



## **ANNUAL REPORT 2002/2003**



Guiding Coastal Management for a  
Sustainable Future



Western  
Coastal Region

## **Vision Statement**

The coast of Victoria will be a pleasure to experience for both present and future generations, respected by all and regarded as one of the nation's icons.

## **Mission Statement**

To implement the endorsed Victorian Coastal Strategy through coordinated planning achieved by negotiation and cooperation with all stakeholders.

## **Value Statements**

The Western Coastal Board will:

- Provide leadership in coastal planning.
- Encourage the conservation of coastal and marine ecosystems.
- Promote the sustainable use of natural, social and economic systems within the coastal environment.
- Facilitate appropriate development on the Western Coast.
- Recognise the importance of cultural and historic values.
- Encourage community participation.

In our dealings with the community we will:

- Be open minded and respect the views of others.
- Recognise legitimate rights and responsibilities.
- Be open, honest and transparent.

## **1.0 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The 2002-3 period has witnessed many successful Western Coastal Board achievements. In spite of the constraints on resources & the multitude of demands, the Board has managed to continue to fulfil its mission & value statements by implementing the Victorian Coastal Strategy and by providing leadership, facilitation and advocacy in integrated, strategic coastal and marine management.

The Board has expanded its relationships with its partners and the coastal community. This was highlighted through the Coastal Congress at Deakin University in Warrnambool in mid February 2003. The Estuaries Classification Project was another collaboration successfully brought together by the Board.

Other key areas of involvement are related to Catchment Management, Marine Parks, Local Government Planning, Windfarm Guidelines, Regional Sustainability, CoastCare and Coastal Awards, Gas Development, Tourism and the Arts and the Great Ocean Road Strategy among others. The Board has given advice on numerous specific regional and local issues.

Our program of Coast Action Plans has continued with the finalising of the Glenelg Shire Coast Action Plan and the launch of the Draft Bell's Beach to Red Rock Coast Action Plan by Minister John Thwaites.

Also an audit was completed of the Board's previous Coast Action Plans that indicated a pleasing degree of success in their implementation given the ongoing pressure on resources.

Whilst it was disappointing that Executive Officer Fiona Chandler resigned in December 2002, the Board was privileged to benefit from her drive and expertise. Kath Gosden's temporary role was much appreciated and it was a personal thrill for me that we gained the commitment of Dr Adrian Volders as our current CEO.

Approaching 2003-04 with a new Board and existing and new challenges will be both exciting and demanding. Our continuing goal is for an ever improving and sustainable coastal and marine environment.

Lynn Murrell  
Chair, Western Coastal Board

## **2.0 WESTERN COASTAL BOARD ACTIVITIES**

### **2.1 Board Meetings**

Eight meetings were held during the financial year as follows:

<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>DATE</b>
Warrnambool	16 August 2002
Warrnambool	18 October 2002
Warrnambool	15 November 2002
Anglesea	13 December 2002
Warrnambool	21 February 2003
Warrnambool	21 March 2003
Geelong	11 April 2003
Anglesea	16 May

### **2.2 Other Meetings**

The Board hosted several other meetings including:

#### **2.2.1 Regional Coastal Congress**

On the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of February 2003 the Western Coastal Board conducted a Regional Coastal Congress. Leaders and decision makers in state, local and community organisations were invited to share and learn about opportunities and challenges in working collaboratively to implement coastal plans and strategies. The Congress was supported and sponsored by the Western Coastal Board, Department of Infrastructure, Parks Victoria, Barwon Water, Portland Coast Water, South West Water, Department of Sustainability and Environment, Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority and the Corangamite Catchment Authority. The Congress was highly successful and developed action plans and projects for holistic catchment management, environmental flows needs of estuaries, estuary watch, coastal wetland health, effective partnership creation, sustainable coastal development and coastal governance.

#### **2.2.2 Coastal Action Plan Development and Implementation Meetings**

The Board has acted as the convener for various other meetings across the region. These have mainly involved the development of the Bells Beach Coastal Action Plan and the implementation of the existing Coastal and Estuaries Action Plans.

