

GREAT OCEAN  
ROAD COAST  
COMMITTEE

13

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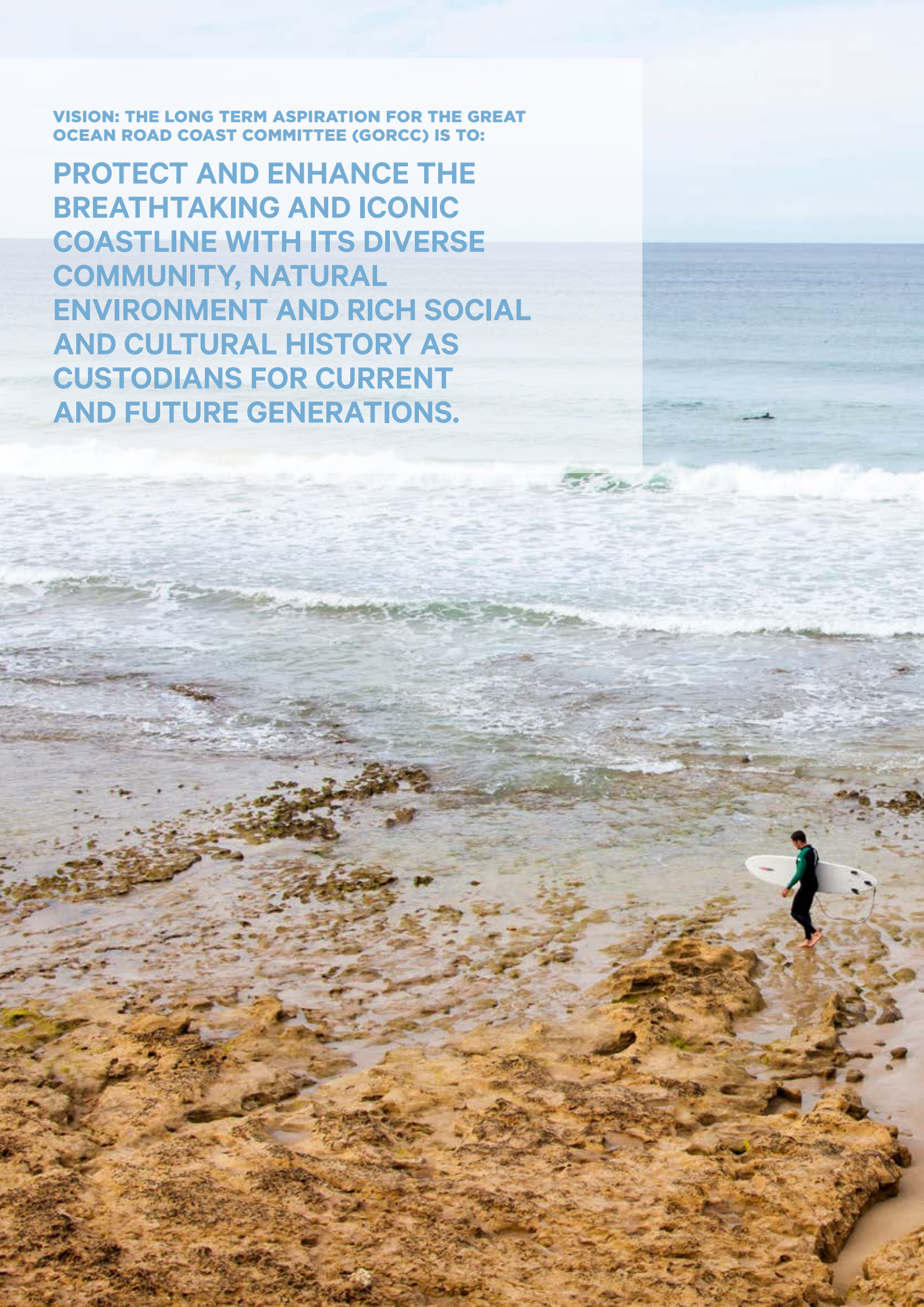
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ANNUAL REPORT



**VISION: THE LONG TERM ASPIRATION FOR THE GREAT OCEAN ROAD COAST COMMITTEE (GORCC) IS TO:**

**PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE BREATHTAKING AND ICONIC COASTLINE WITH ITS DIVERSE COMMUNITY, NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND RICH SOCIAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY AS CUSTODIANS FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS.**







