

Western Coastal Board Annual Report 2008 - 2009



Our Role

The Western Coastal Board's role is defined through the *Coastal Management Act, 1995*. The Board champions the ecologically sustainable development of South West Victoria's coastal and marine areas.

It performs this function through being a

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

Our Vision

The vision for our coast is

A biologically and culturally rich, diverse coastal, estuarine and marine environment that is managed for its protection, sustainable use and enjoyment today and for future generations

(Victorian Coastal Strategy 2008)

The Region

The Western Coastal Region extends from near Breamlea in the east to the South Australian border in the west, and includes the six municipalities of Surf Coast Shire, Colac Otway Shire, Corangamite Shire, Moyne Shire, Warrnambool City and Glenelg Shire.



Chair's Foreword

This year has once again seen the Board fulfilling its key roles of strategic advocacy and facilitation. It has been one more step towards our vision of a truly sustainable coastal environment.

One of our important achievements has been the progressing of the Boating Coastal Action Plan (CAP) to deliver safe and sustainable boating facilities for the west coast. This document was endorsed by the Board for public exhibition planned for later in the year.

The review of all our previous Coast Action Plans was also progressed. The CAPs collectively contain over 600 actions, making reporting on their completion or otherwise a major challenge. The Board expects to have this important work completed for the end of 2009.

The Board also made major headway with its Coastal Priorities Project. A successful round of workshops in November, including one of the best attendances of CEOs and executives at a coastal event, was followed by a series of Working Groups in early 2009 to finalise regional statements. This project showed the interest the region has in collaborating to establish priorities and identify opportunities to work together.

The regional operating environment underwent some substantial changes during the year. The new Victorian Coastal Strategy raises the bar for how we manage the coast, and establishes a sea level rise of not less than 0.8m for planning purposes. While the Future Coasts project will provide much-needed assistance for dealing with climate change, our planners and decision-makers face a challenging time dealing with climate change. One of the vital areas requiring urgent attention is how the region works with State climate change policies.

Natural Resource Management funding also changed, with the Victorian Investment Framework and the federal Caring for our Country program. The continuing working relationship with our key partners, especially local government and Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs), continues to present opportunities and challenges. Given the potential implications of the Land and Biodiversity Green Paper it will be vital to ensure that local partnerships are maintained and that the coast continues to have strong representation at a strategic level. The Board is well-placed to assist the region meet these challenges.

With the VCS now consolidated and an implementation plan being developed, all bodes well for a clear, united future direction for the Board and the region's coastal stakeholders.

My responsibilities have as always been made easier due to the diligence and dedication of the Board's staff and its members. Congratulations to newly appointed members and previous members reappointed. Special thanks to retiring members Rachel Faggetter, Neil Longmore, Helen Arundel and Julie Hansen.

This report is sadly my last as Chair. To adapt a recent quote, I personally feel it was better to retire too early than too late. After 30 plus years of public life, it's time to enter another phase. Having had the privilege of more than 10 years in the Chair, it's very satisfying to hand over to a very competent 'new' team led by new Chair Lynette Skilbeck and Deputy Chair Sue Mudford. A huge thanks to so many friends met along my journey and best wishes to all for the future.



Lynn Murrell OAM
Chairman

Key Messages from 2008-09

- The Board progressed the **development of a Boating Coastal Action Plan** for the region, including public consultation on an Existing Conditions and Issues Paper.
- The review process for the statutory **5-year review of Coastal Action Plans** was progressed, including commitment to investigate the feasibility of a second generation of CAPs for the region.
- Engagement and partnerships with both **local government and CMAs** continues to increase in importance and gain momentum. The Board is committed to working with all stakeholders to promote the implementation of the Victorian Coastal Strategy (VCS) 2008.
- A series of information sessions for the VCS 2008 were held in all municipalities in the region following its December launch by the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Innovation
- The final stage of the Coastal Priorities project was undertaken through working groups and workshops and generated significant regional support for dedicated collaboration on coastal issues.

