

2. Future directions

This section includes a vision for the coast (in 20 years time) and key goals for the future. These were developed from the assessment of values, threats and other issues set out in section 3 and will help GORCC to focus on high priority management tasks.

Detailed actions to achieve each goal are discussed in section 5.

4.1 Vision

The coastal reserves from Torquay to Lorne are a model of sound coastal management, protecting significant landscapes and important natural and cultural values.

Panoramic coastal views from accessible lookouts, and more intimate experiences available along walking tracks and beaches, provide visitors and residents with numerous opportunities to relax and to enjoy the coast's special values.

Extensive weed and pest animal control programs, in conjunction with regeneration and selective revegetation, have improved the quality of ecosystems and helped to protect important species. Emphasis has been placed on enhancing values in relatively intact ecosystems while also reducing the impact of invasive species along the coast. The battle against weeds is not over, but substantial progress has been made.

Expanded environmental groups continue to be actively involved and make a major contribution to coastal management. Coast Action Coast Care programs have also expanded, and local Indigenous groups are actively engaged in a range of cultural and land management activities.

Compatible recreational use of the coast continues to be popular. Impacts on natural and cultural values have been reduced by regulating access, adopting sustainable design principles and increasing community appreciation of coastal values. Local communities and visitors have access to high quality facilities from which to appreciate a range of natural, cultural and scenic landscape values. The sense of remoteness along parts of the coast has been retained and these areas are highly valued by local communities.

Management and use of the coast has become more sustainable, and responses to climate change have been developed and implemented. The beach, surfing and holiday culture associated with the coast continues to be celebrated but people are using motor vehicles less and walking and cycling more in their local area.

Interpretation and education services and materials focus on the coast's sensitive values and opportunities for communities to be involved in ongoing management and protection. Invasive plant species are no longer available in nurseries and have been removed from gardens by local residents.

Local communities applaud the sensitive management of the coast by the Great Ocean Road Coast Committee, and the collaborative approach to coastal management adopted by the Committee, local environmental groups, Surf Coast Shire, Parks Victoria, DSE and other agencies.

4.2 Management goals

Three key goals were developed to provide a framework for management actions by GORCC and help achieve the vision:

- **Goal 1: Protect and conserve natural values**
- **Goal 2: Protect and conserve cultural values**
- **Goal 3: Ensure recreation and development minimise impacts on landscape and associated natural values**

Additional goals were also developed to help achieve the key goals:

- **Goal 4: Ensure coordinated and sustainable management of coastal land**
- **Goal 5: Increase community involvement and appreciation**

Actions to achieve the goals were then developed (section 5).

4.3 Management units – an overview

GORCC's coastal reserves have been defined into four discrete management areas, each of which have been divided into smaller sections to assist with planning.

Management Area A - Point Impossible to Jan Juc

Section 1. Point Impossible – Whites Beach

Section 2. Whites Beach – Jan Juc Surf Lifesaving Club

Section 3. Taylor Park

Section 4. Jan Juc Surf Lifesaving Club – eastern end of Bells Beach

Management Area B - Anglesea to O'Donohue Parade

Section 1. East of Anglesea River

Section 2. Anglesea River – O'Donohue Parade

Management Area C - Aireys Inlet – Eastern View

Section 1. East of Split Point Lighthouse

Section 2. Split Point Lighthouse – Moggs Creek

Section 3. Moggs Creek – Eastern View

Management Area D - Lorne – Cumberland River

Section 1. Stony Creek - Erskine River

Section 2. Erskine River – St George River

Section 3. Queens Park

Section 4. Cumberland River

Key values, threats, issues and future directions for these areas/sections are summarised in the following pages. More detailed information is provided in section 5 and in volumes 2 and 3. See particularly volume 2 for more information on natural values, threats and management requirements.

