the collective owner of the Authority's strategic risks. The Board monitors risk mitigation activities through periodic risk management reporting.

The Authority's Finance, Audit and Risk Committee provides independent assurance to the Board that the Authority's risk and control environment is operating effectively and efficiently. The committee actively monitors the Authority's risk profile, including climate-related risks, and assesses the risk management strategies adopted.

The Authority is continuing to build on its understanding of climate-related risks and opportunities, and assess and monitor their relative potential impacts. The Authority is currently monitoring and managing several key strategic climate-related physical and transition risks and opportunities including:

- impact of increased temperatures and extreme heat on Authority operations, including the health and safety of staff operating outdoors;
- impact of bushfires and extreme weather events on exposed assets;
- impact of elevated sea levels on exposed coastal assets;
- reducing greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the Authority's operations in line with Victorian Government commitments;
- aligning procurement to circular economy principles;
- improving environmental performance monitoring, evaluation and reporting, and
- supporting the continuing uptake of renewable energy and other low emissions technologies across Victoria.

SECTION 7 - PEOPLE

Introduction

This section provides an account of the expenses incurred by the Authority in relation to its employees and key management personnel.

Structure

- 7.1 Employee benefits
- 7.2 Superannuation
- 7.3 Responsible persons
- 7.4 Remuneration of executives
- 7.5 Key management personnel

7.1 Employee benefits

7.1.1 Employee related expenses in the comprehensive operating statement

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Salaries, wages, annual leave and long service leave	18,007	15,274
Superannuation	1,820	1,495
Workcover premium	570	425
Fringe Benefits Tax	19	40
Total Employee benefits in the comprehensive operating statement	20,416	17,234

Employee expenses include all costs related to employment including wages and salaries, fringe benefits tax, leave entitlements, termination payments and WorkCover premiums.

The amount recognised in the comprehensive operating statement in relation to superannuation is employer contributions for members of defined contribution superannuation plans that are paid or payable during the reporting period.

Termination benefits are payable when employment is terminated before normal retirement date, or when an employee accepts an offer of benefits in exchange for the termination of employment. Termination benefits are recognised when the Authority is demonstrably committed to terminating the employment of current employees according to a detailed formal plan without possibility of withdrawal or providing termination benefits as a result of an offer made to encourage voluntary redundancy.

Provision is made for benefits accruing to employees in respect of wages and salaries, annual leave and long service leave (LSL) for services rendered to the reporting date and recorded as an expense during the period the services are delivered.

SECTION 7 - PEOPLE (continued)

7.1 Employee benefits (continued)

7.1.2 Employee benefits in the balance sheet

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Current provision		
<i>Annual leave</i>		
Unconditional and expected to settle within 12 months	794	532
Unconditional and expected to settle after 12 months	121	123
<i>Long service leave</i>		
Unconditional and expected to settle within 12 months	19	21
Unconditional and expected to settle after 12 months	225	237
<i>Provisions for on costs</i>		
Unconditional and expected to settle within 12 months	133	90
Unconditional and expected to settle after 12 months	57	58
Total current provisions for employee benefits	1,349	1,061
Non-current provision		
Employee benefits	306	229
On-costs	51	37
Total non current provisions for employee benefits	357	266
Total provisions for employee benefits	1,706	1,327

7.1.3 Reconciliation of movement in on-cost provision

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Movement		
Opening balance	185	162
Additional provisions recognised	271	216
Reductions arising from payments/other sacrifices of future economic benefits	(214)	(193)
Closing balance	242	185
<i>Represented by:</i>		
Current on-cost provisions for employee benefits	190	148
Total non-current on-cost provisions for employee benefits	51	37

SECTION 7 - PEOPLE (continued)

7.1 Employee benefits (continued)

7.1.4 Wages and salaries, annual leave and sick leave

Liabilities for wages and salaries (including non-monetary benefits, annual leave and on-costs) are recognised as part of the employee benefit provision as current liabilities, because the Authority does not have an unconditional right to defer settlements of these liabilities. The liability for salaries and wages are recognised in the balance sheet at remuneration rates which are current at the reporting date. As the Authority expects the liabilities to be wholly settled within 12 months of reporting date, they are measured at undiscounted amounts. The annual leave liability is classified as a current liability and measured at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid, as the Authority does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period.