Progress on Priorities for 2008-09

The Board articulated its priorities for 2008-09 in its 2007-10 Business Plan. These priorities are closely aligned with the Board's statutory role under the *Coastal Management Act 1995* and the objectives of Victorian Coastal Strategy, which form the basis of the Board's Annual Report to the Victorian Coastal Council. They include the Priority Areas of:

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

The Board identified a series of priority issues for the 2008-09 year in its 2007-08 Annual Report. Progress is detailed throughout this report and included:

Completion of the Coastal Priorities project

The Board progressed the project to near completion and conducted a series of priority-setting workshops across the region. These were followed by a program of working groups to develop the regional implications of the themes and build regional relationships for the next iteration. The Board was pleased with the regional recognition of the need for dedicated collaborative approaches to address common priorities.

Development of a Draft Boating CAP

The Board endorsed the Exhibition Draft of the Boating CAP and committed to public consultation in September-October 2009 as part of its finalisation for submission to the Victorian Coastal Council.

Undertaking statutory reviews of Coastal Action Plans

The reviews were substantially progressed in early 2009 and will be completed in late 2009. The feasibility of a second generation of CAPs awaits the outcomes of these reviews.

Welcoming the revised Victorian Coastal Strategy, understanding its regional implications and promoting regional implementation.

The Board conducted a series of regional workshops and meetings with key regional stakeholders to promote understanding of the regional implications of the VCS 2008 and its implementation.

Note: The 2009 Western Coastal Forum was postponed to avoid competition with the Victorian Coastal Forum.

1. IMPLEMENTING THE VICTORIAN COASTAL STRATEGY

1.1. Strategic Coastal Planning, Projects and Advocacy

1.1.1 Victorian Coastal Strategy

The Board welcomed the Government's launch of the revised Victorian Coastal Strategy 2008 and the strength of its policy direction to manage the coast on a sustainable basis into the future. The establishment of a VCS Implementation Committee is strongly supported, the Board looks forward to working with it.

Given the release of the VCS 2008 mid-way through the year, the Board used the Victorian Coastal Strategy 2002, the Draft VCS 2007 and the revised VCS 2008 released in December 2008 as the basis for its advice and advocacy in the region.

Advice to the Minister, Parliamentary Secretary and Victorian Coastal Council

Provision of advice is a key role of the Board through the *Coastal Management Act 1995*.

- Direct advice was provided to the Minister for Environment, State Government and local councils regarding the consistency of coastal development and other proposals with the Victorian Coastal Strategy.
- The Chair and Executive Officer met with Minister Jennings to provide an update on regional coastal issues and present the Board's 2006-09 Term Report.
- The Board provided the Minister with advice regarding the process to be employed for review of CAPs,
- The Chair held regular meetings with The Hon Michael Crutchfield MP, Parliamentary Secretary for the Environment and Water.
- Advice was provided to and sought from VCC on a range of issues including risk management, boating policy and coastal governance.

Victorian Coastal Strategy 2008 Information Sessions

To build awareness and support for the implementation of the new VCS 2008, the Board conducted a range of activities including:

- A regional program of awareness raising on the new VCS 2008 in March, April and May which included sessions in each municipality throughout the region for practitioners, elected/appointed representatives and the public..
- A dedicated VCS session with Corangamite Shire Council in March 2009.
- The Chair held VCS briefing sessions with Glenelg Shire and Warrnambool City Councils, the Glenelg Hopkins CMA Board, Opposition Whip David Koch and Sustainability Commissioner Ian McPhail.
- The Executive Officer made presentations to the Barwon South West Regional Managers Forum, the South West Sustainability Partnership, the Glenelg Hopkins Coastal and Marine Technical Working Group and a range of other stakeholders.
- The Coastal Priorities project included a range of workshops targeting the implementation of the VCS with technical and professional officers and CEOs in November 2008

Other activities

- Collaborative approaches to implementation of the VCS were discussed with the Corangamite CMA through the Coastal Partnerships Group of our two organisations. .
- The Board participated on the VCS Implementation Coordinating Committee with other Regional Boards and the Victorian Coastal Council to commence development of the VCS Implementation Plan.

1.1.2 Coastal Action Plans

Ten Coastal Action Plans (CAPs) exist in the Western Coastal Region with a Boating CAP in preparation.

