



Annual Report 2006/2007

Guiding Coastal Management for a Sustainable Future

The Western Coastal Board's role is to champion the ecologically sustainable development of South West Victoria's coastal and marine areas.

It performs this function through being a

- Strategic Planner
- Educator and Advocate
- Partner and Facilitator
- Coastal Adviser and Expert

The vision for our coast is

A biologically rich and diverse coastal and marine environment for our use and enjoyment today and for our children tomorrow

(Victorian Coastal Strategy 2002)

Our Priorities for the 2006-07 year included:

- Increased ability of all stakeholders to make informed decisions about coastal use/ planning/ development/ sustainability
- Appropriate strategic and statutory planning for the coast
- Robust partnerships and networks
- Corporate Governance



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

2006-07 marked the first year of the new Western Coastal Board, with four new members being appointed. An induction meeting in August was quickly followed with joint meetings in September and October with both the Corangamite and Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authorities to establish mutual understanding of roles and enhance relationships at the outset of the new terms for all Boards. A Joint Working Party was established with CCMA to progress opportunities for collaboration and partnership.

The challenge of managing the coast in a sustainable manner was increased through the year, with the ever-present threat of loving the coast to death through the increasing popularity of the coast, pressure on assets and infrastructure and demands for further development. Community expectations also moved rapidly, particularly regarding issues surrounding climate change.

The Board was generously supported through the year by several organisations. The Department of Sustainability and Environment provided office support for the Board, while both the Corangamite and Glenelg Hopkins CMAs put their shoulder to the wheel and provided funding to enable the Board to retain its capacity for coastal projects. On behalf of the Board, I take this opportunity to reiterate our thanks for this support.

Expectations of stakeholders for the Board's participation in initiatives and provision of advice continue to expand, and the development of an effective Business Plan remains a fundamental challenge with limited resourcing opportunities and largely fixed budgets. Further to this, the Board's staff capacity was limited largely to the Executive Officer from March 2007 with Simon Coverdale taking leave without pay to accept a position with GHD and Glenda Jackson moving to a position with DPI and working for the Board in a reduced capacity. Recruitment for a new position was complete at the end of the year and Margot Harrison was scheduled to commence in July 2007.

The 2006-07 year was productive, with key activities including:

- Provision of extensive input to the review of the Victorian Coastal Strategy 2002 undertaken by the Victorian Coastal Council
- Provision of advice regarding a wide range of strategic planning initiatives.
- CAP implementation was progressed substantially and planning commenced for CAP reviews and second generation CAPs.
- Provision of input to a number of planning initiatives and development proposals, most notably the Great Ocean Green C29 Amendment at Apollo Bay and a proposal for a 35-lot subdivision on primary dunes at Port Fairy.

The coming year of 2007-08 is expected to be very productive through the development of a number of projects initiated during the 2006-07 year. The region's CAPs require their 5-year statutory reviews, providing an opportunity to examine coastal management and planning issues at regional scale. The Board submitted proposals to CMAs, local councils and other partners for a Coastal Priorities project to improve management and investment, and the Board undertook to seek funding for the development of a Boating CAP for the region.



Lynn Murrell OAM
Chairman

1. IMPLEMENTING THE VICTORIAN COASTAL STRATEGY

The Victorian Coastal Strategy (VCS) objectives provide a basis for the Board's Annual Report.

1.1. Strategic Coastal Planning and projects

1.1.1 Coastal Action Plans

Ten Coastal Action Plans exist in the Western Coastal Region. Highlights from the year for CAPs include:

- Implementation Committees (ICs) for the Central West (CW) Regional CAP, CW Estuaries CAP and South West Regional CAP met throughout the year. The Glenelg Hopkins Coast and Marine Technical Working Group acts as IC for the SW Estuaries CAP. These ICs developed and refined Implementation Plans for all CAPs.
- An IC was established for the Skenes Creek to Marengo CAP.
- ICs have been committed to for the Moyne, Warrnambool and Glenelg CAPs for establishment in 2007-08.
- Preparations have commenced for the statutory 5-year review of most CAPs in the region, including discussions regarding potential second generation CAPs for the region.
- The Board committed to the process of developing a Boating CAP over the coming two financial years.

