

Fairhaven to Eastern View Master Plan

2015 - 2020



The old Eastern View Hotel, 600 metres east of Coalmine Creek (*Rose Series* photograph 1920 to 1954).

Disclaimer

This publication may be of assistance to you but the Great Ocean Road Coast Committee do not guarantee that it is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims liability for any error, loss or other consequences arising from you relying on any information in this publication.

DRAFT

January 2015



Great Ocean Road
Coast Committee Inc

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION	2
2. BACKGROUND	3
2.1 The project area.....	3
2.2 Prior planning and design.....	3
2.2.1 Victorian Coastal Strategy.....	5
2.2.2 Coastal Management Plan.....	5
2.3 Consultation.....	5
3. KEY ISSUES, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS.....	7
3.1 Biodiversity conservation.....	7
3.2 Cultural heritage conservation.....	11
3.3 Land tenure.....	12
3.4 Coastal processes and climate change.....	13
3.5 Aesthetic character, scenic values and sense of place.....	17
3.6 Recreation and tourism access and facilities.....	18
3.7 Interpretation and visitor information.....	21
4. HAVE YOUR SAY.....	22
5. MAPS.....	23

1. INTRODUCTION

The Great Ocean Road Coast Committee (GORCC or ‘the Committee’) use master plans to provide strategic direction for the care and development of Crown land under its management. Master plans provide direction consistent with GORCC’s overarching Coastal Management Plan (CMP 2013) but with a local focus, addressing local issues and reserve values. They also apply principles set out in the Victorian Coastal Strategy (VCS, 2014).

Further, master plans allow local communities and other stakeholders to understand and provide input into the Great Ocean Road Coast Committee’s priorities, and evaluate management outcomes against the Committee’s stated objectives.

This master plan has been developed for the coastal Crown land reserves between Painkalac Creek and Eastern View. A number of contiguous reserves form a six kilometre long, narrow stretch of beach and dune, between the shoreline and Great Ocean Road. It identifies key issues and corresponding objectives and actions to address these.

This plan has a five year timeframe (to 2020) and is intended to be reviewed and, if necessary, revised or replaced after that time. The pace of development in the region and the dynamic nature of the coast means review and revision of parts of the plan may be required before then.



Image 1: Painkalac Creek at the eastern end of the master plan area, breaking out to sea in Winter 2012

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The project area

This master plan relates to coastal reserves seaward of the Great Ocean Road, between the mouth of Painkalac Creek and the Great Otway National Park Boundary (past Spout Creek). The Great Ocean Road Coast Committee's jurisdiction extends to mean low water mark¹ (Map 1).

The project area covers approximately 50 hectares. Over half of the area is beach (between the vegetation line and mean low water mark). The area is 6.2km long and extends 400m inland at its widest point at Painkalac Creek, though the majority of the area is between 20-30m wide.

The area was reserved for public purposes in 1879 and gazetted as a reserve under Committee of Management jurisdiction in 1962. Previous Committee's established many of the visitor facilities and conservation and rehabilitation zones that exist today.

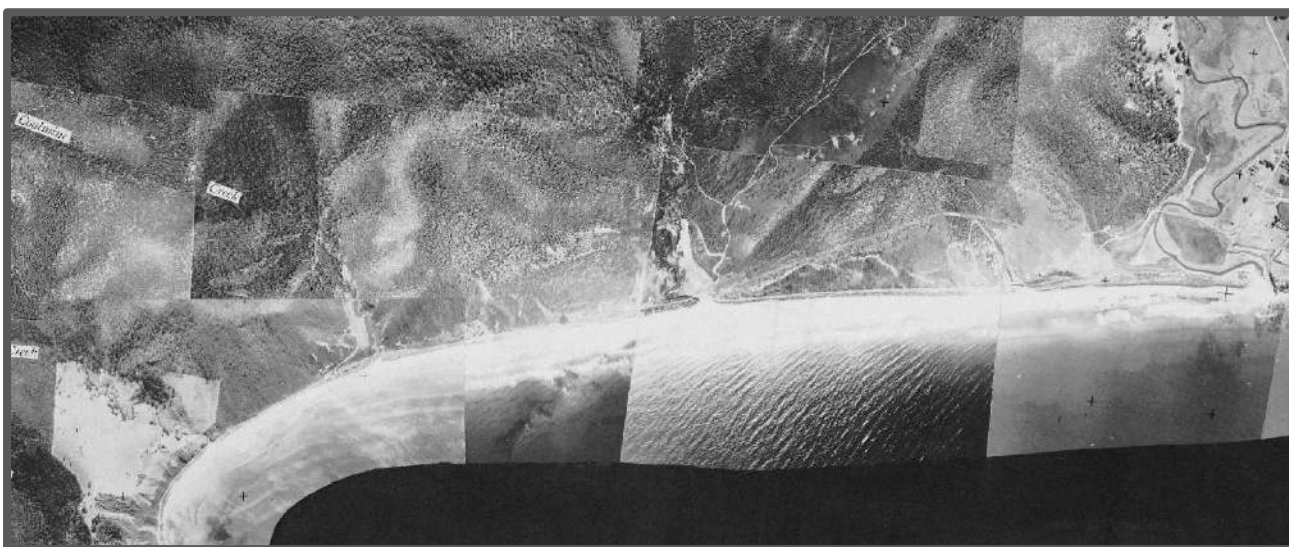


Image 2: Mosaic of 1947 aerial photography of the area. The position of the Great Ocean Road relative to the vegetation line provides a useful gauge for measuring shoreline erosion and accretion over time.

2.2 Prior planning and design

In 2005, the Great Ocean Road Coast Committee took over management of the study area from the previous Fairhaven Foreshore Committee of Management. A number of prior plans and reports exist pre 2005 and have been used in the preparation of this plan.

The *Split Point Lighthouse Precinct master plan* (2008) covers adjoining reserves in Aireys Inlet and fulfils a similar role to this plan. Other recent, relevant plans that are referenced in this document include the Committee's *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Conservation Manual* (2012), *Coastal Processes Study* (2012), *Coastal Climate Change Vulnerability and Adaptation report* (2012) and *Native Vegetation and Weed Action Plan* (2009). They provide more detailed, issue-specific information and actions.

