

Media Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Enjoy our busy coast but please handle with care

With recent weeks seeing the coast along the Great Ocean Road busier than ever, the Great Ocean Road Coast Committee (GORCC) is encouraging residents and visitors alike to do their bit to look after the coastal environment while enjoying all that it offers over summer.

“The coast has been absolutely pumping since the start of the summer holiday period with our caravan parks in Torquay and Lorne fully booked and beaches packed, especially during the hot weather. Many locals are saying they’ve never seen it this busy,” stated GORCC Chief Executive Officer David Clarke today.

“Despite the huge numbers on the coast, most things have been running very well from a coastal management perspective apart from a few minor hiccups, such as maintaining our 22 public toilets between Torquay and Lorne, which require constant attention at this time of year.

“According to staff and volunteers involved in our New Year’s Day clean-up, this New Year’s Eve was the best in 20 years in terms of litter and people’s overall behaviour in relation to the coastal environment,” Mr Clarke said.

“Litter and broken glass were in fact noticeably down, which was fantastic. While the wet weather was a contributing factor, GORCC hopes to see this trend continue throughout the rest of summer and encourages all beachgoers to help keep our beaches free of glass, cigarette butts, food wrappings and other litter.

“In other words, please don’t leave your mess on the beach or foreshore – put it in the bin at the beach or at home or, better yet, recycle it,” he said.

As the summer holiday period reaches the half-way mark, Mr Clarke suggested that things would remain hectic for the next few weeks and asked people to respect others and the coast.

“While the Christmas New Year peak period has now been and gone, there are still a number of major events coming up – such as the Bells Bash run and Danger 1000 ocean swim this weekend, the Lorne Seaside Market and Fair next weekend, and a host of Australia Day activities – that will attract more visitors to the coast,” said Mr Clarke.

“When you combine these events with other activities – such as Coast Action’s excellent *Summer By The Sea* program, weekend markets in Torquay, Anglesea and Airey’s Inlet, and surf life saving carnivals at beaches right along the coast – it’s not hard to predict more busy times ahead,” he claimed.

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“Things can get a bit hectic during summer due to the sheer number of people enjoying the coast, which puts our beaches, car parks, toilets and other coastal facilities under increased pressure,” Mr Clarke said.

“To ensure everyone experiences a safe and enjoyable time here, I would ask people to respect the coast by being litter-savvy and by complying with local laws concerning car parking, camping and fires on beaches, dogs, smoking and glass on beaches, and other regulations pertaining to enjoying and looking after our precious coastal environment.

“I would also ask them to respect others by ensuring their behaviour does not impact negatively on how other people are experiencing and enjoying our beautiful Great Ocean Road coast,” he said.

GORCC is responsible for the long-term and day-to-day management, care, protection and appropriate development of Crown land coastal reserves between Torquay and Lorne on behalf of the local community and the wider Victorian community.

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