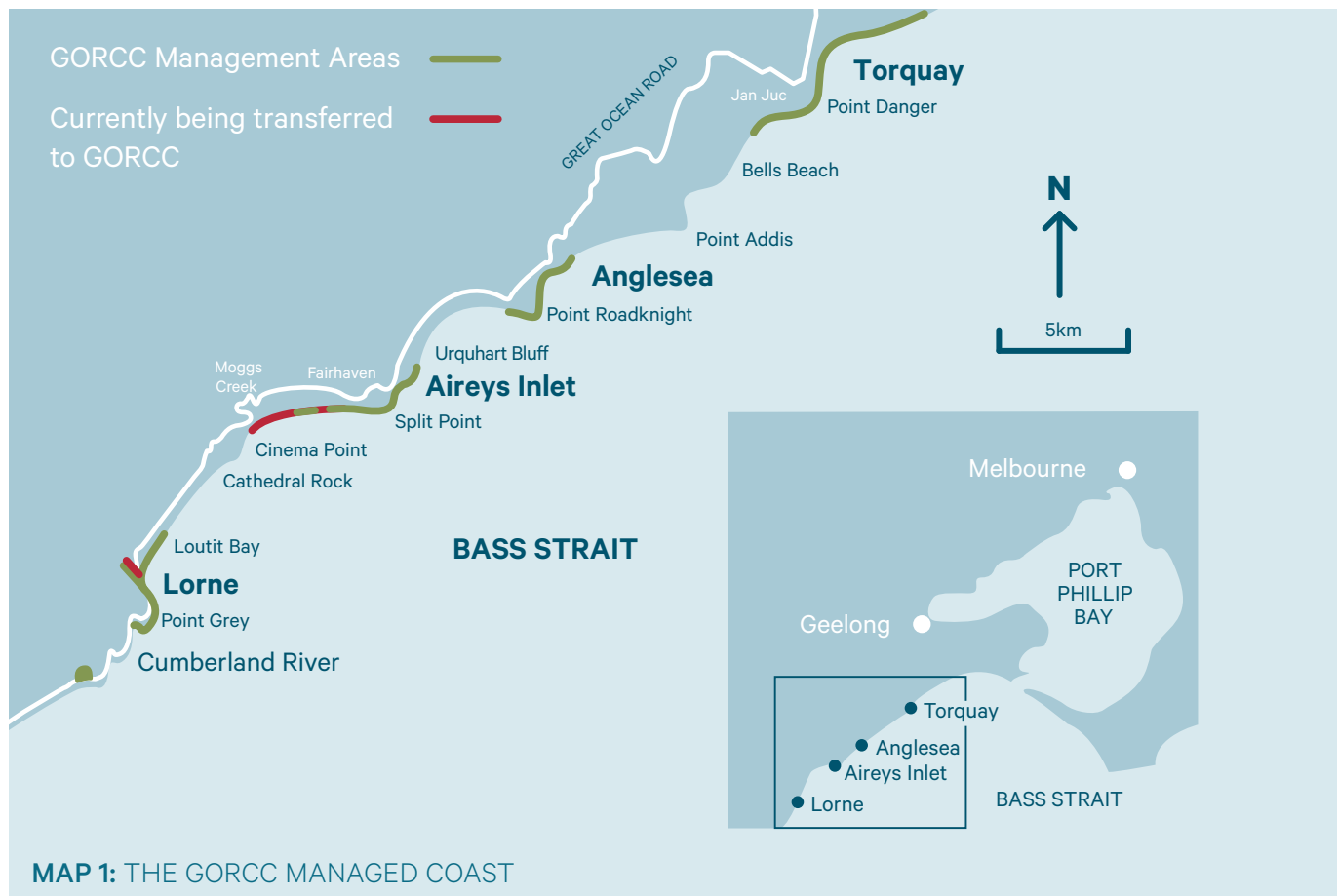
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# WHO WE ARE

The Great Ocean Road Coast Committee (GORCC) is a Committee of Management (CoM) formed by the Victorian Government in 2004. GORCC is a not-for-profit, community-based organisation responsible for managing Crown land reserves along the heritage listed Great Ocean Road in Victoria.







