

Detailed responsibilities

Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority



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We acknowledge and respect Victorian Traditional Owners as the original custodians of Victoria's land and waters, their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it.

We honour Elders past and present whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices.

DEECA is committed to genuinely partnering with Victorian Traditional Owners and Victoria's Aboriginal community to progress their aspirations.



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ISBN 978-1-76136-415-0 (print)

ISBN 978-1-76136-510-2 (pdf/online/MS word)

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Abbreviations and Definitions

Term	Definition
Activity Node	Activity Nodes provide for community, recreation and tourism activities. They are within settlements and adjacent to activity centres. They may include public and private land. They are a focus for access to the coast, services and social interaction. In coastal towns they are often the main public open space for the local community and may include emergency services operations. They provide areas for active recreational uses (including boating), larger events and commercial activities.
Authorised Officer	A person appointed as an Authorised Officer for the purposes of the Land Act 1958 under Part 9 of the Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987. natural resources, public land and wildlife. Authorised Officers monitor compliance with and enforce laws relating to our natural resources, public land and wildlife.
Country	Refers to both Land Country and Sea Country
Coast and Parks	Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks
GORCAPA	Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority
CLF Act	Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987
CLR Act	Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978
Department	Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (the current portfolio department)
DEECA	Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (the current portfolio department)
DJSIR	Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions
DMP	Destination Management Plan
DTP	Department of Transport and Planning
EMAC	Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation
EPBC Act	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwlth)
GOREP Act	Great Ocean Road and Environs Protection Act 2020
GORRT	Great Ocean Road Regional Tourism
LMS	Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Land Management Strategy
MAC Act	Marine and Coastal Act 2018

Term	Definition
NP Act	National Parks Act 1975
PNFC	Public non-financial corporation
PRE Act	Professional Engineers Registration Act 2019
Protected public land	Section 62 of the <i>Forests Act 1958</i> provides for the declaration of protected public land
RDV	Regional Development Victoria
Recreation Node	Recreation nodes are located on marine and coastal public land outside activity nodes and may include linear public open spaces along coastlines within settlements. They provide access and infrastructure for outdoor recreation and water-related activities. Uses and development that supports access or the functioning of coastal-dependent activities may be sited in recreation nodes.
Responsible Entities	The responsible entities listed in the GOREP Act
SEMP	State Emergency Management Plan (SEMP)
Secretary	The Secretary of the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action
SES	State Emergency Services
SVMS	Sustainable visitation management strategy for the great Ocean Road Coast and Parks
VEAC	Victorian Environmental Assessment Council
WTOAC	Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation

1. Background

This document details the responsibilities of the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority

1.1 Context

Great Ocean Road land management reforms

The iconic coast and parks along the Great Ocean Road are so special, and so important to Victoria, that Government established the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority (GORCAPA) as the dedicated park manager for the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks (Coast and Parks).

GORCAPA is established by the *Great Ocean Road Environs and Protection Act 2020* (GOREP Act) and Schedule 1 to the GOREP Act lists the land for which management responsibility is to be transferred to GORCAPA on, or by, 1 November 2025 (that formerly managed by twelve different entities).

Purpose of this document

This document has been developed to outline the intended and legislated responsibilities of GORCAPA to:

- Build a shared understanding within GORCAPA and across DEECA of its role as a park manager and responsibilities.
- Set GORCAPA up for success with detail and practical guidance on its legislated obligations.
- Provide clarity to partner organisations who will work in collaboration with GORCAPA.

Implementation Guidance

This document outlines GORCAPA's detailed responsibilities. A second document provides guidance to GORCAPA on the key work and capability building priorities as it undergoes significant organisational scale-up and development to reach its ongoing end-state.

1.2 Partners who have been engaged

This report was developed with input from the following partners and stakeholders.

Traditional Owners

The Eastern Maar and Wadawurrung People are the recognised Traditional Owner groups of the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks. GORCAPA is expected to genuinely partner, and meaningfully engage, with the Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation (EMAC), and the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (WTOAC) to maintain, restore and heal Country, its cultural landscapes and biocultural values, and to protect EMAC and WTOAC knowledge and rights and interests in and connections to Country.

Government departments and agencies

- Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action
- Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions
- Department of Transport and Planning
- Parks Victoria
- Regional Development Victoria
- Safe Transport Victoria

Local Government

- Surf Coast Shire Council
- Colac Otway Shire Council
- Corangamite Shire Council
- Moyne Shire Council
- Warrnambool City Council

Other entities

- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
- Great Ocean Road Regional Tourism.

2. Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority

2.1 Great Ocean Road coast and parks

Schedule 1 of the GOREP Act lists the land for which GORCAPA is the park manager on or by 1 November 2025

The Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks (Coast and Parks) are declared under Section 9 of the GOREP Act. The declaration specifies the public land within the red perimeter boundary defined in LEGL./25-005 (refer Attachment 3 for the first sheet of LEGL./25-005).

Schedule 1 of the GOREP Act lists the public land within the Coast and Parks for which GORCAPA is the manager on or by 1 November 2025. GORCAPA may also be appointed as the manager of other public land (before or after 1 November 2025) providing it is within the Coast and Parks perimeter boundary.

As of 1 November 2025, GORCAPA is the appointed manager for ~158,000 hectares of national parks and reserves including:

- 34,853 hectares of national parks (22,793 Ha of terrestrial national parks and 12,060 Ha marine national parks and marine sanctuaries).
- 355 kilometres of coastline including the coastal town foreshores of Torquay, Jan Juc, Anglesea, Lorne, Wye River, Kennet River, Apollo Bay, Marengo, Port Campbell and Peterborough.
- 3 local ports (Lorne, Apollo Bay which includes commercial operations, and Port Campbell)
- 6,670 hectares of land reserved to protect the coastline, for nature and bush reserves, for community use, and for a variety of utilities and government services reserves including the Apollo Bay Airport and telecommunications towers.
- ~115,900 hectares of coastal waters reserves
- Tourism operations within the Coast and Parks including 15 camping grounds and caravan parks, Cape Otway Lightstation Precinct and, in 2026 for the Twelve Apostles Visitor Experience Centre.

National Parks Act land

GORCAPA manages the NP Act land listed in GOREP Act schedule 1:

- A significant part of the Great Otway National Park
- Port Campbell National Park
- Bay of Islands Coastal Park
- Point Danger Marine Sanctuary.
- Point Addis Marine National Park
- Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary
- Marengo Reefs Marine Sanctuary
- Twelve Apostles Marine National Park
- The Arches Marine Sanctuary
- Merri Marine Sanctuary.

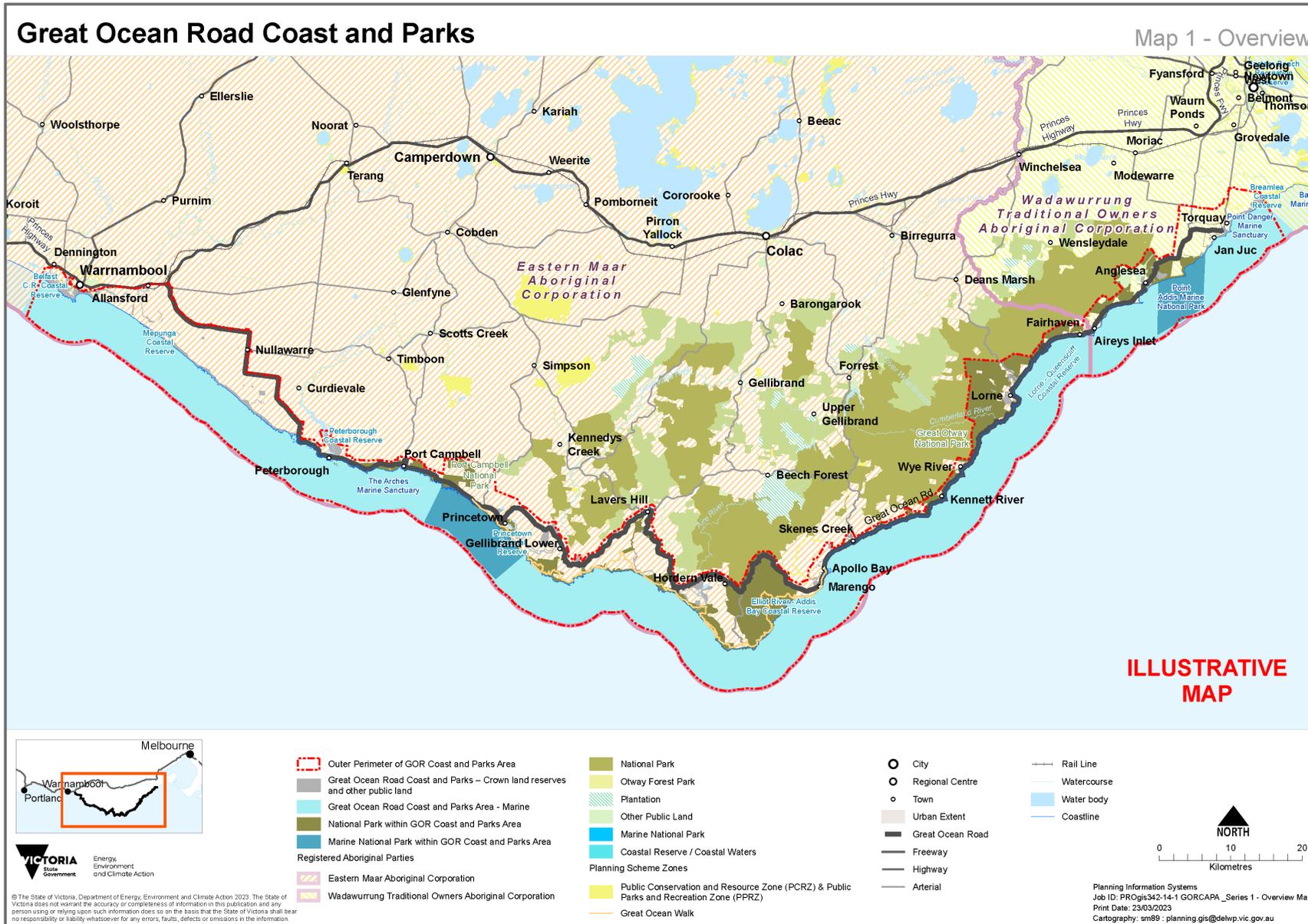
Like Parks Victoria, GORCAPA is required to control and manage each national park in accordance with the objects of the NP Act and to a plan of management for that park (Section 17, 17D and 18 of NP Act). Park management plans are required to be reviewed every 15 years.