No provision has been made for sick leave as all sick leave is non-vesting and it is not considered probable that the average sick leave taken in the future will be greater than the benefits accrued in the future. As sick leave is non-vesting, an expense is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income as it is taken.

Employment on-costs such as payroll tax and workers compensation are not employee benefits. They are disclosed separately as a component of the provision for employee benefits when the employment to which they relate has occurred.

7.1.5 Long service leave

Unconditional LSL is disclosed as a current liability; even where the Authority does not expect to settle the liability within 12 months because it will not have the unconditional right to defer the settlement of the entitlement should an employee take leave within 12 months.

The components of this current LSL liability are measured at:

- undiscounted value – if the Authority expects to wholly settle within 12 months; or
- present value – if the Authority does not expect to wholly settle within 12 months.

Conditional LSL is disclosed as a non-current liability. There is a conditional right to defer the settlement of the entitlement until the employee has completed the requisite years of service. This non-current LSL is measured at present value. Any gain or loss following revaluation of the present value of non-current LSL liability is recognised as a transaction, except to the extent that a gain or loss arises due to changes in bond interest rates for which it is then recognised as an 'other economic flow' in the net result.

SECTION 7 - PEOPLE (continued)

7.2 Superannuation

7.2.1 Superannuation contributions

	Paid Contribution for the year		Outstanding Contribution at year end	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Defined contribution plans				
AMP Custom Super (Accumulation)	4	14	-	-
AMP Flexible Super (Accumulation)	7	17	-	-
Various other funds (Accumulation)	652	337	-	4
Australian Ethical Super (Accumulation)	67	38	-	-
Australian Super (Accumulation)	388	297	1	-
CBUS Super (Accumulation)	87	86	-	-
Colonial Select Personal Super (Accumulation)	18	18	-	-
First State Super (Accumulation)	5	13	-	-
Hostplus Super (Accumulation)	541	455	3	-
Rest Super (Accumulation)	29	66	-	-
SUN Super (Accumulation)	-	7	-	-
Unisuper Super (Accumulation)	10	22	-	-
VIC Super (Accumulation)	-	67	-	-
Vision Super (Accumulation)	202	157	-	-
Total	2,009	1,594	4	4

Employees of the Authority are entitled to receive superannuation benefits and the Authority contributes to defined contribution plans. The Authority makes no employer superannuation contributions to a defined superannuation benefit fund.

SECTION 7 - PEOPLE (continued)

7.3 Responsible persons

In accordance with the Ministerial Directions issued by the Assistant Treasurer under the Financial Management Act 1994 (FMA), the following disclosures are made regarding responsible persons for the reporting period.

The responsible Ministers during the 2023-24 reporting period were the Hon. Ingrid Stitt, Minister for Early Childhood and Pre-Prep and Environment and the Hon. Steve Dimopoulos, Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events and Minister for Outdoor Recreation. Remuneration paid to the respective Minister is excluded in the financials statements.

The persons who held the positions of minister, directors and accountable officers in the Authority during the year are as follows:

Responsible Ministers

Hon. Ingrid Stitt	1 Jul 2023 to 2 Oct 2023
Hon. Steve Dimopoulos	2 Oct 2023 to 30 Jun 2024

Directors

Ms Libby Mears (Chair)	1 Jul 2023 to 30 Jun 2024
Mr Peter Dorling (Deputy Chair)	1 Jul 2023 to 30 Jun 2024
Ms Terry Bracks AM	1 Jul 2023 to 30 Jun 2024
Ms Sarah Eccles	1 Jul 2023 to 30 Jun 2024
Mr Douglas Humann AM	1 Jul 2023 to 30 Jun 2024
Associate Professor Dr Daniel Lerodiamonou	1 Jul 2023 to 30 Jun 2024
Ms Jodie Leonard	1 Jul 2023 to 30 Sep 2023
Ms Jenny McMahan	1 Jul 2023 to 30 Jun 2024
Mr Jason Mifsud	1 Jul 2023 to 30 Jun 2024
Mr David Pope	1 Jul 2023 to 30 Jun 2024
Ms Christine Wyatt	1 Jul 2023 to 30 Jun 2024