## MISSION: GORCC'S CORE PURPOSE IS TO:

# ENSURE APPROPRIATE USE AND EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF THE GORCC-MANAGED COAST THROUGH ADVOCACY AND ACTION.

## AREAS OF MANAGEMENT

GORCC manages 37 kilometres of Crown land reserves along the coast from Point Impossible east of Torquay, to the Cumberland River southwest of Lorne (see map 1 on opposite page).

## ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

GORCC's main role is to manage Crown land reserves and their values on behalf of the State and for the use and enjoyment of the community. In fulfilling this role, GORCC gains a variety of powers through Section 15 of the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978*.

## STRUCTURE

The committee members of GORCC are appointed under the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978* for a term of three years by the Minister for Environment and Climate Change, and are selected through a public, skills-based 'expression of interest' process. The 12 committee members operate in a voluntary capacity, meeting regularly to oversee and provide direction to the organisation.

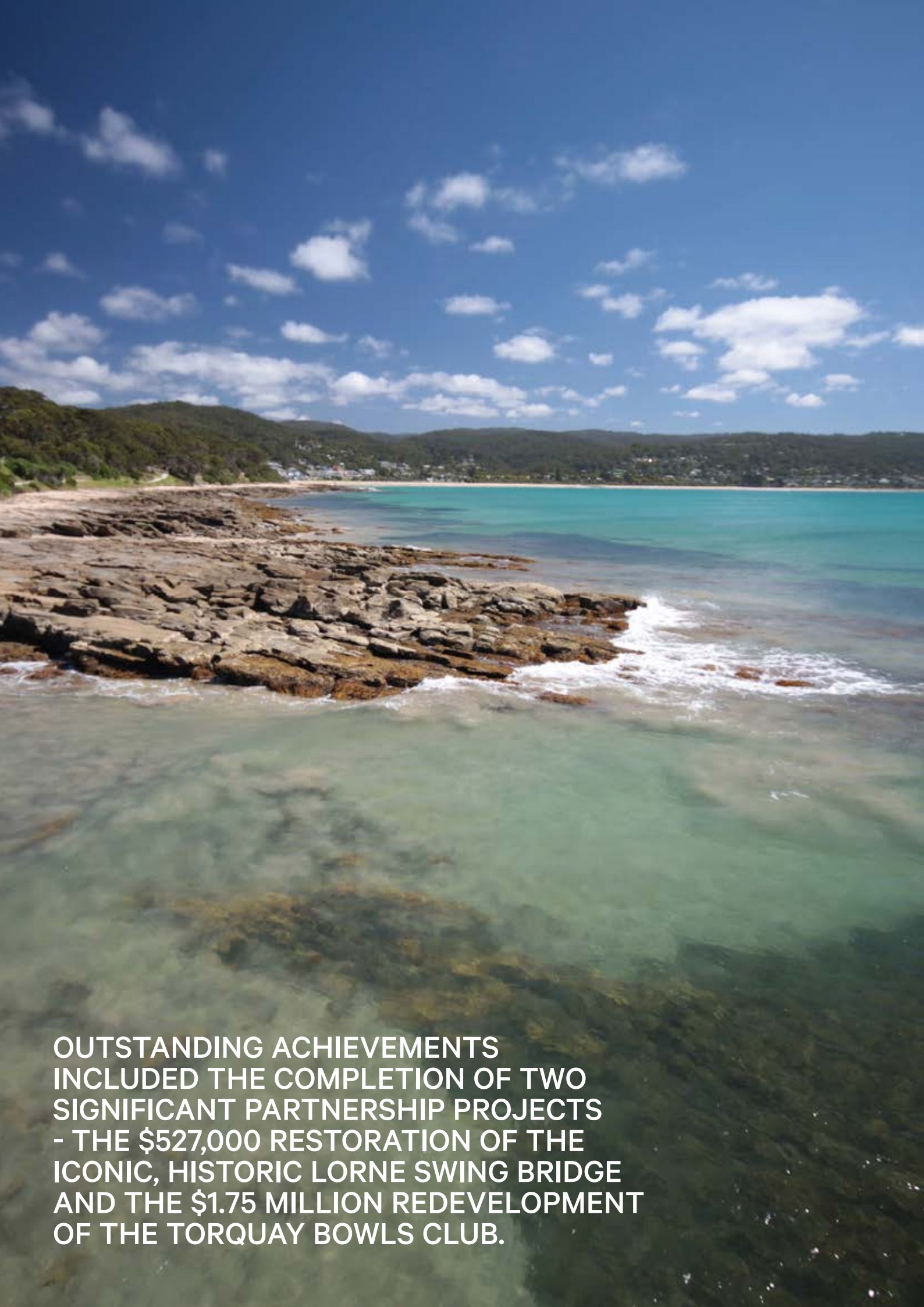
GORCC also has a staff team which comprises around 30 full time employees. Staff cover areas ranging from caravan park management, conservation and strategic and environmental planning through to outdoor works and financial operations.