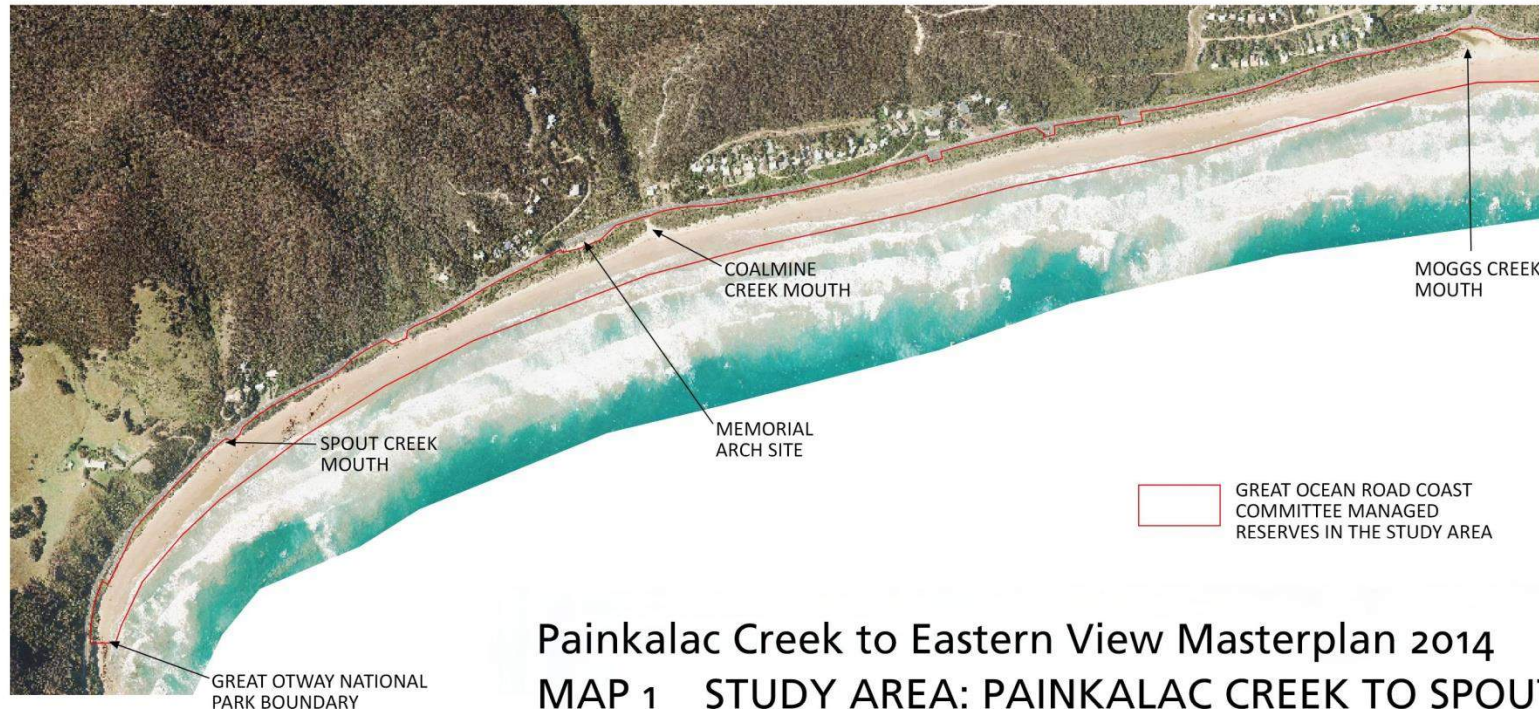
Two key documents and their relevant objectives underpin this master plan, and are summarised below.

¹ Mean Low Water Mark is a height datum and cannot be readily represented on a map. At Williamstown, MLW is 0.22m below the Australian Height Datum (Mean Water Level: 0m AHD).

STUDY AREA EAST



STUDY AREA WEST



Painkalac Creek to Eastern View Masterplan 2014
MAP 1 STUDY AREA: PAINKALAC CREEK TO SPOUT CREEK

2.2.1 Victorian Coastal Strategy

The *Victorian Coastal Strategy* (VCS, 2014) contains a hierarchy of principles, which states that decision makers' priorities should be to:

1. Ensure the protection of significant environmental and cultural values;
2. Undertake integrated planning and provide clear direction for the future;
3. Ensure the sustainable use of natural coastal resources, and
4. When the above principles have been met, ensure development on the coast is located within existing, modified and resilient environments where the demand for development is evident and any impacts can be managed sustainably.

2.2.2 Coastal Management Plan

The *Great Ocean Road Coast Committee Coastal Management Plan* (CMP, 2013) identifies priorities and provides direction for the sustainable management of the coast. The key issues, objectives and strategies in this master plan are consistent with the CMP and represent application of the CMP's direction at a local scale.

The CMP uses the VCS's concepts of 'activity node' and 'recreation node' to define the scale and roles of visitor focal points relative to surrounding land. Activity nodes provide for community recreation facilities and tourism activities. They are located within settlements and highly developed visitor focal points. Recreation nodes are located on coastal Crown land, outside activity nodes. They provide access and infrastructure for recreation and water related activities. The CMP preliminary framework of activity and recreation nodes recognised Fairhaven SLSC, Moggs Creek and Eastern View car parks as recreation nodes. The VCS states that coastal development should be concentrated within these nodes.

Action 25 (p. 61) of the CMP states: *Develop new master plan for the Aireys Inlet to Eastern View foreshore...* (except the area covered by the *Split Point Lighthouse Precinct Masterplan 2008*).

The CMP includes discussion of four 'significant challenges in managing the coast': *climate change, population and development, protection of the natural environment and financial and other resources*. All of these issues are relevant to the Painkalac Creek to Eastern View study area. All are addressed in this plan either as specific issues or as background to the key issues on the following pages.

Population and development is expected to lead to gradual increases in recreational use of the study area and possibly pressure to expand visitor facilities, such as parking areas. 'Hardening' existing facilities (e.g. replacing sandy tracks with gravel paths or timber stairways) and slightly enlarging existing facilities (e.g. widening a path from 1.5 to 2 metres to accommodate increased traffic) are considered to be relatively small 'upgrades' to accommodate population and usage pressures.

Larger scale and more noticeable actions like adding new parking areas, major access ways and buildings are regarded as more threatening to the area's fundamental characteristics and natural sense of place. This plan is based on an assumption that preserving the area's naturalness and relatively undeveloped character are essential goals in the face of increasing population and visitation.

2.3 Consultation

A number of local people provided background information and insights on key issues and management strategies for the draft plan. Their input is gratefully acknowledged.

The draft plan has been developed for public review and comment prior to the plan's finalisation.

Findings from the extensive community engagement that was conducted during development of the CMP have also informed this plan, particularly regarding aspects people value about the coast, visions for the coast, key management issues and aspirations for the coast. More information on community findings can be found on the GORCC website at www.gorcc.com.au.



Image 3: Painkalac Creek from the barrier dune

3 KEY ISSUES, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

The following section is divided into key issues. Associated key objectives and actions have been developed based on these issues. Actions have been prioritised as high, medium or low, and assigned an action timeframe of short (1-2 years), medium (3-4 years), long (5 years) or ongoing.

3.1 Biodiversity conservation

The area's coastal reserves contain Coastal Dune Scrub vegetation that has a high conservation status and provides habitat for the threatened Rufous Bristlebird and other native animals.

The area was heavily infested with environmental weeds, however a sustained effort by volunteers and the current and previous Committee's of Management have greatly improved native vegetation cover and condition. Species such as Boneseed, Cape Wattle, Sea Spurge and Dolichos Pea that were previously prolific in the area have been controlled to the point where no 'parent plants' (mature, seeding plants) are known to remain.