Table 1: Status of CAPs 2006-07

RCB	CAP Title (year)	Status	Supported by
WCB	South West Victoria Regional CAP 2002	Implementation Plan in place. Full review scheduled 2007-08.	Implementation Committee
WCB	Central West Victoria Regional CAP 2002	Implementation Plan in place. Full review scheduled 2007-08.	Implementation Committee
WCB	South West Victoria Estuaries CAP 2002	Implementation Plan in place. Full review scheduled 2007-08.	Glenelg Hopkins Coastal and Marine Technical Working Group
WCB	Central West Victoria Estuaries CAP 2005	Implementation Plan in place. Full review scheduled 2007-08.	Implementation Committee
WCB	Lorne CAP 1998	Implementation to be progressed largely through other plans eg GORCC ELMP	
WCB	Anglesea CAP 1999	Implementation to be progressed largely through other plans eg GORCC ELMP	
WCB	Warrnambool CAP 1999	Implementation Committee identified, Implementation Plan drafted	
WCB	Moyne CAP 2001	Implementation Committee identified, Implementation Plan drafted. Full review scheduled 2007-08.	
WCB	Skenes Creek to Marengo CAP 2002	Implementation Committee established, Implementation plan drafted. Full review scheduled 2007-08.	Implementation Committee
WCB	Glenelg CAP 2004	Implementation commenced. Interim review scheduled for 2007-08.	Coastal Reference Group pending

1.1.2 Coastal Access Guidelines for the West Coast of Victoria

The Board exhibited and undertook regional consultation for draft Coastal Access Guidelines for the West Coast of Victoria. Workshops were held in Portland, Warrnambool, Apollo Bay and Torquay, and over 30 submissions were received. The Board recommended the application of the Guidelines at a state level to the Victorian Coastal Council.

1.1.3 Regional and State-wide Strategic Planning and Projects

The Board participated in and provided input to a range of initiatives at state, regional and local levels:

- Victorian Coastal Strategy 2002 review
- Coastal Spaces implementation
- Corangamite Fisheries Management Plan, Chaired by Board member Dr Helen Arundel
- Land and Biodiversity White Paper
- Surf Coast Draft Environmental Management Strategy 2006-09
- G21 Region Plan
- Review of Heritage Provisions Consultation Paper
- Draft Fitzroy River Estuary Management Plan
- Draft Corangamite Shire Environment Strategy
- Surf Coast Rural Land Use review
- Glenelg Hopkins CMA Noxious Weeds Review
- Corangamite River Health Strategy – Final Draft for Stakeholders
- Sustainable Water Strategy, Central Region

Importantly, the Board commenced project development and submitted funding applications for a Coastal Priorities project for 2007-08 to improve regional priority setting, collaboration and resourcing.

1.1.4 Municipal Planning Issues

The Board participated in and provided input to a range of planning and development initiatives in the region through the framework provided by the State Planning Policy Framework and municipal planning schemes. The Board's participation in these issues is determined by the implications that proposals and planning schemes have for the Victorian Coastal Strategy, with statutory planning matters further guided by the Board's Guidelines for Involvement in Statutory Planning. Key issues included:

- Port Fairy Planning Implementation Strategy, including regional workshop presentations by Sue Mudford
- Torquay Jan Juc Character and Vegetation Study
- Kennett River, Wye River, Separation Creek Structure Plan
- Torquay Jan Juc Structure Plan, including Councillor and officer presentations
- DPO 7 process, Glenelg Shire, including workshop participation by Lex Chalmers
- Colac Otway Shire (COS) Panel Hearing for Amendment C29 – Great Ocean Green. The Board presented to the Panel and wrote to both the Minister for Environment and COS regarding the issue of coastal recession and climate change.
- 35-lot primary dune subdivision at Port Fairy, Moyne Shire
- Benbow's paddock subdivision, Cape Bridgewater, Glenelg Shire
- Planning permit applications for structures at Airey's Inlet and Torquay, Surf Coast Shire