Boating Coastal Action Plan

The Board progressed the development of a Boating CAP during the year. An Existing Conditions and Issues Paper was released in late 2008 and public consultation sessions were held throughout the region. The Steering Committee and Stakeholder Reference Group provided the Board with a Draft Boating CAP in June, which the Board endorsed for public exhibition for a 6-week period from late August to early October 2009.

Coastal Action Plan Reviews

Statutory 5-year reviews of CAPs were commenced in January 2009. The process included consultation with lead agents for CAP actions on the progress of actions and the qualitative aspects of CAP implementation. Advertising for public submissions was also undertaken as required by the *Coastal Management Act 1995*. The reviews are expected to be completed in late 2009.

Regional and Local Coastal Action Plans

A range of CAPs exist in the region.

- Two Regional CAPs for South West and Central West Victoria progress integrated coastal zone management at a sub-regional scale
- Two Estuary CAPs provide the framework and sub-regional guidance for the development and implementation of Estuary Management Plans
- Six local CAPs apply to discrete geographical areas in the region, including the Glenelg Shire, Moyne Shire, Warrnambool City, Skenes Creek to Marengo, Lorne and Anglesea CAPs. These translate the VCS 1997 and VCS 2002 to the local level and are implemented by land managers, local government and state agencies.
- Implementation of Recommendation #30 in the Lorne CAP was progressed with the Great Ocean Road Coast Committee [GORCC] for the redevelopment of the Erskine River Caravan Park.

Table 1: Status of CAPs 2008-09

CAP Title (year)	Status	Supported by
South West Victoria Regional CAP 2002	Implementation Plan in place. Full review underway.	Implementation Committee
Central West Victoria Regional CAP 2002	Implementation Plan in place. Full review underway.	Implementation Committee
South West Victoria Estuaries CAP 2002	Implementation Plan in place. Full review underway.	Glenelg Hopkins Coastal and Marine Technical Working Group
Central West Victoria Estuaries CAP 2005	Implementation Plan in place. Full review underway.	Implementation Committee
Lorne CAP 1998	Implementation to be progressed largely through other plans. Progress being considered in parallel with review process for other CAPs	GORCC and CAP partners
Anglesea CAP 1999	Implementation to be progressed largely through other plans. Progress being considered in parallel with review process for other CAPs	GORCC and CAP partners
Warrnambool CAP 1999	Implementation Committee identified, Implementation Plan drafted. Progress	Warrnambool City Council and CAP partners

	being considered in parallel with review process for other CAPs	
Moyne CAP 2001	Implementation Committee identified, Implementation Plan drafted though limited progress. Full review underway.	Moyne Shire and CAP partners
Skenes Creek to Marengo CAP 2002	Implementation Committee established, limited progress on implementation plan. Full review underway.	Otway Coast CoM and Implementation Committee organisations
Glenelg CAP 2004	Implementation commenced. Full review underway	Glenelg Shire Council and CAP partners
Boating CAP	Existing Conditions and Issues Paper complete. Draft CAP approved by the Board for 6-week exhibition from Aug-Oct 2009.	WCB, Steering Committee and Reference Group

1.1.2 Strategic Planning and Projects

The Board led, participated in and provided input to a wide range of strategic planning initiatives to promote the recognition of the Victorian Coastal Strategy and Coastal Action Plans. Key initiatives included:

National

- Submissions and presentation to the National Inquiry into Coastal Communities and Environmental Impacts of Climate Change.

State

Submissions and feedback were provided to a range of state initiatives:

- Victorian Competition and Consumer Commission Inquiry into Environmental Regulation.
- Land and Biodiversity at a time of climate change Green Paper
- Parliamentary Inquiry into the Future of Melbourne's Water Supply
- Premier's Discussion Paper: A Climate of Opportunity

Regional

The Board participated in a range of regional initiatives:

- Corangamite Fisheries Management Plan, Chaired by Board member Dr Helen Arundel
- Participation in the CCMA Coast and Marine Biodiversity Strategy.
- Final allocations were made for the Corangamite Coastal Dune Rehabilitation Program (\$267,000 over 2 years) to groups for on ground coastal projects, including Apollo Bay Kennett River Public Reserves Committee, Great Ocean Road Coast Committee and Birds Australia.

