

Media Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GORCC seeking new blood for new committee

People with a passion for the coast and its future should consider nominating as voluntary committee members with the new Great Ocean Road Coast Committee (GORCC), according to two current committee members.

John Carlile and Linton Drever this week shared their experiences in the hope of encouraging others to apply to serve on the new committee when it is appointed in mid-2010. The Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) is currently seeking expressions of interest for voluntary membership of three coastal committees across the region, including GORCC.

John Carlile nominated for a voluntary committee position because he was keen to put something back into the coast. "I've been coming down to the Great Ocean Road coast for more than 40 years. In that time, I've watched our coast being put under increasing pressure and seen first-hand the impacts of such pressure on the coastal environment," he explained.

"I decided to nominate because I felt very strongly that someone had to get involved in caring for the coast and, with my background in science, horticulture, business management and corporate governance, felt I had something to contribute. Over the past two and a-half years, I've gained immense satisfaction from my involvement in the committee and the ability to make a real contribution to the coast's future," said Mr Carlile.

The desire to play a more significant role in protecting and sustainably developing the Great Ocean Road coast was a strong driver in Linton Drever's nomination. "When the opportunity arose to nominate for a committee position, I saw it as providing another means to continue my lifelong involvement with the coast's natural environment," he stated.

"Living in Torquay and working in the region as a lawyer has allowed me to interact with numerous individuals and community groups along the coast. Having also surfed along the Great Ocean Road since my youth, the coast has played an important role in my life. As a committee member, I feel that I'm making a contribution to the sustainable development and management of the coast and wish I could do more," Mr Drever said.

Both agree that they bring different skills and expertise to the committee that, together with the skills and knowledge of their fellow members, assist GORCC's work in managing the coast between Torquay and Lorne.

Nominations are now being sought to serve on the committee for a three-year term. Committee members act in a voluntary capacity and meet regularly to oversee and contribute to the organisation's work.

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Individuals with an interest, passion and commitment to caring for, protecting and managing Crown land foreshore reserves along the Great Ocean Road between Torquay and Lorne are encouraged to consider applying.

DSE is managing the nomination process. Application packages can be obtained from the department's Geelong office (Ph: 5226 4010). Nominations must be received by DSE by 5pm Friday 15 February 2010.

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