Aerial photos of the four management areas and Cumberland River are included at the end of this volume (figures 2-6). More detailed aerial photos of each section are included in volume 2. Note that Reserve boundaries shown on these maps are not accurate in some cases and are to be reviewed.

Area A. Torquay-Jan Juc Coastal Reserve

Section 1 Pt Impossible to Whites Beach

This section extends from the Thompson River at Point Impossible through to White's Beach. It includes approximately 3 km of coastal reserves.

Values

Relatively intact vegetation and moderately high biodiversity values. High Indigenous cultural values (many known sites). Largely natural, 'wild' landscape character. Access and views at Point Impossible and Whites Beach.

Threats/issues

Weeds and pest animals. Increasing residential development and pressure for access across dunes which are highly susceptible to trampling. Naturalness threatened by intrusive facilities. Works along sewer line have affected natural and landscape values.

Future direction

Manage to protect natural and cultural values, minimise additional facilities, limit coastal access to parking areas, walking tracks and beach. Ameliorate sewer line works.

Key initiatives

Strengthen weed control programs. Designate conservation areas and walking access and enhance interpretation. Review opportunities to relocate parking away from sensitive dunes at Optional Dress beach. Rehabilitate sewer line.

Section 2 Whites Beach to Jan Juc SLSC

This section extends from White's Beach through the centre of Torquay to the Jan Juc SLSC. It includes approximately 4.5 km of coastal reserves.

Values

Mostly moderate to low biodiversity values. Some Indigenous sites. Other cultural values related to traditional beach uses and camping and to commemoration (Point Danger). Very popular recreation area with walking, sightseeing, camping, beachgoing, surfing and other water-based activities. High quality, well-used redevelopment at Point Danger with panoramic views.

The 25 ha Point Danger Marine Sanctuary (managed by Parks Victoria) extends east and south from the Point and features high invertebrate diversity.

The GORCC foreshore reserve extends 600 m offshore between Rocky Point and Bones Road, protecting important marine values.

Threats/issues

Weed invasion, some damage to cliff vegetation, mouth of Deep Creek degraded, limited vegetation cover, some intrusive facilities and adjacent development, 'tired' facilities at Fishermans Beach.

Future direction

Continue to manage for intensive recreation with sensitive upgrading of facilities and interpretation. Reduce weed threat and increase indigenous planting except for retention of pines and cypresses at the Front Beach and Point Danger. Enhance landscape values by reducing visual impact of recreation facilities. Work with Parks Victoria to protect marine values. Improve stormwater management, with Surf Coast Shire.

Key initiatives

Control invasive woody weeds and enhance indigenous vegetation in association with ongoing recreation development. Work with Shire to improve Deep Creek.



Largely intact vegetation at Whites Beach



Important cultural values at Point Danger; intensively used caravan park at Torquay

Section 3 Taylor Park

This section includes Taylor Park in central Torquay. It includes approximately 0.5 km of coastal reserves.

Values

Mix of indigenous and introduced vegetation including large number of Sugar Gums. Includes important stand of significant Bellarine Yellow-gum (*Eucalyptus leucoxyloides* ssp. *bellarinensis*). Popular site for informal recreation use.

Threats/issues

Hybridisation of Bellarine Yellow-gum with other eucalypts of concern. Old Sugar Gums a safety issue.

Future direction

Manage to protect area with high natural values, and remainder as setting for informal recreation.

Key initiatives

Ensure protection of stand of Bellarine Yellow-gum; expand population and associated species as Sugar Gums are removed. Remove trees likely to hybridise with Bellarine Yellow-gum. Implement Masterplan in conjunction with Surf Coast Shire.



Significant Bellarine Yellow-gum population at Taylor Park

Section 4 Jan Juc SLSC to Bones Road

This section extends from the Jan Juc SLSC to Bones Road on the northern end to Bells Beach. It includes approximately 2.5 km of coastal reserves.

Values

High biodiversity values, particularly towards Bells Beach. High landscape values with panoramic views, especially Bird Rock lookout, and high geomorphological values. Some Indigenous sites.