Accountable Officer

Jodie Sizer	1 Jul 2023 to 30 Jun 2024
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7.3.1 Responsible person's remuneration (i)

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Short-term employee benefits Directors	229	248
Short-term employee benefits Accountable Officer	439	414
Total remuneration paid or payable (including bonuses and superannuation) during the period	668	662

(i) The responsible Ministers from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 was the Hon. Ingrid Stitt, Minister for Early Childhood and Pre-Prep and Environment and the Hon. Steve Dimopoulos, Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events and Minister for Outdoor Recreation. Minister remuneration and allowances is set by the Parliamentary Salaries and Superannuation Act 1968. Amounts relating to ministers are reported in the financial statements of the Department of Parliamentary Services' Financial Report and therefore not disclosed in this report.

SECTION 7 - PEOPLE (continued)

7.4 Remuneration of executives

The number of executive officers, other than ministers, directors and accountable officers, and their total remuneration during the reporting period is shown in the table below. Remuneration comprises of employee benefits (as defined in AASB 119 Employee Benefits) in all forms of consideration paid, payable or provided by the entity, or on behalf of the entity, in exchange for services rendered. Accordingly, remuneration is determined on an accrual basis, and only short-term employee benefits have been paid during the reporting period. No other employee benefits were paid during the reporting period.

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Short-term employee benefits	1,275	1,060
Other long-term benefits	-	12
Termination benefits	93	96
Total base remuneration	1,368	1,168
Total remuneration paid or payable (including bonuses and superannuation) during the year	1,368	1,168
Total number of executives	5	5
Total annualised employee equivalents (i)	5	5

(i) Annualised employee equivalent is based on the time fraction worked over the reporting period.

7.5 Key management personnel

Key management personnel are those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Authority. This includes the Minister, Directors, Accountable Officer and Executives in note 7.3 and 7.4. The remuneration detailed below excludes the benefits the Minister receives.

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Short-term employee benefits	1,943	1,722
Other long-term benefits	-	12
Termination benefits	93	96
Total base remuneration	2,037	1,830
Total remuneration paid or payable (including bonuses and superannuation) during the year	2,037	1,830

SECTION 8 - OTHER INFORMATION

Introduction

This section includes additional material disclosures required by accounting standards or otherwise, for the understanding of this financial report.

Structure

- 8.1 Subsequent events
- 8.2 Related parties
- 8.3 Remuneration of auditors
- 8.4 Contingent liabilities and contingent assets
- 8.5 Commitments
- 8.6 Australian Accounting Standards issued that are not yet effective

8.1 Subsequent events

Ministerial approval was received in financial year 2024-25 for the transfer of 119 parcels of land from Parks Victoria and Port responsibilities to the Authority, pursuant to the Great Ocean Road and Environs Protection Act 2020.

In accordance with Financial Reporting Direction 119 Transfers through contributed capital (FRD 119), Requirement 4.2(d) Other transfers and AASB 1004, these asset transfers are required to be treated as capital contributions and income through the comprehensive income statement for the financial year 2024-25 for the Authority.

The total value of assets transferred is estimated at \$66.7 million and occurred after the balance date, therefore as a non-adjusting event, no adjustments have been made to the financial statements as of the 30 June 2024.

This asset transfer is expected to materially impact the Authority's financial position although not its liquidity, as it is funded by existing Government funding arrangements for National Parks and Ports.

Subsequent to 30 June 2024, the Authority received support for a Letter of Comfort from the Department of Treasury and Finance, confirming the State's ongoing financial support. This support reinforces the entity's ability to meet its financial obligations and continue operations.