1.1.5 Status of Coastal Planning

Many coastal planning initiatives have been established across the region. The table below outlines the general status of these plans at the end of the financial year. The Western Coastal Board was pleased to have the opportunity to contribute formally and informally to the majority of these documents:

Table 2: Status of Coastal Planning 2006/07 (S.13(a) of the CM Act)

Title of Plan	Status	Responsibility
Apollo Bay Structure Plan	Completed	Colac Otway Shire
Wye River/Sep Creek/Kennett River Structure Plan	Developing	Colac Otway Shire
Curdies River Estuary Management Plan	Developing	Corangamite and Moyne Shire Councils
Corangamite Region Wetland Strategy	Complete	Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CMA)
Corangamite Regional River Health Strategy	Complete	Corangamite CMA
Painkalac Creek Environmental Flow Determination	Developing	Corangamite CMA
Corangamite Fishery Management Plan	Developing	Department of Primary Industries
Glenelg Hopkins Fishery Management Plan	Completed/Approved	Department of Primary Industries
Portland Aquaculture Fisheries Reserves Management Plan	Completed/Approved	Department of Primary Industries
Flood Study for Port Fairy	Developing	GHCMA & Moyne
Fitzroy Estuary Management Plan	Completed/Approved	Glenelg Hopkins CMA
Glenelg Hopkins River Health Strategy	Completed/Approved	Glenelg Hopkins CMA
Glenelg River Estuary Management Plan	Completed/ Approved	Glenelg Hopkins CMA
Hopkins River Estuary Management Plan	Completed/ Approved	Glenelg Hopkins CMA
Merri Estuary Management Plan	Draft to be released	Glenelg Hopkins CMA
Surry Estuary Management Plan	Drafted	Glenelg Hopkins CMA
Yambuk Lake Estuary Management Plan	Completed/Approved	Glenelg Hopkins CMA
Environmental Strategic Framework	Developing	Glenelg Shire Council
Glenelg Strategic Futures Plan	Developing	Glenelg Shire Council
Portland Bay Coastal Infrastructure Plan	Developed	Glenelg Shire Council
Environment and Land Management Plan	Complete	Great Ocean Road Coast Committee of Management
Torquay Foreshore Masterplan	Complete	Great Ocean Road Coast Committee of Management
Belfast Lough Environmental Management Plan	Complete and awaiting endorsement	Moyne Shire
Coastal Spaces – planning scheme amendment	Developing	Moyne Shire
Peterborough UDG Amendment	Developing	Moyne Shire
The Craggs Management Plan	Complete	Moyne Shire
Port Fairy East Beach Coastal Erosion Engineering & Feasibility Study	Developing	Moyne Shire & DSE
Discovery Bay Marine National Park Draft Management Plan	Complete	Parks Victoria
Great Otway National Park and Otway Forest Park Management Plan	Developing	Parks Victoria
Indigenous Partnership Strategy	Complete	Parks Victoria
Marengo Reefs Marine Sanctuary Draft Management Plan	Complete	Parks Victoria
Merri Marine Sanctuary Management Plan	Complete	Parks Victoria
Point Addis Marine National Park, Point Danger Marine Sanctuary and Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary Management Plan	Complete	Parks Victoria

Twelve Apostles Marine National Park and The Arches Marine Sanctuary Management Plan	Complete	Parks Victoria
Anglesea River & Estuary Management Plan	Complete	Surf Coast Shire
Anglesea Riverbank Master Plan	Complete	Surf Coast Shire
Deep Creek Master Plan	Completed/Approved	Surf Coast Shire
Painkalac Creek Estuary Management Plan	Complete	Surf Coast Shire
Pathway strategy	Complete	Surf Coast Shire
Pollution Source Investigation for Lorne	Developing	Surf Coast Shire
Torquay / Jan Juc Structure Plan	Complete	Surf Coast Shire
Waste Water Management Plan	Developing	Surf Coast Shire
Wastewater Management Plan – Moggs Creek	Developing	Surf Coast Shire
White's Beach Master Plan – Stage 1	Completed/Approved	Surf Coast Shire
White's Beach Master Plan – Stage 2	Developing	Surf Coast Shire
Beach Cleaning Management Plan	Completed	Warrnambool City Council
Levy's Point Coastal Reserve Management Plan	Completed	Warrnambool City Council
South Warrnambool Wetlands Management Plan	Completed	Warrnambool City Council
Warrnambool Foreshore Management Plan	Completed	Warrnambool City Council