1.1.4 Municipal Planning Issues

The views of the Board are sought for coastal development matters through the Board's inclusion in four of the six local planning schemes in the region, and advice was provided on a range of issues. The Board's participation in these issues is determined by consistency of proposals and planning schemes with the Victorian Coastal Strategy, Coastal Action Plans and the State Planning Policy Framework. Participation in statutory planning matters was guided by the Board's Guidelines for Involvement in Statutory Planning. Key issues included:

- Submission to the Planning Panel for the Griffith Street subdivision in Port Fairy.
- Presentation by Elaine Carbines, Parks Victoria to discuss the proposed kiosk at the Twelve Apostles.
- Following Board and other agency objections in 2007 to the planning application for the Benbow's paddock subdivision, Cape Bridgewater (Glenelg Shire) the application was withdrawn in 2009.
- Committed to engaging in the Torquay-Jan Juc 2040 initiative with Surf Coast Shire
- Engagement with the Glenelg Strategic Futures Plan and Portland Wind Energy Stage 4

1.1.5 Status of Coastal Planning

Many coastal planning initiatives are underway across the region. The table below outlines the general status of these plans at 30 June 2008. The Western Coastal Board was pleased to have the opportunity to contribute formally and informally to the status of many of these documents:

Table 2: Status of Coastal Planning 2008-09 (S.13(a) of the CM Act)

Title of Plan	Status	Responsibility
Colac and Apollo Bay Car Parking Study	Developing – Expect completion 2010	Colac Otway Shire
Apollo Bay Harbour Master Plan	Completed	Colac Otway Shire
Apollo Bay Structure Plan – (GORRS Funded)	Completed	Colac Otway Shire
Apollo Bay Structure Plan – PSA Implementation C55 (Coastal Spaces Funded via RDV)	Completed	Colac Otway Shire
Coastal Spaces Landscape Assessment Study – PSA Implementation C55 (Coastal Spaces Funded via ESAS)	Completed	Colac Otway Shire
Colac Otway Shire Rural Living Study	Developing	Colac Otway Shire
Colac Structure Plan – PSA Implementation C55 (Coastal Spaces Funded via RDV)	Completed	Colac Otway Shire
Wye River/Sep Creek/Kennett River Structure Plan	Complete	Colac Otway Shire
Wye River/Sep Creek/Kennett River Structure Plan – PSA Implementation C58 (Coastal Spaces Funded via ESAS)	Developing - Amendment awaiting authorisation from Minister	Colac Otway Shire
Curdies River Estuary Management Plan	Developing- to be complete Dec 08 Developing	Corangamite and Moyne Shire Councils
Corangamite Region Wetland Strategy	Complete	Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CMA)
Corangamite Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy	Draft	Corangamite CMA
Corangamite Native Vegetation Plan	Complete (in 2006)	Corangamite CMA
Corangamite Regional River Health Strategy	Complete	Corangamite CMA
Corangamite Salinity Action Plan	Complete	Corangamite CMA
Corangamite Soil Health Strategy	Complete	Corangamite CMA
Painkalac Creek Environmental Flow Determination	Complete	Corangamite CMA
Southern Victorian Native Fish Strategy	Complete	Corangamite CMA leading on behalf of five coastal CMA's and Melbourne Water
Coastal Spaces Landscape Assessment Study – PSA Implementation (Coastal Spaces Funded via ESAS)	Not commenced	Corangamite Shire
Prinetown Urban Design Framework (Coastal Spaces Funded via RDV)	Developing	Corangamite Shire
Corangamite Fishery Management Plan	Completed/Approved	Department of Primary Industries
Glenelg Hopkins Fishery Management Plan	Completed/Approved	Department of Primary Industries
Portland Aquaculture Fisheries Reserves	Completed/Approved	Department of Primary