Reserves

GORCAPA has management responsibility for a wide range of reserves including bushland reserves, coastal reserves, coastal waters reserves, community use reserves, nature reserves, water frontage/bed/banks reserves, wildlife reserves (including State game reserves), and utilities uses. It is responsible for protecting and maintaining well-functioning ecosystems for conservation outcomes, and to support visitor enjoyment and appreciation of the Coast and Parks.

Some reserves have highly modified environments and a range of values. Coastal town foreshores are the main public open space for the local community and support multiple community uses, public amenities, vehicle parking and recreational opportunities. Some also have commercial uses (for example, on the Lorne foreshore).

Figure 1: The red perimeter boundary defines the outer limit of the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks, the public land for which GORCAPA may be appointed as the park manager.



2.2 Establishment

GORCAPA is the park manager established to protect, conserve, enhance and manage the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks

The iconic coast and parks along the Great Ocean Road are so special, and so important to Victoria, that the Government established GORCAPA as the dedicated park manager.

GORCAPA is established by the *Great Ocean Road and Environs Protection Act 2020* (GOREP Act) and appointed as the land manager for the land listed in Schedule 1 of the GOREP Act on or by 1 November 2025. It may also be assigned management responsibility for other public land within the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks.

GORCAPA is part of the Victorian Government and accountable to the Minister for Environment (the Minister) for delivery of the object for which it is established, its performance and for operating in the public interest. It operates within the limits of its authority and the defined boundaries set out in legislation, Statement of Obligations (issued under Section 62F of the GOREP Act), Ministerial Directions (issued under Section 53 of the GOREP Act), and Ministerial Statements of Expectations. It must operate within Government's broader policy framework and where required deliver on specified community service obligations.

GORCAPA is a public non-financial corporation that both generates income on land that it manages and receives State appropriations for specific park management activities (such as operating local ports and the management of national parks) and for major capital works. The GOREP Act provides GORCAPA with the autonomy to retain revenue generated on land that it manages and to expend those funds on activities related to its legislated object and functions.

Statutory Obligations

Legislation

As the dedicated park manager for the Coast and Parks, GORCAPA has a range of land management functions and responsibilities including environmental and visitation management, port and waterway management, co-regulation, and emergency management. It is expected

that GORCAPA will in time become widely recognised as a leader in the stewardship of parks.

GORCAPA's key statutory undertakings and obligations are outlined in the following legislation.

1. GORCAPA is a statutory entity established under the GOREP Act. It is a public entity for the purposes of the *Public Administration Act 2004* and a public body for the purposes of the *Financial Management Act 1994*.
2. GORCAPA is a park manager and must manage the parks and reserves consistently with the requirements and obligations of relevant public land Acts and State policies that together form the land governance framework for the protection, management and use of public land. The public land Acts are the:
 - Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978
 - Forests Act 1958
 - Land Act 1958
 - National Parks Act 1975
 - Wildlife Act 1975

Note that whilst GORCAPA was initially appointed as the committee of management for reserves within the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks it becomes the direct manager of those reserves on 1 November 2025 (under Section 62Q of the GOREP Act).

3. GORCAPA is appointed as the local port manager for the local ports on land that it manages under the Port Management Act 1995. It is also appointed as the waterway manager under the Marine Safety Act 2010 for those local ports and Port Campbell Bay.
4. GORCAPA is required to act in accordance with all other enactments that apply to the management of the land, the key ones being those listed above as well as the following:
 - Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984 (Cwlth)

- Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006
 - Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994
 - Climate Change Act 2017
 - Domestic Animals Act 1994
 - Emergency Management Act 2013
 - Environment Protection Act 2017
 - Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwlth)
 - Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988
 - Heritage Rivers Act 1992
 - Marine and Coastal Act 2018
 - Native Title Act 1993 (Cwlth)
 - Planning and Environment Act 1987
 - Professional Engineers Registration Act 2019
 - Reference Areas Act 1978
 - Road Management Act 2004
 - Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010
 - Transport (Safety Schemes Compliance and Enforcement) Act 2014
 - Water Act 1989.
5. Legislation that applies to all Government Entities to help deliver consistent governance and maintain accountability includes:
- Asset Management Accountability Framework (SD4.2.3) and associated financial reporting guidelines
 - Audit Act 1994
 - Financial Management Act 1994 (FM Act) and the Standing Directions under the FM Act (SD)
- Freedom of Information Act 1982
 - Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014
 - Protected Disclosure Act 2012
 - Public Administration Act 2004
 - Public Records Act 1973.
6. Other key legislation under which GORCAPA has obligations:
- Building Act 1993
 - Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006
 - Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005
 - Children, Youth and Families Act 2005
 - Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021
 - Country Fire Authority Act 1958
 - Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010
 - Environment Effects Act 1978
 - Local Government Act 1989
 - Local Government Act 2020
 - Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004

Regulations

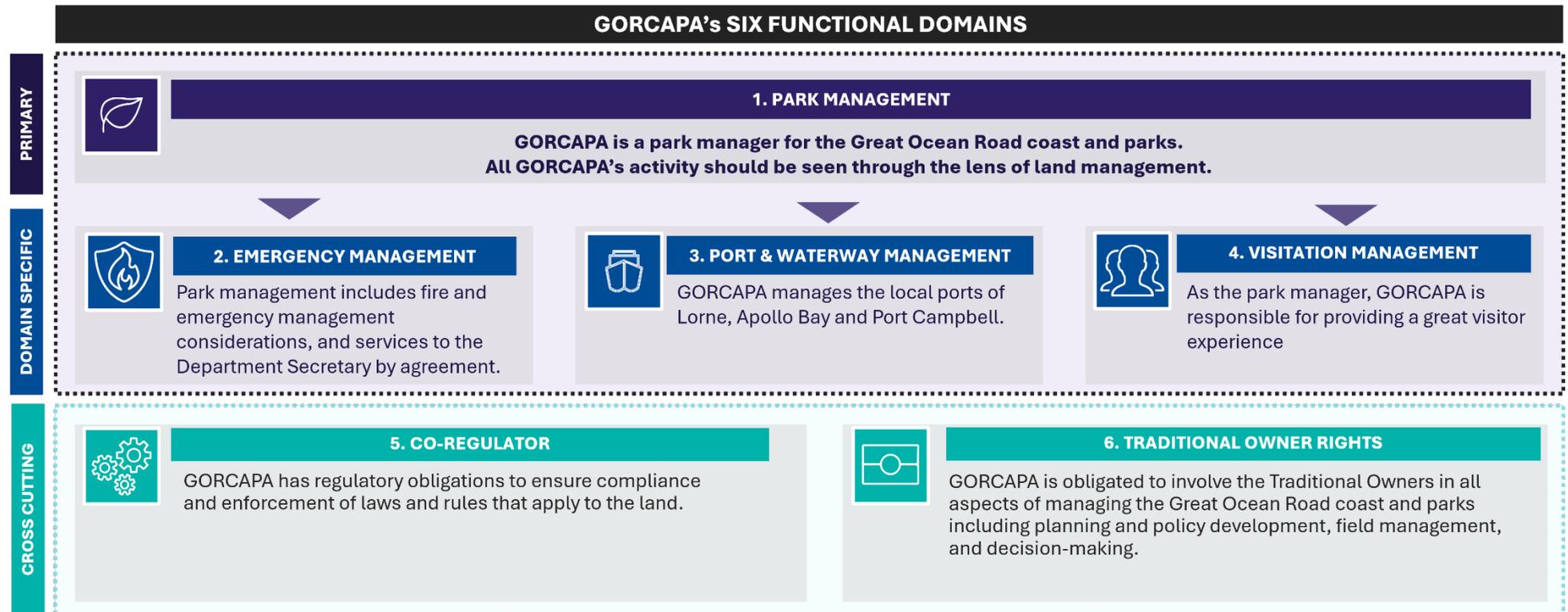
The public land governance framework includes subordinate legislation (supporting regulations and instruments made under the various public land Acts, and enactments that apply to the land) to support managers of public land to effectively manage and protect public land values.

Refer to Attachment 1 for a list of those regulations.

2.3 The six functional domains of GORCAPA

All of GORCAPA's activities should be seen through the lens of its role as a park manager

Given the scale and range of land types within the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks, GORCAPA has a broad range of management responsibilities and duties. These have been grouped into six functional domains.



3. Detailed Responsibilities

3.1 Park Management

GORCAPA is the dedicated park manager for the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks

Role

GORCAPA has one role – it is the dedicated manager for the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks. All of its functions and responsibilities relate to delivery of this role (section 47 of the GOREP Act).

The object of GORCAPA is to protect, conserve, enhance and manage public land and coastal assets within the Great Ocean Road coast and parks.

The Coast and Parks include a range of public land types and hence GORCAPA's responsibilities cover a range of land management domains such as field management and conservation, port and waterway management, co-regulation of behaviours and enforcement of laws, provision of a great visitor experience and emergency management. As the Coast and Parks manager GORCAPA:

- must manage land in accordance with all enactments applying to the land (refer Section 48C(1)(a) of the GOREP Act). Of particular relevance are the detailed statutory obligations for the management of parks under the NP Act as set out in that Act.
- is required to manage land in accordance with an approved land management strategy for the Coast and Parks
- activities to deliver on its park management obligations and objectives are a key focus of its corporate plan¹ and quarterly performance reporting² (refer Attachment 2 for more detail).
- may provide advice to the Minister for Environment, Secretary and Responsible Entities in relation to the Coast and Parks.