### **2.3 Other forums**

The Chair, Members and the Executive Officer made contributions to other forums including:

- EES Technical Reference Group (Nirranda Windfarm Proposal)
- Great Ocean Road Region Strategy
- South West Sustainability Partnership
- Environmental Review Committee for the Minerva Gas Development project
- Victorian Economic, Environmental and Social Advisory Council

- Forums and workshops for the development of Catchment Management Strategies (Corangamite and Glenelg-Hopkins).
- Glenelg Hopkins Targets and Indicators Workshops
- Glenelg Hopkins Local Government and Water Authorities Partnership Workshop
- Coastal Issues and the RCS State Workshop
- Corangamite Regional Catchment Investment Panel
- Regional Agency Forum
- Southern Catchments Forum
- Marine Environmental Forum with Parks Victoria
- Coastal Planners Forum
- Deakin University Warrnambool Vice Chancellors Advisory Group
- Deakin University Faculty of Arts Advisory Group
- Lake Yambuk Management Workshop

## **2.4 Executive Support**

The Board maintains an office in the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority in Warrnambool to reinforce the partnership opportunities with the CMA.

Executive support consists of the full time Executive Officer. Fiona Chandler who had been with the Board since January 2001 resigned in January 2002. Kath Gosden was appointed as temporary Executive Officer while the position was advertised. Dr Adrian Volders was appointed as Executive Officer in March 2003.

## **3.0 REPORT TO VICTORIAN COASTAL COUNCIL**

This section of the Annual Report fulfils Section 13 of the *Coastal Management Act 1995* which requires the Regional Coastal Board to report to the Victorian Coastal Council on the status of coastal planning in the region.

### **3.1 Status of Coastal Planning**

#### **3.1.1 Local Government Planning System**

Local Government Planning Schemes are the primary instrument through which development on coastal private land is managed. The schemes of the six councils in the region are either due for, or currently under review. All Councils are aware of and have contributed to a planning scheme review study undertaken by the Board as part of the CMPP Regional Coastal Action Plan development. Councils are considering these recommendations in the review of their MSSs. The Western Coastal Board is seeking ongoing opportunities to work with Local Government in the redevelopment of the planning schemes. Several of the Coastal Action Plans developed have made recommendations on the format of the planning scheme and it will be a priority of the Board to see these implemented.

At a broader level Local Government planners have expressed concern at the workloads that are being placed upon them. In some parts of the region, a development boom has greatly increased their workloads. This coupled with the fact that it is consistently difficult to attract planners to coastal locations has added stress to the planning system.

Planning for wind farm developments within the region has occupied much of the Boards time. Guidelines for windfarm development were released by the State Government during 2002. Under the guidelines any wind farm generating more than 30mw must now be approved by the relevant Minister meaning that planning controls over these types of development have been shifted away from Local Government.

A decision made by the Victorian Civil Administrative Tribunal to allow the establishment of the Moonlight Head Hotel (Application for Review no P2436/2002) has potentially serious implications for the Victorian Coastal Strategy and Local Coastal Action Plans. The VCAT panel in making its decision to allow the development in contravention of many of the principles contained in the Victorian Coastal Strategy made the distinction between planning authorities and responsible authorities. Under clause 15.08-3 of the State Planning Policy for Coastal Areas *Planning authorities must have regard to any Victorian Coastal Strategy endorsed by the Minister for Conservation and Land management, any relevant coastal action plan, any relevant State environment protection policy and any relevant approved Land Conservation Council recommendation.* However the VCAT panel concluded *'Planning authority is distinct from Responsible Authority. The primary intent of this clause is that a planning authority, in preparing a planning scheme or planning scheme amendment, must have regard to these strategies. This clause does not specify that a responsible authority is compelled to consider these action plans and strategies. The responsible authority therefore is not bound to consider these action plans and strategies'*.

The Board feels that this decision sets an alarming precedent and may mean that Local Councils will be able to make important decisions regarding the coast with little or no regard to the Victorian Coastal Strategy and Local Coastal Action Plans. The development of these plans and strategies all involved extensive community consultation and should be closely integrated with decisions made by Local Governments. The Board therefore wrote to the Minister for Environment requesting that the relevant departmental officers examine the issues raised by this ruling and propose options for giving the various coastal strategies and plans ongoing relevance in decision making.