Threats/issues

Weeds, pest animals, erosion. Invasive weeds spreading from some adjacent properties. Intrusive adjacent development and facilities, e.g. some parking areas and dominant housing.

Future direction

In conjunction with community groups, protect and enhance conservation values. Continue to regulate access and provide interpretation. Implement management plan initiatives near Bird Rock. Achieve removal of highly invasive weed species on adjacent private land.

Key initiatives

Support ongoing weed control and rehabilitation of degraded areas near Ocean Boulevard and ongoing improvements to Surf Coast Walk and lookouts. Liaise with Shire regarding a local law to prevent growing of invasive weed species.



High quality Moonah heath at Jan Juc

Area B. Anglesea Coastal Reserve

Section 1 East of Anglesea River

This section extends from Purnell Street at the eastern end of Anglesea to the Anglesea River, including the Anglesea Family Caravan Park. It includes approximately 1 km of coastal reserves.

Values

High biodiversity values, particularly heathland and Moonah Woodland, and high landscape values, particularly cliffs and clifftop views. Small number of known archaeological sites. Moderate cultural values associated with holidaymaking: popular beaches, caravan park and coastal walks.

The GORCC foreshore reserve extends 600 m offshore northeast from the Anglesea River mouth to the boundary of the Pt Addis Marine National Park, protecting important marine values.

Threats/issues

Serious erosion of cliffs (safety issue), and along some walking tracks and near river. Also serious weeds (and pest animals), including woody weeds in caravan park. Damage to indigenous vegetation near caravan park and housing areas.

Future direction

Manage to enhance biodiversity values and provide regulated access. Protect soils and vegetation from damage. Replace woody weeds in caravan park with indigenous species.

Key initiatives

Rationalise and stabilise walking tracks and fencing near river, caravan park and north to heathland, continue weed control and progressively replace exotics in caravan park (with lessee). Cooperate with Shire to implement Riverbank Masterplan, and Parks Victoria regarding ongoing management of heathland. Work with Parks Victoria to protect marine values. Monitor and address risk issues.

Section 2 Anglesea River to Point Roadknight/O'Donohue Road

This section extends from the Anglesea River to Point Roadknight, ending at O'Donohue Road. It includes approximately 4 km of coastal reserves.

Values

Moderate natural and Indigenous cultural values (Moonah Woodland high), moderate to high landscape and geomorphological values. Moderate cultural values associated with holidaymaking (Kiosk, Yacht Club and shipwreck anchor). Popular beaches and walks. Moderate natural and landscape values along beach to O'Donohue Road with remote undeveloped character.

Threats/issues

Weeds and pest animals, cliff erosion and safety issues at Soapy Rocks, damage to dunes and low cliffs at Point Roadknight, damage to Indigenous archaeological materials at Point Roadknight, unsympathetic parking areas at Point Roadknight and toilet near Surf Club. Some damage to ocean beach dunes due to off-track walking.

Future direction

Continue to manage for compatible recreation with sensitively designed facilities, and associated weed control and enhancement of natural values including Moonah Woodland. Continue to liaise with DSE re coastal erosion sites.

Key initiatives

Expand weed control programs and improve fencing. Work with Shire to upgrade River mouth area. Prepare and implement master plan for Pt Roadknight recreation precinct - include reduced visual impacts of carparks and other facilities (encourage VicRoads to upgrade the GOR lookout carpark).



Severe track erosion in coastal heath (top), and near Anglesea River.



Intrusive toilet near Anglesea SLSC

Area C: Aireys Inlet-Moggs Creek Coastal Reserve

Section 1 East of Split Point Lighthouse

This section extends from Boundary Road at the eastern end of Aireys Inlet to the Split Point Lighthouse. It includes approximately 3 km of coastal reserves.