1. The corporate plan is intended to be the primary planning document of PNFCs and forms an agreement between the Board and Government on the work program /activities to be undertaken, and results expected. The GOREP Act requires GORCAPA to prepare a corporate plan for Minister approval on an annual basis.

Objectives

GORCAPA's all-encompassing parks and reserves management function is defined in Section 48(1) of the GOREP Act as:

To control and manage land in the Great Ocean Road coast and parks for the benefit of the environment and current and future generations and in a manner that—

- protects and enhances the land, including its natural and cultural values; and
 - provides for the land to be appropriately used, enjoyed and appreciated.
-

It is expected that GORCAPA will deliver the following benefits:

- Holistic and strategic approach to protecting, enhancing and managing the Coast and Parks, including its visitation and impacts of natural processes, severe weather events and climate change.
- Consistent and exemplar approach to the application of statutory requirements and State policies within the Coast and Parks.
- Partnerships with EMAC and WTOAC to maintain, restore and heal Country, its cultural landscapes and biocultural values; to protect EMAC and WTOAC knowledge, rights and interests in, and connections to, Country.
- A great visitor experience including visitor facilities and infrastructure, products, information and services.

2. As GORCAPA is part of the Victorian Government it is required to provide quarterly reports with a summary of its performance against targets established in the corporate planning documents.

Field management

Responsibilities

- Partner with EMAC and WTOAC (supported by service agreements for cultural assessments, advice and natural resource management) to maintain, restore and heal Country, its cultural landscapes and its biocultural values.
- Protect EMAC's and WTOAC's knowledge, rights and interests in, and connections to, Country.
- Manage land in accordance with an approved land management strategy for the Coast and Parks.
- Develop and implement plans that set out the way in which GORCAPA will manage areas of land within the Coast and Parks to meet its statutory obligations.
- Implement conservation strategies to protect, conserve and rehabilitate environmental, bio-cultural and heritage values such as protection of threatened species, planting and revegetation works, fencing and boardwalks, set-asides under regulations and targeted pest, plant and animal management.
- Monitor manage coastal erosion risks using an adaptation pathway approach in accordance with the Marine and Coastal Policy.
- Guide volunteer field management activities such as weeding, protection of native fauna species, litter collection, revegetation.
- Provide a great visitor experience and ensure visitation is environmentally sustainable.
- Provide up-to-date and site-specific information for visitors, education groups and commercial users on how to safely enjoy the Coast and Parks responsibly.
- Service visitor facilities and infrastructure (e.g. gardening, cleaning and maintenance of toilets, removal of waste).
- Build and maintain visitor facilities and infrastructure to support enjoyment and appreciation of the Coast and Parks (such as access stairs and walking tracks; picnic areas and shelters, toilets, car parks and access roads, signage; stormwater drainage; trail heads and boat ramps) and outdoor recreation.

- Improve public safety by activities such as deploying lifeguards at busy beaches, geotechnical assessments of cliff stability, cliff safety awareness campaigns and playground inspections.

Environmental conservation and rehabilitation priorities

GORCAPA is established to bring a holistic and strategic approach to scoping, prioritising and investing in environmental conservation and rehabilitation programs within the Coast and Parks. Whilst Government will continue to fund the management of national parks, revenue raised on public land (such as caravan parks, entry fees and commercial leases) may be used to fund any of their functions.

Estuary management

GORCAPA is responsible for artificial estuary openings on the land that it manages. This includes decision-making on whether to open an estuary or not, obtaining a licence/permit from the relevant CMA for works on the waterway, and all other permits and consents required from relevant authorities (e.g. EPBC Act, MAC Act), and undertaking the works. Note that GORCAPA is still expected to notify and discuss proposed artificial openings with the CMA when the By Laws under the *Water Act 1989* provide an exemption from seeking a permit (where the action is required to respond to or prepare for an emergency).

It is expected that GORCAPA will develop an artificial estuary entrance opening management plan where relevant (as an Environmental Management Plan under the MAC Act) with the involvement of EMAC and WTOAC, DEECA, CMA, local Council, and the SES, and with community engagement. This will establish and bring a strategic and evidence-based approach to artificial estuary openings decisions.

Algae blooms

GORCAPA is responsible for organising the testing of algae blooms on land that they manage (whether in waterways or the ocean) and taking the actions required as a consequence of the test results, including signage and communications with the community.

Note that this is a park management activity, and within the Coast and Parks it is unlikely that algae blooms will reach the thresholds required to be classified as an emergency.

Emergency management

Park and emergency management are inherently linked. While the two functions have distinct foci, they can and do overlap significantly. Successful management of the Coast and Parks requires an integrated approach of routine park management tasks and fire and emergency considerations. Some hazards, for example Blue Green Algae, are managed as non-emergencies until thresholds are reached to trigger an emergency declaration. GORCAPA's emergency response responsibilities are detailed in the following section of this report.

Fire management

The Secretary is responsible under the Forests Act 1958 for the prevention and suppression of fire in State forests, National Parks and fire protected areas.

However, through an agreement with the Secretary, GORCAPA may provide staff and resources to support the Secretary's critical role in fire prevention and suppression and recovery across the state.

Wildlife emergencies

Under the State Emergency Management Plan (SEMP) DEECA is the incident controller for cetaceans and GORCAPA is expected to be (like PV) a support agency (once the SEMP is updated to include GORCAPA's responsibilities). Upon request from DEECA, GORCAPA is expected to manage wildlife emergencies involving small cetaceans within the Coast and Parks and provide support cetacean strandings, entanglement and vessel strikes, and wildlife affected by marine pollution. Incident response is managed in accordance with the Victorian Cetacean Emergency Plan and GORCAPA may seek reimbursement for its costs via a services agreement with DEECA. GORCAPA is responsible for management of all other wildlife as part of its land management responsibilities.

Maritime emergencies

As outlined in the SEMP Maritime Emergencies Sub-plan (page 33, [SEMP Maritime Emergencies Sub-plan Edition-3 October 2024.pdf](#)), where GORCAPA is the local port manager it is the control agency for

Level 1 maritime-sourced oil pollution incidents and maritime casualty (non-search and rescue) incidents.

Marine pollution

GORCAPA is expected to be (like PV) a support agency under the SEMP and upon request be responsible for incident management of marine pollution (shoreline response) and marine pest incursion within local port and waterway management areas within the Coast and Parks.

Capital works

GORCAPA currently has, and is likely to continue to have, responsibility for delivering a significant portfolio of capital works projects to deliver within the Great Ocean Road coast and parks.

Asset Management

There are more than 2,500 assets of note within the Coast and Parks and GORCAPA is responsible for managing assets in accordance with Victoria's Asset Management Accountability Framework 2016 (AMAF), and as per its obligations under the Standing Directions 2018 of the Financial Management Act 1994. The AMAF is aligned to ISO55000, the international standard for asset management, but has some additional requirements to meet the specific needs of the Victorian Government.

To fulfil its asset management responsibilities, the Authority will need mature asset management practices and to maintain key capabilities or roles including to:

- maintain an asset register
- develop a corporate asset management plan and tactical level strategic asset management plans to enable contemporary asset management practices
- undertake annual AMAF attestations and every three years, self-assess its asset management maturity
- monitor the condition of assets and implement a robust risk management strategy to prioritise maintenance and asset upgrades/replacement

- ensure asset management functions and appropriate governance frameworks are established and appropriately resourced with qualified and/or skilled staff.

Note that GORCAPA is responsible for almost a hundred coastal protection structures that are to be managed in accordance with the Victorian Resilient Coast Guidelines (such as seawalls, revetments, groynes, breakwaters), as well as for completing renourishment works for beaches that may be eroding or unsafe.

Road management

- Roads such as the Great Ocean Road, managed by the Head of Transport for Victoria, and other mains roads and township roads managed by local councils are generally excluded from the land managed by GORCAPA.
- It is proposed that the Minister declare GORCAPA to be the road authority for coastal town foreshores that it manages as these reserves typically have high numbers of visitors requiring integrated road and asset management (e.g. coastal town foreshores). Generally, the roads on the coastal reserves are part of, or provide access to, car parking areas.
- For all other roads within the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks the road authority is the Secretary.

Planning

GORCAPA's work is to be guided by plans that set out the way in which it will manage any area of land to meet its statutory obligations (refer section 48(2)(a) of the GOREP Act). Whilst GORCAPA is responsible for development of the plans, it is expected to work collaboratively and in partnership with EMAC and WTOAC, DEECA, DJSIR, councils, CMA, GORRT and Parks Victoria.

Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks land management strategy

The Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks land management strategy (LMS) provides the overarching long-term directions to the protection, conservation, management, enhancement and use of the different types of land for which GORCAPA has stewardship.

The LMS has a 30-year outlook and sets out long-term directions for:

- the protection, conservation and enhancement of natural and cultural values across the Coast and Parks landscapes
- providing a great visitor experience and outdoor recreation opportunities
- future investment priorities
- the impacts of natural processes and hazards, severe weather events and climate change
- a coordinated approach to environmentally sustainable visitation of the Coast and Parks.

GORCAPA is required to prepare the LMS consistent with Part 3 and Part 5A of the GOREP Act, the enactments that apply to the Coast and Parks (CLR Act, NP Act, Wildlife Act and other Acts, the Great Ocean Road strategic framework plan (once approved) and other Government policies.

Note that Ministerial endorsement should be sought prior to public consultation.

Statutory plans

GORCAPA is required to prepare and regularly update a number of statutory plans in relation to its management of land including:

- Coastal and marine management plans for the length of the coastline for which it has management responsibility pursuant to Part 7, Division 1 of the *Marine and Coastal Act 2018* (MAC Act).
- Coastal Hazard Risk Management & Adaptation Plan(s) consistent with MAC Act and Victoria's Resilient Coast guidelines.
- Estuary Entrance Artificial Opening Management Plans where relevant (environmental management plans under the MAC Act).
- National Park Management Plan for each park under the NP Act (pursuant to section 17, 17D and 18 of that Act).
- Wildlife Reserve Management Plan for each wildlife reserve (pursuant to Section 18 of *Wildlife Act 1975*)

Land development planning

GORCAPA has a significant portfolio of works and precinct development projects, mostly under funding agreements with the State. As part of the planning and permits stage of projects, GORCAPA is expected to prepare the requisite masterplans and/or site development plans.

