



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**27 November 2019**

### **Beachgoers asked to exercise caution after recent cliff fall in Anglesea**

The Great Ocean Road Coast Committee (GORCC) is calling for beach users to exercise caution after a recent cliff collapse near Demons Bluff in Anglesea.

GORCC's Acting Coastal Reserves Manager Evan Francis said that due to the dynamic nature of the coastline, visitors are encouraged to avoid walking near cliffs.

"Visitors can assist by staying on designated tracks and not walking below cliffs, especially at higher tides".

Many cliff areas, particularly in the area between Jan Juc and Point Roadknight, and at Aireys Inlet, are susceptible to instability.

Coastal erosion and cliff falls are natural processes and are more likely to occur when the weather changes. The extent and severity of cliff failure can increase over the summer period due to the drying effects of hot weather, resulting in increased cracking and fracturing of cliff faces.

The fallen rocks will remain at the base of the cliff at Demons Bluff to help stabilise the area and protect other undercut sections. GORCC reminds beachgoers not to climb on these fallen rocks or go near undercut cliff areas for their personal safety.

In August 2016, GORCC rerouted 400 metres of the Surf Coast Walk at Demons Bluff after an engineer's report revealed that cracks in the side of the cliff represented a safety risk. A raised boardwalk was constructed in 2017 above an existing 'goat track' across the heathlands to minimise vegetation disturbance. The new boardwalk is set back from the cliffs, protecting the surrounding environment and allowing nature-admirers to experience the heathland up-close.

GORCC will continue to provide hazard warning signs, fencing and revegetation programs to help reduce the risk to the public in these areas. Ongoing cliff monitoring and geotechnical investigations are being undertaken to assess future cliff risks.