### **3.1.2 Crown Land Management**

The Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) participated and supported a number of strategic planning projects in association with the Western Coastal Board and other partners to improve public land and coastal resource management. These projects included the development and implementation of Coastal Action Plans, the Great Ocean Road Corridor Strategy and the Corangamite and Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Strategies.

The Department participated in a number of Environmental Effects processes including the Pacific Hydro Portland Wind Energy Project and Nirranda Wind Energy EES. DSE provided \$134,000 in coastal risk management funding

The Department has worked closely with Warrnambool City Council and Deakin University and the State government's Youth Employment Support program to improve environmental protection and public access to Middle Island, Warrnambool. Approximately \$180,000 worth of work has been completed on Middle Island and includes the construction of a raised boardwalk and the fencing of specific areas to encourage people to keep off the penguin and

shearwater colonies and away from dangerous cliffs. Access stairs have also been built. Weeding and subsequent revegetation works are being to improve the habitat values of the island.

The Department has worked towards greater community engagement through providing support and advice to eight volunteer community-based committees of management for coastal reserves in the South West Region. The Coast Action/Coastcare program provided support for community grants projects, delivered the Summer Activities Program and delivered community training and education programs including estuaries and rock platform awareness workshops.

The Department issued 50 consents for the use and/or development of coastal Crown land pursuant to the *Coastal Management Act* 1995 to 30 June 2003. The total value of the works approved was \$258,287,075. This does not include maintenance or other minor works. Details of the consents provided are documented in the following table.

**Table 1 Coastal Consents Granted in 2002-2003**

Proposal	Location	Land Status (reservation)	\$ Value	Applicant	Approved
Arboretum Development	Apollo Bay		\$23,000	Colac Otway Shire	Yes, with conditions
Development of Annual Sites in Camping Ground	Marengo Camping Ground	Public Purposes Reserve	\$25,000	L. and A. James	Yes, with conditions
Redevelopment of Building	Port Fairy	Harbour Purposes Reserve	\$700,000	David Farnhill	Yes, with conditions
Construction of Handrail at Boat Ramp	Anglesea Caravan Park	Public Purposes	\$6,000	Anglesea Foreshore Committee of Management	Yes, with conditions
Artificial Opening of River	Eumeralla River, Lake Yambuk	Coastal Protection Reserve and Public Purposes Reserve	\$4,000	Moyne Shire Council	Yes, with conditions
Amendment to Access and Protection Works	Middle Island, Warrnambool			Warrnambool City Council	Yes, with conditions
Extension of Recreational Hall	Torquay Public Caravan Park	Public Purposes Reserve	\$75,000-\$100,000	Torquay Public Reserves Committee of Management	Yes, with conditions
Erection of Camping Signs	Skenes Creek	Camping Reserve	\$20,000	Mark Fletcher	Yes, with conditions
Alterations to Outfall Drop Structure Building	Anglesea		\$25,000	Bell Environmental	Yes, with conditions
Minerva Gas Pipeline	Port Campbell	National Park	\$253,000,000	BHP Billiton Ltd	Yes, with conditions
Great Ocean Walk Extension	Marengo	Coastal Protection Reserve	\$62730	Parks Victoria	Yes, with conditions
Pump Station Upgrade and Expansion	Lake Pertobe Warrnambool	Public Purposes Reserve	\$600,000	South West Water Authority	Yes, with conditions

