

Media Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

26 October 2011

Lorne in focus

An update on works and projects in Lorne

The Great Ocean Road Coast Committee's 2011-2012 Budget allocates capital expenditure of almost \$1.1M to new Lorne-based projects, while ongoing projects such as works on the re-development of the pool precinct continued to progress.

GORCC CEO Richard Davies said the redevelopment of the pool precinct was on time and the pool was set to open as scheduled on 1 December.

"As land manager we are continuing to manage the lease with Landcorp and ensure the delivery of the terms of that agreement," he said.

Additionally, Mr. Davies said Landcorp was currently reviewing design options for a solar – boosting system to heat the main pool over the existing operating period.

"The implementation of solar heating is subject to final power upgrades to the site by Powercor and identification of the best positions for solar collectors," he said.

The Lorne Foreshore Caravan Park has also been in focus, with a \$100,000 upgrade to cabins at the Kia Ora Caravan Park next to the Erskine River Bridge currently being completed.

"The cabins are sited with excellent views of the river precinct and are already attracting new visitors to the Park and to Lorne with the cabins booked out over the summer period and into Autumn 2012," said Mr. Davies.

The cabin refurbishment is part of \$745,000 allocated in the 2011-2012 budget to Lorne Foreshore Caravan Park upgrades which will include further cabin improvements and a new amenities block.

Other significant Lorne allocations included:

- \$160,000 for the redevelopment of the North Lorne Lions Park toilet block.
- \$90,000 for fishing platforms on the Erskine River
- \$70,000 to begin a master planning process for the Erskine River Precinct.
- \$40,000 to resume the Point Grey master planning process.
- \$10,000 to investigate the potential improvement of pedestrian links in front of the B Bar & Grill.

"The design process for the Erskine River fishing platforms is now complete, coastal consent has been given and construction is expected to start in February 2012 after the peak holiday season," said Mr. Davies.

GORCC will also engage a consultant to begin a master planning process for the Erskine River Precinct from its mouth (back of the Swing Bridge) up to the old Lorne Quarry.

Caring for the coast and community

PO Box 53, Torquay, Vic 3228
Phone: 03 5220 5055 Fax: 03 5264 7763

Email: info@gorcc.com.au Web: www.gorcc.com.au

Mr. Davies said this work would assess how the area is currently used and how best to integrate these activities with a focus on the river surrounds rather than the river itself.

“The resulting master plan will guide our management of this precinct into the future and opportunities for the community to have input into the planning process will be offered in 2012,” he said.

GORCC will also be resuming the planning process for the redevelopment of the Point Grey precinct by building on the previous master planning work conducted in 2009.

“We are currently investigating potential funding opportunities in order to build on the \$40,000 allocated by GORCC and this funding will be used to resume the planning process in 2012.

“Once the planning process resumes a Community Reference Group - based on the existing Point Grey Project Team but with expanded membership - will be established and broad community consultation will occur on any resulting Draft Plan,” said Mr. Davies.

Additionally, \$10,000 will go toward investigation into potential improvement of pedestrian links in front of the B Bar and Grill.

“It has been identified that the pedestrian linkages in this location are not sufficient and this money will go toward investigating what is needed where, whether it be a gravel path, a boardwalk or something else.

“We will communicate our findings to the community and ask for their input when appropriate and any future work would require us to source funding,” said Mr. Davies.

\$1.6M was also provided for coastal reserves total expenditure across the entire coastline, which incorporates the Lorne reserves.

Coastal reserves expenditure includes items such as asset and facility maintenance, beach clean-ups, waste disposal and cleaning of amenities.

Initiatives and key projects such as environmental education programs and environmental protection projects will also continue to receive funding, many supplemented by grants.

GORCC is also undertaking the development of a Coastal Management Plan which will guide the sustainable management of the GORCC coast over the next 5 years.

The Plan will be developed via an open and collaborative process that involves all stakeholders and the wider community and more information can be found at www.gorcc.com.au or by calling 5220 5055.

For media enquiries please contact:
Jane Rowlands
Community Liaison Manager
Great Ocean Road Coast Committee
Ph: 5220 5055
Email: jane.r@gorcc.com.au

Website: www.gorcc.com.au