



Annual Report Summary 2015-16



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Split Point Cliff © State of Victoria, DELWP. Credit: Sal Ahmad

1. CHAIR'S FOREWORD

In accordance with the *Coastal Management Act 1995*, I am pleased to present the Western Coastal Board annual report for the year ending 30 June 2016.

This year has seen the appointment of a new board and the development of the Board's three-year business plan. The focus has since been on commencing the implementation of actions from the *Western Regional Coastal Plan 2015-2020*. The Board has provided submissions to key projects relevant to the coast and has actively worked with coastal managers and other stakeholders.

Looking forward, one of our priorities for next year will be preparing a 'Visitation Demand Framework' for the Western Coastal Region, and the Board looks forward to progressing this body of work in partnership with the Central and Gippsland Regional Coastal Boards.

Lastly, I sincerely thank my Board colleagues Carole Reid, Glenn Wallace, Mark Edmonds, Oliver Moles, Alex Rankin, Kim Irons and Ray Page for their dedication and hard work.



Cr. Jill Parker

Chair, Western Coastal Board

2. THE WESTERN COASTAL REGION

The Western Coastal Region extends from Breamlea to the South Australian border. It includes the municipalities of Surf Coast, Colac-Otway, Corangamite, Moyne and Glenelg, and the City of Warrnambool. Victoria's western coastline is world-famous and includes well-known destinations such as the Great Ocean Road, the Twelve Apostles and Bells Beach. A map of the Western Coastal Region can be found at www.coastlinks.vic.gov.au/mapkey.htm.

3. OPERATION OF THE BOARD

Board membership and meetings

The Minister for Environment and Climate Change appointed the following [members](#) to the board for the period of 22 September 2015 – 30 June 2018:

- Cr. Jill Parker – Chair
- Mark Edmonds
- Kim Irons
- Oliver Moles
- Raymond Page
- Alex Rankin
- Carole Reid
- Glenn Wallace

The Board held seven meetings over the year and participated in a teleconference with DELWP regarding the proposed Marine and Coastal Act. The Board also took part in an induction day organised by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP).

Funding

The Board expended its 2015-16 operational budget of \$15,000. The Trust Account balance is \$68,038.83.

4. BUSINESS PLAN PROGRESSION

The Board has prepared a three-year [business plan](#) which was endorsed by the Victorian Coastal Council on 31 March 2016. The business plan outlines activities that will be undertaken throughout the term of the Board to implement the [Western Regional Coastal Plan](#) (WRCP), key legislative responsibilities and actions allocated to the Board in the [Victorian Coastal Strategy 2014](#). The business plan identifies five priorities:

The priorities

1. A regional approach to coastal planning and management

The Board partnered with DELWP and other stakeholders to inform the preparation of the WRCP which was approved by the Minister in August 2015. The Board has contributed to a number of policies and guidelines which ensure a consistent approach to coastal matters within the western region, including providing comment on the development of the [Shipwreck Coast Master Plan](#), and feedback on the draft *Coastal Management Plan Guidelines* being prepared by DELWP.

DELWP has established a Regional Coastal Boards Partnership Team to support the boards and strengthen co-ordination, consistency and alignment between the work of the boards and that of the Victorian Coastal Council.

2. Managing and protecting coastal values

The Board has been working with partners to share information and participate in events to build regional capacity, collaboration and resourcing. For example, participation in Glenelg Hopkins Coastal and Marine Working Group quarterly meetings, in which relevant land managers and other partners collaborate on coastal and marine planning. This also provides opportunities to build capacity in the region as well as networking amongst relevant partners in the coastal and marine planning field.

3. Communities supported to care for the coast

The Board has worked with Traditional Owner groups to promote efforts to care for the coast. The Board intends to increase its support and exposure to other local community groups through programs such as [Summer by the Sea](#), [Coastcare](#) and [Estuary Watch](#).

4. Managing regional population and tourism pressures

Preparing a Visitation Demand Framework for the Western Coastal Region is a priority that all three Regional Coastal Boards share. The Board looks forward to progressing this body of work with the Central and Gippsland Coastal Boards.

5. Adapting to climate change and increased coastal hazards

The WRCP emphasises the need for a systematic regional approach to dealing with the impacts of climate change on the region's coastline. The Board has historically supported local climate change

adaptation planning efforts relating to impacts from climate change and increased coastal hazards at locations such as Port Fairy and Narrawong. The Board looks forward to further supporting actions that will assist people preparing for coastal hazards.

The Board has also completed a risk management plan and all members have adopted the DELWP model policies and guidelines for good governance.

The 2015-16 financial year was a period of consolidation for the Western Coastal Board. Financial constraints in the form of a reduced operating budget limited the ability of the Board to meet and action key priorities. Strategies are in place to address these budget constraints for the 2016-17 financial year and the Board looks forward to implementing its responsibilities identified within the WRCP and [Victorian Coastal Strategy 2014](#).

5. IMPLEMENTATION OF REGIONAL COASTAL PLAN/COASTAL ACTION PLANS

Progress in implementing the WRCP addressed in [section 4](#) as all priority actions are included in the Board's [business plan](#).

The Board is currently preparing the implementation plan for its WRCP. It is anticipated that this will be complete in the first quarter of 2017.

Table: Coastal Action Plans current during 2015-2016

CAP Title	
Western Regional Coastal Plan 2015-2020	Released 2015, mid-term review 2018
South West Estuaries Coastal Action Plan 2002	Released 2002, to be reviewed at direction of the Minister or Victorian Coastal Council
Central West Victoria Estuaries Coastal Action Plan 2005	Released 2005, to be reviewed at direction of the Minister or Victorian Coastal Council
Western Victoria Boating Coastal Action Plan (Boating CAP) 2010	Released 2010, interim review undertaken in 2013
Lorne Coastal Action Plan - May 1998	Released 1998, reviewed 2012
Anglesea Coastal Action Plan - June 1999	Released 1999, reviewed 2012
Warrnambool Coastal Action Plan 1999	Released 1999, reviewed 2012
Skenes Creek to Marengo Coastal Action Plan 2001	Released 2001, reviewed 2012
Moyne Shire Coastal Action Plan - July 2001	Released 2001, reviewed 2012
Glenelg Shire Coastal Action Plan - January 2004	Released 2004, reviewed 2012

6. WORKING WITH STAKEHOLDERS

The board met with stakeholders as part of a number of its board meetings. At the Port Fairy meeting, the Board went on a site visit to Moyne Shire Council, and heard how they are responding to the impacts of climate change. At the Torquay meeting, the Mayor of the Surf Coast Shire Council presented to the Board on local visitation pressures, population growth and the management of major events such as the Rip Curl Pro at Bells Beach.

Board member Oliver Moles presented at the Australian Coastal Council's conference in Western Australia on the impact of climate change on Moyne Shire's coastline.