In addition, a Treasurer's Advance of \$6.1 million was received on 1 August 2025. The advance was provided to support the entity's short-term liquidity and operational funding requirements.

These events occurred after the end of the reporting period but prior to the authorisation of the financial statements. While they do not affect the financial position as at 30 June 2024, they have been considered in the assessment of the the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern.

8.2 Related parties

The Authority is a wholly owned and controlled entity of the State of Victoria. The Authority is included in the Annual Financial Report for the State of Victoria and all controlled entities are considered to be related parties.

During the year the Authority conducted the following significant transactions with Government-related entities;

- Received \$3.2m from DEECA for various capital/operating projects and subsidy for beach cleaning;
- Received \$978k from Department of Families, Fairness and Housing for various capital/operating projects; and
- Received \$2.3m from Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions for capital projects

All related party transactions have been entered into on an arm's length basis.

8.3 Remuneration of auditors

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Victorian Auditor-General's Office		
Audit or review of the financial statements	25	25
Other non audit services (i)	-	-
Total remuneration of auditors	25	25

(i) The Victorian Auditor-General's Office is prohibited from providing non-audit services

SECTION 8 - OTHER INFORMATION (continued)

8.4 Contingent liabilities and contingent assets

Contingent assets and contingent liabilities are not disclosed in the Balance Sheet, but are disclosed by way of a note and, if quantifiable, are measured at nominal value. Contingent assets and liabilities are presented inclusive of GST receivable or payable respectively.

8.4.1 Contingent assets

There were no contingent assets identified at 30 June 2024. (30 June 2023 - nil).

8.4.2 Contingent liabilities

There were no contingent liabilities identified at 30 June 2024. (30 June 2023 - nil).

8.5 Commitments

Commitments identified at 30 June 2024 are as follows:

	Less than 1 year \$'000	1–5 years \$'000	5+ years \$'000	Total \$'000
Operating commitments payable	746	2,985	1,560	5,291
Capital expenditure commitments payable	132	1,689	-	1,820
Total commitments (inclusive of GST)	878	4,674	1,560	7,112
Less GST recoverable				(647)
Total commitments (exclusive of GST)				6,465

Commitments identified at 30 June 2023 are as follows:

	Less than 1 year \$'000	1–5 years \$'000	5+ years \$'000	Total \$'000
Operating commitments payable	945	3,779	1,976	6,700
Capital expenditure commitments payable	309	-	-	309
Total commitments (inclusive of GST)	1,254	3,779	1,976	7,009
Less GST recoverable				(637)
Total commitments (exclusive of GST)				6,372

SECTION 8 - OTHER INFORMATION (continued)

8.6 Australian Accounting Standards issued that are not yet effective

Certain new and revised accounting standards have been issued but are not effective for the 2023-24 reporting period.

AASB 2022-10 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Fair Value Measurement of Non-Financial Assets of Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities.

AASB 2022-10 amends AASB 13 *Fair Value Measurement* by adding authoritative implementation guidance and illustrative examples for fair value measurements of non-financial assets of not-for-profit public sector entities not held primarily for their ability to generate net cash inflows.

Among other things, the Standard:

- specifies that an entity needs to consider whether an asset's highest and best use differs from its current use only when it is held for sale or held for distributions to owners under AASB 5 Non-current Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations or if it is highly probable that it will be used for an alternative purpose;
- clarifies that an asset's use is 'financially feasible' if market participants would be willing to invest in the asset's service capacity, considering both the capacity to provide needed goods or services and the resulting costs of those goods and services;
- specifies that if both market selling price and some market participant data required to fair value the asset are not observable, an entity needs to start with its own assumptions and adjust them to the extent that reasonably available information indicates that other market participants would use different data; and
- provides guidance on the application of the cost approach to fair value, including the nature of costs to be included in a reference asset and identification of economic obsolescence.

This Standard applies prospectively to annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2024, with earlier application permitted.