1.1.6 Other initiatives

In addition to the initiatives outlined above, the Chair, Members, Executive Officer and Project Manager participated in a number of inter-agency and/or community initiatives in order to facilitate implementation of the Victorian Coastal Strategy:

- Barwon SW Regional Managers Forum (Chaired by Prof Lyndsay Neilson, Secretary DSE)
- Joint membership of the Corangamite CMA (Alain Purnell and Julie Hansen)
- CCMA Regional Investment Committee (Rachel Faggetter)
- Coast and Marine Technical Working Group (convened jointly by Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority and Western Coastal Board)
- Coastal Spaces implementation meetings
- Great Ocean Road Region Strategy Implementation Committee (convened by South West region of Department of Sustainability and Environment)
- South West Sustainability Partnership (chaired by Lindsay Merritt, Chief Executive Officer City of Warrnambool)
- Sustainable Settlements Project (initiated by DSE)
- Development of a coastal walking trail network (convened by DVC)
- GORCC Environment and Land Management Plan
- Coastal Priorities Workshop (convened by Corangamite and Glenelg Hopkins CMAs)
- Environment and Land management Plan steering committee (convened by GORCC)
- Kennett River Wye River Separation Creek Structure Plan reference group (convened by Colac Otway Shire)
- Sustainable Settlements Pilot Project Reference Group (convened by DSE)
- CCMA EstuaryWatch Steering Committee
- Lynn Murrell and Ilex Chalmers attended the SW Regional Governance Forum

1.2. Protecting the Environment

Activities undertaken by the Board to protect the environment included:

- Participation in Regional Catchment Investment Planning processes for both GHCMA and CCMA, with Rachel Faggetter representing the Board on the CCMA's Regional Implementation Committee
- Participation in the establishment of a coastal vulnerability study for the Victorian coast
- Convening a meeting of local councils and agencies to develop an Estuary Management Plan for the Curdies Estuary.

- Participation on steering committee for the GORCC Environment and Land Management Plan.
- Contributing to the Glenelg Hopkins and Corangamite CMA Noxious Weeds Reviews
- Working in partnership with CoastAction and CCMA to deliver a 2-year Dune Rehabilitation in partnership with land managers. Funding for 2006-07 was \$138,000 and a total of seven projects were funded.
- Provision of input to CCMA with regard to estuaries investment for Water White Paper funding
- Seeking advice from Fisheries Victoria regarding abalone virus management
- Completion of work on a research grant to Deakin University for investigating ecological effects of beach wrack
- Several initiatives, such as the Board's CAPs and draft Access Guidelines for the West Coast of Victoria are intended to deliver significant environmental benefits

1.3. Improved Recreation and Tourism

The Board participated in

- Consultations with land managers for a proposed Levels of Service framework as part of the VCS review/revision process
- Development of a SW walking trail network through the Department of Victorian Communities.
- The Torquay Boat Launching Facility Feasibility Study
- Development of coastal Crown land at Lorne consistent with Lorne CAP
- Shared approach to dog access on beaches in the Surf Coast Shire
- Establishment of a Network for Victorian foreshore caravan parks and camping grounds
- Parliamentary Inquiry into Rural and Regional Tourism.

The Board's draft Access Guidelines for the West Coast are intended to provide significant benefits for recreation and tourism.