## FUNDING

GORCC currently generates around \$7.8 million in direct revenue annually, with 80 per cent coming from the two directly managed caravan parks in Torquay and Lorne. The remaining 20 per cent is derived from a range of sources including lease, licence and permit fees and fee-for-service delivery.

GORCC is required to reinvest all revenue it raises back into the management of its Crown land reserves, and the majority is expended on looking after the coast and operating and maintaining the caravan parks.

GORCC receives no recurrent funding from any level of government. However, revenue is often supplemented by grants which are used for special projects and environmental work.



**OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS  
INCLUDED THE COMPLETION OF TWO  
SIGNIFICANT PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS  
- THE \$527,000 RESTORATION OF THE  
ICONIC, HISTORIC LORNE SWING BRIDGE  
AND THE \$1.75 MILLION REDEVELOPMENT  
OF THE TORQUAY BOWLS CLUB.**





# LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN & CEO

In 2013-2014, GORCC has continued to fulfill its mission of 'ensuring the appropriate use and effective management of the GORCC managed coast through advocacy and action'.

The 37 kilometres of Crown land reserves in our care are highly valued, and yet they face a number of long term challenges. These challenges include climate change, increasing pressure due to population and development and the need to protect and enhance a very fragile natural environment.

Overarching all these challenges is resourcing. We are required to invest significant financial, human and other resources in order to fulfill our role. GORCC manages more than \$34 million in assets alone, and their ongoing maintenance to ensure high levels of service delivery to coastal users is of paramount importance.

In 2013-2014, we spent in excess of \$11 million on the coast and in our caravan parks. Approximately \$2.1 million of this spend was thanks to government grants, and we are grateful for the support our vital work has been given at both a State and Federal level.

\$2million was spent on caravan park upgrades and improvements. In 2013-2014 our directly managed parks in Torquay and Lorne saw more than 51,000 visitors through their gates. Reinvestment back into these parks is vital, as they provide us with 80% of our income (excluding grants).

Our parks also make a significant contribution to the local economy. Based on research by BDO Consulting who conducted a nationwide study on the economic impact of caravan parks on the east coast of Australia, the Lorne and Torquay Foreshore Caravan Park operations combined have a \$3.5 million impact on the local economy. This figure excludes the valuable contributions park guests make to local townships during their stay which is also significant.

A portion of our 2013-2014 overall spend was dedicated to the delivery of special coastal projects. Outstanding achievements included the completion of two significant partnership projects – the \$527,000 restoration of the iconic, historic Lorne Swing Bridge and the \$1.75 million redevelopment of the Torquay Bowls Club.

2013-2014 was also the first year of implementation for GORCC's Coastal Management Plan – a plan that identifies priorities and provides direction for the sustainable management of the GORCC managed coast over five years.

83% of actions outlined in the plan are complete or on track for completion as and when planned with the remaining 17% set to be addressed over the next year.

As per the Coastal Management Plan, the natural environment is the prime value of the GORCC managed coast and its protection and enhancement is of the highest priority. Over the last year we have seen:

- A 31% increase in participants in our environmental education programs (755 participants in total)
- More than 15,000 plants planted.
- Conservation works totalling an area of more than 220 hectares.

Looking forward to the year ahead we are continuing on several important planning journeys, with, in particular, the Point Grey Precinct Plan, Erskine River Precinct Master Plan, Coastal User Transport Strategy and Queens Park (Caravan Park) Master Plan all expected to reach completion in 2015.