The term 'environmental weed' is used to describe a plant that is out of its natural range, vigorously outcompetes local native vegetation and is hard to eradicate or control. Coast Tea Tree (*Leptospermum laevigatum*) is a native of the Victorian coast but is considered an environmental weed west of Barwon Heads² and is being gradually removed from the Painkalac Creek to Eastern View dunes. There were areas dominated by this single species 6 years ago, which have now been restored to a much higher level of diversity. This work is being carried out in stages to maintain fauna habitat and soil cohesion.

Other conservation issues include:

- Large environmental weed infestations remain in some places, reducing biodiversity.
- Where weeds have been cleared, weed regrowth competes with native vegetation, requiring ongoing monitoring and control.
- Shoreline recession is gradually reducing native vegetation cover and fauna habitat in the area.
- Recreational activities in dunes can accelerate dune erosion and shoreline recession, particularly on steep dune faces. Well defined pathways are important to restrict recreational access to a limited number of designated points.
- Fencing has been widely used to reduce trampling and erosion, however fencing in the dynamic upper beach zone is costly to install and impractical to maintain. Fencing is generally installed along the unvegetated toe of dunes to avoid impacts on native vegetation. It is regarded as most worthwhile in busy, steep and fragile areas like the Fairhaven SLSC surrounds and either side of beach access paths.
- Endangered Hooded Plovers occasionally nest in the study area. Protection of habitat in the upper beach zone is important to maintain suitable breeding conditions, as is control of threats from pest animals, dogs and beachgoers. Current dog regulations exist for the area (time restrictions in summer at the SLSC but off leash at all times elsewhere); however dogs still pose a significant threat to nesting Hooded Plovers.

²Mark Trengove, Great Ocean Road Coast Committee Native Vegetation and Weed Action Plan, 2009.



Image 4a: Hooded Plover 'nest' (scrape) on the beach and **b:** Hooded Plover information sign, Moggs Creek, 2013

OBJECTIVES

1. Continue to remove environmental weeds, nurture and restore native vegetation and enhance habitat.
2. Implement weed control works sensitively and gradually to avoid denuding and destabilising dunes.
3. Continue to conduct conservation activities in partnership with volunteer groups and other agencies.
4. Minimise detrimental impacts from visitor activities on conservation values.
5. Promote the area's natural values and encourage public participation in conservation.

ACTIONS

NUMBER	ACTION	PRIORITY	TIMEFRAME
1	Remove remaining coast tea tree thickets east of Moggs Creek, east of Coalmine Creek and east of Spout Creek.	High	Short
2	Continue to monitor and control weed regeneration in weed control and rehabilitation areas.	High	Ongoing
3	Replace exotic grasses with native vegetation at Moggs Creek mouth, preferably following VicRoads retaining wall replacement works ³ .	Medium	Medium, pending VicRoads works
4	Investigate potential for fauna monitoring, possibly in partnership with the Geelong Field Naturalist's Club or tertiary institutions.	Medium	Short
5	Continue to conserve Hooded Plover habitat and work with Birdlife Australia, Surf Coast Shire and volunteers to protect nesting hooded plovers and other beach nesting birds.	High	Ongoing
6	Continue to investigate options for fox control and monitor other pest animal issues and options in partnership with neighbouring land managers.	High	Ongoing
7	Maintain roadside fencing to restrict parking and beach access and control pedestrian impacts on dunes.	High	Short
8	Maintain fencing at the toe of steep dunes near Fairhaven SLSC (sections east and west of the Surf Club) to restrict pedestrian access and limit vegetation damage and erosion.	High	Ongoing
9	Work with the SLSC to monitor visitor impacts (including Surf Club events) in the vicinity of the building and intervene to mitigate impacts if required.	Medium	Ongoing

³ An existing timber retaining wall that supports the road embankment and protects the toe of the embankment from scouring when Moggs Creek breaks out requires replacement. VicRoads plan to replace the wall within the next few years. There is an opportunity for VicRoads, GORCC and Friends of Moggs Creek to follow up wall replacement works with an extension of the weed removal and revegetation activities commenced in 2010.

10	Maintain new fencing at the toe of the Painkalac Creek mouth barrier dune and work with Surf Coast Shire (local laws) to discourage access and preserve dune stability.	Medium	Ongoing
11	Continue to promote the area's conservation values using interpretation, signs and other media, to encourage environmentally sensitive behaviour.	High	Ongoing

3.2 Cultural heritage conservation

The study area forms part of the traditional land of the Wathaurung and Gadabanud people and contains important cultural heritage sites.

The Committee's *Cultural Heritage Conservation Manual* (Terraculture, 2012) lists several Aboriginal sites in the Painkalac Creek barrier dune. It is likely there are more undiscovered Aboriginal sites in the dunes further west. Victoria's Aboriginal Heritage Act (2002) states that sites must be registered if discovered.

Painkalac Creek is reputed to have formed a boundary between Wathaurung (or Wadawurrung) people to the north and east, and Gadabanud to the west and south. Painkalac Creek is now the western boundary of the area overseen by the Wathaurung Aboriginal Corporation as Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP). The cultural significance of Painkalac Creek is interpreted in a new installation overlooking the estuary.

Shoreline and dune recession pose a threat to Aboriginal sites in dunes. While Aboriginal heritage sites and materials may inevitably be lost, there are options to monitor, record, remember and interpret them, in partnership with Aboriginal groups and Aboriginal Affairs Victoria.

The Great Ocean Road Memorial Arch at Eastern View, first constructed in 1939 and replaced several times since, is one of the area's best recognised historic landmarks. The Arch is situated on land managed by VicRoads. The Great Ocean Road itself is listed on the register of the National Estate.

'Social heritage' issues are discussed below in *2.5 Aesthetic Character and Sense of Place*.

OBJECTIVES

1. Continue to conserve Aboriginal heritage sites in accordance with the GORCC *Cultural Heritage Conservation Manual* (2012) and in partnership with Aboriginal representative bodies.
2. Investigate ways of increasing Aboriginal groups' involvement in interpretation and land management.
3. Continue to work with VicRoads and other agencies as appropriate to conserve cultural heritage values associated with the Great Ocean Road, including the memorial arch.

ACTIONS

NUMBER	ACTION	PRIORITY	TIMEFRAME
12	Continue to implement recommendations from GORCC's <i>Cultural Heritage Conservation Manual</i> when undertaking works in the area.	High	Ongoing
13	Continue to protect dunes where possible to conserve sites.	High	Ongoing
14	Liaise with Aboriginal bodies to identify and pursue opportunities for cultural heritage interpretation and Aboriginal involvement in management activities.	Medium	Medium
15	Assist VicRoads and tourism bodies to conserve and interpret cultural heritage at the Memorial Arch site.	Medium	Ongoing



Image 5: Midden exposed by dune erosion near Painkalac Creek mouth.