1.4 Maintaining and Improving Coastal Water Quality

- The Board continued participating on the Steering Committee for CCMA's Estuary Watch project.
- Implementation of both the Central West and South West Estuaries CAPs include actions targeted at improving estuarine water quality. The development of Estuary Management Plans consistent with the frameworks outlined in CAPs is progressing well.
- The Board provided input to several applications for Water Licences via Southern Rural Water

1.5 Increasing Awareness and Understanding of Coastal Issues

- Deakin University completed a pilot Coastal and Marine Values GIS project. The pilot identified the issue of recreational fishing values and concluded with a training and feedback workshop for the Glenelg Hopkins Coastal and Marine Technical Working Group on the pilot GIS in July 2007.
- The 2006 SW Foreshore Managers Forum was held in Warrnambool on the 12-13 October in partnership with DSE and four major CoMs – the Great Ocean Road Coast Committee, Bellarine Bayside CoM, Barwon Coast CoM and Apollo Bay-Kennett River CoM, and was attended by 50 delegates.
- Continued support and Chairing of the Glenelg Hopkins Coast and Marine Technical Working Group. Glenelg Shire have also renewed their participation.
- A student placement undertook a review of the Board's website and completed a student-perspective assessment of the web portal, which was provided to the VCC for consideration in the development of the Coastlinks site.
- Continued participation in the South West Sustainability Partnership
- Provided feedback to Geoff Wescott regarding his independent review of the Coastal Management Act
- A feasibility study for a Mobile Marine Interpretative Facility was commenced to look at the feasibility of best practice options, establish a basic business case and identify opportunities to progress the facility.
- Joint meetings were conducted with the Boards of both the Glenelg Hopkins and Corangamite CMAs.

- The Board and CCMA established a Working Party to progress a cooperative approach to the alignment of activities, strategic directions and collaboration.
- Assistance to planning for the field trip component of the Vic Estuaries 06 Conference.
- Membership of the Wimmera Glenelg-Hopkins Corangamite Research Hub
- Duncan Elliott, SW Regional Manager of VicRoads, presented to the Board and discussed climate change issues and the Great Ocean Road.
- Participation in DSE's Sustainable Settlements Project and Integrated Regional Planning project
- Provision of quarterly reports to key stakeholders to promote understanding.
- Awareness, understanding and opportunities were promoted through meetings with a range of stakeholders including Barwon Water, National Sea Change Taskforce, DSE Greenhouse Unit, Barwon SW Regional Managers Forum, SW Regional Governance Forum, Regional Development Victoria, Glenelg Shire Council, G21 Geelong Regional Alliance and Wathaurong Aboriginal Cooperative.

2. FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION AND MEMBERSHIP

2.1. Financial Statement

Recurrent funding provided to the Board by the Department of Sustainability and Environment during 2006/2007 was \$240,000. The Board was assisted by generous support from DSE through the provision of subsidised office premises and facilities, representing substantial recurrent savings. The Corangamite and Glenelg Hopkins CMAs each provided \$30,000 to support the ongoing project capacity of the Board, and the recurrent budget was increased to \$294,000 as a result.

Total expenditure was as follows:

Item	Budget	Expend
Salaries incl contracts & on-costs	200660	155939
DSE levies, rent, IT	11200	1770
Admin/Office expenses	5300	4614
Printing & Stationery, Training, Professional Services, Advertising	10500	13121
Sitting fees	29000	24691
Mileage, travel, accommodation, meals, parking, venue hire, personal expenses	34650	23201
Memberships, Grants & Transfers	2500	73000
Total	294810	296336

Significant budget savings were also realised through staff changes and reduced capacity from March 2007 through the vacancy of the Board's Project Manager position.

The following project funding was received during the year:

- \$12,697 was received from Parks Victoria for an overcharging error for Executive Officer services during the previous year.
- \$138,000 was received and expended for the Corangamite Dune Rehabilitation project

2.2. Board Membership

2006-07 represents the establishment year of the current Board members' three-year term.

Chairman

Lynn Murrell

Lynn is the Chair of the Western Coastal Board and the Victorian Coastal Council representative on the Board. He is a former secondary school teacher and farmer at Cape Nelson, a member of the Board of the Glenelg-Hopkins Catchment Management Authority, a member of the Greater Green Triangle Area Consultative Committee and the Natural Resources Conservation League. Over the past 12 months Lynn has worked at strengthening coast/catchment partnerships with both GHCMA and CCMA. This has involved work on the many strategic issues related to "coastal spaces", tourism, resource indicators, ecological sustainability, conferences, workshops and planning generally. Lynn has also built on links with state-wide and regional programs/bodies such as VCC, Greater Green Triangle Area Consultative Committee, Coastcare/ Coast action, local governments individually as well as their State Bodies such as the Victorian Local Governance Association, plus DSE, Parks Victoria, and Tourism Victoria.