Equally vital is our ongoing, day to day work in managing the coast. From maintenance through to conservation works and community engagement initiatives through to education programs, our Committee and staff will continue to towards the protection and enhancement of our iconic and breathtaking coastline for the benefit of all.

**John Carlile**  
Chairman

**Richard Davies**  
Chief Executive Officer



# 2013-2014 ACHIEVEMENTS

## **LORNE SWING BRIDGE**

The iconic Lorne Swing Bridge was officially reopened by the Hon Terry Mulder MP, Member for Polwarth, Minister for Roads in April 2014, marking the completion of a \$527,000 restoration project to reinstate this historically significant structure.

The Lorne Swing Bridge underwent a major rebuild following a detailed structural survey which led to its temporary closure early in 2013. The project was initiated and managed by GORCC.

The bridge is loved, used and valued by the local Lorne community and visitors alike and the objective of the works were to ensure this iconic landmark is preserved for future generations.

The project was funded thanks to \$220,000 from the Victorian Government's \$1 billion Regional Growth Fund, \$182,000 from GORCC, \$75,000 from the Surf Coast Shire and \$50,000 from the Department of Environment and Primary Industries.

## **CARAVAN PARK WORKS AND IMPROVEMENTS:**

Over the past year \$2 million was spent on caravan park upgrades and improvements in our two directly managed parks in Torquay and Lorne. Notable achievements included:

### ***11 Brand new Surfside Cabins for Torquay***

In 2013, ten ageing cabins in the Torquay Foreshore Caravan Park were removed and replaced with 11 new Surfside Cabins.

More than \$700,000 was invested into the new facilities which have a lovely outlook over the Spring Creek area. The cabins have been designed with young families in mind and are situated close to adjacent picnic and BBQ areas.

### ***New playground for Torquay***

More than \$50,000 was spent on upgrading and installing new playground equipment at the Torquay Foreshore Caravan Park in 2013 in time for peak season.

The new playground, which has been very popular with little campers, includes a pirate ship, swing set and slides.

### ***New amenities block in Kia Ora, Lorne***

\$337,000 went towards the refurbishment of the Kia Ora amenities block in Lorne in 2013. The existing block which was ageing and in need of a refresh is now a clean, modern building and a brand new facility.

**THE LORNE SWING BRIDGE IS LOVED, USED AND VALUED BY THE LOCAL LORNE COMMUNITY AND VISITORS ALIKE AND THE OBJECTIVE OF THE WORKS WERE TO ENSURE THIS ICONIC LANDMARK IS PRESERVED FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.**





## TORQUAY BOWLS CLUB REDEVELOPMENT

The Torquay Bowls Club (TBC) redevelopment was officially opened in March 2014. Member for South Barwon Andrew Katos officially opened the facility, marking the completion of a \$1.75 million redevelopment and the delivery of new community hub for the region.

The project has provided new facilities for the TBC's growing membership and a home for community organisations, including the Torquay RSL sub-branch.

The project was supported and facilitated by GORCC, the land manager, as the site is situated on Crown land. GORCC auspiced the grant on behalf of the TBC, who worked closely with the Torquay RSL Sub - branch.

The planning process was funded by a State Government grant of \$1.5 million which was supported by more than \$200,000 contributed by the TBC itself and more than \$25,000 of in kind support from GORCC.



## ENVIRONMENT & EDUCATION

As per the Coastal Management Plan, the natural environment is the prime value of the GORCC managed coast and its protection and enhancement is of the highest priority. Thanks to our continued efforts and the support of a large number of partners over last year we have seen:

- A 31% increase in participants in our environmental education programs (755 participants in total).
- More than 15,000 indigenous plants planted.
- The survival of two precious, endangered Hooded Plover Chicks (the first chicks to fledge in two years on the Surf Coast).
- 90 year 9 students from four schools taking part in our Coast Guardians Program and our annual, end of year forum.
- A noticeable decrease in the number of fox and rabbit dens and warrens thanks to feral pest eradication works in partnership with the Surf Coast Shire.







## COMMUNITY

### *Victoria's first amphibious boat for Torquay Marine Rescue*

GORCC was proud to partner with community groups and government to contribute towards the purchase of a new amphibious boat that will play a key role in saving lives on the Surf Coast.

The rigid inflatable boat is the first vessel of its kind to be used in Victoria.