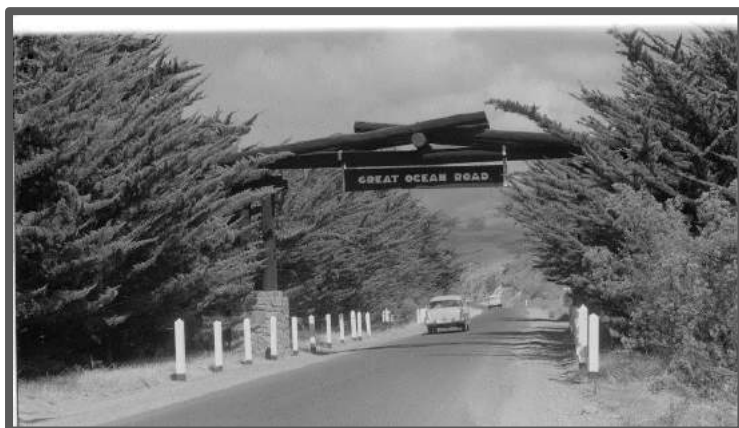


Image 6a & b: The ‘Major W.T.B. McCormack Memorial Arch’ is an important heritage site and visitor focal point.

3.3 Land tenure

GORCC manages land between the Great Ocean Road and mean low water mark, which is essentially the dunes and beach (See Map 1).

VicRoads manages the road and land one metre beyond the edge of road infrastructure, (which includes roadside parking areas, drains and guard rails). VicRoads is responsible for management of the Memorial Arch and all pull over areas on the Great Ocean Road, while GORCC are responsible for all parking areas. Key issues include provision of roadside parking (limiting parking to avoid overdevelopment and overuse), potential future engineering activities impacting on coastal reserves and management of visitor activities on VicRoads land.

OBJECTIVES

1. Continue to cooperate with VicRoads regarding road and coastal reserve interface issues.
2. Continue to work with DEPI on coastal Crown land management responsibilities and regulations.

ACTIONS

NUMBER	ACTION	PRIORITY	TIMEFRAME
16	Continue to liaise with VicRoads regarding planning and road management activities that impact on coastal reserves.	Medium	Ongoing
17	Continue to work with DEPI to finalise appointment of GORCC as manager of reserves in the study area.	High	Completed

3.4 Coastal processes and climate change

The study area is a long, narrow dune system that is inherently dynamic. Wave action, wind and trampling (human impact) are the main mechanisms that have an impact. A typical seasonal cycle of beach erosion in winter and beach accretion in summer also creates changes, while significant weather events can cause change at any point in time.

A review of available aerial photography showed there has been little 'net' change to the shoreline in the study area over the past 50 years⁴. However, it appears over the last three years shoreline recession has increased across most of the study area.

Historic photography of the Eastern View area shows a very narrow vegetated reserve between the Great Ocean Road and shore. Comparisons of 1947 to current aerial photography show a gradual widening of the vegetated reserve and accretion of low dunes. Some of the existing roadside parking areas near Spout Creek are known to have been established on fill pushed out onto the beach⁵.

Shoreline recession is predicted to be one of the effects of climate related sea level rise. The VCS recommends planning for sea level rise of not less than 0.8 metres by 2100. In parts of the study area, this could result in a shoreline directly abutting the Great Ocean Road. For example, storms in 2011 caused up to 10m of shoreline retreat in Eastern View over a few days. In areas with high dunes, shoreline recession causes dune crests to also recede.



Image 7: Eastern View looking east in the 1930s, showing the Great Ocean Road close to the shoreline.

⁴ Riedel, 2012 and pers. comm J. Dangerfield and H. Hill, 2014. It is thought that a long period of destabilisation and erosion after development of the Great Ocean Road in the first half of the 20th century was followed by beach and dune buildup in the second half of the century, possibly triggered by fencing and planting.

⁵ Pers. comm. J. Dangerfield, 2014.



Image 8a: Eastern View car park in 2008 & **b:** 2011 showing approximately 15m of shoreline recession.



Image 9a: Coalmine Creek to Spout Creek in 1947, showing generally less than 10m between the road and vegetation line, and **b:** in 2011, with the vegetated zone wider across most of the area pictured⁶.

The Committee has been implementing a ‘retreat’ strategy in the study area and other locations since 2010, under the oversight of DEPI⁷, with the aim of protecting the Great Ocean Road. Under this strategy, assets such as the Eastern View car parks receive no substantial ‘hard engineering’ protection from shoreline recession. To date, shoreline recession has been accommodated by repositioning vehicle barriers and managing visitor risks relating to steep and unstable shorelines. Further shoreline recession will necessitate the closure of parking areas as diminishing space makes further retreat unfeasible (see Maps 2 - 5). The risks will be continuously monitored as a priority.

Implementation of a retreat strategy assumes that the loss of car parks and native vegetation is acceptable, given the economic, environmental and social costs of protective works. In the study area, the strategy to date has been implemented without a detailed, site specific comparison of the costs and benefits of retreat versus protection or other management options. A coordinated approach with other land and infrastructure managers will provide the best management outcomes for these threats, and a climate change adaptation plan (based on the risk assessment and adaptation planning framework identified in GORCC’s *Coastal Climate Change Vulnerability and Adaptation report*) will subsequently be developed.

⁶ Shoreline and dune accretion occurred across the study area through the 1960s and 70s, probably resulting from dune fencing and extensive planting of Marram Grass and Coast Tea Tree (pers. com. Harry Hill, February 2014).

⁷ The VCS (2008) summarises strategic options in response to climate change as ‘*protect*’ (e.g. with rock armouring), ‘*accommodate*’ (e.g. design infrastructure to cope with flooding) and ‘*retreat*’ (allow for change and relocate infrastructure).

Discharges from Spout, Coalmine, Moggs and Painkalac Creeks, as well as several major stormwater drains influence beach levels. They can lead to localised erosion when 'low spots' in the beach facilitate wave run-up and impact against dunes.

OBJECTIVES

1. Continue to monitor shorelines using Geographic Information System (GIS) to measure distance from vegetation line to road edge.
2. Monitor and modify access facilities affected by shoreline changes to maintain safe visitor access, where possible.
3. Continue to conserve native vegetation to maximise the resilience of dunes.
4. Ensure beach access paths are aligned and constructed so as to minimise wind funnelling and erosion.
5. Work with DEPI, VicRoads and Powercore to plan for and respond to the effects of coastal processes and climate change, based on a site specific understanding of economic, environmental and social costs and benefits, and consideration of the prevailing 'retreat' strategy versus alternatives.
6. Help visitors and local residents understand coastal processes and the likely effects of climate change.