Meetings attended: 8

Members – Community Representatives

Dr Helen Arundel

Helen has lived in the Port Campbell/Peterborough area for the past 13 years. During this time she has been active in the local environment group. Helen recently completed a PhD on estuarine ecology and has also undertaken research on the intertidal reefs in south west Victoria. Helen started her professional life as secondary teacher and later became a primary producer. Helen is currently employed as a research fellow at Deakin University on the Estuary Entrance Decision Support System Project. Helen informs the Board about gas exploration and development in South West Victoria and represents the Western Coastal Board on the Woodside Otway Community Reference Group, the BHPBilton Environment Review Committee and the GHCMA Resource Condition Targets Steering Committee. Helen chairs the Central West CAP Implementation Review Committee and is assisting in the development of a protocol for future CAP reviews. Helen informs the Board of opportunities for input within the Corangamite Shire, including submissions on local planning scheme amendments and comments on environmental plans. She provides comments on strategic documents that influence management in marine and/or estuarine environments, and she represents the Board at events at Deakin University Warrnambool.

Meetings attended: 7

Lex Chalmers OAM

Lex's professional experience as a teacher and education consultant in the Barwon - South West region has underpinned her involvement in heritage, tourism and arts organizations at local, regional and state levels. She contributes to Board deliberations on heritage, environmental, governance and tourism matters. She is a member of the WCB Governance Committee, a continuing member / Life Member of Portland's heritage and arts organizations, a community member of the Victorian Local Governance Association and an associate member of Australian ICOMOS.

Meetings attended: 7

Rachel Faggetter

Long time member of the Anglesea and Airey's Inlet Environment Association and ANGAIR, Rachel has been active in environmental and community advocacy in Airey's Inlet for over 30 years. She lectures in Natural and Cultural Heritage and Interpretation with the Institute of Koori Education at Deakin University, Warn Ponds. As a community representative on the Board, she attends coastal events and reports on trends 'from the ground up' to assist the Board's strategic planning capacity. Chief among the issues in a region of very rapid change is the impact of the 'seachange' phenomenon on the environmental, economic and social sustainability of the coast. The growth of tourism and huge rises in real estate prices bring changes in the social landscape which are

important to understand for the future of the coast. The capacity for communities to manage these changes and to seize new opportunities needs to be supported and strengthened. Rachel has represented the Board on the Corangamite CMA Regional Investment Committee and also on the Community Strategy Implementation Committee.

Meetings attended: 6

Julie Hansen

Julie Hansen has extensive experience in community affairs - local government interface as a former Surf Coast Shire Councillor (1994-2004), serving two terms as Mayor, and President of the Victorian Local Governance Association(2000-05). She is a member of the Greenfleet Australia Board, Corangamite Catchment Management Authority Board, People and Parks Foundation and Great Ocean Road Coast Committee. She is also a Fellow of the Institute of Company Directors and was awarded a Centenary of Federation Medal for services to local government and community.

Meetings attended: 8

Neil Longmore

Neil has a law degree from Deakin University and a post graduate qualification in urban and regional planning from the University of New England. He is currently the principal solicitor of the Southwest Community Legal Centre, providing legal services to the disadvantaged in the Southwest with special interest in immigration issues and affordable housing. Neil is a native of Colac and has lived for the past 25 years at Gellibrand River, where he runs a small sheep farm and a private environmental law practice. He is founding secretary of the Old Beechy Rail Trail, a member of the Gellibrand-Kawarren Progress Association and a member of the Apollo Bay Kennett River Public Reserves Committee. Neil makes a significant contribution to the Board in the areas of planning and environmental law.