The new 6.1 metre vessel will help volunteers to reach areas previously only accessible by helicopter or high angle cliff rescue.

The \$140,000 boat was partly funded through the Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program (VESEP). GORCC, RACV Torquay Resort and private benefactors also contributed.

## GORCC WAS PROUD TO PARTNER WITH COMMUNITY GROUPS AND GOVERNMENT TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS THE PURCHASE OF A NEW AMPHIBIOUS BOAT THAT WILL PLAY A KEY ROLE IN SAVING LIVES ON THE SURF COAST.

### **Coastal Grants:**

Each year, GORCC offers \$10,000 in funds to support local groups and individuals in caring for the coast and the coastal community.

In 2013 four groups received funding for community activities and conservation projects taking place on GORCC managed land between Torquay and Lorne. These recipients were:

- Lorne Model Boat Regatta – \$1,500 to stage the third annual Lorne Model Boat Regatta
- Torquay Coast Action Group – \$2,500 for weed control and revegetation at Yellow Bluff in Torquay

- Clean Hour Beaches – \$1,500 to aid the 'clean hour beaches' campaign and litter removal activities
- Friends of Moggs Creek – \$1,000 to buy tools to assist conservation of the Fairhaven to Eastern View dunes

Over \$40,000 has been awarded since the program began in 2007. This has helped support 33 important environmental conservation projects and community activities in the coastal areas under GORCC's management.









# PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

2013-2014 saw the initiation and continuation of a number of important, strategic planning projects for our coast. Strategic planning underpins the work we undertake on the coast and in our caravan parks and are a vital part of helping us to ensure that we achieve the best possible outcomes in our endeavours.

## COASTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Coastal Management Plan was developed to identify priorities and provide direction for the sustainable management of the areas GORCC is responsible for to 2018 and beyond. The final CMP was approved by the Minister for Environment and Climate Change under the Coastal Management Act 1995.

2013-2014 marked the first year of the CMP's implementation and the end of the year saw the first round of monitoring and reporting which showed that implementation of the CMP is progressing well with most (83%) of short term actions complete or on track for completion and Key Performance Indicators being met where data was available (with the remaining KPI's on track and final measurements to be taken future years).

## STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESSES

All of our master plans and area/issue specific plans are overarching by our CMP. In 2013-2014 extensive work was undertaken to progress the following plans:

### *Pt Grey Precinct Plan:*

GORCC is undertaking a planning process to identify a suitable option for the future use and development of this important and historically significant precinct in Lorne.

The plan will produce concept designs for the Point Grey Precinct and identify an achievable development and implementation process. The planning process will also consider appropriate and potential funding opportunities for the implementation of the plan, with funding to then be sought to bring the plan to fruition.





2013/2014 saw the release of a preliminary draft plan for consultation and in 2014/2015 this feedback will be considered by GORCC in the development of a final draft which will be released for further consultation before a final plan is created.

#### ***Erskine River Precinct Master Plan:***

GORCC is undertaking a master planning process for the Erskine River Precinct in Lorne. The final plan will provide GORCC and the community with a vision and management directions for the precinct into the future.

The Draft Erskine River Precinct Master Plan was released for consultation over April & May 2014. All feedback received will be considered as part of the development of a final plan, which is expected to be released in mid-late 2014.

#### ***Coastal User Transport Strategy***

A long term strategy is being developed which is aimed at improving how the increasing number of local residents and visitors make their way to the GORCC managed coastal reserves. During 2013/14, GORCC released a discussion paper outlining the issues associated with transport to the coast and common management responses to them as part of the initial stakeholder engagement process. The feedback received on the discussion paper is now being used by the consultants to prepare a draft strategy, which will be released for further stakeholder engagement in 2014/15.

Important planning processes to commence over the next financial year (2014/2015) include:

#### ***Fairhaven to Eastern View Master Plan***

A draft master plan is being developed for the coastal reserves between Painkalac Creek and the Great Otway National Park. The plan will have a six year timeframe and consider a number of key issues ranging from biodiversity conservation, cultural heritage, coastal processes and climate change, and recreation and facilities. The draft is expected to be released for consultation in peak season 2014/2015.