GORCAPA is expected to work with responsible entities to form an evidenced-based view on the pipeline of priority works projects for seeking State investment.

Native title assessments

GORCAPA is required to conduct Native Title assessments for any changes in land use prior to seeking consents and/or permits. It is vital that all proposed works projects undergo a thorough Native Title Assessment. It is expected GORCAPA will prepare a voluntary Cultural Heritage Management Plan should EMAC or WTOAC request it.

Consent and permits

It is GORCAPA's responsibility to obtain all permits and consents required for activities and use of land for which it has stewardship.

Note also that:

- It is expected that GORCAPA exemplify application of the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks protection principles (Part 3 of the GOREP Act) including the net gain requirement:

There should be a net gain for the environment arising out of any individual change in land use.

- The majority of coastal land within the Coast and Parks is national heritage listed (and requirements of the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999* need to be met)

Guidelines

GORCAPA is expected to make guidelines on the application of the Coast and Parks protection principles by responsible entities (including itself), tenants and licences/event permits. The guidelines are developed under Section 49C of the GOREP Act and be consistent with policies and enactments that apply to the land.

Research and science

Responsibilities

GORCAPA is expected to monitor, evaluate and report on the environmental condition of the Coast and Parks, and conduct/provide direction/co-ordinate/encourage relevant environmental research activities. This involves any funded initiatives, working as part of a research network, harnessing citizen science contributions and GORCAPA's own work and inputting into the Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability's report.

Environmental economic accounts (EEA)

The Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Environmental Economic Accounts (EEA) applies an international accounting framework of the contribution of the environment to the economy, the impact of the economy on the environment, and the efficiency of the use of environmental resources within the economy. The initial baseline 2019 EEA establishes that the ecosystems within the Coast and Parks deliver a range of ecosystem services that provide significant socio-economic value to society, estimated to be worth over \$100 million a year to the economy or over \$700 million per year to the community for the subset of ecosystem services assessed.

The EEA is an important tool for GORCAPA in managing the land and will assist in strategy, planning and investment decisions. It is expected GORCAPA maintain the EEA and provide them to the Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability for the regular State of the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Environment Reports.

Key capabilities

To fulfil its park management responsibilities, GORCAPA will require the ability to access key capabilities or roles including:

- Principal Scientist to ensure GORCAPA is enacting the most effective management practices to help protect the Coast and Parks ecological and biocultural values.
- Appropriately qualified scientific professionals and chartered professional engineers registered in Victoria (under the PRE Act) to inform park management risk assessments and decision-making.

- Rangers to protect and conserve the environment and cultural sites; and help visitors to enjoy and understand parks.
- Authorised Officers (appointed under Part 9 of the CFL Act) to monitor and enforce the laws and rules that apply to the land.
- Partnering with EMAC and WTOAC on caring for Country.
- Project Management Office (and broader staffing capabilities) that is familiar with public land stewardship requirements, GOREP Act requirements, and the standards required for consent by the Minister for Environment for use, activity and works on public land.

Role of other entities

To meet its park management obligations, GORCAPA will partner with the following entities.

Traditional Owners of Country (EMAC and WTOAC)

- Advise GORCAPA on to the management of Country.
- Provide cultural values assessments for Country by agreement.
- Deliver natural resources management services by agreement.

State Government Departments and Agencies

CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES

- Prepare regional waterway strategies which identify strategic objectives and management approaches for estuary condition management.
- Regulate artificial estuary openings through waterways works consents (if it considers appropriate to do so).
- Provide advice on mitigation of harm in artificially opening estuaries.
- Provide advice on the combined impact of storm surges with riverine flooding.

COMMISSIONER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

- The Victorian Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability is required to prepare a regular report on the environmental condition of the Coast and Parks. The State of the Environment Report will inform GORCAPA's LMS, environmental health monitoring, and conservation initiatives.

DEECA

- Responsible for statewide policies and preparing regulations for management of land and the natural environment (including flooding, waterways and artificial estuary openings).
- Sets standards and approves consents for land uses, activities or works as the delegate for the Minister of Environment.
- Oversees regulatory functions related to biodiversity, public land use and management, and fire prevention.
- Responsible for the prevention and suppression of fire in all State forests, national parks and protected public land, this includes fuel management, bushfire response, and construction and maintenance of asset protection and strategic fuel breaks.
- Control Agency for cetacean (whale and dolphin) strandings (single or mass, alive or dead), entanglement and vessel strikes, and wildlife affected by marine pollution and lead agency for wildlife welfare arising out of declared emergencies.
- Control Agency for algal blooms classified as Class 2 emergencies.
- Contributes to GORCAPA's LMS.
- Is required to consult GORCAPA when providing funding grants to projects on land managed by GORCAPA including to tenants.

DJSIR, RDV and GORRT

- Contribute to GORCAPA's LMS, particularly visitation management.
- Is required to consult GORCAPA when supporting funding grants to projects on land managed by GORCAPA, including to tenants.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT AND PLANNING (DTP)

- Head of Transport Victoria is the road authority for the Great Ocean Road and other state roads.
- Is required to consult GORCAPA when providing funding grants to projects on land managed by GORCAPA (e.g. upgrades to local ports).

PARKS VICTORIA

- Leads preparation of the Great Otway National Park Management Plan in consultation with GORCAPA.
- Enforces compliance with the laws in the Great Otway National Park that is outside the Coast and Parks.

- Provides advice to the Minister of Environment on National Parks Act section 40, 40A and 40B consents outside the Coast and Parks.

VICTORIAN STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE (VICSES)

- The SES is the Control Agency for floods, storm surges and landslides under the SEMP (including level 1 incidents). They may ask GORCAPA to open an estuary due to an imminent flooding related threat to life, property or the environment and in which case they will have an incident charge code for GORCAPA to be reimbursed for the activity.

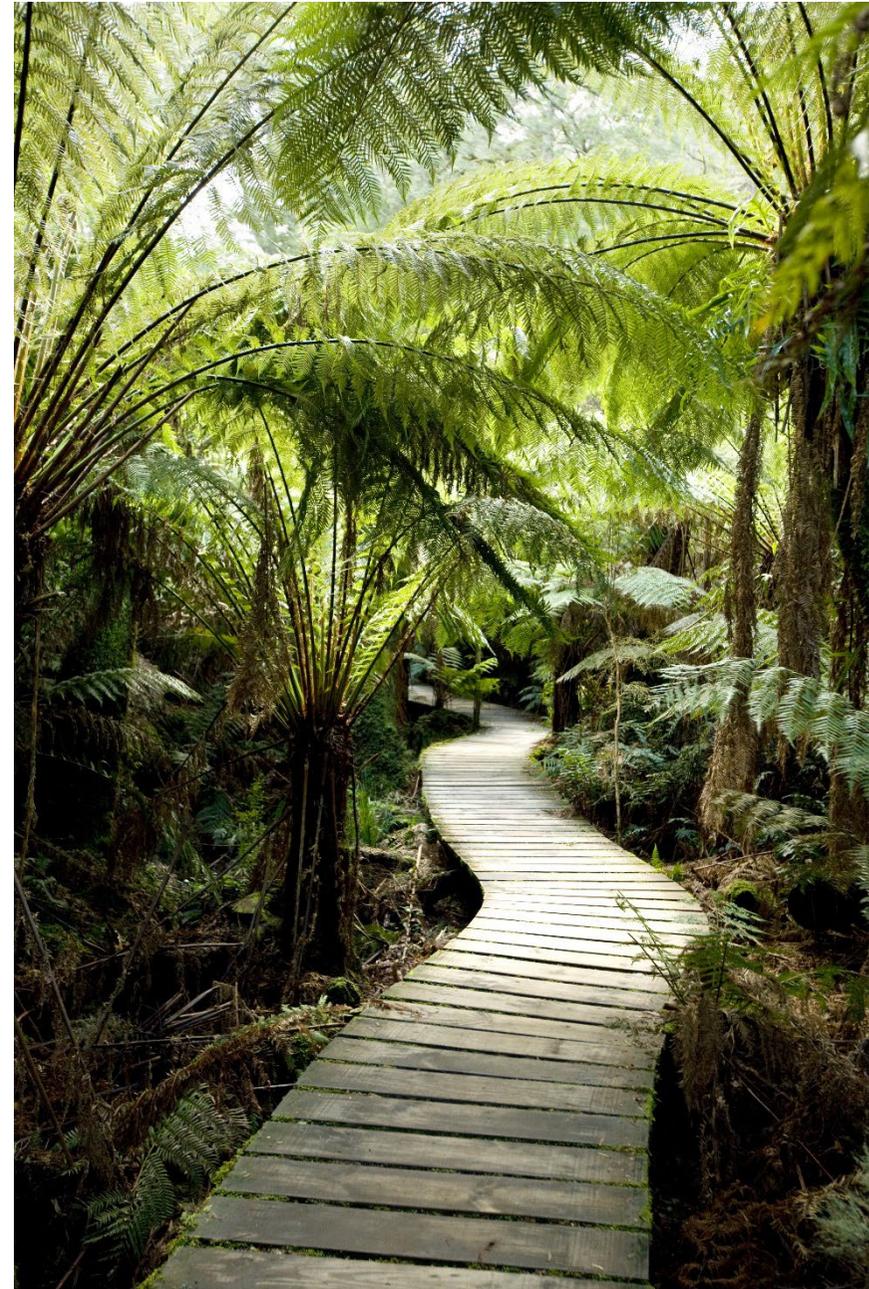
VICTORIAN FISHERIES AUTHORITY

- Monitor and enforce compliance with fisheries and boating regulated regulations and sustainably manage fisheries resources.
- Is required to consult GORCAPA when providing funding grants to projects on land managed by GORCAPA including to tenants.