Meetings attended: 7

Susan Mudford

Sue has professional experience in risk management, governance, community engagement, facilitation, regional development, biodiversity and conservation. She is a member of Watershed 2000 (Central Hopkins Land Protection Association) and Woorndoo Land Protection Group, and is Regional Manager for the Glenelg Hopkins area for Trust for Nature. Sue is a member of the Western Coastal Board Governance Sub-Committee, chairs the South West CAP Implementation Review Committee, is assisting in the development of a protocol for future CAP reviews and represents the Board on the South West Sustainability Partnership.

Meetings attended: 7

Alain Purnell

Alain is former General Manager Environmental Affairs of BHP and former director of Landcare Australia Limited (1991 - 1998). Alain holds degrees in chemical engineering and business administration and has corporate governance, senior management, strategic planning, community engagement, land protection and environmental conservation experience. He is also a member of the Board of the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority and so provides a link between the catchment and coast. His membership of the Surf Coast Shire's Environment Advisory Committee and the LorneCare community group, involve other dimensions of coastal management.. Alain joined the Western Coastal Board on a co-opted basis from December 2004, and became a full Board member in June 2005 and is a member of the Board's Governance Sub-Committee

Meetings attended: 7

Lynette Skilbeck

Lynette has commerce and law degrees from Melbourne University and is a current Australian Legal Practitioner practising as a lawyer in Warrnambool. Lynette's area of expertise is in property law including general property, commercial property arrangements, development, and planning and environmental law. She is a Warrnambool and district local - born and bred.

Meetings attended: 8

Joe Taylor

Joe is a Director of a media and research company, and an electronic publishing company. He is involved with coastal planning and coast conservation issues in both South Australia and Victoria, is a member of the Great Ocean Road Coast Committee and won a Ministerial award for his contribution in establishing Victoria's system of Marine National Parks. Joe is also a keen surfer, diver and fisher.

Meetings attended: 6

Members – Agency Representatives

Rod Newnham – Parks Victoria

Rod was brought up on a Mallee farm north of Swan Hill and attended Longerenong Agricultural College before starting a career in protected area management. He is currently the Regional Manager for Parks Victoria West which includes the north west, west and south west of the state. Some of Victoria's most significant parks fall within this area including the Grampians National Park, Port Campbell National Park (12 Apostles), the Mallee parks and the new Great Otway National Park.

Rod brings knowledge and experience in managing natural and cultural values in coastal environments and mitigating threats to those values. Sustainable tourism and recreational management is a key park management responsibility as the economic activity generated plays a critical role in regional economies. Rod has been involved in building partnerships with indigenous communities, particularly at Halls Gap where the highly developed partnership provides both employment, tourism and educational opportunities.

Prior to taking on the Regional Manager role in March 2006 Rod was the Director of Capital Infrastructure for Parks Victoria. This role gave him experience in the development, implementation and challenges of a broad range of marine and coastal infrastructure. Various senior roles over the last few years have enabled Rod to build skills in developing connections with local communities. His strong background in fire and the community focus on this issue have highlighted the importance of this skill.

After graduating as a Williamson fellow in 2004 Rod now sits on the Ballarat and Western region leadership committee where he can participate in his passion of developing young rural regional leaders.

Meetings attended: 3

Grant Hull – Department of Sustainability and Environment – From February 2006

Grant Hull is currently the manager of the Coasts and Public Land Use and Development Projects with the Department of Sustainability and Environment in the South West Region, based in Ballarat. Grant holds a degree in applied biology and has worked for DSE and its various predecessors and allied organisations since 1977. This has included positions as park ranger and reserves policy officer with the former National Parks Service and Chief Ranger with Parks Victoria. Grant was also a member of the Victorian Wetlands Unit and edited the Victorian Wetlands Management Manual. He has managed the South West Region's coastal and land use planning programs since 1997 and has on various occasions since that time deputised for DSE as a member on the Coastal Board. He was appointed as the full time member for this term of the current Board.

Meetings attended: 6

Staff

Steve Blackley (Executive Officer)

Steve commenced with the Board in December 2005. He was previously Executive Officer of the Central Coastal Board from 2002-2004 and has worked for a variety of organisations involved in coastal management including the NSW Coastal Council, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, NSW Fisheries and the GORCC. He was a member of the Surf Coast Shire Planning Committee during 2004-05 and has also worked with a range of non-government organisations at national, State and local levels. He has a degree in Coastal Management.

