

2. Basis for plan

This plan was developed on the foundations provided by state legislation and policy, GORCC's role and responsibility, and the significance and condition of natural, cultural and landscape values of land under GORCC's control. The value placed on the coast by the community was also an important consideration.

2.1 Management and planning context

Appointed in 2004, GORCC is responsible for managing areas previously managed by local committees in Torquay, Anglesea, Aireys Inlet, Fairhaven and Lorne. The amalgamation resulted from a state government policy of increasing the skills and resources of committees of management to better cope with growing pressures on coastal areas. GORCC has a range of skilled staff and is overseen by a volunteer committee whose members have a wide range of experience. GORCC has identified the need for a detailed review of land management issues and the development of an integrated plan to guide future decision making for all areas that it manages.

The study area is part of the Great Ocean Road region, playing a key role in tourism, and recently becoming a focal point for residential and tourism development, particularly at Torquay and Lorne.

GORCC is not alone in managing intensively used coastal areas in the region. A range of agencies and municipalities face significant challenges in protecting natural and cultural values along the coast, and dealing with development and recreation pressures.

This plan builds on many existing policies and plans which cover the whole Victorian coast, the Great Ocean Road and Surf Coast regions, and specific areas from Torquay to Lorne. About 70 documents were reviewed in developing this plan and key elements considered (appendix 2).

Major policies, plans and strategies include:

Statewide

- *Victorian Coastal Strategy, 2002*
- *Coastal Spaces Recommendations, 2006*
- *Victoria's Biodiversity Strategy*
- *Victoria's Native Vegetation Management – A Framework for Action, 2002*
- *ECC Marine, Coastal and Estuarine Investigation. 2000*

Regional

- *Great Ocean Road Region Strategy 2004*
- *Corangamite Regional Catchment Strategy, 2003*
- *Corangamite Native Vegetation Plan, 2003-2008*
- *Central West Victorian Regional Coastal Action Plan, 2003*
- *Central West Estuaries Coastal Action Plan, 2005*
- *Surf Coast Planning Scheme and Municipal Strategic Statement*
- *Surf Coast Environmental Strategy, 2006*

Local

- *GORCC Business Plan 2005-2008*
- *Torquay Foreshore Masterplan and Management Plan, 1998*
- *Anglesea Coastal Plan, 1999 (and review 2005)*
- *Lorne Coastal Action Plan, 1998 (and review 2005)*

These help provide a basis for developing this plan (section 3).

Remaining actions from the Anglesea and Lorne Coastal Action Plans (CAP) were reviewed and incorporated in this plan where appropriate. The focus of the ELMP on natural and cultural values strongly aligns with the overall objectives of these CAPs. The CAPs will continue to be used as reference documents to assist with planning of various projects and initiatives arising from this plan.

2.2 Legislation and GORCC's role

GORCC operates as a Committee of Management under relevant state government Acts and policies.

- The *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978*, provides broad powers to manage land reserved for public purposes, on behalf of the State Government.
- The *Coastal Management Act 1995*, sets out the legislative basis for coastal management.
- The *Victorian Coastal Strategy 2002 (VCS)* provides a framework to guide planning, management and development in coastal areas.

Zoning in the VCS indicates that GORCC managed land is part Coastal Recreation Zone (near main towns) and part Coastal Protection Zone.

The key principles set out in the Victorian Coastal Strategy provide a strong basis for determining the future directions for this plan (section 3.2)

Additional legislation protects Aboriginal sites (section 5.2).

Other important policies, strategies etc are summarised in appendix 2

GORCC's mission is:

To sustainably manage coastal reserves and caravan parks to enhance experiences for local and visitor communities both now and in the future.

GORCC's objectives include improving environmental performance, improving access, strengthening participation in and awareness of coastal management issues, and providing benefits for local, regional and visitor communities.

This plan is a key initiative to help achieve GORCC's mission.

2.3 Planning and management principles

The Victorian Coastal Strategy (2002) provides a clear and logical framework for coastal planning and management. The strategy stresses the need for ecologically sustainable development, focussing on the long term and considering environmental, social and economic implications of decisions.

In summary, key principles are as follows.

- **Protection of significant environmental features**
 - Protect significant natural, cultural and landscape features
 - Retain areas with a sense of remoteness
 - Encourage net gain in indigenous vegetation
 - Encourage community involvement in conservation and rehabilitation
 - Involve Aboriginal communities in management and interpretation of Aboriginal sites
- **Sustainable use of natural resources**
 - Avoid inappropriate short term developments
 - Actively manage risk
 - Reduce activities that adversely affect the coast
 - Foster community appreciation
 - Pursue user and polluter pays principles
- **Direction for the future**
 - Ensure consideration of environmental, social and economic implications and integrate planning and management.
 - Maintain public access to the coast except where resource protection or safety predominate
 - Increase community involvement and local management
 - Ensure accountability and minimise duplication
 - Develop plans consistent with the VCS and integrate with local planning schemes

- **Suitable development for the coast** (when above principles are met)
 - Development will enhance the community's value of the coast and usually be coastal dependent or related to coastal dependent uses.
 - No development will be appropriate in relatively pristine areas and important vistas.
 - Appropriate development enhances protection and rehabilitation of the natural environment, is sensitively sited and designed, and is set back from the coast

This plan applies these principles to the management and protection of natural, cultural and landscape values.