Management Plan		Industries
Kooyang Sea Country	Complete	Framlingham Aboriginal Trust and Winda Mara Aboriginal Corporation
Flood Study for Port Fairy	Developing- 90% Complete	GHCMA & Moyne
Fitzroy Estuary Management Plan	Completed/Approved	Glenelg Hopkins CMA
Glenelg Hopkins River Health Strategy	Completed/Approved	Glenelg Hopkins CMA
Glenelg River Estuary Management Plan	Completed/ Approved	Glenelg Hopkins CMA
Hopkins River Estuary Management Plan	Completed/ Approved	Glenelg Hopkins CMA
Merri Estuary Management Plan	Completed/ Approved	Glenelg Hopkins CMA
South Warrnambool Flood Study PSA Implementation C44	Complete	Glenelg Hopkins CMA
Surry Estuary Management Plan	Completed/Approved	Glenelg Hopkins CMA
Surry River Flood Study	Complete	Glenelg Hopkins CMA
Yambuk Lake Estuary Management Plan	Completed/Approved	Glenelg Hopkins CMA
Coastal Hazards and Engineering Study (Coastal Spaces Funded via RDV)	Underway	Glenelg Shire Council
Coastal Spaces Landscape Assessment Study – PSA Implementation (Coastal Spaces Funded via ESAS)	Commenced	Glenelg Shire Council
Environmental Strategic Framework	Developing	Glenelg Shire Council
Glenelg Environment Strategy	Developing	Glenelg Shire Council
Glenelg Strategic Futures Plan	Currently seeking public comment	Glenelg Shire Council
Portland Bay Coastal Infrastructure Plan	Complete	Glenelg Shire Council
Futurescapes – Climate Change Demonstrator Project	Commenced	Glenelg Shire Council and Department of Primary Industries
Environment and Land Management Plan	Complete	Great Ocean Road Coast Committee of Management
Point Grey and Slaughterhouse Master Plan	Developing	Great Ocean Road Coast Committee of Management
Torquay Foreshore Masterplan	Complete	Great Ocean Road Coast Committee of Management
Weed Control and Native Vegetation Action Plan	Complete	Great Ocean Road Coast Committee of Management
Belfast Lough Environmental Management Plan	Complete and awaiting endorsement	Moyne Shire
Coastal Spaces Landscape Assessment Study – PSA Implementation C29 (Coastal Spaces Funded via ESAS)	Exhibition complete. Council considering submissions	Moyne Shire
Environmental Sustainability Strategy	Complete/approved	Moyne Shire
Peterborough UDG Amendment	Developing	Moyne Shire
The Crags Management Plan	Complete	Moyne Shire
Tower Hill Design Guidelines (Coastal Spaces Funded via RDV)	Underway	Moyne Shire
Port Fairy East Beach Coastal Erosion Engineering & Feasibility Study	Developing/Rec'd by Council subject to technical peer review	Moyne Shire & DSE
Discovery Bay Marine National Park Draft Management Plan	Complete	Parks Victoria
Great Otway National Park and Otway Forest Park Management Plan	Developing	Parks Victoria
Indigenous Partnership Strategy	Complete	Parks Victoria
Marengo Reefs Marine Sanctuary Draft Management Plan	Complete	Parks Victoria