Local Government

SURF COAST, COLAC-OTWAY, CORANGAMITE, MOYNE, WARRNAMBOOL

- Advocate for environmental, cultural, economic and tourism and local community interests.
- Responsible Authority that manages and enforces the planning laws that apply to the Coast and Parks.
- Establish local laws that apply to the land, including public land (in consultation with GORCAPA).
- Monitor flooding risk and may request artificial estuary openings. Likely to be the beneficiary and need to pay for the works.
- Contributes to GORCAPA's Coast and Parks LMS, in particular visitation management and public open space uses.
- Provide advice to GORCAPA on the application of municipal by-laws and municipal planning scheme, community impacts and risks associated with proposed leases, licences and event permits.
- Is required to consult GORCAPA when considering funding grants to projects on GORCAPA managed land including to tenants.



3.2 Emergency Management

Park management includes fire and emergency management responsibilities

The emergency management responsibilities of agencies are specified in the State Emergency Management Plan (SEMP).

- The SEMP does not yet include a role statement for GORCAPA, but it is expected to be similar to that of Parks Victoria (as a support agency).
- Page 33 of [SEMP Maritime Emergencies Sub-plan](#) specifies the local port manager is the control agency for Level 1 maritime-sourced oil pollution incidents and maritime casualty (non-search/rescue).

Note the Secretary is responsible for the prevention and suppression of fire in all State forests, national parks and protected public land, this includes fuel management, bushfire response, construction and maintenance of asset protection and strategic fuel breaks.

Relevant Legislation

- Section 48E of the GOREP Act provides for GORCAPA to enter into an agreement or arrangement with the Secretary to provide services for the prevention or suppression of, or recovery from, fire or another emergency, if desired by GORCAPA or the Secretary.
- Section 62(2) of the Forests Act 1958 requires the Secretary to carry out fuel management works in State forests, National Parks, and on protected public land for the immediate prevention and suppression of fire, and for the planned prevention of fire. S62C provides for the Secretary to DEECA to enter into agreements for fire prevention and/or suppression if desired.
- As outlined in the SEMP Maritime Emergencies Sub-plan (page 33, [SEMP Maritime Emergencies Sub-plan Edition-3 October 2024.pdf](#)), where GORCAPA is the local port manager it is the control agency for Level 1 maritime-sourced oil pollution incidents and maritime casualty (non-search and rescue) incidents.
- Other relevant legislation includes:
 - Conservation, Forests & Lands Act 1987: (S69) provides for the Secretary to enter in an agreement with GORCAPA for land management activities.
 - Emergency Management Act 2013.

Responsibilities

To meet its emergency management responsibilities, GORCAPA:

- Must consider fire and emergency management in its daily park management operations and activities.
- May provide fire and emergency services to the Secretary by agreement.

It is expected that GORCAPA will:

- Identify, develop and maintain the capabilities required to meet the responsibilities defined in the SEMP, SEMP subplans and the Victorian Preparedness Framework (once updated to include GORCAPA).
- Prepare, maintain and implement emergency response plans for land and facilities managed by GORCAPA.
- Prepare, maintain and implement plans for the recovery of land that is not covered by an agreement with the Secretary to DEECA.
- Support Control Agencies in managing fires and other emergencies in the Coast and Parks (such as closure of facilities and access).
- Upon request from DEECA (as incident controller), GORCAPA is expected to manage wildlife emergencies involving small cetaceans such as strandings, entanglement and vessel strikes, and wildlife affected by marine pollution.
- Have access to chartered professional engineers registered to practice in Victoria (under PRE Act) to inform risk assessments and decision-making, and fire and ecological expertise to inform park management.
- In recovery efforts, rehabilitate, restore and reinstate public land and tourism and visitor assets managed directly by GORCAPA.

Key Documents

- Agreement with the Secretary (under GOREP Act Section 48E) for GORCAPA to provide resources for prevention or suppression of, recovery from, fire or another emergency, at agreed reimbursement rates. Support may include accredited personnel, competencies, plant, equipment and vehicles.

- Memorandum of Understanding with Secretary (under S62C of Forest Act 1958) for fire prevention on behalf of GORCAPA on land in the Coast and Parks that is national park or protected public land.
- Emergency Management Plans for land managed by GORCAPA (excluding national park or protected public land) prepared in accordance with the requirements of the relevant land Act, the Emergency Management Act 2013 and Australian and Safe Work Australia and any other relevant standards.

Key capabilities or roles

- Responsible Executive accountable for GORCAPA's fire and emergency management responsibilities.
- Emergency Management Liaison Officer(s) (EMLO)s to provide a link to GORCAPA and Regional Emergency Management Team (REMT) or IEMT (Incident Emergency Management Team) or in the intelligence unit of the Incident Management Team (IMT).
- GORCAPA person on Victorian Marine Pest Consultative Committee
- Access to ecology rehabilitation expertise, and chartered professional engineers registered to practice in Victoria.

Role of other entities

Federal Government

AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE (ADF)

- Control agency in some water search and rescues

AUSTRALIAN MARITIME SAFETY AUTHORITY (AMSA)

- Control agency in some class 2 major emergencies, such as aviation and maritime search/rescue, and distress beacon detection,
- Control Agency for marine pollution response originating from ships within Australian waters falling outside of the state, and responsible for prevention and mitigation of pollution from ships.

State Government

Refer to the [roles and responsibilities listed on the Emergency Management Victoria website](https://www.emv.vic.gov.au/responsibilities/state-emergency-management-victoria).

<https://www.emv.vic.gov.au/responsibilities/state-emergency-management-plan-semp/roles-and-responsibilities>

COUNTRY FIRE AUTHORITY (CFA)

- Responsible for suppressing fires in the Victorian country area (that part which lies outside the Fire Rescue Victoria fire district, but does not include any State Forest, national park or protected public land). It is also responsible for some hazardous materials incidents such as leaks and spills of dangerous goods.
- Participates in preparedness and response activities to minimise the impacts of bushfires in the Country area of Victoria.

DEECA

- Responsible for fire prevention and suppression in all State Forests, national parks and protected public lands under the Forests Act 1958.
- Leads planning and delivery of programs to reduce the risk of bushfire in forest park, national parks and protected public lands.
- Undertakes preparedness and response activities to minimise the impacts of bushfires.
- Control agency for wildlife affected by marine and freshwater pollution, wildlife welfare arising from an emergency event, biosecurity incursions, plant pest or disease outbreaks, cetacean stranding, entanglement and vessel strike.
- Control Agency for Blue-Green Algae (BGA) management and develops the policy for the overall algal management in Victoria.
- Recovery Coordinating Agency for bushfire damage on public land, energy services, water and waste-water services, natural environment, wildlife and threatened ecosystems and species, public land and waterways, transport (public land roads, bridges, tunnels, buildings) and assets (planning, building or DEECA-owned assets).
- Embedding Aboriginal cultural burn practices in fire management.

DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES (DGS)

- Control agency responsible for managing the response to some class 2 major emergencies such as cyber security.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DH)

- DH works to minimise the impact of emergencies with major health consequences on individuals, communities, and the health system.

DJSIR

- Provides tourism industry support in emergency management.

DTP

- Control agency responsible for managing the response to some class 2 major emergencies, such as disruptions to essential services (i.e. public transport, or roads, bridges).
- Control agency responsible for some class 2 maritime casualty (non-Search and Rescue) incidents in port waters and coastal waters.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT VICTORIA (EMV)

- Leads emergency management in Victoria by maximising the ability of the emergency management sector to work together and to strengthen the capacity of communities to plan for, withstand, respond to and recover from emergencies.
- Supports the Emergency Management Commissioner to lead and coordinate emergency preparedness, response and recovery across Victoria's emergency management sector in conjunction with communities, government, agencies and business

EMERGENCY RECOVERY VICTORIA (ERV)

- Responsible for recovery coordination at the state and regional tier, and relief coordination at the state tier.

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY (EPA)

- Provides technical and scientific information and advice to emergency and recovery services in major pollution events
- Provides sampling and monitoring during emergency events and deploys incident air monitoring equipment on request
- Report and give advice on environmental impacts and health risks associated with pollution and waste (e.g. smoke. poor water quality).

FIRE RESCUE VICTORIA (FRV)

- Responsible for combatting fires, complex rescues, road crashes, emergency medical calls and hazardous chemical spills in Melbourne and Victoria's major regional centres.

FOREST FIRE MANAGEMENT VICTORIA (FFMVIC)

- Leads DEECA's operational delivery of bushfire management with skilled staff from DEECA, Parks Victoria and Melbourne Water.

PARKS VICTORIA (PV)

- Accountable for protecting, conserving and enhancing the national parks and reserves that it manages and a FFMVic partner.

SAFE TRANSPORT VICTORIA

- Control agency for Level 1 casualties outside port waters.
- Responsible for maritime casualty (non-search/rescue) in coastal waters

VICTORIA POLICE (VICPOL)

- VicPol serves the Victorian community and upholds the law to promote a safe, secure and orderly society by preserving the peace, protecting life and property, preventing the commission of offences, detecting and apprehending offenders and helping those in need of assistance.
- Control and Coordination functions for emergency management are outlined in the Emergency Management Act 2013 and the SEMP.

VICTORIA STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE (VICSES)

- The VICSES is a volunteer-based organisation that provides assistance to minimise the impact of emergencies and strengthen the community's capacity to plan, respond and recover, when emergencies occur.
- VICSES is the control agency for storm, flood, earthquake, tsunami and landslide throughout Victoria, and provides the largest road rescue network in Australia.

VICTORIAN FISHERIES AUTHORITY (VFA)

- The VFA promotes sustainable and responsible fishing and fishing-related activities in Victoria. It also has a function, under Section 8(k) of the Victorian Fisheries Authority Act 2016 to work with land, water, waterway and coastal managers and public sector bodies to improve fisheries, respond to any emergency or undertake compliance and enforcement activities.
- The VFA is the control agency for shark hazards in Victorian waters and is a support agency for emergencies in the aquatic environment.