ACTIONS

NUMBER	ACTION	PRIORITY	TIMEFRAME
18	Participate with VicRoads, Powercore, DEPI and other relevant land managers/stakeholders in adaptation planning that considers economic, environmental and social costs, and benefits of adaptation options.	High	Short
19	Continue to modify car parks, pathways and structures to accommodate shoreline recession, where possible.	Medium	Ongoing
20	Work with other agencies to identify options for minimising and/or retarding stormwater discharges to the beach from Fairhaven streets, to reduce impacts on beach and dunes.	Medium	Medium
21	Maximise dune stability by protecting native vegetation, controlling access, brush matting erosion hotspots and retaining root masses when removing woody weeds.	High	Ongoing
22	Maintain and monitor existing trial sand trap fencing to promote sand build up.	Medium	Ongoing



Image 10: Parking area at Eastern View during high seas, July 2011

3.5 Aesthetic character, scenic values and sense of place

The study area has a relatively undeveloped character and natural sense of place. It offers a high quality scenic experience for travellers on the Great Ocean Road and a sense of spaciousness, providing opportunities for solitude to beach-goers, even at busy times of the year.

Most visitor facilities in the study area are basic, contributing to the area's undeveloped character. In some cases this provides a poor standard of access and facility appearance.

Healthy dune vegetation is integral to the study area's natural landscape character. Since 2006 the removal of extensive thickets of environmental weeds and restoration of more diverse and lower growing native vegetation has greatly improved landscape values as well as enhancing habitat.

Power lines along the Great Ocean Road in Eastern View diminish scenic values and pose fire risks. These should be relocated underground if possible (see images 11a, 11b, 12a and 12b). A 2006 study was conducted to determine the feasibility of burying Eastern View's power lines. The study found the work was feasible and offered diverse benefits, but was complex and costly (\$4 million in 2006).

Signs and redundant or damaged facilities also diminish landscape values and should be periodically assessed and renewed, or removed.

Garbage bins are provided and serviced by the Committee at car parks in the study area, and GORCC staff conduct litter patrols twice weekly all year and daily at peak times. In addition a number of volunteers are known to pick up litter on their walks. Bins were removed from the area as a trial in 2012 but feedback from visitors overwhelmingly supported their replacement.

OBJECTIVES

- Maintain a low-key facility style while improving design, construction and maintenance standards.
- Maintain garbage collection and regular litter patrols to keep the area clean.
- Maintain native vegetation to preserve scenic character and screen parked vehicles and traffic.
- Minimise 'sign pollution' by culling superfluous signs (and stray posts, old fencing etc) and maintaining sensitive sign design and siting standards.

ACTIONS

NUMBER	ACTION	PRIORITY	TIMEFRAME
23	In redeveloping facilities, ensure facilities complement their setting by siting and designing them carefully.	High	Ongoing
24	Implement twice weekly litter patrols.	High	Ongoing
25	Undertake annual reviews of signs, fences etc. and remove superfluous materials from the coastal reserve.	High	Ongoing
26	Cooperate with other agencies if opportunities arise to remove aerial power lines along the Great Ocean Road.	Low	Long



Image 11a: Current power lines at Eastern View and **b:** a photoshopped image depicting underground power lines.



Image 12a: Current power lines at the Memorial Arch and **b:** Photoshopped image depicting underground power lines.

3.6 Recreation and tourism access and facilities

The area is a popular setting for recreational activities, almost all of which take place on the beach and in the water. Fairhaven is the busiest beach with the SLSC as a focal point. On busy days, however, the entire study area is heavily populated. The availability of parking and beach access are the main determinants of visitor numbers on beaches. These issues must be managed accordingly to ensure equitable and safe access for users, while aiming to maintain the natural character of the area.

Key access issues include the following:

- The area by its nature is vulnerable to erosion and recreational access needs to be carefully managed, particularly at Fairhaven where dunes are high and steep, and prevailing winds blow straight onshore.
- Beach access paths in the area have an appealing basic character but several along the Fairhaven dunes are in poor condition and provide poor access, especially for people with limited mobility.
- The availability of parking influences levels of visitation and impact, with the lack of roadside parking playing an important role in preserving 'quieter' areas of beach in between car parks. Roadside fencing plays an important role in managing roadside parking.
- Dune fencing is important in minimising trampling but difficult to maintain along actively receding parts of the shoreline. Fencing off dunes is most important in the busiest and steepest areas. Accessing dunes off designated paths is prohibited under Surf Coast Shire local laws; however enforcement is outside GORCC's responsibility.
- Parking areas abutting the Great Ocean Road, including at the Memorial Arch, are managed by VicRoads. Cooperation between the two agencies is important in managing the road and coastal reserve interface.
- Littering and pollution from toileting is an ongoing problem in the dunes at the Memorial Arch site (as well as many other sites between Torquay and Lorne). At the Arch, provision of a toilet is

problematic due to a lack of reticulated water and sewerage, high construction and servicing cost, expected high usage, impacts on native vegetation and aesthetic impacts

- Licensed horse trail rides occur on the beach between Fairhaven and Moggs Creek, subject to license conditions. Occasional independent riding also occurs, however the Committee has no jurisdiction to regulate these occurrences. Occasional problems arise from both licensed and casual riding, including conflict with other beach users and pollution from horse manure.
- Shoreline recession is expected to result in the loss of some roadside parking areas and access facilities over coming years.
- An informal ramp at Eastern View provides beach access for boat and kayak launching, but is only suitable for use by experienced boat launchers. It also requires frequent rebuilding due to shoreline erosion. It is therefore not considered suitable for upgrading due to environmental, capacity, visitor safety and sustainability reasons. It is not included in the *Western Victoria Boating Coastal Action Plan* (Western Coastal Board 2010) as a designated boating facility.

OBJECTIVES

1. Continue to provide a limited number of designated access points to ensure the area retains its relatively natural character, and to maintain opportunities for crowds to spread out along beaches. Use fencing to limit roadside parking and beach access between Moggs and Spout Creeks.
2. Improve the standard of Fairhaven beach access paths and stairs, while maintaining low-key character.
3. Work with VicRoads to manage the interface between the Great Ocean Road and coastal reserves, particularly to prevent proliferation or expansion of roadside parking areas.
4. Maintain beach access pathways and structures while implementing a 'retreat' strategy in response to shoreline recession, consistent with State Government policy.
5. Ensure the Fairhaven SLSC remains the only building in the study area.

ACTIONS (see maps 2 to 5)

NUMBER	ACTION	PRIORITY	TIMEFRAME
27	Renew rundown beach access paths and stairways along steep dunes east and west of Fairhaven SLSC.	High	Short
28	Replace boardwalk at Moggs Creek using curving alignment to hug dunes and deeper support posts to withstand flooding.	Medium	Short
29	Avoid developing new beach access paths and retain roadside fencing to limit access to established paths.	High	Ongoing
30	Avoid formalising boating access at Spout Creek.	High	Ongoing
31	Continue to monitor impacts from toileting in dunes at the Memorial Arch and discourage using fencing and brush matting. Continue regular litter patrols.	Medium	Ongoing
32	Pursue (with DEPI) ways of better managing horse riding and other recreational activities to minimise conflicts and environmental impacts.	Medium	Medium
33	Harden steep sections of Surf Coast Walk (Fairhaven) using cement stabilising (or similar approach) to provide safer, more stable surface.	Low	Long
34	Maintain lookouts and interpretation signs along Painkalac wetland trail.	High	Short



Image 13: Moggs Creek is one of few places in the study area where people with disabilities can access the beach, albeit with difficulty. A new boardwalk would provide better access while better suiting its setting.

