GREAT OCEAN ROAD
RESILIENT COAST

Fact sheet

REGIONAL COASTAL ADAPTATION PLAN – EXPLAINED

OUR ROLE

The Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority (the Authority) was established on 1 December 2020 to deliver better protection and management of the iconic coast and parks of Victoria's Great Ocean Road.

In partnership with Traditional Owners, the Authority was established to manage, protect and foster the resilience of the natural, cultural and heritage values as one living and integrated natural entity.

The Authority, together with Traditional Owners and partner agencies are developing a Regional Coastal Adaptation Plan (RCAP) to manage coastal hazard risks across the region.

WHY IS THIS PROJECT IMPORTANT?

The Great Ocean Road coastline is renowned for its rugged beauty and diverse coastal values, encompassing cultural, environmental, social, and economic significance. This dynamic landscape holds deep cultural value to the Eastern Maar in the South-west and the Wadawurrung Peoples along the Surf Coast.

Natural wonders like the Twelve Apostles and Loch Ard Gorge, shaped by erosion and cliff collapses are striking examples of how powerful nature is and along the entire coastline, a rich and diverse array of habitats supports unique vegetation and native wildlife.

Economically, tourism is a cornerstone, generating over $1 billion annually and supporting thousands of businesses. Socially, the region offers a wide range of recreational activities, with valued infrastructure like car parks, boat ramps, and public amenities enhancing community and visitor experiences.

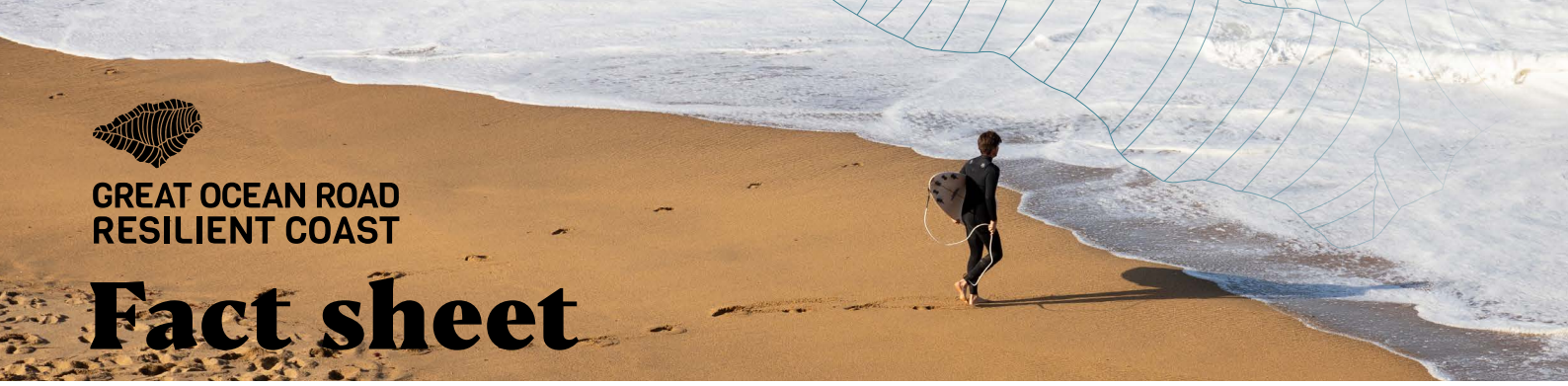
With many coastal values and users, strategic planning is needed to balance development with sustainable use, ensuring that the coastal values are preserved.

Coastal hazards, such as erosion and inundation, regularly impact our coast, which is evident in areas like Marengo and Eastern View. Hazard impacts are projected to increase with a changing climate.

HOW ARE WE GOING ABOUT IT?

We are working collaboratively to develop the RCAP that will help us build resilience into our coastal environment and manage coastal hazard risks for the Great Ocean Road coast and parks.

This region wide study from Torquay to Warrnambool, is looking at what's important along our coast and how coastal hazards like inundation and erosion could impact on the values that are identified. It will allow all coastal land managers in the region to map out options for how to manage these impacts over time.



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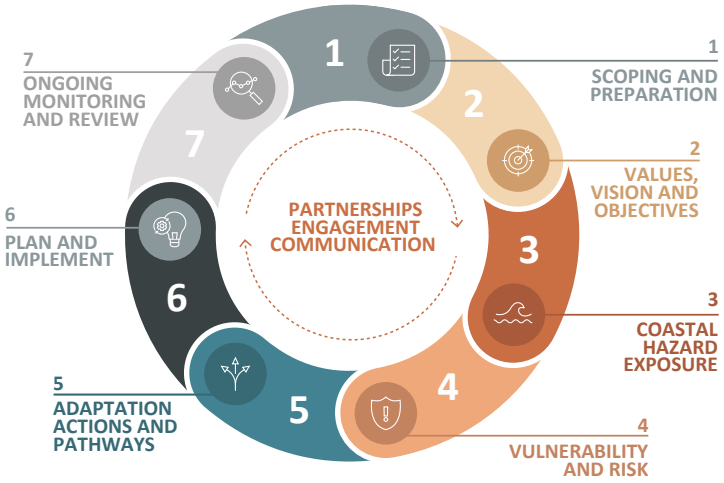

The RCAP aligns with the **Victoria's Resilient Coast – Adapting for 2100+** framework and guidelines (VRC).

The VRC is a seven-staged process that enables collaborative, best practice and long-term coastal hazard risk management and adaptation.

By the end of all seven stages, we will have a consistent plan for the entire region that reflects community values, respects our important environmental and cultural capital and is informed by up-to-date hazard mapping. The focus will be on building resilience into the coast, to prioritise actions, and guide adaptation efforts over time.

INDICATIVE TIMELINE

Undertaking adaptation planning at a regional scale is a complex and involved process and thus plans of this nature can take several years to produce. We envisage that we will have a good understanding around values and our hazards mapped by the end of 2025 and a solid understanding of our options into 2026.

Sites that are experiencing impacts from coastal hazards now will continue to be managed whilst the RCAP is underway.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

We're in the early stages of planning and eager for locals and visitors to have their say. While there are many steps involved in coastal hazard adaptation, exploring and understanding community knowledge and values of our coastline are at the heart of the process.

We're inviting locals and visitors to share their knowledge, values, photos, and perspectives about the coast to inform the project. Local knowledge will provide a foundation for confirming coastal values and objectives, coastal processes, and tailoring adaptation options.

We're asking everyone who loves this iconic coastline to **CLICK HERE**, scan the QR code or head to: haveyoursay.greatoceanroadauthority.vic.gov.au/lookingforward to find out more about events happening soon and have their say.

REGIONAL COASTAL ADAPTATION PLAN – MAP

GREAT OCEAN ROAD
COAST & PARKS AUTHORITY

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