### ***Queens Park (Lorne) Master Plan, Lorne***

A draft master plan for this important reserve on Lorne's residential edge is under development. Queen Park's natural and scenic values and proximity to Lorne make it a vital asset to GORCC and the community and the park is a well-used bushwalking destination. The plan will consider issues such as ongoing environmental management and conservation, heritage interpretation, facilities, access, walking tracks and more. The draft is expected to be released for consultation in peak season 2014/2015.

### ***Queens Park Caravan Park Master Plan***

GORCC is currently preparing a second draft Master Plan to guide the development and future management of Queens Park Caravan Park, Lorne. Queens Park Caravan Park presents a challenge for GORCC in achieving a balance between appropriate commercial development and the Park's environmental values and their management.

Key issues considered in the master plan are:

- Retaining and incorporating the park's natural values to provide a nature based accommodation experience.
- Offering a range of accommodation for different demographics.
- Evaluation of current park lay out, park flow and movement.
- Cabin position and inclusion of dormitory accommodation.

The second draft master plan will be released for community consultation in 2015.





# PARTNERSHIPS

Our achievements would not be possible without the support of our many partners. Our partners range from community and indigenous groups, to businesses, government departments and agencies. These groups and individuals provide both funding and in-kind support to our projects and initiatives.

One of the most vital of these partners is environmental volunteer groups. Environmental volunteers contribute over 10,000 hours to the coast we manage each year. GORCC works alongside and supports these groups, who assist in our efforts to protect and enhance the coast.

During 2013-2014, some of our partners included:

- The Department of Environment and Primary Industries
- Regional Development Victoria
- The Surf Coast Shire
- Parks Victoria
- The Corangamite Catchment Management Authority
- VicRoads
- Other coastal-related committees of management including Barwon Coast, Bellarine Bayside and Otway Coast Committee.
- Other coastal stakeholders such as local businesses who rely on the coast for their income (e.g. surf schools) and user groups (e.g. surf life saving clubs).
- Local community and volunteer organisations involved in recreation, rescue, environment and cultural activities along the coast.
- Schools including Christian College, Geelong Lutheran College, Surf Coast Secondary College, Northern Bay College and Lorne-Aireys P-12 College and many more.
- Corporate groups and volunteers including Quiksilver, Ford, Lend Lease, Rip Curl and many more.
- The Wathaurung Registered Aboriginal Party and other local indigenous groups.
- The Western Coastal Board
- The Victorian Coastal Council
- Community reference groups (CRGs) including the Coastal Management Plan CRG and the Point Grey Precinct Plan CRG
- ANGAIR (Anglesea, Aireys Inlet Society for the protection of Flora and Fauna)
- ANGAIR Friends of Painkalac Creek Estuary
- ANGAIR Friends of Aireys Inlet Coastal Reserve
- ANGAIR Friends of Anglesea Coast
- Friends of Jan Juc Creek
- Friends of Queens Park Lorne
- Friends of Taylor Park
- Hooded Plover Volunteer Monitors
- LorneCare
- SANE (Surfers Appreciating the Natural Environment)
- Surfrider Foundation Australia
- Torquay Landcare Group
- Torquay Coast Action



# ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Net earnings prior to depreciation for the year 2013/2014 improved by 9% on the previous year.

## SOURCE OF FUNDS

The committee's total consolidated income was \$9.2 million (see graph). Of which 64% came from GORCC managed caravan parks, 16% from leases and licences and 17% from the State and Federal Governments specifically for particular projects along the coast.

The committee were successful in obtaining the following grants for the year:

PROJECT	GRANT
Lorne Master Planning & Facilities Upgrade	67,500
Torquay Bowls Club Redevelopment	900,000 (13/14)
Rocky Point Look-Out	200,000
Lorne Swing Bridge Upgrade	372,273
Coastal Risk Mitigation	10,000
Weed Control	7,000
Other	1,921
	<b>1,558,694</b>

## EXPENDITURE

Total expenditure for 2013/2014 was \$10.2 million. This expenditure was shared between the committee's managed caravan parks at 42% and coastal reserves at 49%, with the remainder of 9% put towards administration (see graph).

Total expenditure included \$5 million spent on capital and special projects which were either grant or non-grant related.