Local Government

SURF COAST, COLAC-OTWAY, CORANGAMITE, MOYNE, WARRNAMBOOL

- Fire prevention is a statutory responsibility of all councils where the municipal district is in the country area of Victoria as per the CFL Act.
- Councils have an essential role in emergency management planning and community engagement, and in leading relief and recovery efforts at the local level for areas within their geographic remit.

3.3 Port and waterway management

GORCAPA is the appointed local port manager for the local ports of Lorne, Apollo Bay and Port Campbell

GORCAPA as a port manager

The land listed in the GOREP Act for GORCAPA appointment as land manager includes the local ports of Lorne, Apollo Bay and Port Campbell. This requires GORCAPA to also be appointed as the local port manager under the Port Management Act 1995. The three local ports vary in size, function and form, with Apollo Bay being the most significant and providing the only safe harbour for small vessels between Port Phillip and Portland.

Anticipated benefits of consolidation of the management of the local ports along the coastline include:

- A consistent approach to port management along the coast
- A coordinated approach to land and sea management sitting with one entity for the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks.

Objectives

GORCAPA is expected to deliver on the following objectives:

- Manage and administer the safe, efficient and effective operations of the local ports for which is the appointed local port manager.
- Provide, develop and maintain port facilities and infrastructure, navigation aids and navigation channels.
- Develop, maintain and implement systems that enable compliance with the various governance and safety and environmental duties that apply to the operation of the ports.

Statutory Function and Powers

GORCAPA is appointed as the local port manager of the local ports under section 44A(1) of the Port Management Act 1995 (PM Act) with the functions and powers set out in Part 2A of that Act.

GORCAPA is appointed as the waterway manager for the local ports of Lorne, Apollo Bay and Port Campbell and Port Campbell Bay under section 6 of the Marine Safety Act 2010 (MS Act), and may also be appointed as the waterway manager for other areas, with the functions and powers set out in Section 216 of the MS Act.

SUPPORTING REGULATIONS

- Port Management (Local Ports) Regulations 2015
- Marine Safety (Fees) Regulations 2021
- Marine Safety Regulations 2023

STATUTORY PLANS

- Safety & Environment Management Plan(s) under Part 6A of PM Act.

Key responsibilities

To execute on its legislated port manager functions, GORCAPA has the following key responsibilities.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS

- Prepare, implement and review port management plans to support safety and environmental management.
- Prepare operational services plans, asset management plans and annual reports in accordance with the operational services agreement with DTP.
- Prepare and implement the safety and environment management plans, including safe work methods statements, periodic reviews, and three yearly audits.
- Align the use of the ports and their strategies with the assertions of the EMAC and WTOAC.

PORT OPERATIONS

- Operate and manage the local ports as set out in the PM Act and the MS Act (including planning, allocation and management of berths and moorings), develop, manage and maintain port facilities, provide navigation aids and channels, and participate in control of marine and land pollution.
- Ensure safe, efficient and effective operation of the ports.
- Implement best practice asset management and apply the Sustainable Local Ports Framework to improve asset management planning.
- Maintain and develop maritime capacity and capability.
- Oversee dredging of harbour.

COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION

- Regularly engage with stakeholders and local communities to map and understand the emerging issues and any changes in use of the ports (commercial fishers, visitors, etc.) and enablers of successful port management and administration.
- Work with DTP in sourcing funding for capital works, and where required, convene a Project Reference Group for capital works to provide governance and direction.
- Plan and undertake capital works alongside the Project Reference Group (subject to funding provided by DTP and other agencies).
- Collaborate on environmental projects relevant to port operations.

REGULATION

- Set aside areas within a local port in which a specified activity or access is permitted, restricted or prohibited.
- Oversee the berthing, mooring and anchoring of vessels within a local port including the issuing of permits or prohibiting and restricting of certain activities.
- Regulate the management of cargo within a local port such as the arrival, loading, unloading or transfer of cargo.
- Regulate all other activities in local ports subject to the regulation including but not limited to working in a local port, fishing-related activities, and commercial activities.

Key Documents

- **SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT PLANS:** To fulfill its statutory obligation GORCAPA is required to prepare and implement safety and environment management plans, including safe work method statements, 3 yearly audits and periodic reviews.
- **OPERATIONAL SERVICES PLAN:** By 31 March of each year GORCAPA must prepare and submit to DTP a 3-year plan (commencing on 1 July that year) that establishes a planning framework for the management and administration of the ports.
- **ANNUAL REPORT:** GORCAPA is required to submit to the Minister for Ports and other bodies prescribed by the regulations (including Safe Transport Victoria, and the Environmental Protection Authority) an

annual report on the safety and environmental performance outcomes for the ports that is compliant with Section 91G of the Port Management Act 1995.

- **ANNUAL REPORT:** By 30 September of each year GORCAPA must prepare and submit to DTP an annual report providing financials, program and incident reports for the ports.
- **LOCAL PORT AREA PLANS** to guide future development and investment priorities.
- **LOCAL PORT FEES** implementation and review.
- **REPORTS ON DREDGING CONSENTS** for the harbors.

Role of other entities

To meet its port management obligations, GORCAPA will partner with the following entities.

Traditional Owners (EMAC, WTOAC)

Advise GORCAPA on biocultural values; knowledge, rights and interests in and connections to Country; assertions for the land and waters of the local port.

State Government Departments

DEECA

- Supports sustainable use of the ports and wider marine and coastal environment and participates in Local Port Area Planning.
- Regulates land and marine environments through MAC Act and CLR Act consents.

DTP

- Broad strategic and planning services for local ports including:
- High-level coordination and facilitation across local ports and Ports Victoria.
- Providing subject matter expert support across local ports and Ports Victoria (e.g. prepare business cases for capital works projects).
- Implements the Sustainable Local Ports Framework together with local port managers.

- Provides annual funding for the operation and maintenance of local ports via its operational services plan.
- Provides asset and public liability insurances for port assets and operations.
- Works with GORCAPA to secure funding for priority port infrastructure renewal.

Local Government

COLAC-OTWAY, SURF COAST, CORANGAMITE

- Advocate for environmental, cultural, economic, tourism and local community interests.
- Responsible Authority that manages and enforces the planning laws that apply to the port precincts.
- Leads town structure planning and maintenance of connections to the port.
- Establishes local laws that apply to the land.

Optional Activities

To deliver additional value beyond its obligations, GORCAPA can:

- Consolidate and integrate management and administration of the local ports under its management.
- Develop a Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Port Strategy that improves marine asset planning and maintenance outcomes.
- Adopt a precinct approach to port planning (consistent with the Sustainable Local Ports Framework) that considers:
 - EMAC and WTOAC biocultural values and assertions
 - Cultural, heritage, and ecological values
 - Commercial, tourism and recreational uses
 - Emergency services requirements.
- Pursue compatible commercial interests (e.g. tourism) in operations at the Port of Apollo Bay.
- Facilitate and support growth in maritime activities out of the ports.



3.4 Visitation management

As the park manager, GORCAPA is responsible for providing for the Coast and Parks to be appropriately used, enjoyed and appreciated

Responsibilities

GORCAPA's park management function includes providing 'for the land to be appropriately used, enjoyed and appreciated' (section 48(1)(a)(ii) of the GOREP Act). This includes responsibilities in the following areas.

- A coordinated approach to environmentally sustainable and culturally sensitive visitation of the Coast and Parks. It is expected GORCAPA will apply the visitor management framework in the Great Ocean Road strategic framework plan with input from EMAC, WTOAC, DEECA, DJSIR, RDV, GORRT, councils and communities. It will identify priority conservation initiatives, areas for demarketing and opportunities for outdoor recreation; define activity and recreation node locations to support visitation; and include an infrastructure investment pipeline and an agreed calendar of event-based closures of the Great Ocean Road.
- Nature and culturally based tourism products and services within the Coast and Parks:
 - visitor experience precincts (12 Apostle, Cape Otway Lightstation)
 - signature trails and trail heads
 - educative and interpretative information
 - facilitate EMAC and WTOAC cultural tourism activities and products.
- Visitor infrastructure within the Coast and Parks including:
 - access infrastructure such as stairs, trails, vehicle parking and local access roads, and boat ramps.
 - amenities such as toilets, showers, shelters, BBQs, waste collection, and water points.
 - facilities for a great visitor experience such as accommodation, local artisan markets/galleries, interpretative information centres, cafes/restaurants/licensed premises and retail
- Managed visitation of the Coast and Parks:
 - regulation of land use (lease, licences, event and activity permits, set asides controlling access etc).

- public safety (signage, education, beach lifeguards, guidance on best practice event management)
 - traffic management and parking controls
 - tour operator licence conditions to require provision of interpretative information, meet environmental standards, reduce congestion at popular locations and to protect sensitive locations.
- Monitor the experience of visitors (both paid and free) and have regard to that feedback in plans to improve the visitor experience and use of public open spaces.

The anticipated benefits include:

- A holistic Coast and Parks approach to visitation management.
- Improved world class visitor experience and reputation of the Coast and Parks.
- Coordinated State government action and efficient funding allocations for visitor facilities and infrastructure.
- Protection of environmental and cultural values for the enjoyment and appreciation of future generations.

Enabling powers

To enable GORCAPA to deliver on these visitation management duties, the GOREP Act provides GORCAPA with the power to:

- Liaise with, and encourage the co-operation of, responsible entities, peak bodies, communities and other persons involved in the economic development, promotion, and management of visitation in the area (Section 49 (2)(a)).
- Provide advice about policies, practices and the provision of visitor management services, facilities and infrastructure relating to the Coast and Parks (Section 49 (1)(b))
- Issue guidelines (Section 49C of the GOREP Act) on the application of the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Protection Principles.
- Request information or seek assistance from Responsible Entities (Section 49A of GOREP Act) in order to coordinate visitor management and/or a program of visitor facilities and infrastructure works.

Role of other entities

Traditional Owners of Country (EMAC and WTOAC)

- EMAC and WTOAC are key partners in caring for Country and develop and deliver cultural experiences and information.
- EMAC and WTOAC may nominate culturally sensitive locations for demarketing/reducing visitation and/or seek support to increase visitation where they have decided to do so.