Demolition of Lorne Bowls Club and Carpark Construction	Lorne	Foreshore Reserve	\$400,000	The Lorne Foreshore Committee of Management	Yes, with conditions
Reconstruction of Seawall	Narrawong	Recreation Reserve	\$21,000	Narrawong Foreshore Committee	Yes, with conditions
Construction of Access Ramp	Point Roadknight, Anglesea		\$40,000	Anglesea Foreshore Committee of Management	Yes, with conditions
Carpark and Access Development	Anglesea	Coastal Protection Reserve	\$15,000	Surf Coast Shire	Yes, with conditions
Upgrade Pedestrian Access Track	Whites Beach Foreshore Reserve	Coastal Protection Reserve	\$20,000	Torquay Public Reserves Committee of Management	Yes, with conditions
Picnic Tables	Erskine River, Lorne		\$25,000	Lornecare	Yes, with conditions
Cliff and Beach Fencing	Aireys Inlet	Foreshore Reserve	\$15,600	Aireys Inlet Foreshore Committee of Management	Yes, with conditions
Carpark Upgrade	Point Impossible, Torquay	Public Purposes Reserve		Torquay Public Reserves Committee of Management	Yes, with conditions
Refurbishment of Bait Shed	Port Fairy	Harbour Purposes Reserve	\$266,070	Moyne Shire Council	Yes, with conditions
Picnic Tables and Seats	Battery Hill, Port Fairy	Coastline Protection Reserve	\$600	Port Fairy Historical Society	Yes, with conditions
New Fencing	Anglesea to Point Addis	Coastal Protection Reserve	\$5,850	Anglesea Foreshore Committee of Management	Yes with conditions
Storm Water Maintenance	Point Roadknight, Anglesea	Coastal Protection Reserve	\$25,000	Surf Coast Shire	Yes with conditions
Composting Toilet Facility	Surrey River, Narrawong	Public Purposes Reserve	\$30,000	Narrawong Camping and Recreation Reserve Committee of Management	Yes, with conditions
Wildlife Information Signage	Skenes Creek to Marengo, Apollo Bay	Coastal Protection Reserve	\$4,800	Apollo Bay-Kennett River Public Reserves Committee of Management	Yes, with conditions
Replacement of Fencing	Point Roadknight Back Beach, Anglesea	Coastal Protection Reserve	\$7,455	Anglesea Foreshore Committee	Yes with conditions
Intertidal Signage	Point Impossible to Apollo Bay	Various	\$10,200	Deakin university, in conjunction with Surf Coast Tourism, Coast Action and the Australian Marine	Yes with conditions

				Conservation Society	
Paving and Associated Works	Community Market, Apollo Bay	Foreshore Reserve	\$15,870	Apollo Bay/Kennett River Public Reserves Committee of Management	Yes, with conditions
New Fencing and Construction of Walking Path	Surf Coast Walk, Anglesea Caravan Park	Coastal Protection Reserve	\$15,000	Anglesea Foreshore Committee of Management	Yes, with conditions
Carpark Improvements	Jan Juc, Torquay		\$26,000	Torquay Public Reserves Committee of Management	Yes, with conditions
Construction of Temporary Retail Outlets	Warrnambool Breakwater Precinct	Public Purposes Reserve	\$8,000	Warrnambool City Council	Yes, with conditions
Beach Access Upgrade	Warrnambool Surf Life Saving Club	Public Purposes Reserve	\$20,000	Warrnambool City Council	Yes, with conditions
Construction of Beach Access	Warrnambool Yatch Club	Public Purposes Reserve	\$5,000	Warrnambool City Council	Yes, with conditions
Temporary Summer Market	Warrnambool Breakwater Precinct	Public Purposes Reserve	\$6,000	Warrnambool City Council	Yes, with conditions
Operation of Carnival	Apollo Bay Foreshore		\$1,500	Otway Health and Community Services	Yes, with conditions
Consent for Three Events	Point Roadknight and Main Beach Anglesea		\$5,000	Anglesea Surf Lifesaving Club Inc.	Yes, with conditions
Capital Works Programme	Port Fairy	Uncategorized Public Land	\$11,600	Port Fairy Golf Club	Yes, with conditions
Repair and Renovate Boat Shed and Landing	Glenelg River, Nelson	Public Recreation Reserve	\$3,000	Ronald David Robertson	Yes, with conditions
Construction of a Water Supply Pipeline	Marengo to Apollo Bay	Public Purposes Reserve	\$281,000	Barwon Region Water Authority	Yes, with conditions
Consent for 11 <sup>th</sup> Apollo Bay Music Festival Inc	Apollo Bay Foreshore	Public Purposes Reserve	\$300,000	Apollo Bay Music Festival Inc.	Yes, with conditions
Consent for the Bells Beach Rip Curl Pro	Bells Beach	Coastal Protection Reserve	\$1,200,000	Surf Coast Shire	Yes, with conditions
Fencing and Revegetation	Barham River and Apollo Bay	Cricket and Recreation Reserve and Public Purposes Reserve	\$4,800	Apollo Bay Kennett River Public Reserves Committee of Management and Southern Otways Landcare Network	Yes, with conditions
Skate Park Development	Lorne Foreshore	Public Purposes Reserve	\$150,000	Surf Coast Shire	No

