



GREAT OCEAN ROAD  
COAST COMMITTEE

## MEDIA RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**25 February 2019**

### **Accessible Beaches initiative kicks off in Lorne**

The Great Ocean Road Coast Committee (GORCC) in partnership with Lorne Surf Life Saving Club (LSLSC) and Life Saving Victoria are trialling an Accessible Beaches initiative at Lorne.

As part of a six-week trial, GORCC and LSLSC are providing free access to a floating beach wheelchair, portable hoist and 40 metres of accessible beach matting.

GORCC's Chair Ken Northwood said the initiative aims to make our beaches more accessible and inclusive for every body. "We want everyone to be able to enjoy the beautiful beaches on offer along the Surf Coast."

"Our vision for the coast is to provide 'world leading environmental protection and experiences for all', and this trial will allow people with a disability to get onto the sand and into the water - sometimes for the first time in their lives".

Beach wheelchairs are ideal for people who have mobility limitations, including those with permanent disability, temporary disability or those with reduced mobility due to age.

The wheelchair is available for hire in 1 ½ hour slots from LSLSC during patrolled beach hours until 31 March. Use of the beach wheelchair, hoist and matting is free, but bookings are essential. Lifesavers will provide water safety as part of scheduled patrols.

A shipping container adjacent to accessible parking spaces at LSLSC will house the beach access wheelchair, portable hoist (users need to provide their own sling), instructions for use and evaluation forms.

A first for the Surf Coast, the trial will inform suitable strategies for future accessible beaches along the Surf Coast.

To find out more and to book visit <https://accessiblebeaches.com/vic-lorne>.

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**World-leading coastal protection and experiences for all**

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