3.7 Interpretation and visitor information

Heritage interpretation is used to provide insights and reveal hidden meanings in places or features which, without interpretation, would remain hidden.

The Committee's interpretation activities are guided by its *Interpretation Action Plan (2010)*. The action plan proposes maintaining Great Ocean Road interpretation at the Memorial Arch site and a small number of smaller installations elsewhere, such as the sign explaining rehabilitation activities at the mouth of Moggs Creek.

At the Arch, the limited amount of space available, high visitation and significant traffic risks make a large scale interpretive feature undesirable. The current scale of interpretive development at the site is considered appropriate, however ad hoc development of interpretation at the site has resulted in a scatter of disparate interpretive elements (see below). VicRoads are responsible for the Arch, while GORCC is responsible for management of the car park. Surf Coast Shire have contributed interpretation signage to the site, and revising or improving interpretation would require coordination with all three stakeholders.



Image 14: Interpretive installations at the Arch have different owners and 'voices' but similar content.

OBJECTIVES

1. Restrict permanent interpretive installations to the Memorial Arch and Painkalac Wetland Trail.
2. Use temporary (1 month to 5 years) installations to highlight critical management issues (e.g. safety issues, nesting Hooded Plovers) and explain project activities.
3. Work with VicRoads and tourism and heritage bodies to pursue a more planned approach to interpretation at the Memorial Arch.
4. Continue to promote public awareness of local coastal issues, news, management activities and conservation priorities through web and print media.



Image 15a: Sign interpreting rehabilitation activities at Moggs Creek and **b:** short-finned eels at Painkalac Creek.

ACTIONS

NUMBER	ACTION	PRIORITY	TIMEFRAME
35	Continue to advocate for a planned approach to interpretation at the Memorial Arch to avoid repetition of content and accumulation of disparate structures.	High	Ongoing
36	Periodically review interpretive installations in the area and renew or replace as required.	Low	Long
37	Ensure weekly upkeep and maintenance rounds include inspection of signs.	Medium	Ongoing
38	Continue to use GORCC’s <i>Interpretation Action Plan</i> as the main guide to interpretive principles and actions.	High	Ongoing

4. HAVE YOUR SAY

GORCC invites you to have your say and provide feedback on this draft master plan.

Simply go to www.gorcc.com.au to view the draft plan and fill out a survey online.

OR

View the draft plan and pick up a hard copy survey at:

- The Lorne Visitor Information Centre
- The Lorne Foreshore Caravan Park Office
- GORCC office (35 Bell Street, Torquay).

Submissions close at midnight, Sunday 22 February 2015.

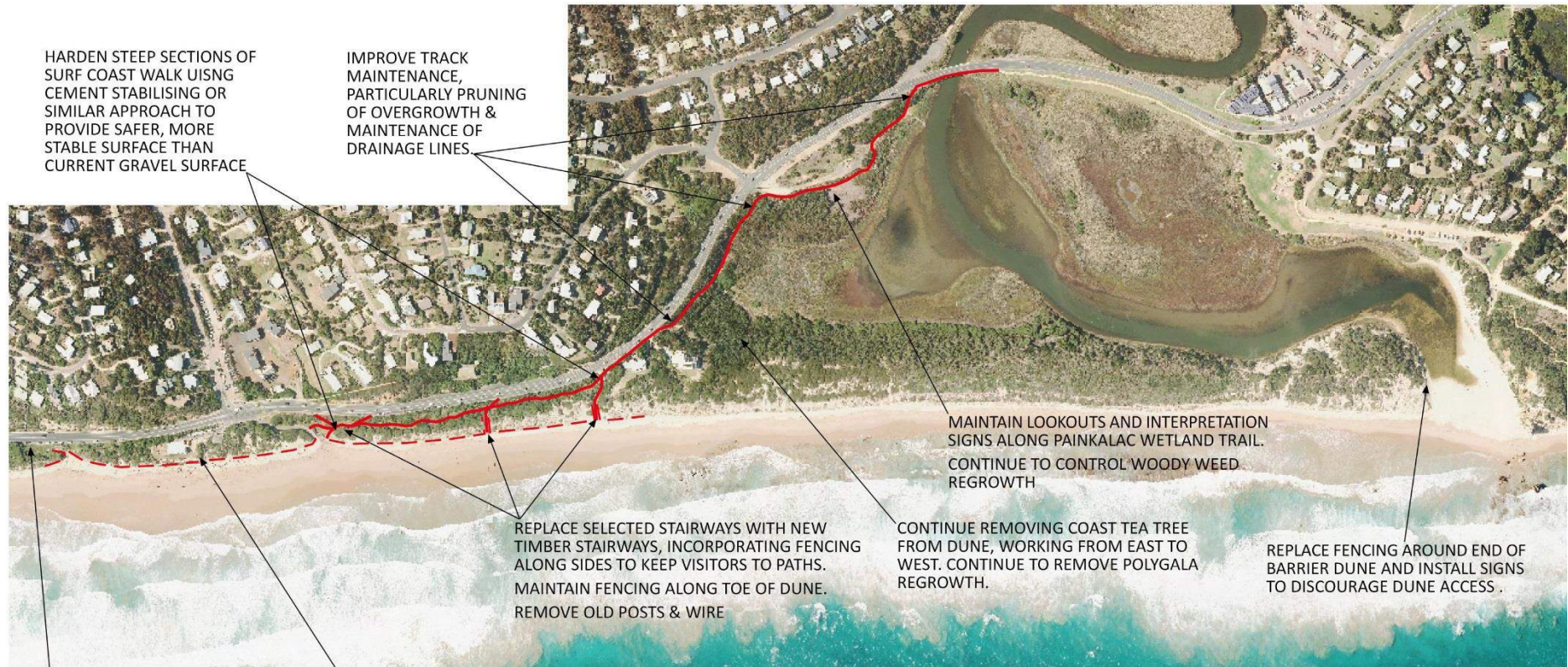
All feedback received on this draft master plan will be considered and used to prepare the final master plan. The final Fairhaven to Eastern View Master Plan will require several levels of approval. This includes GORCC

Committee approval and approval under the *Coastal Management Act 1995* from the Department of Environment and Primary Industries. The final plan is expected to be developed and undergo this approval process in early 2015, and released mid-2015.

For further information please contact the GORCC office on (03) 5220 5055 or the GORCC website <http://www.gorcc.com.au/>

5. MAPS

See following pages.



HARDEN STEEP SECTIONS OF SURF COAST WALK USING CEMENT STABILISING OR SIMILAR APPROACH TO PROVIDE SAFER, MORE STABLE SURFACE THAN CURRENT GRAVEL SURFACE

IMPROVE TRACK MAINTENANCE, PARTICULARLY PRUNING OF OVERGROWTH & MAINTENANCE OF DRAINAGE LINES.