Upgrade of Apollo Bay Boat Ramp	Apollo Bay	Public Purposes Reserve	\$150,000	Colac Otway Shire	Yes, with conditions
Construction of Boardwalk/Fishing Platform	Anglesea River	Public Purposes Reserve	\$45,000	Surf Coast Shire	Yes, with conditions
Reconstruction of Amenity Facilities and Dumping of Excavated Sandfill	Warrnambool Surfside Caravan Park	Public Purposes Reserve	\$350,000	Warrnambool City Council	Yes, with conditions
Installation of a Safety Fence	Lorne Foreshore Reserve	Public Purposes Reserve	\$22,000	Lorne Foreshore Committee of Management	Yes, with conditions
Installation of Water Main	Skenes Creek	Coastal Reserve	\$25,000	EarthTec on behalf of Barwon Water	Yes, with conditions
Carpark Improvement	Point Danger/Voss	Public Purposes Reserve	\$340,000	Torquay Public Reserves Committee of Management	Yes, with conditions

## 3.2 Implementation Report

### 3.2.1 Victorian Coastal Strategy

The Victorian Coastal Strategy 2002 was gazetted on 25 January 2002 and officially launched by the Minister for Environment and Conservation in February 2002. Implementation of the Strategy is underway. The Board continues with its implementation focus through the completion of Coastal Action Plans (CAPs) for Activity Nodes identified in the Strategy and CAPs or guidelines on issues identified in its Business Plan. The Board also contributed to the draft Victorian Recreational Boating Strategy and the Great Ocean Road Regional Strategy (both activities listing Regional Coastal Boards as lead agents).

### 3.2.2 Coastal Action Plans

The Board continues on its program of preparing CAPs as the key mechanism for implementing the Victorian Coastal Strategy in the region. The Board's overall strategy is to complete the CAPs in the Activity Nodes whilst working towards regional or sub-regional CAPs to set the overall framework. Work on issues-based CAPs and guidelines will proceed with the completion of the geographically-specific CAPs and the Regional CAPs. The following table contains an outline of each the Coastal Action Plans that the Board has completed or is working on.

**Table 2 Western Coastal Board Coastal Action Plans**

Coastal Action Plans	Endorsed	Comment
Anglesea Coastal Action Plan	1999	Due for review in 2004
Draft Bells Beach to Red Rock Coastal Action Plan		Currently in preparation
Draft Glenelg Shire Coastal		Completed awaiting

Action Plan		Ministerial approval
Central West Victoria Estuaries Coastal Action Plans	August 2002	Due for review in August 2007
Central West Victoria Regional Coastal Action Plan	August 2002	Due for review in August 2007
Lorne Coastal Action Plan	May 1998	Due for review in May 2003
Moyne Coastal Action Plan	2001	Due for review in 2006
Skenes Creek to Marengo Coastal Action Plan	May 2001	Due for review in May 2006
South West Estuaries Coastal Action Plan	June 2002	Due for review in June 2007
South West Victoria Regional Coastal Action Plan	2002	Due for review in 2007
Warrnambool Coastal Action Plan	August 1999	Due for review in August 2004

In October 2002 the Board undertook an audit of the Lorne, Warrnambool, Anglesea and Moyne Shire Coastal Action Plans. Overall, the Warrnambool and the Anglesea CAPs (both endorsed in 1999) appear to have implemented a greater percentage of their actions in comparison to the Lorne and Moyne Coastal Action Plans. The high priority actions have all been largely completed for both the Warrnambool and Moyne CAPs and with the exception of Moyne the high priority actions are largely implemented for the other three Plans. This is similar for the medium priority actions and with the exception of Lorne similar again for the low priority actions. As would be expected, the highest listed priority actions within each CAP have been implemented over other priority actions. The exception to this is the Anglesea CAP where approximately the same percentage of actions has been implemented across high and medium priorities. In addition the Warrnambool CAP has the same percentage of actions implemented for the high and low priorities. The relatively lower number of actions completed in the Moyne CAP is a factor that the CAP is much more recently endorsed than the others.

