



GREAT OCEAN ROAD  
COAST COMMITTEE

## MEDIA RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**6 January 2020**

### **Accessible Beaches Initiative returns to Lorne**

Following a successful trial in 2019, the Great Ocean Road Coast Committee (GORCC), in partnership with Lorne Surf Life Saving Club (LSLSC) and Life Saving Victoria, will again roll out their Accessible Beaches Initiative at Lorne in 2020.

GORCC will provide free access to a floating beach wheelchair, portable hoist and 40 metres of accessible beach matting from 12 January – 23 February 2020.

GORCC's Coastal Reserves Manager Caleb Hurrell said the trial was well received by the community in 2019, with the beach matting used by several people throughout the duration of the trial period.

“The matting enables people who find it difficult or impossible to travel over sand, such as wheelchair users, seniors and parents with prams, to access the beach, and the beach wheelchair enhances the beach experience by allowing users to travel along the shoreline and into shallow water”.

“We want to enable everyone, regardless of their age or ability, to access the sand and water at one of our most popular beaches on the Surf Coast”.

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 will be available for hire in one hour slots from LSLSC during patrolled beach hours. Users with limited mobility will require the assistance of a carer/s to access the wheelchair and for water safety.

Use of the beach wheelchair, hoist and matting is free. 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) and instructions for use.

To find out more and to book, visit [lorne.accessiblebeaches.com.au](http://lorne.accessiblebeaches.com.au)

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