Merri Marine Sanctuary Management Plan	Complete	Parks Victoria
Point Addis Marine National Park, Point Danger Marine Sanctuary and Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary Management Plan	Complete	Parks Victoria
Twelve Apostles Marine National Park and The Arches Marine Sanctuary Management Plan	Complete	Parks Victoria
Anglesea River & Estuary Management Plan	Complete	Surf Coast Shire
Anglesea Riverbank Master Plan	Complete	Surf Coast Shire
Bells Beach Masterplan Review	Developing	Surf Coast Shire
Coastal Spaces Landscape Assessment Study – PSA Implementation (Coastal Spaces Funded via ESAS)	Complete	Surf Coast Shire
Deep Creek Master Plan	Completed/Approved	Surf Coast Shire
Painkalac Creek Estuary Management Plan	Complete	Surf Coast Shire
Pathway strategy	Complete	Surf Coast Shire
Pollution Source Investigation for Lorne	Developing	Surf Coast Shire
Spring Creek Structure Plan	Developing	Surf Coast Shire
Torquay / Jan Juc Structure Plan – PSA Implementation (Coastal Spaces Funded via RDV)	Complete/ PSA C37 on exhibition	Surf Coast Shire
Torquay North Development Plan	Developing	Surf Coast Shire
Torquay West Growth Area (Coastal Spaces Funded via RDV)	Underway	Surf Coast Shire
Waste Water Management Plan	Developing	Surf Coast Shire
Wastewater Management Plan – Moggs Creek	Developing	Surf Coast Shire
White's Beach Master Plan – Stage 1	Completed/Approved	Surf Coast Shire
White's Beach Master Plan – Stage 2	Developing	Surf Coast Shire
Water Supply Demand Strategy 2007 - 2055	Completed June 2007	Wannon Water
50 year Biodiversity and Land Management Strategy	Completed May 2009	Wannon Water
Sustainability Strategy	Completed June 2008	Wannon Water
Allansford Structure Plan (Coastal Spaces Funded via RDV)	Underway	Warrnambool City Council
Beach Cleaning Management Plan	Completed	Warrnambool City Council
Coastal Design and Logans Beach Review	Developing	Warrnambool City Council
Environmental Sustainability Strategy	Developing	Warrnambool City Council
Hopkins Point Road Structure Plan (Coastal Spaces Funded via RDV)	Completed	Warrnambool City Council
Land Suitability Decision Framework	Developing	Warrnambool City Council and Corangamite Shire Council
Land-use Audit Review of Residential Land (Coastal Spaces Funded via RDV)	Completed	Warrnambool City Council
Levy's Point Coastal Reserve Management Plan	Completed	Warrnambool City Council
Merri Street Design Guidelines	Completed	Warrnambool City Council
Rural Settlement Strategy	Developing	Warrnambool City Council
South Warrnambool Wetlands Management Plan	Completed	Warrnambool City Council
Warrnambool Coastal Landscape Review	Developing	Warrnambool City Council
Warrnambool Foreshore Management Plan	Completed	Warrnambool City Council
Port Fairy – Warrnambool Rail Trail	Developing	Warrnambool City Council & the Moyne Shire

1.1.6 Other initiatives

The Board's role under the *Coastal Management Act 1995* is diverse, and in addition to the initiatives outlined above, the Chair, Members, and staff participated in a number of inter-agency and/or community initiatives to facilitate implementation of the Victorian Coastal Strategy.

Coastal Priorities Project

The Coastal Priorities for Western Victoria: Coastal Planning and Natural Resource Management (NRM) project attracted significant interest and participation from stakeholders through officer and CEO workshops and a series of Working Groups. The project seeks to establish regional priorities and promote effective collaboration. The project revealed a strong desire by organisations in the region to collaborate on coastal priority issues.

WCB Planning Guidelines

The Board reviewed its internal planning guidelines and sought advice from the Victorian Coastal Council, which is now considering their revision and application across all regional coastal boards.

Natural Resource Management

The condition of the coast's natural resources underpins many aspects of both coastal communities and the regional economy. Key points include:

- The value of joint membership of the Corangamite CMA (Alain Purnell and Julie Hansen)
- Benefits of participation in CCMA Regional Implementation Committee membership (Rachel Faggetter) and Regional Catchment Investment Plan input
- A financial contribution to development of the Kanawinka Coast project bid with Glenelg Shire and others for Caring for our Country funding.
- Provision of support for funding applications to support a wide range of projects in the region
- Ex-officio membership of the CCMA EstuaryWatch Steering Committee
- Hosting a regional workshop at CCMA's offices to facilitate regional collaboration for Caring for Our Country projects
- Membership of and support for the Glenelg Hopkins Coast and Marine Technical Working Group (convened jointly by Glenelg Hopkins CMA and WCB)
- Participation in the development of the Corangamite CMA Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Strategy

Partnerships and Collaboration

- The Coastal Partnerships Group continued to meet to discuss common issues between Corangamite CMA and the Board. The Group comprises 2 Board members from each organisation plus CEOs and program managers. Lynette Skilbeck, Rachel Faggetter and Steve Blackley represented the Board.
- The Board is a Director of the South West Sustainability Partnership (Steve Blackley and alternate Sue Mudford)
- Membership of the Geelong Region Alliance G21
- Chairs and Executive Officers of RCB and VCC met throughout the year to progress a range of issues.