**Table 3: Actions implemented (% of total) in each priority for four Coastal Action Plans**

	LORNE (1998)	WARRNAMBOOL (1999)	ANGLESEA (1999)	MOYNE (2001)
<b>VERY HIGH</b>	N/A	100	N/A	90
<b>HIGH</b>	60	71	71	22
<b>MEDIUM</b>	47	56	72	18
<b>LOW</b>	0	71	62	N/A
<b>OVERALL</b>	52	69	70	38

Funding is a re-occurring response for actions not being implemented throughout all of the four CAPs surveyed. The recurring theme of lack of funding for implementation indicates that availability of resources is a major constraint in implementing actions in the Coastal Action Plans. Lead agencies have nearly all made concerted efforts in obtaining funding but with varying degrees of success.

'Officer Resources' and 'Lowered Priority' were also frequently stated as to why actions had not been implemented by the time the survey was conducted.

The responsibility for implementing actions in Coastal Action Plans falls mainly to the Foreshore Committees of Management in the Lorne and Anglesea CAPs and to the Shire Councils in the Moyne and Warrnambool Coastal Action Plans. In varying degrees each Foreshore Committee and Council takes the lead in finding resources and carrying out the majority of the actions. State Government agencies are involved with implementing fewer actions than these smaller organisations however they have been successful in implementing only half of the actions they are responsible for.

It is also evident that partnerships form an important part of CAP implementation, with a partnership approach being part of all of the four CAPs surveyed within the audit. However there is no indication from the survey that those actions that were implemented collaboratively have been implemented over those actions attributed to a single agency.

The following recommendations were suggested as a result of the Coastal Action Plan audit and could assist in better and more efficient implementation of the remaining actions and ensuring that these are done effectively and contribute meaningfully to the long-term vision for the Victorian coast.

- Greater awareness on the benefits of Coastal Action Plans and more efforts to attract funds to Coastal Action Plan implementation need to be made,
- Partnership arrangements between implementing agencies (especially State/Regional and local agencies) to obtain resources (human and financial) should be encouraged,
- Information and assistance needs to be provided to Foreshore Committees on ways and means of capturing alternative sources of funding,
- Results of the CAP Audit should be taken into account in the preparation of any future CAPs,
- During the development of CAPs there should be serious consideration of the level of priority given to actions against the availability of resources,
- Commitment from agencies for implementation must be agreed upon and negotiated during the CAP development and preparation stage,
- Progress in implementation would be facilitated through regular monitoring and reporting,
- Formation of an "Implementing Committee" for each CAP (or some mechanism to get stakeholders together) to ensure that the execution of the CAP stays on track, is meeting the objectives originally developed and suggest changes where necessary to the implementation activities and/or priorities.

### **3.2.3 Estuary Classification Project**

The Board successfully attracted funding from the Commonwealth government under the Coast and Clean Seas Program to undertake a one-year project to classify the estuaries and coastal creeks on south west Victoria. The project provides accessible, local information for management of estuaries from Point Lonsdale to the South Australian border (approx. 40 estuaries in all). The project developed specific management advice for estuaries to be used by local committees of management and government agencies. The project fills a very important gap in the information and knowledge of estuaries in south west Victoria, identified in the South West and Central West Estuaries Coastal Action Plans.

The project brought together a consortium of the Western Coastal Board, Deakin University, Parks Victoria, Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority and the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority- all of who contributed resources to the project.

### **3.2.4 Partnership Development and Other Activities**

#### **Glenelg Hopkins and Corangamite Catchment Management Authorities**

The WCB has continued to work closely with the two Catchment Management Authorities in South West Victoria. This involved significant input into the development of the respective Regional Catchment Strategies. The Glenelg Hopkins Regional Catchment Strategy was the first to be accredited in Australia and contains significant detail on coastal and marine issues. The WCB has sought to highlight the importance of coastal management for the Authorities, developed joint projects and contributed to investment planning processes.

#### **The South West Sustainability Partnership**

The WCB is a foundation member of the South West Sustainability Partnership. It has continued its involvement and participated in numerous projects to develop sustainable industries and lifestyles in South West Victoria.

