

# Media Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

20 July 2017

## **Make your selfie a safe one: Feedback sought on options for the Great Ocean Road Memorial Arch**

The Great Ocean Road Coast Committee is seeking feedback on an Options Paper for the Great Ocean Road Memorial Arch Precinct, Eastern View.

Great Ocean Road Coast Committee CEO Richard Davies said “the Arch” was one of the Great Ocean Road’s most recognisable photo locations and is visited by thousands of tourists daily.

“This options paper will help us develop a long-term solution that prioritises the safety of visitors, vehicle and pedestrian accessibility, cultural heritage as well as reducing current environmental impacts.”

The options paper to date proposes a few scenarios for the future management of the site:

- **Snap Shot.** The key change from the existing arrangement is the removal of parking for large tourist buses and large vehicles from the precinct.
- **Rest Point.** Extension of the Snap Shot arrangement but with the addition of bus parking further to the east of the current car park (situated on an already disturbed area, subject to weed removal).
- **Drive Thru.** Based upon the premise that the current site is unsuitable as a stopping point and should be limited to a marker along the Great Ocean Road rather than a stop.
- **Other.** This is to ensure we capture any other management ideas the community may have for the site.

The Options Paper has been developed by Great Ocean Road Coast Committee, Great Ocean Road Tourism, Surf Coast Shire, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), VicRoads, Regional Development Victoria and Parks Victoria with input from a community reference group, Tour Operators and the broader community.

“There has been a wide variety of views on how we manage the site and testing these options will help us pull together a long-term plan for the site,” said Mr Davies.

While planning continues for the future, the immediate safety of visitors on site remains top priority. Interim measures include:

- safety signage
- clearer demarcation of carparking
- signage directing visitors to nearest toilets
- compliance activities.

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*Caring for the coast and community*

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To provide feedback and view the detailed options paper, along with the issues and opportunities paper, questions and answers, and other information at <http://www.gorcc.com.au/projects/memorial-arch-precinct-master-plan/>

Great Ocean Road Coast staff will hold an open house <INSERT TIME/LOCATION>.

### **Background**

Through extensive community consultation and in discussion with the tourism industry and bus operators, we found:

- There is support for creating alternative photo opportunities in coastal towns to relieve pressure on the Memorial Arch site and direct tourists to spend money in townships
- The heritage of the site is paramount
- There appears to be limited support for building public toilets on the already over-stretched site.

An issues and opportunities paper was released in January 2016 and outlined several significant issues associated with the current use of the Memorial Arch precinct, including:

- Overcrowding during peak visitation times.
- Safety concerns associated with undefined parking areas.
- Unsafe pedestrian practices including standing on road to take photos.
- Toileting in the nearby dunes and residential areas.
- Littering.
- Inappropriate beach access and damage to native ecosystems.

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