State Government Departments and Agencies

DEECA

- Provides and maintains visitor infrastructure on parks outside the Coast and Parks including some nearby key visitor destinations.

DJSIR/RDV

- Tourism and Events Division (Sports and Experience Economy), SEE, is responsible for strengthening the visitor economy profile and driving economic outcomes for the sector.
- Develop and lead implementation of Experience Victoria 2033 and the First Peoples Tourism Plan.
- SEE partners with Visitor Economy Partnerships (VEP) through multi-year agreements to be the peak voice for the region's visitor economy and deliver priorities in regional Destination Management Plans (DMP). The VEP for the Great Ocean Road (Tourism) Region is Great Ocean Road Regional Tourism (GORRT).
- Provides funding grants for visitor facilities and infrastructure including the Geelong City Deal projects being delivered by GORCAPA and the 12 Apostles precinct redevelopment by Development Victoria.

PARKS VICTORIA

- Issues tour operator licences for Parks Victoria and DEECA managed land outside the Coast and Parks.
- Provides and maintains visitor infrastructure on parks outside the Coast and Parks including some nearby key visitor destinations.

VISIT VICTORIA

- State's tourism & events marketing organisation that leads promotion of the region to attract visitors and grow the visitor economy.

Local Government

SURF COAST, COLAC-OTWAY, CORANGAMITE, MOYNE, WARRNAMBOOL

- Respond to and provide for the needs of local communities.
- Environmental protection, emergency management, facilitate economic and tourism development, and delivers municipal services.
- Implement State and Commonwealth visitor economy policies, and programs, set their own regulations (e.g. parking controls, consumption of alcohol in public places) and provide a range of services to support local community groups.
- Contributes to GORRT's funding and member of the GORRT board and actively contribute to strategy and operations of GORRT
- Work with communities and businesses within their municipal district to grow the visitor economy.
- Colac-Otway Shire, Surf Coast Shire, and Corangamite Shire operate visitor information centres within the Coast and Parks.
- Responsible Authority that manages and enforces planning laws.
- Leads town structure planning and land use planning strategies.
- Establish local laws that regulate behaviour (e.g. dogs on leashes, parking, alcohol in public spaces).

Other Entities

GORRT

- Delivers local leadership and collaboration at a regional level to support the growth of the regional visitor economy.
- Develops and leads the implementation of the DMP for the Great Ocean Road (Tourism) Region and key destinations across the region.
- Delivers destination marketing and regional conversion.
- Provides tailored industry strengthening support to address regional needs and provides industry training.
- Encourages community support for tourism.
- Provides regional context and insights to Government's visitor economy policy development and investment decision making.
- Advocates on industry's behalf to attract events to the region.
- Facilitates continued collaborative crisis preparedness and response in the regional tourism industry.

3.5 Co-regulation

Ensuring and enforcing laws and rules that apply to the land

GORCAPA is responsible for ensuring and enforcing compliance with laws and rules that apply to the land it manages. This includes State-wide laws and regulations, as well as local (municipal) laws and regulations specific to the Coast and Parks.

Responsibilities

GORCAPA has a diverse range of regulatory responsibilities across the following areas.

- Apply State set standards to protect environmental and cultural values.
- Partner with EMAC and WTOAC to facilitate cultural customs and practices that are exempt from penalties.
- Establish set asides to protect, permit, restrict or prohibit specific activities in localised areas of the Coast and Parks under the relevant regulations.
- Inform and educate the public about the law and the rules that must be obeyed to comply with the law.
- Monitor and publicly report on compliance with the law including using community information and inspections and audits of licences, permits and authorities granted.
- Establish Authorised Officers (appointed under Part 9 of the CFL Act) to monitor compliance with the law and rules that apply to the land and port waters, and where appropriate apply sanctions to deter future non-compliance. This may include fines, permissions cancellations, and prosecution where applicable.
- Monitor and enforce compliance with the protection of biodiversity (flora and fauna protection) and local laws that apply to the Coast and Parks (e.g. prohibiting alcohol consumption in public spaces, dogs on lead or restricted access areas).
- Collaborate and partner with other regulators and entities (such as the Office of the Conservation Regulator, Parks Victoria, Victoria Police, Victoria Fisheries Authority, Game Management Authority, local councils) in planning and delivering compliance activities.

- Manage local ports and cargo including issuing of permits or prohibiting and restricting certain activities and ensuring safe operation.
- Regulate visitation of the Coast and Parks through administration of Tour Operator Licences (including establishing operational conditions).
- Administer permissions/authorisations (leases, licences, permits, consents, directions) that allow a person/organisation to undertake a particular activity subject to specified conditions.
- Provide advice and support to event organisers to build their knowledge, skills and capability.

Key capabilities and/or roles

- Authorised Officers (pursuant to CFL Act).

Regulations

GORCAPA is responsible for enforcing the following regulations:

- Conservation, Forests and Lands (Fisheries Infringement Notices) Regulations 2020
- Conservation, Forests and Lands (Infringement Notice) Regulations 2023
- Conservation, Forests and Lands (Wildlife (Game) Infringement Notices) Regulations 2023
- Crown Land (Reserves) (Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks) Interim Regulations 2023
- Crown Land (Reserves) (Tour Operator Licence Fees) Regulations 2025
- Forests (Fire Protection) Regulations 2014
- Land Regulations 2016
- Land (Tour Operator Licence Fee) Regulations 2021
- Land (Regulated Watercourse Land) Regulations 2021
- Land Conservation (Vehicle Control) Regulations 2024
- National Parks Regulations 2024
- National Parks (Tour Operator Licence Fee) Regulations 2021
- Port Management (Local Ports) Regulations 2015
- Water Industry (Waterways Land) Regulations 2023

- Wildlife Regulations 2024
- Wildlife (Marine Mammals) Regulations 2019
- Wildlife (State Game Reserves) Regulations 2024
- Wildlife (Tour Operator Licence Fee) Regulations 2021
- Wildlife (Game) Regulations 2024

Role of other entities

Traditional Owners of Country (EMAC and WTOAC)

- Advise GORCAPA on cultural heritage, rights and interests of EMAC and WTOAC that need to be protected; cultural practices that need to be permitted (that would otherwise incur an infringement) and conditions for permitted exemptions for cultural practices.

Government entities

DEECA (Conservation Regulator)

- Share regulatory knowledge and expertise with GORCAPA in agreed areas to help them to build their capability to acquit their regulatory obligations appropriately.
- Where joint priorities are identified across areas of responsibility, work in partnership with GORCAPA to monitor illegal activities and undertake enforcement actions where appropriate.
- Encourage voluntary compliance of the community through educating the community about the laws governing biodiversity, public land and wildlife in Victoria.
- On DEECA managed land monitor compliance with relevant laws, investigating alleged breaches of these laws and taking enforcement action where appropriate.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AUTHORITY

- Develop regulations based on environmental laws. These standards cover areas like air quality, water quality, and hazardous waste management.
- Work with GORCAPA to protect the natural environment and public safety by preventing, managing and reducing harm from pollution and waste.

GAME MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

- Administers Game Licences, manage open and closed seasons for game species.
- Work with GORCAPA to enforce game hunting laws and take action against those who do not hunt legally
- Educate and inform hunters on how to hunt legally, sustainably and responsibly in Victoria.

PARKS VICTORIA

- May work in partnership with GORCAPA on joint regulatory activities

SAFE TRANSPORT VICTORIA

- Works with GORCAPA to manage compliance, accreditation, and registration for the maritime sector and regulates duty holders (Referm035_-Policy_-Monitoring-Compliance-and-Enforcement_-Native_-V23-240606.pdf)

VICTORIAN FISHERIES AUTHORITY

- Works with GORCAPA to:
 - enforce fishing regulations for Victorian fisheries to ensure sustainable fishing practices, protect marine resources, and maintain ecosystem balance.
 - monitor and assess fish populations for Victorian fisheries and relay that information to GORCAPA to make informed decisions about sustainability.

Local Government

SURF COAST, COLAC-OTWAY, CORANGAMITE, MOYNE, WARRNAMBOOL

- Set their own local laws and inform and educate the community about the laws.
- Work with GORCAPA to implement a consistent approach to the application of regulations and council local laws.
- Monitor compliance with local council by-laws and illegal activities and undertake enforcement activities for offences.

3.6 Partnerships with Traditional Owners of Country

Embed self-determination in the management of the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks

GORCAPA is required to act in accordance with the Victorian Government's commitment to Aboriginal self-determination and Traditional Owner rights, within legislative and State-wide policy frameworks and guidelines including:

- respecting Aboriginal cultural rights under the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic)
- upholding Traditional Owner rights under the Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010 (Vic) and Native Title Act 1993 (Cwlth)
- respecting cultural heritage rights under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 (Vic).

The Victorian Government's broader commitments include acting in 'good faith' as a Treaty partner under Advancing the Treaty Process with Aboriginal Victorians Act 2018 (Vic).

Responsibilities

In addition to the requirements in the above Acts, GORCAPA has specific obligations under the GOREP Act to EMAC and WTOAC.

1. GORCAPA is to involve EMAC and WTOAC in policy development, planning, field management and decision-making. Note that this applies to all aspects of park management including capital works projects and regulating land uses (pursuant to Section 48B of the GOREP Act).
2. GORCAPA has a duty under Section 48C of the GOREP Act to consider and protect the rights and interest of EMAC and WTOAC in land developments, this goes beyond the requirements of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006.
3. GORCAPA is to consult with EMAC and WTOAC (pursuant to Section 62M of the GOREP Act) before it makes a land management plan, or an amendment of a land management plan that applies to Land and Sea Country.

4. GORCAPA is required to undertake a native title assessment for all planned activities that impact land or water.
5. It is expected that there will soon be a Recognition and Settlement Agreement (RSA) with EMAC, and GORCAPA will have to:
 - manage activities on public land that may have an impact on the rights of EMAC as defined under a Land Use Activity Agreement (LUAA).
 - pay community benefits for works projects that increase the footprint of uses of land (e.g. new trails footprint).
 - If required by the RSA, support the Eastern Maar Land Management Board to prepare a Joint Management Plan.