Values

High natural values including areas of largely intact coastal vegetation north of lighthouse. High numbers of known archaeological sites at Split Point. Low to moderate cultural values for associations with early settlement (Steps Beach). Very high landscape values with panoramic views from Surf Coast Walk south to lighthouse and north towards Anglesea. Also broad views over estuary and to ocean. Popular for walking, sightseeing and beachgoing.

The 17 ha Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary (managed by Parks Victoria) offshore from Split Point provides a variety of habitats for sponges, kelp forests and invertebrates.

Threats/issues

Weeds and pest animals, off-track walking particularly at some viewing points, series of informal walking tracks near housing, excessive track development near lighthouse, basic parking areas. Adjacent housing and uncoordinated signs intrude on coastal landscapes in some locations. Land management responsibility does not relate to ecological units.

Future direction

Rationalised management with GORCC concentrating on coast. Increase weed control and management for biodiversity. Rationalised walking track system and fencing, rehabilitate surplus tracks, upgrade signs, parking and facilities. Consider condition assessment and management plan for Indigenous archaeological sites.

Key initiatives

GORCC and Shire revise management responsibilities. In conjunction with community groups, continue to manage weeds and rehabilitate eroded areas. Work with Parks Victoria to protect marine values. Develop masterplan for lighthouse precinct.



Very high landscape and natural values north of Split Point

Section 2 Split Point Lighthouse to Moggs Creek

This section extends from the Split Point Lighthouse to Fairhaven and beyond to Moggs Creek. It includes approximately 3.5 km of coastal reserves.

Values

Moderate to high natural values, broad coastal views. Popular for beachgoing, surfing and walking.

Threats/issues

Invasive weeds, off-track walking, unsympathetic facilities and excessive signs, stormwater drains.

Future direction

Continue weed control and reduce impact of buildings, facilities and signs. Enhance walking opportunities without adversely affecting natural values. Improve stormwater management (Shire).

Key initiatives

Expand weed control programs in conjunction with community groups. Cooperate with Shire to implement Painkalac Creek Estuary Management Plan. Include rationalised signs and development of proposed walking track near estuary (with Vic Roads) and associated vegetation management. Upgrade amenity of surf club area (with SLSC).



High landscape values at Moggs Creek

Section 3 Moggs Creek to Eastern View

This section extends from Moggs Creek to Eastern View and beyond to Spout Creek. It includes approximately 3.5 km of coastal reserves.

Values

Moderate natural values, broad coastal views. Cultural values at GOR Arch (but not managed by GORCC). Popular for beachgoing/surfing.

Threats/issues

Invasive weeds. Off-track walking and damage to soils and vegetation associated with parking (particularly on side of Great Ocean Road) and beach access. Power lines and dominant houses mar views.

Future direction

Manage for biodiversity values with ongoing weed control, regulated parking and beach access to protect soils and vegetation. Reduce impacts of development.

Key initiatives

Expand weed control programs in conjunction with community groups. Upgrade fencing and signs to minimise access into dunes. Prepare and implement master plan for GOR Arch area with provision for less intrusive parking, toilets, interpretation and beach access, removal of power poles and cypresses (with VicRoads and Parks Victoria). Work with VicRoads to prevent parked vehicles from damaging soils and vegetation on beach side of Great Ocean Road.



Opportunities to reduce intrusions at Great Ocean Road Arch

Area D: Lorne Coastal Reserve

Section 1 Stony Creek to Erskine River

This section extends from Stony Creek in North Lorne to the Erskine River. It includes approximately 2 km of coastal reserves.

Values

Low to moderate natural values (with higher values along Stony Creek). Moderate cultural values associated with early settlement (Splitters' Graves). Moderate landscape values along foreshore and streams. Beach popular for walking, sightseeing.

The GORCC foreshore reserve extends 600 m offshore through the Lorne area, protecting important marine values.