MAINTAIN LOOKOUTS AND INTERPRETATION SIGNS ALONG PAINKALAC WETLAND TRAIL. CONTINUE TO CONTROL WOODY WEED REGROWTH

REPLACE SELECTED STAIRWAYS WITH NEW TIMBER STAIRWAYS, INCORPORATING FENCING ALONG SIDES TO KEEP VISITORS TO PATHS. MAINTAIN FENCING ALONG TOE OF DUNE. REMOVE OLD POSTS & WIRE

CONTINUE REMOVING COAST TEA TREE FROM DUNE, WORKING FROM EAST TO WEST. CONTINUE TO REMOVE POLYGALA REGROWTH.

REPLACE FENCING AROUND END OF BARRIER DUNE AND INSTALL SIGNS TO DISCOURAGE DUNE ACCESS .

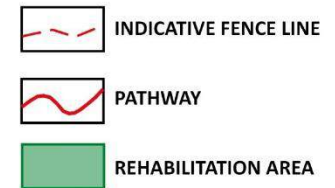
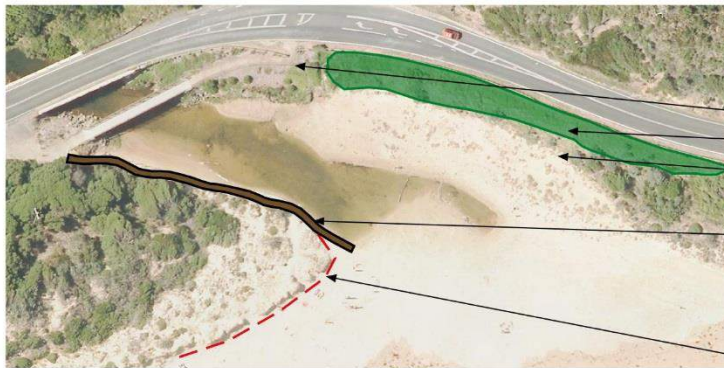
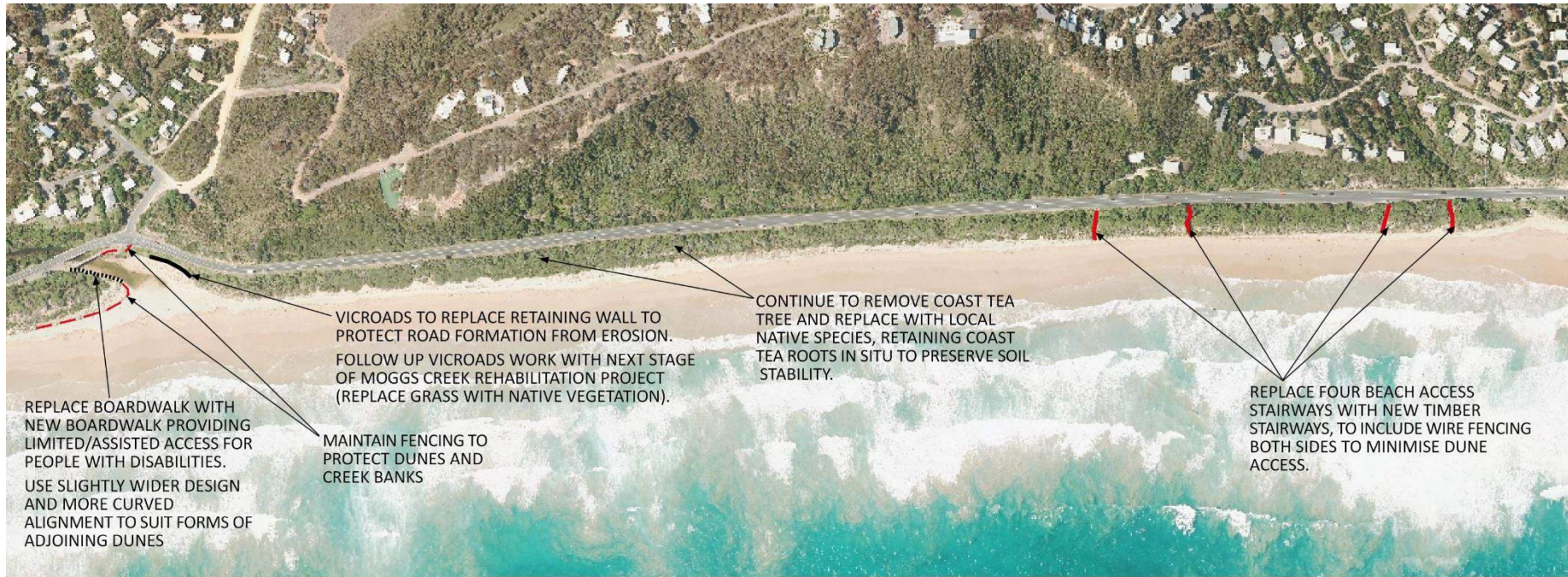
WORK WITH SURF COAST SHIRE TO IDENTIFY STORMWATER RETARDING OPTIONS TO MITIGATE BEACH EROSION PROBLEMS.

FAIRHAVEN SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

CONTINUE TO WORK WITH FAIRHAVEN SLSC TO MANAGE PUBLIC ACCESS AROUND SLSC IN ACCORDANCE WITH LICENSE CONDITIONS. CONTINUE TO MONITOR BEACH AND DUNE CONDITIONS AND ADAPT FENCING AND STAIRWAY AS REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN SAFE ACCESS. CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE IN DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN SLSC AND VICROADS REGARDING POTENTIAL PEDESTRIAN UNDERPASS. CLEARLY SIGNPOST PUBLIC TOILETS AT GREAT OCEAN ROAD.