#### **Deakin University**

The WCB has built close links with Deakin University. It has sponsored and developed several research projects dealing with estuaries, fairy penguins, sustainability indicators and coastal access. The Board has hosted student placements and the Executive Officer has given several guest lectures to environmental management students.

#### **Parks Victoria**

The WCB has worked closely with Parks Victoria to develop park management plans for marine and terrestrial parks.

#### **Department of Sustainability and Environment**

The WCB has continued to work closely with the DSE coastal land managers. The Board has provided referral advice, supported management initiatives and organised training for DSE staff.

#### **Coastcare**

The WCB has continued to support Coastcare activities through joint project development, funding, sponsorship and training for volunteers.

#### **Other Activities**

The WCB has been represented in numerous community forums along the coast. It has supported community education and awareness raising through sponsoring high profile speakers. It has been represented on the technical reference group developing Environmental Effects Statements for planned wind farms within the area. It has also sat on the committee developing the Great Ocean Road Regional Strategy.

## **3.3 Business Plan Implementation**

In May 2001 the Board initiated the development of new Business Plan for 2000/01-2003/4. It establishes two project areas to carry out the functions of the Board as defined in Section 12 of the *Coastal Management Act*. Discussion on the status of each of the Coastal Action

plans (project area 1) was presented in the previous section. Each of the required actions for project area two is presented below with a status report on its implementation.

**Table 4 Project Area 2 Regional Coordination**

<b>Required Action</b>	<b>Due</b>	<b>Implemented</b>
Continue to implement the VCS via CAPs and cooperation with regional partners.	Ongoing	Implementation is ongoing
Review implementation status in cooperation with the Victorian Coastal Council.	Ongoing	Implementation is ongoing with the development of an evaluation framework for the CAPs in the south west region.
Update and implement the three year communications strategy including website development.	Communications strategy completed, website information is constantly updated.	New website designed and launched.
Provide Ministerial advice as required	Ongoing	Provided advice to the Minister on windfarm development along the coast, the Portland Wind Energy Project, EES process and outcomes of the planning process.
Ensure comprehensive stakeholder and community involvement in the preparation of CAPs.	Project basis	Ongoing through the project process.
Provide leadership on strategic coastal planning and management issues	Project basis	Ongoing through participation in numerous fora (see section 2.3).
Provide leadership to facilitate the implementation of Regional Coastal Action Plan and Estuary Coastal Action Plan recommendations	Ongoing	Built partnerships with various agencies to implement plans.
Coordinate regular meetings of local council and agency planners to workshop coastal planning issues	Ongoing	Included coastal issues in the DSE Planners Forum.
Continued involvement in the South West Victorian Partnership for Sustainable Development	Ongoing through the involvement of the Executive Officer on the Steering Committee	Ongoing.
Support the Victorian Coastal Council in strengthening collaborative research and scientific capabilities in the region	Project Basis	Contributed funds and input towards Deakin University student honours project on access points along the coast. Supported Deakin University PhD student studies on Penguins

## 4.0 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Available funding from the Department of Sustainability and Environment for the Western Coastal Board in 2002.03 was \$200,000. Total expenditure was under budget.

Table 4.1.

ITEM	ACTUAL BUDGET	EXPENDITURE
Salaries and Regional Project Oncosts	\$114,567	\$105,562
Property + vehicle rental, Consultancies, Research Memberships and Incidentals	\$52,270	\$43,484
Board Members Fees and Travel	\$33,163	\$28,126
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>	<b>\$177,262</b>
Additional Income	<b>\$18,861</b>	\$
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$218,861</b>	<b>\$177,262</b>

## 5.0 PRIORITIES FOR THE YEAR 2003/04

The overall challenge facing the coastal and marine environment in western Victoria remains the same as it has in the past – balancing the protection of natural resources with human use of those resources. Particular challenges that have been identified lie in the following areas:

- Incorporating a strong coastal focus in the Regional Catchment Strategies
- Updating the planning schemes for coastal shires to ensure appropriate development of coastal towns and villages
- Managing new developments in alternative energy (wind power, wave power) and traditional energy (oil and gas exploration and development)
- Ensuring strong input to the management plans being developed for the new marine parks and protected areas along the south west coast, and
- Managing strong growth in tourism, particularly on the Great Ocean Road
- Actions and activities outlined in the Victorian Coastal Strategy and Coastal Action Plans are implemented successfully and evaluated to capitalise on successful implementation and focus efforts and resources where most appropriate.
- Collaborative partnerships to achieve integration of coastal planning and management decisions are facilitated.
- Increasing awareness of the marine environment and improving marine environment management.