It is expected that to deliver on its obligations GORCAPA will:

- Establish agreements with EMAC and WTOAC for delivery of natural resource and land management services within the Coast and Parks.
- Work with the EMAC and WTOAC to develop guidelines for signage and use of technology to provide cultural interpretive information.
- Prepare a voluntary Cultural Heritage Management Plan should EMAC or WTOAC request it.
- Establish regular forums and meetings with Traditional Owner groups (EMAC and WTOAC) for working together on development, delivery and review of park management (policy, planning, natural resource management, co-regulation).
- Build its capability to support self-determination and Recognition Settlement Agreement outcomes in the management of the Great Ocean Road coast and parks.
- Support EMAC and WTOAC to develop cultural experiences and other cultural tourism products in the Coast and Parks.

Attachment 1 – Supporting regulations that apply to the land and ports

Conservation, Forests and Lands (Fisheries Infringement Notices) Regulations 2020
Conservation, Forests & lands (Infringement Notice) Regulations 2023
Conservation, Forests and Lands (Wildlife (Game) Infringement Notices) Regulations 2023
Crown Land (Reserves) (Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks) Interim Regulations 2023
Crown Land (Reserves) (Tour Operator Licence Fees) Regulations 2025
Forests (Fire Protection) Regulations 2014
Land Regulations 2016
Land (Tour Operator Licence Fee) Regulations 2021
Land (Regulated Watercourse Land) Regulations 2021
Land Conservation (Vehicle Control) Regulations 2024
National Parks Regulations 2024
National Parks (Tour Operator Licence Fee) Regulations 2021
Port Management (Local Ports) Regulations 2015
Wildlife Regulations 2024
Wildlife (Marine Mammals) Regulations 2019
Wildlife (State Game Reserves) Regulations 2024
Wildlife (Tour Operator Licence Fee) Regulations 2021
Wildlife (Game) Regulations 2024

Attachment 2 – GORCAPA’s planning and reporting framework

GORCAPA’s planning and performance reporting framework comprises two key components:

- Plans that set out the way in which it will manage any area of land to meet its statutory obligations.
- Corporate planning documents which outline the work program and activities that will be undertaken in order to achieve its legislated object/purpose, land management strategy objectives, and other obligations.

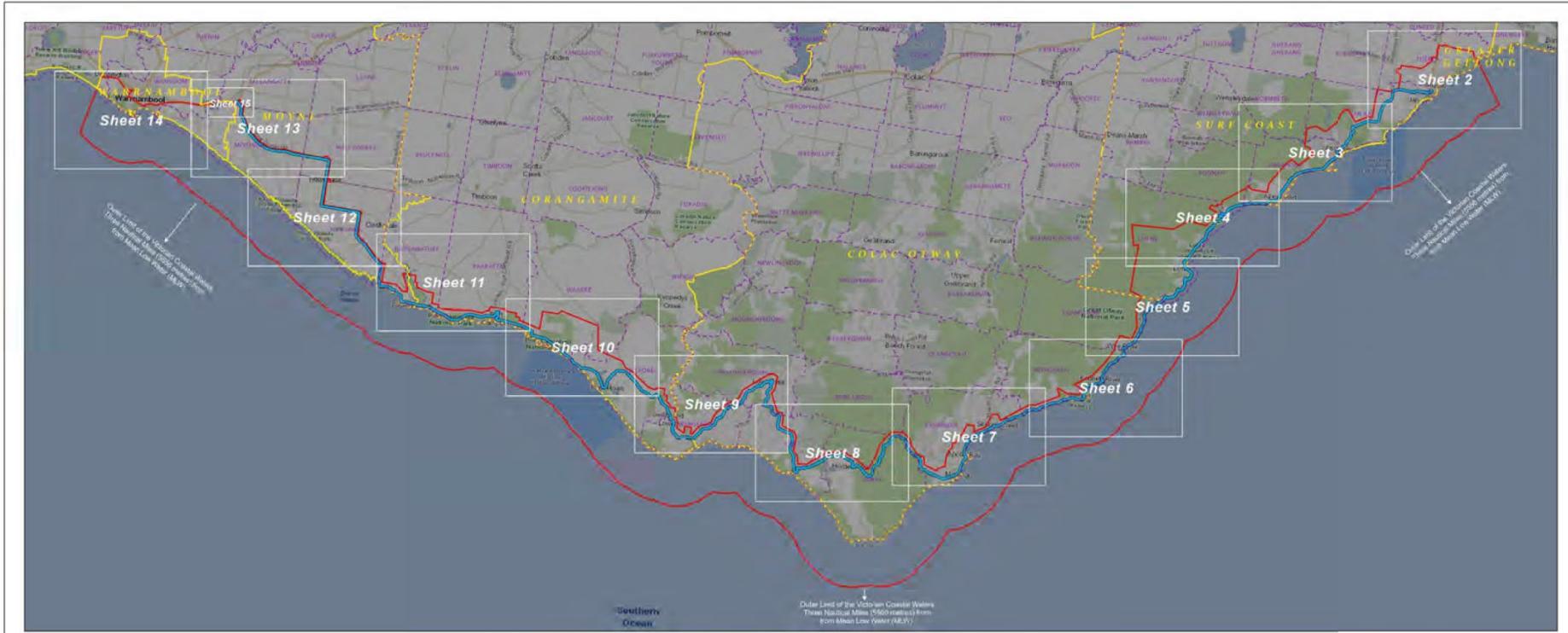
Note that GORCAPA is required to comply with the Department of Treasury and Finance’s (DTF) Corporate Planning and Performance Reporting Requirements and the Standing Directions 2018 (as revised) under the Financial Management Act 1994, including Standing Direction 5.3.1: Agency reporting and information provision.

Table 1: GORCAPA’s planning and performance reporting framework

Planning	Performance Reporting
Stewardship of the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks	
<p>Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks land management strategy Long-term directions, strategies and priorities for management of the Great Ocean Road coast and parks.</p> <hr/> <p>Statutory plans under the relevant public land Act and enactments that apply to the land Setting out the way in which GORCAPA will manage an area of land</p>	<p>State of the Environment Reporting on the Great Ocean Road coast and parks A scientific evaluation of the state of the environment of the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks by the Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability.</p>
Corporate Planning	
<p>Statement of Corporate Intent An agreement between the Board and Government on the outcomes, priorities and main undertakings of the GORCAPA over the next five years.</p> <p>Corporate plan A comprehensive, rolling, business plan for the next five financial years to deliver the statement of corporate intent. This is GORCAPA’s primary corporate planning document and forms an annual agreement between the Board and Government on the work program, activities and results expected.</p> <p>Business Plan A more detailed operational plan for the first financial year of the Corporate Plan with a work program and quarterly phasings.</p>	<p>Annual report An assessment of the extent to which GORCAPA has succeeded in achieving its business plan for the previous year including an annual attestation to compliance with the AMAF.</p> <hr/> <p>Quarterly performance reports A summary of GORCAPA’s performance against the targets in the detailed operational plan for the year.</p> <hr/> <p>Continuous disclosure Informing DEECA and the Minister as soon as it is aware of a material variation</p>

Attachment 3 – Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks perimeter boundary

The Great Ocean Road coast and parks are declared under section 9 of the Great Ocean Road and Environs Protection Act 2020 with reference to a plan lodged in the central plan office. The declaration outlines the public land within the red perimeter boundary that is included, and that excluded, from being part of the Great Ocean Road coast and parks. Note that the Great Ocean Road itself is included.



Lodged in the Central File Office pursuant to
 Section 66 (Planning Act 2014)
 Detail No: 194, Day 42, 20/11/2023
 David Rendle
 The Chief Land Surveyor General of Victoria
 In accordance with the provisions of the Act.

PURPOSE OF PLAN:
To define the Perimeter Boundary.

NOTATIONS:

- The Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority may be appointed as the manager of land within the perimeter boundary in accordance with the Great Ocean Road and Environs Protection Act 2020.
- Coordinate values shown on this plan accord with MGA 2020, Zone 54.
- All notations and comments shown on this sheet apply to all other sheets.
- All bearings shown are plane MGA 2020 bearings

PERIMETER BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Perimeter Boundary encompasses all the land, water column (surface and sub-surface) and air space within its extents, unless contrary to any State or Commonwealth legislation. This description of the relevant parts of the Perimeter Boundary is primary and takes precedence over any map location, should a difference exist.

Northern Boundary (land-based boundary)
This boundary is defined by:

- Map Grid Australia 2020 (MGA2020) coordinates shown on this plan, or
- Abutments to land parcel identifiers or physical features, or
- Description, or
- A combination of the above.

Southern Boundary (seaward boundary)
The southern boundary coincides with the outer limit of the Victorian Coastal Waters, which is described as 3 nautical miles, being 5556 metres, from Mean Low Water (MLW).

Eastern Boundary
Commencing Commencing at the Low Water Mark (LWM), the eastern boundary is defined as the line projecting from Point No.1 at the bearing 154°03'20" until it intersects the above-described southern boundary, where it terminates.

Western Boundary
Commencing from Point No.304, the western boundary is defined as a straight line at the bearing 201°00' until it intersects with the above-described southern boundary, where it terminates.

This description is to be read in conjunction with the publication titled "Procedures for Describing Maritime Boundaries" Version 1.0, dated 09 November 2009 by Geoscience Australia. Any reference to Map Grid Australia 1994 (MGA94) in that publication can be interpreted as MGA2020 in the above descriptions.

SURVEYOR-GENERAL VICTORIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT AND PLANNING	DAVID RENDLE Licensed Surveyor	29/05/2025 DATE	Perimeter Boundary	Parish Boundary		5 2 1/2 0 5 10 15 20 KILOMETERS	ORIGINAL
			Local Government Authority	Great Ocean Road			SCALE 1:1250000
OFFICIAL						SHEET 1 OF 16	LEGL./25-005