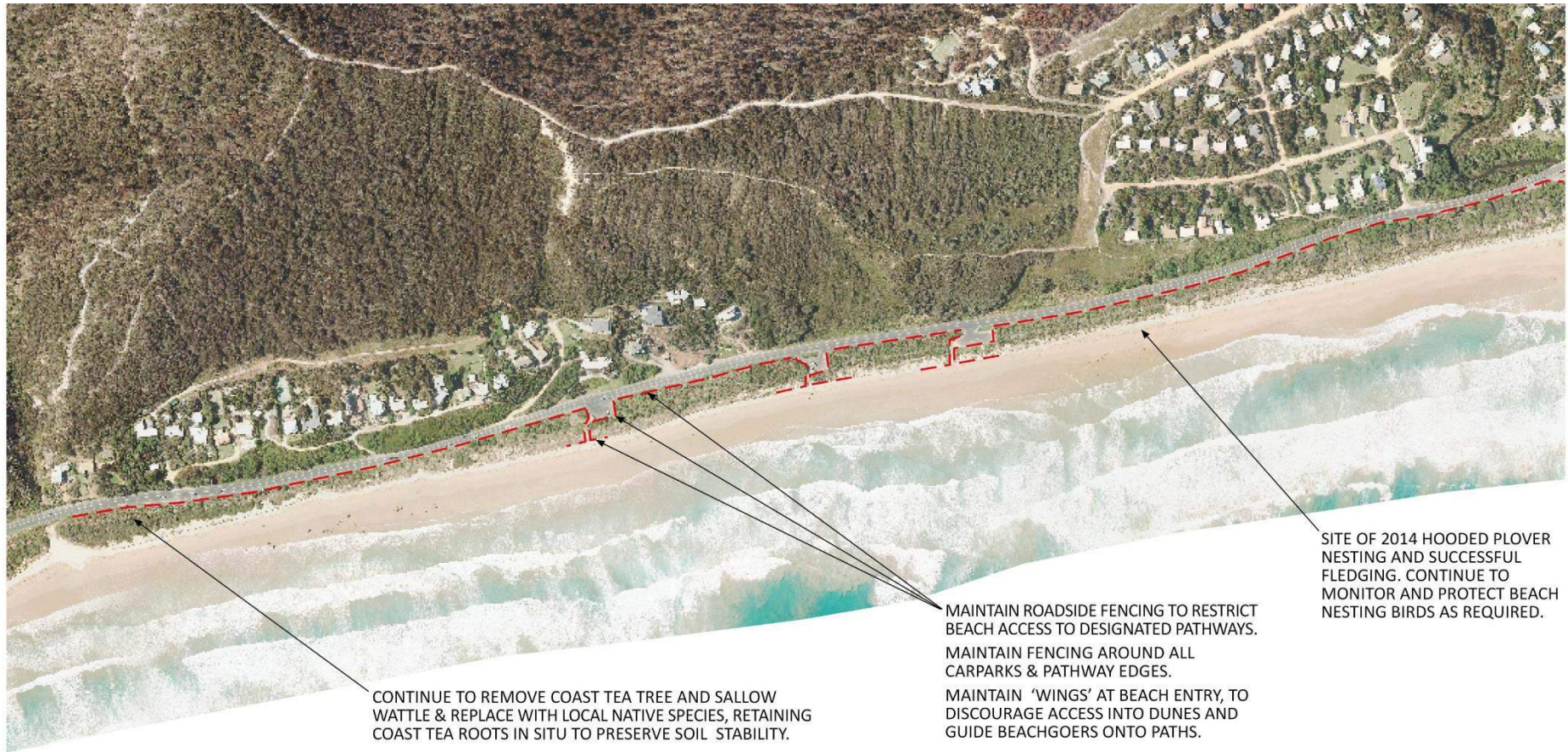


Painkalac Creek to Eastern View Masterplan 2014
 MAP 2 PAINKALAC CREEK TO ALLANS BRIDGE



Painkalac Creek to Eastern View Masterplan 2014
 MAP 3 ALLANS BRIDGE TO MOGGS CREEK



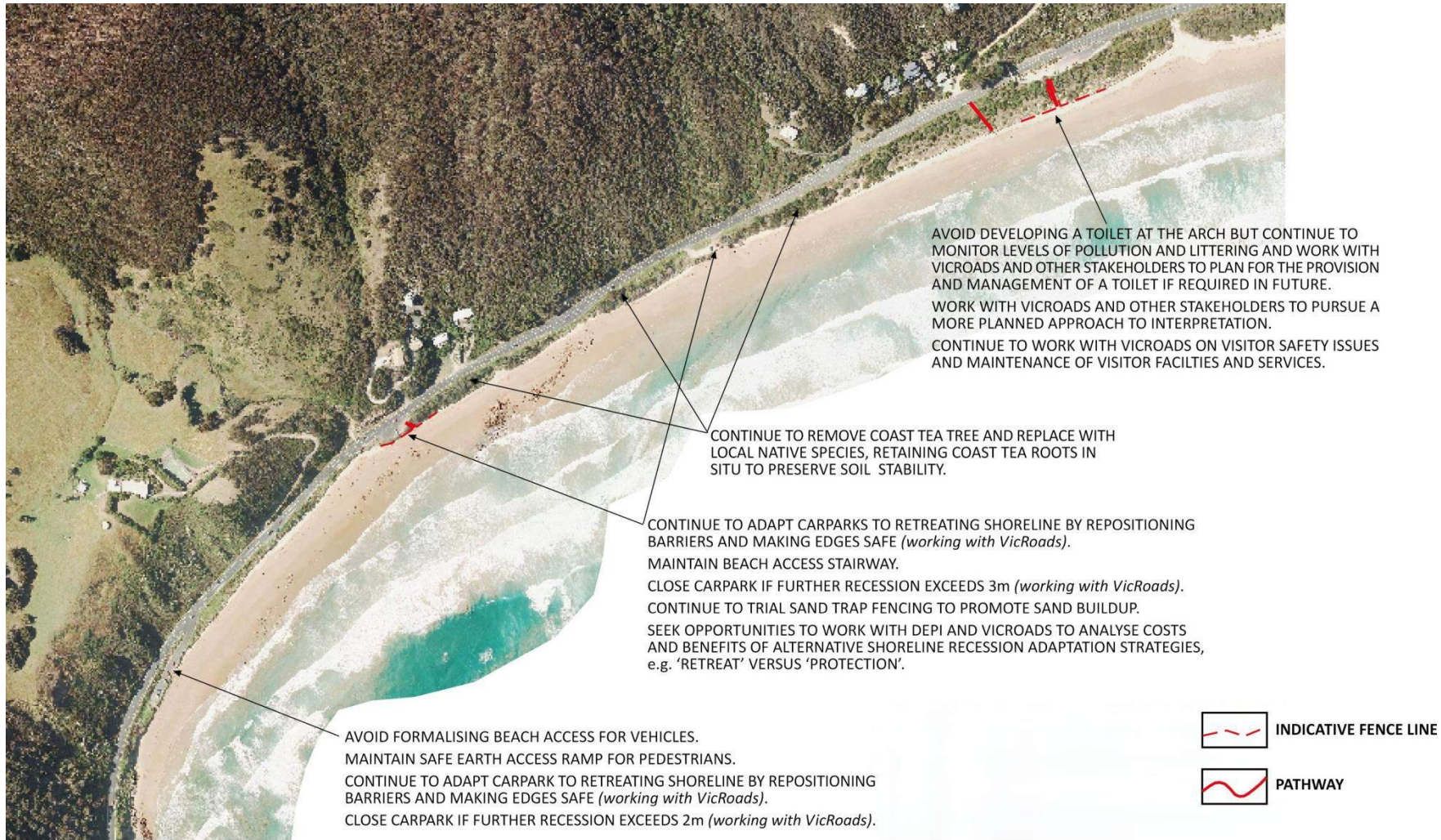


 INDICATIVE FENCE LINE

Painkalac Creek to Eastern View Masterplan 2014

MAP 4 MOGGS CREEK TO COALMINE CREEK





Painkalac Creek to Eastern View Masterplan 2014
 MAP 5 COALMINE CREEK TO SPOUT CREEK

