

Media Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Opportunity comes knocking via new Fishos restaurant lease process

The Great Ocean Road Coast Committee today announced it was about to embark on a new process to lease the proposed beachfront restaurant premises that are a key feature of the new community, tourism and recreation facility planned for Torquay's popular Fishermans Beach precinct.

"This represents a rare and exciting opportunity to establish a new dining venue in a much sought-after beachfront location that is sure to be a major drawcard for locals and visitors alike," noted the committee's Chief Executive Officer Richard Davies.

"With the restaurant lease to be advertised in major newspapers on Saturday 2 October, I would encourage experienced or aspiring restaurateurs - whether local or from further afield - to consider putting in a submission," he said.

According to Mr Davies, the committee made the decision to undertake the new process at its most recent meeting on Friday 17 September 2010.

"Although the restaurant lease was originally tendered in 2007 and a preferred operator announced at that time, the committee believes the new process is prudent given the changes that have occurred during the intervening three year period," Mr Davies explained.

"These include changes driven by the global financial crisis along with others closer to home, such as those relating to the facility's final design – which was still very much in the early draft stage three years ago – and to the recently agreed project arrangements. Both these factors are directly related to the restaurant lease," he said.

"We also have an excellent preferred construction contractor in place and ready to start work as soon as the restaurant lessee is confirmed.

"All of this means we now have a much clearer picture of what we can offer a prospective lessee and also what we require of that lessee than we did three years ago," said Mr Davies.

The Fishermans Beach Redevelopment will deliver a brand new purpose-built community, tourism and recreation facility on the Torquay foreshore. In addition to the new restaurant, it will include new and improved facilities for Torquay Angling Club and Torquay Marine Rescue Service, new public toilets, a community meeting room and a kiosk.

The State Government announced late last year that it would contribute \$750,000 towards construction costs with the remaining funds to be provided by the committee, the successful lessee and other key stakeholders.

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Caring for the coast and community

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