

Media Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CHANGING OF THE GUARD AT COAST COMMITTEE

The Great Ocean Road Coast Committee (GORCC) today announced the resignations of its Chair and Chief Executive Officer.

The Committee has appointed an Acting Chair, John Carlile, who has served on the Committee since 2007. John is ex-chairman of Australia's first industry superannuation fund, LUCRF Super. John will serve as Acting Chair through to the end of June 2010 when a new Committee and Chair will be appointed by the Minister for Environment and Climate Change, following a recent expression of interest process.

Acting Chair, John Carlile, said "Peter Anderson has resigned from GORCC after serving two terms on the Committee since its formation in 2004. The timing of his departure, which is due to new work commitments, allows existing members to take on additional responsibilities leading up to the appointment of the next Committee.

"Peter has been GORCC's Chair since 2007, and has done a wonderful job leading the Committee over the last three years".

"We acknowledge and thank him for his significant contribution to the coast – on a voluntary basis – during the last 6 years, and wish him well for the future".

John Carlile also said "The Committee has accepted the resignation of our Chief Executive Officer, David Clarke, who is moving on to new opportunities after 5 years with the organisation".

David Clarke was appointed in 2005 as GORCC's inaugural CEO and has overseen significant achievements and progress in GORCC's work to manage 37 kilometres of coast between Torquay and Lorne on behalf of the Victorian Government and community.

Outgoing GORCC Chair, Peter Anderson, paid tribute on behalf of the Committee to David Clarke's work since 2005.

"David has provided strong leadership to the organisation and has had an excellent relationship with the Committee, staff, stakeholders and the general public. During the time David has been CEO, GORCC has been able to improve its levels of service in managing and maintaining the coast and has strengthened its financial position" said Peter Anderson.

GORCC's coastal management work was recognised in winning the prestigious Premier's Award for Sustainability in 2008.

Caring for the coast and community

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Peter Anderson said “David has successfully managed a number of projects and initiatives during his time. They have ranged from instigating the upgrade of GORCC’s caravan parks, securing grants with Surf Coast Shire and State and Federal Governments and negotiating the State Government’s transfer of the Erskine House lease to GORCC”.

“David has worked hard to initiate a number of major projects including the Fisherman’s Beach Redevelopment and new Torquay Boat Ramp, as well as construction of the new Lorne Pier. He has also been intimately involved in the redevelopment of the Lorne Pool Precinct and the masterplan considering the upgrade of the Point Grey and Slaughterhouse sites in Lorne”, said Peter Anderson.

According to Peter Anderson, “David has played a significant role in progressing coastal management in the Surf Coast, which is all about balancing a complex set of issues with always a high degree of interest from local communities, stakeholders and visitors.

Peter Anderson said “The coast along the Great Ocean Road is a better place for David’s input and the Committee has really appreciated David’s contribution and now respects his decision to move to other opportunities after 5 years at the helm”.

According to John Carlile, “The Committee remains focused on ensuring GORCC continues to deliver its coastal and caravan operations and other responsibilities”.

“The Committee will work closely with our staff, stakeholders and the community to ensure a smooth transition to our new leadership team and to continue our work, including projects currently being delivered along the coast and the caravan park upgrades”.

A recruitment process will commence in April to appoint a new Chief Executive Officer to the Great Ocean Road Coast Committee. In the interim, David Clarke will continue with GORCC over the next few months whilst the process of finding a new CEO is undertaken.



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