Simon Coverdale (Project Manager) – to March 2007

Simon has a Bachelor of Science (Hons) degree from Deakin University and a Diploma of Business (Frontline Management) from Swinburne University. Simon commenced 12-months Leave Without Pay in March 2007 to take up a new position with GHD.

Glenda Jackson (Administration Officer) – to June 2007

Glenda's provided administration support to the Board and its staff in administration related duties for 2 days per week. Glenda worked with DSE in Business Support Services for 9 years and has extensive experience in administration. At the end of the period, Glenda accepted a position with the Department of Primary Industries.

Margot Harrison (Executive Assistant/Coastal Projects) – from late June 2007

Recruitment for a position combining administrative and project skills commenced during the period, with Margot Harrison accepting the position in June and commencing on 2 July 2007.

2.3 Board Meetings

8 'ordinary' Board meetings were held during the financial year as follows:

MEETING NO.	LOCATION	DATE
5-06	Warrnambool	3-4 Aug 2006
6-06	Lorne	14-15 Sep 2006
7-06	Warrnambool	25-26 Oct 2006
8-06	Torquay	17 Nov 2006
9-06	Melbourne	7-8 Dec 2006
1-07	Geelong	9 Feb 2007
2-07	Apollo Bay	9 Mar 2007
3-07	Geelong	11 May 2007

Meetings were held throughout the Board's region in order to facilitate attendance by stakeholders, and to facilitate investigation and discussion of local issues.

At its 7 & 8 December 2006 meeting the Board reviewed and revised its strategic priorities and developed its 2006-2009 Business Plan.

2.4 Sub-Committee meetings

The Board operated three sub-committees to guide the Board in the areas of Governance, Resourcing and Planning issues during the period.

The Governance Sub-Committee is charged with the responsibility of overseeing a range of corporate governance issues, including the Board's Charter of Corporate Governance. Membership included Alain Purnell, Sue Mudford and Lex Chalmers with the Executive Officer in support. The Committee met 3 times during the year.

The Resourcing Sub-Committee provided the Board with advice pertaining to the acquisition of resources to maintain and enhance the Board's capacity. Membership included Rachel Faggetter, Joe Taylor and Helen Arundel with support from the Executive Officer. The Committee met 3 times during the year.

The Planning Sub-Committee was established in July 2005 to discuss planning issues and approve written submissions relating to these. This committee was reinforced in May 2006 due to increased expectations of the Board to provide planning advice to local government. Membership included Lynette Skilbeck, Neil Longmore and Julie Hansen. The Committee met 2 times during the period

and at the March 2007 Board meeting members agreed that the Committee should not continue to be a formal committee of the Board but the group of members should be utilised by Executive Officer for advice regarding planning issues. To this end, the Executive Officer sought further opinion on several matters in late March 2007.

3. PRIORITIES FOR 2007/08

The Board expects to have many challenges during the coming year and has articulated its priorities for 2007-08 in the 2007-10 Business Plan. These include:

- Coastal, Estuarine and Marine Natural Resource Management
- Sustainable Coastal Settlements and Communities
- Climate Change Impacts and Adaption
- Planning and Strategy for improved coastal values
- Capacity and Engagement for Coastal, Estuarine and Marine Sustainability
- Board Governance and Operations

For the next 12 months, the Board intends to focus on several key outputs:

- Actively contribute to the development of the Victorian Coastal Strategy 2007 and regional consultation with all stakeholders
- Commence the Coastal Priorities project
- Complete reviews of all requisite CAPs
- Commence a Boating CAP for the region
- Participate in and promote climate change initiatives
- Conduct a regional coastal forum
- Participate in key strategic planning initiatives such as Coastal Spaces, GORRS
- Provide robust input to strategic and statutory planning matters within the planning system.
- Fulfil the Board's governance requirements

APPENDICES

1. 'Strategic Coastal Planning in Western Victoria 2006' (map)
2. Hierarchy of coastal plans and strategies in Central West and South West Victoria.

For further information contact:

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