AASB 17 Insurance Contracts, AASB 2022-8 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Insurance Contracts: Consequential Amendments and AASB 2022-9 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Insurance Contracts in the Public Sector

AASB 17 replaces AASB 4 *Insurance Contracts*, AASB 1023 *General Insurance Contracts* and AASB 1038 *Life Insurance Contracts* for not-for-profit public sector entities for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 July 2026.

AASB 2022-9 amends AASB 17 to make public sector-related modifications (for example, it specifies the pre-requisites, indicators and other considerations in identifying arrangements that fall within the scope of AASB 17 in a public sector context). This Standard applies for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 July 2026.

AASB 2022-8 makes consequential amendments to other Australian Accounting Standards so that public sector entities are permitted to continue to apply AASB 4 and AASB 1023 to annual periods before 1 July 2026. This Standard applies for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2023.

DECLARATION

For the period ended 30 June 2024

The attached financial statements for the Great Ocean Road Coast & Parks Authority have been prepared in accordance with Direction 5.2 of the Standing Directions of the Assistant Treasurer under the Financial Management Act 1994, applicable Financial Reporting Directions, Australian Accounting Standards including Interpretations, and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.

We further state that, in our opinion, the information set out in the comprehensive operating statement, statement of financial position, statement of changes in equity, cash flow statement and accompanying notes, presents fairly the financial transactions during the year ended 30 June 2024 and financial position of the Great Ocean Road Coast & Parks Authority at 30 June 2024.

At the time of signing, we are not aware of any circumstance which would render any particulars included in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.

We authorise the attached financial statements for issue on 29 September 2025.



Ms Libby Mears

Chair

Dated: 29 September 2025



Ms Christine Ferguson

Chief Executive Officer (Accountable Officer)

Dated: 29 September 2025



Mr Steve Major

Director - Corporate Services (CFO)

Dated: 29 September 2025

OFFICIAL

SECTION 8 - OTHER INFORMATION (continued)

8.2 Related parties

The Authority is a wholly owned and controlled entity of the State of Victoria. The Authority is included in the Annual Financial Report for the State of Victoria and all controlled entities are considered to be related parties.

During the year the Authority conducted the following significant transactions with Government-related entities;

- Received \$3.2m from DEECA for various capital/operating projects and subsidy for beach cleaning;
- Received \$978k from Department of Families, Fairness and Housing for various capital/operating projects; and
- Received \$2.3m from Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions for capital projects

All related party transactions have been entered into on an arm's length basis.

8.3 Remuneration of auditors

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Victorian Auditor-General's Office		
Audit or review of the financial statements	25	25
Other non audit services (i)	-	-
Total remuneration of auditors	25	25

(i) The Victorian Auditor-General's Office is prohibited from providing non-audit services

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board of the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority

Opinion	<p>I have audited the financial report of the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority (the authority) which comprises the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024• comprehensive income statement for the year then ended• statement of changes in equity for the year then ended• statement of cash flow for the year then ended• notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information• declaration in the financial statements. <p>In my opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the authority as at 30 June 2024 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of Part 7 of the <i>Financial Management Act 1994</i> and applicable Australian Accounting Standards.</p>
Basis for Opinion	<p>I have conducted my audit in accordance with the <i>Audit Act 1994</i> which incorporates the Australian Auditing Standards. I further describe my responsibilities under that Act and those standards in the <i>Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report</i> section of my report.</p> <p>My independence is established by the <i>Constitution Act 1975</i>. My staff and I are independent of the authority in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 <i>Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)</i> (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Victoria. My staff and I have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.</p> <p>I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.</p>
Other information	<p>The Board of the authority is responsible for the "other information" included in the authority's Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2024. The other information in the Annual Report does not include the financial report and my auditor's report thereon. My opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information included in the Annual Report. Accordingly, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.</p> <p>In connection with my audit of the financial report, my responsibility is to read the other information when it becomes available and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or my knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.</p>
Board's responsibilities for the financial report	<p>The Board of the authority is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the <i>Financial Management Act 1994</i>, and for such internal control as the Board determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.</p> <p>In preparing the financial report, the Board is responsible for assessing the authority's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless it is inappropriate to do so.</p>