Threats/issues

Pollution in Erskine River. Unsightly Barwon Water works area at Stony Creek. Woody weeds in caravan parks and along foreshore and roadsides. Significant aquatic weeds in Stony Creek. Some beach erosion. Facilities, signs and tracks of variable quality.

Future direction

Sustainable management of caravan parks. Improved vegetation management (with VicRoads). Reduced development impacts (with VicRoads, Shire and Barwon Water). Management responsibility for river and creek reviewed. Protection of Indigenous archaeological sites in high use areas. Increased protection of marine values.

Key initiatives

Deal with pollution in Erskine River near Caravan Park. Expand weed control and rehabilitation with indigenous species.



High quality bushland at Stony Creek

Section 2 Erskine River to St George River

This section extends from the Erskine River through central Lorne to Point Grey and beyond to St George River. It includes approximately 4 km of coastal reserves.

Values

Moderate to high cultural values associated with, holidaymaking (foreshore plantings, kiosk, SLSC), commemoration (war memorial) and fishing (pier and fisheries). Moderate number of known Indigenous archaeological sites. Moderate to high landscape values with views over Loutit Bay and along coast to St George River. Popular for informal recreation.



Lorne foreshore and Loutit Bay

Threats/issues

Invasive weeds along foreshore. Stormwater issues. Some cypresses in poor condition, foreshore planting uneven and large sealed carpark and surf club tend to dominate area. Some caravan park practices not sustainable.

Future direction

Improved vegetation management and informal recreation facilities. Enhanced foreshore planting. Sustainable management of foreshore and caravan park. Upgrade car parks.

Key initiatives

Ongoing weed control and rehabilitation. Upgrade walk from SLSC to new pier with improved access, enhanced vegetation, stormwater management, interpretation and community art. Redevelop Point Grey.

Section 3 Queens Park

This section includes the Queens Park reserve at the back of Lorne. It includes approximately 1 km of coastal reserves.

Values

High natural values. Panoramic views from Teddy's Lookout and along GOR. Moderate to high cultural values associated with timber industry (tramway), slaughterhouse site and early recreational use (caravan park, Teddy's Lookout shelter). Potential for Indigenous cultural values.

Threats/issues

Weeds and pest animals. Highly invasive weeds threaten biodiversity values. Koala population not sustainable. Development opportunity at former slaughterhouse site. Opportunities for improved interpretation and walking links.

Future direction

Manage to protect and interpret biodiversity values, with low-key recreation and interpretation and sustainable management of caravan park. Identify development direction for slaughterhouse site including conservation works.

Key initiatives

Enhance weed and pest control programs, and develop koala management program (with DSE). Upgrade interpretation of natural and cultural values. Initiate study of suitable uses for former slaughterhouse site, e.g. low-set eco-accommodation, with associated enhancement of natural values.



Koalas threaten vegetation at Queens Park (C Renowden)

Section 4 Cumberland River (Caravan Park)

This section includes the site of the Cumberland River Caravan Park which is surrounded by the Great Otway National Park.

Values

Low natural values in Caravan Park (high in adjacent national park). Dramatic and striking landscape setting at foot of rocky escarpment, along river and at nearby beach. Moderate to high cultural values for associations with holidaymaking (picnic hut and cypress plantings). Popular for accommodation. Potential for Indigenous cultural values.

Threats/issues

Many weeds and exotic species in Caravan Park, some invading national park with serious impacts. Entrance area and adjacent riverbank degraded by weeds and roadworks. Wood fireplaces may no longer be appropriate.

Future direction

Review/revise GORCC/National Park boundary to maximise protection of natural and landscape values. Manage to improve natural values and amenity while continuing to provide for accommodation and associated recreation (in conjunction with lessee). Consider removal of fireplaces.

Key initiatives

Remove invasive weeds as a high priority and replace with indigenous species. Upgrade entrance area. With Parks Victoria, interpret values of surrounding bushland and national park.



Woody weeds are invading natural areas around Cumberland River Caravan Park

