



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**6 April 2020**

### **Great Ocean Road Coast Committee CEO takes up new position**

The Great Ocean Road Coast Committee's (GORCC) CEO Vanessa Schernickau has accepted a new role as Regional Director South Western - Regional Surface Transport with the Department of Transport.

Vanessa has been with GORCC for two years and has led the organisation through significant growth and transition during this time.

Highlights and achievements during Vanessa's time with GORCC include:

- Progressing the Point Grey - Lorne Redevelopment, through to the announcement of \$8m funding from the Geelong City Deal
- Increasing revenue by over \$500,000 per annum
- Introducing the Education Strategy and a collaborative approach to school programs and activities in GORCC's caravan parks
- Aligning commercial offers with environmental and community outcomes, including the Guided Surf Coast Walks
- Prioritising cultural heritage, including the employment of an Indigenous Project Officer
- Introducing a long-term asset management framework and financial plan
- Partnering with Deakin University to include 3D geospatial scenarios in the development of master plans
- Introducing an integrated approach to project management, including staff development to deliver more capital projects in GORCC's caravan parks and foreshore reserves
- Developing the Coastal and Marine Management Plan and several master plans that respond to climate change, visitation growth, ageing infrastructure, and increased community expectations
- Building a resilient organisational culture and strong executive team to enable successful transition to the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority.

GORCC's Chair Ken Northwood thanked Vanessa for her leadership during her time with the organisation and announced her last day with GORCC would be Friday 1 May 2020.

"I would like to thank Vanessa for her strong leadership during the past two years. She has lifted the organisation in numerous ways and progressed several major projects and master plans, delivering important benefits for our coast and our communities".



GREAT OCEAN ROAD  
COAST COMMITTEE

## MEDIA RELEASE

“In particular, she has worked very effectively with community stakeholders to the benefit of all parties”.

“The Board is currently working to establish interim arrangements prior to the State Government’s formation of the new Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority”.

Vanessa was appointed as CEO of GORCC in March 2018 following a highly competitive recruitment process. Her new role will see her working with Victorian communities and stakeholders to plan, maintain and advocate for the regional surface transport network.