

# Media Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Community the priority as plans progress

Final plans for the Fishermans Beach Redevelopment will be completed by mid-December and focus on community facilities, better public access and improved traffic flow, announced the Great Ocean Road Coast Committee today.

The Committee's Chief Executive Officer Richard Davies confirmed an architect had been engaged to prepare the final concept and that the Committee was pleased to be moving ahead with certainty.

"Geelong Architecture and Planning Firm *Insite Architects* has commenced work on the final concept which will be ready for consideration by mid-December and the subsequent construction drawings will be developed in January," he said.

Mr Davies said the plans would include:

- Expansion of the downstairs kiosk/cafe planned in the initial designs.
- New and improved facilities for Torquay Angling Club and Torquay Marine Rescue Service to replace the current outmoded facilities.
- New public toilets.
- A community meeting room venue for a range of community and recreational activities.
- Improved boat and trailer parking for boat ramp users, including a review of traffic flow arrangements .
- improved car parking for beach users and the general public.

The redevelopment will compliment the new \$1.7million dollar boat ramp which Mr Davies confirmed would be completed in early December and will provide safer access for anglers and boaters.

Mr Davies said the final concept would exclude the restaurant proposed in the initial planning process and centre on providing community facilities.

"No acceptable tenders were received for the restaurant lease through the recent tender process. We will now progress without this element and continue to focus on delivering the substantial benefits to the community," he said.

Committee Chairman John Carlile said the Committee was dedicated to creating a brand new, purpose-built community, tourism and recreation facility on the Torquay foreshore.

"We are pleased to announce this development in a project that stands to deliver so many economic, social and environmental benefits to the community and visitors for years to come," he said.

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***Caring for the coast and community***

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Shane Korth, Secretary of the Torquay Angling Club, said the announcement would be welcomed by fishing enthusiasts.

“The Torquay region has experienced a steady growth in recreational fishing driven by a growing population and increased tourism and this places demand on current facilities.

“The redevelopment will provide new and improved facilities for recreational fishing, support the Torquay Marine Rescue Service in delivering vital volunteer rescue services and be an asset to the community,” he said.

Mr Davies said the Committee would consult with key community stakeholders as the project progresses.

“Stakeholders will be briefed and consulted at key stages of the project and the community will be informed of developments,” he said.

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