## 6.0 MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

### Chairman

*Lynn Murrell*

Lynn is the Chair of the Western Coastal Board and the Victorian Coastal Council representative on the Board. He is a farmer and operator of a Bed and Breakfast at Cape Nelson, a member of the Board of the Glenelg-Hopkins Catchment Management Authority, a member of the Area Consultative Committee and the Premier's Victorian Economic Environmental and Social Advisory Council.

## Members

### *Rachel Faggetter*

A former President of the Airey's Inlet and District Association and a long time member of the Anglesea and Airey's Inlet Environment Association, Rachel has lived in the coastal township of Airey's Inlet for over 20 years. Rachel currently lectures in Natural and Cultural Heritage and Interpretation and Ecotourism at Deakin University.

### *Rob Freemantle*

Rob is the Regional Manager for VicRoads in the South West Region. Rob is based at the Geelong office of Vic Roads.

### *John Kennett*

John has lived at Skenes Creek since 1989, following years in farming and retail trade. He has been active in the local community including being a Councillor on the Colac-Otway Shire (and Mayor in 1997-98), a member of the Apollo Bay – Kennett River Foreshore Committee and a member of the Colac-Otway Tourist Association.

### *Joan Lindros*

Joan brings a long history of active involvement in environmental and conservation issues, and has been a member of several Government advisory Councils and committees dealing with land use and planning issues. Joan has undertaken Presidency roles in organisations such as the Geelong Environment Council, the Victorian National Parks Association and the Conservation Council of Victoria. In June 2001 Joan won the United National Association of Australia award for her services to the environment. Joan currently resides in Highton, Geelong.

### *Henry Love*

A Lorne resident his entire life, Henry is heavily involved in the local districts of the western coastline of Victoria. Henry has provided leadership in many areas, including Mayor and Councillor of the Surf Coast Shire, a member of the Geelong Otway Tourism Board of Directors and the Victorian Commercial Fisherman's Association Executive.

### *Rachel Robertson (joined the Board in June 2001)*

Rachel currently occupies the position of Chief Ranger - South West Coast with Parks Victoria and lives in Anglesea.

### *Kim McGough*

Kim is the former manager of the South West Region of the Department of Infrastructure. He has 20 years of professional work experience and a bachelor of Town and Regional Planning (Hons). He was formerly Executive Officer of the Loddon-Campaspe Regional Planning Authority and Town Planning Manager with the former Shire of Broadford. Kim was initially appointed to the Western Coastal Board in 1996.

### *Roger Macauley*

Roger is employed by the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) as the Manager of Land Victoria in the South West Region. Roger is currently located at the Ballarat office of the Department and represents DSE's Regional Manager on the Board.

*Margaret O'Toole*

An active scuba diver and marine researcher, Ms O'Toole has been living in Port Campbell since 1984. Margaret currently runs an environmental interpretation and education business with her husband and is an active member of a number of environmental groups, including the Port Campbell Environment Group, the Marine Education Society of Australia and the Aquatic Naturalists Club of Victoria.

*Vivian McWaters*

Viv currently lives in Torquay where she runs her own business as a freelance facilitator and trainer specialising in conservation and rural industries. She has completed a Masters in Applied Science (Agriculture and Rural Development) and is a former Statewide co-ordinator for Landcare and secretary of the Australian Soil and Water Conservation Association.

**Executive Support**

*Adrian Volders*

Adrian joined the Board as Executive Officer in March 2003. Adrian holds a PhD in Environmental Management from the University of Tasmania and a Masters in Public Policy from Deakin University. He is the former Regional Catchment Strategy Director with the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority and has held a number of previous natural resource management positions.

For further information contact:

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