

# Media Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Pool heating not proceeding

The Great Ocean Road Coast Committee announced today that the heating of the Lorne Pool would not proceed following a full review of the options available.

After 3 years of working to achieve the heating of the pool and despite extensive planning and carrying out design works since last July, Committee CEO Richard Davies announced that all avenues in attempting to realise the project had been exhausted.

“Unfortunately, after a thorough examination of our options, the reality is this project is unviable.

“We understand that the Lorne community, which has shown great support for this project, will be disappointed and we too are disappointed that it cannot proceed.

“We have developed funding applications, expended over \$75,000 to the process, and worked closely with the Lorne Aquatic Project community team,” he said.

Mr Davies said a cost analysis following construction tender submission had identified that the project building costs well exceeded budget and significant ongoing funding was required to run the heated pool.

“The cost of managing the pool was estimated at a minimum of \$90,000 a year, which would be very unlikely to be commercially viable and a commercial operator for this task has not been identified.

“It was also not possible to secure adequate funding to cover the ongoing costs.

“In addition, it was determined that running the pool would attract a substantial commercial risk, which we are not in a financial position to bear.” he said.

Mr Davies said the Committee was a not for profit organisation given the task of sustainably managing coastal reserves for the benefit of the wider community.

“Unfortunately, running the pool would simply not be sustainable and our limited funds need to be directed to viable projects that assist us in caring for our valuable, heritage-listed coastline, which is no small task,” he said.

**Community members interested in more information about the decision are invited to attend a community briefing session on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2011 at 5.30pm at Figtree House. GORCC CEO Richard Davies will be in attendance to discuss the decision and answer any questions regarding the project.**

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*Caring for the coast and community*

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