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

As required by the *Audit Act 1994*, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on the audit. My objectives for the audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the authority's internal control
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Board
- conclude on the appropriateness of the Board's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the authority's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the authority to cease to continue as a going concern.
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the Board regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

MELBOURNE
6 October 2025



Paul Martin
as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria

Disclosure Index

The annual report of the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority is prepared in accordance with all relevant Victorian legislations and pronouncements. This index has been prepared to facilitate identification of the Authority's compliance with statutory disclosure requirements.

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Note:

(a) References to FRDs have been removed from the Disclosure Index if the specific FRDs do not contain requirements that are in the nature of disclosure.



Abbreviations

Term	Explanation
AAS	Australian Accounting Standards
AASB	Australian Accounting Standard Board
AEE	Annualised employee equivalent
AM	Member of the Order of Australia
ANGAIR	Anglesea, Aireys Inlet Society for the Protection of Flora and Fauna
ANZAC	Australian and New Zealand Army Corps
AIDA	Aireys Inlet and District Association
AgVet	Agricultural and veterinary
AWD	All-wheel drive
BAU	Business as usual
CAP	Coastal Adaptation Plan
CAPEX	Capital expenditure
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CPR	Cardiopulmonary resuscitation
CRG	Community Reference Group
CSO	Community service obligation
COVID	Coronavirus disease
DDA	Disability Discrimination Act
DEECA	Department of Energy Environment and Climate Change
DJSIR	Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions
DTF	Department of Treasury and Finance Victoria
DWG	Designated workgroups
EMAC	Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation
FTE	Full-time equivalent
FOI	Freedom of information
FRD	Financial Reporting Direction
FMA	<i>Financial Management Act 1994</i>
FY	Financial year
GIS	Geographic information system
GST	Goods and services tax
GOREP Act	<i>Great Ocean Road and Environs Protection Act 2020</i>
GORCC	Great Ocean Road Coastal Committee

Term	Explanation
G2I	Geelong Region Alliance
HSR	Health and safety representative
ICT	Information and communications technologies
IBAC	Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission
IRP	Issue resolution procedures
LGBTIQ+	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and gender diverse, intersex and queer
LTIFR	Lost time injury frequency rate
LSL	Long service leave
MPSG	Major Project Skills Guarantee
MRU	Marine Rescue Unit
OHS	Occupational health and safety
OCC	Otway Coastal Committee
OPEX	Operational expenditure
OVIC	Office of the Victorian Education Commissioner
PID Act	<i>Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012</i>
RACV	Royal Automotive Club of Victoria
RCAP	Regional Coastal Adaptation Plan
RSL	The Returned & Services League of Australia
SES	Senior executive service
SPF	Social Procurement Framework
SLSC	Surf life saving club
TEI	Total estimated investment
UV	Ultraviolet
VAGO	Victorian Auditor General's Office
VIPP	Victorian Industry Participation Policy
VMIA	Victorian Managed Insurance Authority
VCAT	Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal
WSL	World Surfing League
WTOAC	Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation
2WD	Two-wheel drive
4WD	Four-wheel drive

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE GREAT OCEAN ROAD COAST AND PARKS AUTHORITY

To stay up to date with the latest news from the Great Ocean Road coast and parks, including our work, volunteering, events, and opportunities to get involved and have your say:

- Sign up to our Coast News and caravan parks newsletters
- Follow us on Facebook and LinkedIn
 -  facebook.com/greatoceanroadauthority
 -  linkedin.com/company/great-ocean-road-coast-and-parks-authority/
- To have a say please visit haveyoursay.greatoceanroadauthority.vic.gov.au

Visit www.greatoceanroadauthority.vic.gov.au to find out more.

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PHOTOGRAPHY

The cover image was taken by Troy Daniel (Jan Juc Studio).

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