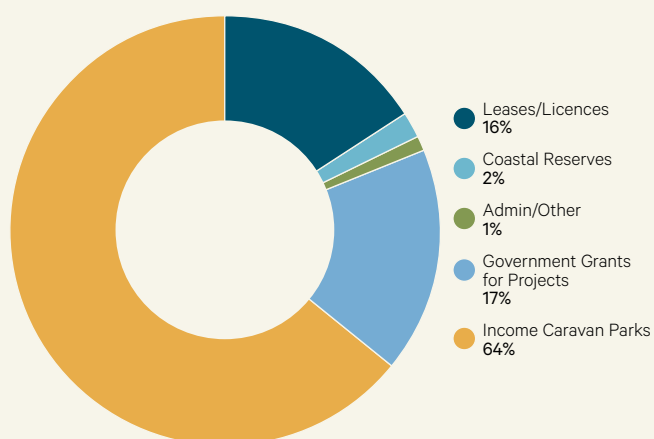
The balance of costs incurred were part of normal business operations within Coastal Reserves, Caravan Parks and Administration (e.g. general care of coastal reserves, standard repairs/maintenance, utilities and wages).





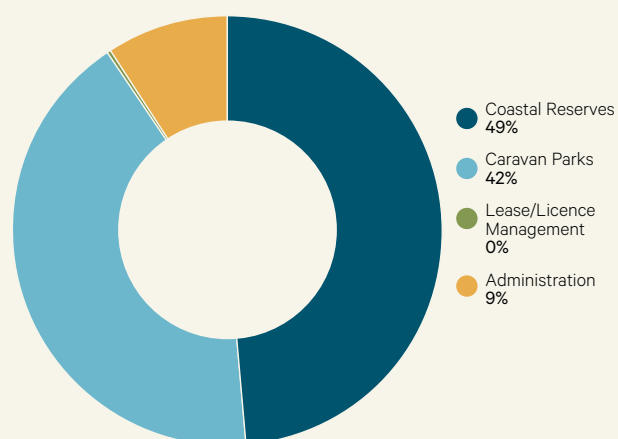
### Graph 1

**Consolidated income including grants 2013/2014**  
Total \$9.2 million



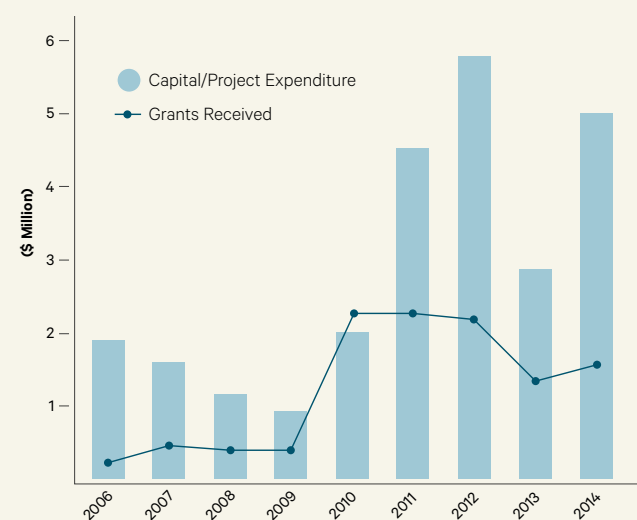
### Graph 2

**Total Expenditure 2014**  
Total \$10.2 million



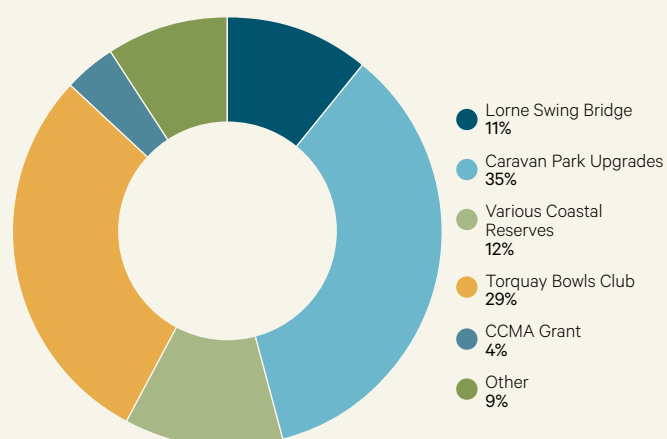
### Graph 3

**Capital/Project Activities**



### Graph 4

**Total Capital/Project Expenditure 2013/2014**  
Total \$5 million





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