Coastal management and climate change

- The Board received presentations and updates from the Future Coasts team at DSE and contributed to directions on the three elements of the program: coastal modelling, built asset inventory and the development of the Issues and Response Paper. The Board awaits the outcomes of the program with interest and looks forward to working with DSE to progress it.
- The Board was represented on the GORRC Member Selection Committee for the appointment of a new member.

- Alain Purnell represented the Board on the Otway Coast Committee of Management selection Committee

1.2. Protecting the Environment

Activities undertaken by the Board to protect the environment included:

- Natural Assets emerged as a regional priority through the Coastal Priorities project.
- Participated in Regional Catchment Investment Planning (RCIP) processes for both GHMA and CCMA
- Advice provided by the Board on strategic planning, statutory planning and other initiatives often includes identification of environmental issues, threats to natural assets and impacts that should be avoided or minimised.
- The Board modified its operations and meeting arrangements to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions.

1.3. Improved Recreation and Tourism

- Progressed the development of a Boating Coastal Action Plan with significant benefits to recreation and tourism.
- Received a presentation from Tom Smith of Tourism Victoria on tourism challenges and opportunities for the region.
- Provided input to a range of planning applications and strategic planning initiatives to promote the holistic consideration of issues and delivery of improved outcomes for recreation and tourism.
- Advised Glenelg Shire of in principle support for an additional boat ramp on the Portland foreshore, subject to the recommendations of the Boating CAP.
- Attended the South West Tourism Forum.

1.4 Maintaining and Improving Coastal Water Quality

- Implementation of both the Central West and South West Estuaries CAPs include actions targeted at improving estuarine water quality. Estuary Management Plans developed consistent with the frameworks outlined in CAPs deliver benefits to water quality.
- Provided funding support to the Moyne Shire Council to develop the Curdies Estuary Management Plan. This important plan was finalised by Moyne Shire.

1.5 Increasing Awareness and Understanding of Coastal Issues

Projects

- The Coastal Priorities project is designed to facilitate improved awareness and understanding among regional stakeholders.
- Participation in a wide range of initiatives and relationships with organisations to promote awareness eg Barwon SW Regional Managers Forum, engagement with the Great South Coast, G21 and Regional Development Victoria on the development of Regional Strategic plans.

Events

- A regional visit was conducted to the Surf Coast municipality in September 2008, including a field trip with Surf Coast Shire Council and the Great Ocean Road Coast Committee and joint meeting with Council. A Western Coastal Sessions – Surf Coast event filled the Council chambers with members of the public to hear a range of presentations and discuss coastal issues.
- A regional visit to the Corangamite Shire occurred in March 2009, including a meeting with the Corangamite Shire Council, a Western Coastal Session – Corangamite public forum and inspection of sites with Council and Parks Victoria
- The Board received a presentation from the Department of Planning and Community Development on coastal demographic changes and strategic planning challenges.

- Attendance at the Victorian Coastal Awards and congratulations to the winners from the region. The Board made a record number of six nominations to the Awards.
- The Executive Officer presented to the Coast to Coast 2008 National Conference on “Social and Economic: the glass ceiling of sustainability”.

Capacity building, consultation and engagement

- Wide ranging consultation and engagement with regional professionals, Councillors/Board members and the public regarding the Victorian Coastal Strategy 2008.
- Awareness, understanding and opportunities for involvement in coastal planning and management were promoted by relationship development with new partners through
 - presentations to the Barwon SW Regional Managers Forum on the new VCS 2008
 - Attendance at a wide range of events.
 - Active engagement with important processes such as the Regional Planning Initiative
- Members and staff attended a range of events such as the National Coast to Coast 2008 Conference, and the MAV Coastal Climate Change Forum.

Communications and networks

- Continued support for and participation in the Glenelg Hopkins Coast and Marine Technical Working Group.
- Continued participation in and joined the Board of the South West Sustainability Partnership which was incorporated during the year.
- Member of the Wimmera Glenelg-Hopkins Corangamite Sustainability Research Network.
- Provided regular reports to key stakeholders to promote understanding of coastal issues and the activities of the WCB.

2. FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION AND MEMBERSHIP

2.1. Financial Statement

Recurrent funding provided to the Board by the Department of Sustainability and Environment during 2008-09 was \$252,409, and was augmented by a carry-over of \$6918 from the 2007-08 year. Total expenditure was as follows:

Item	Budget	Expend
Salaries, on-costs and training	169,555	169,646
Secretariat/Operating	9,600	15,418
Networking, Capacity Building & Events	3,222	3,802
Sitting Fees, Travel, Accommodation, Meals & Personal Expenses	68,900	60,274
Professional Services	5,500	4,238
Memberships & Communications	2,550	3,359
Total	259,327	256,737

Generous support was received from DSE through the provision of subsidised office premises and facilities, which delivered substantial recurrent savings.

The following project funding was provided during the year:

- Final invoices totalling \$25,940 (ex-GST) were paid to land managers for the Corangamite Dune Rehabilitation Project
- The Coastal Priorities project received a total of \$84,091 (ex-GST) for the year from CMAs, and partner organisations, adding to funds received in 2007-08 and the Board's \$15,000 cash contribution for a total project income of \$124,600.
- \$20,000 was committed to facilitate the Coastal Priorities project in its second and third years.
- The Boating CAP received \$104,000 from Marine Safety Victoria and a further \$22,000 from the Board and project partners. A shortfall in \$1,000 partner contributions totalling \$6,000 was outstanding as at 30 June and will be addressed in 2009-10.
- \$10,000 was committed to the CAP review process

2.2. Board Membership

2008-09 represents the third and final year of the Board's three-year term. A total of 9 meetings were held during the year.

Chair

Lynn Murrell, OAM

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

Meetings attended: 7 of 9

Members – Community Representatives

Dr Helen Arundel

Helen is a research academic at Deakin University. She works in the field of estuarine and marine ecology with a particular interest in monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the condition of these environments. Helen chairs the Central West CAP Implementation Committee and is a member of the Priorities Project Steering Committee. Helen also represents the Board on the Woodside Otway Community Reference Group. Helen has lived in the Port Campbell – Peterborough area for the past 17 years.

Meetings attended: 8 of 9

Lex Chalmers OAM

Experience as a secondary teacher in Portland, education consultant in the Barwon - South West region and tourism operator 1990-98 has underpinned Lex's advocacy for education, heritage, tourism and arts organisations at community level, and representation of the Portland community at regional and state levels. She also has worked through various local committees to support good environmental outcomes in the Glenelg Shire. She is a member of the Board's Sub-Committee, and contributes to Board submissions to Governments and agencies on heritage, environment and tourism matters. Lex is an associate member of Australia ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) and community member of the Victorian Local Governance Association. While she now resides in Geelong she is a continuing member / Life Member of Portland's heritage and arts organizations and maintains her interest in the region's coastal environment and planning issues.

Meetings attended: 8 of 9

Rachel Faggetter

Long time member of the Anglesea and Aireys Inlet Environment Association and ANGAIR, Rachel has been active in environmental and community advocacy in Aireys Inlet for over 30 years. She lectures in Natural and Cultural Heritage and Interpretation with the Institute of Koori Education at Deakin University, Waurin Ponds. As a community representative on the Board, she attends coastal events and reports on trends 'from the ground up' to assist the Board's strategic planning capacity. Chief among the issues in a region of very rapid change is the impact of the 'seachange' phenomenon on the environmental, economic and social sustainability of the coast. The growth of tourism and huge rises in real estate prices bring changes in the social landscape which are important to understand for the future of the coast. The capacity for communities to manage these changes and to seize new opportunities needs to be supported and strengthened. Rachel has represented the Board on the Corangamite CMA Regional Investment Committee and also on the Community Strategy Implementation Committee.

Meetings attended: 7 of 9

Julie Hansen

Julie Hansen has extensive experience at the community - local government interface as a former Surf Coast Shire Councillor (1995-2004), serving two terms as mayor, and President of the Victorian Local Governance Association (2000-05). She has been actively involved in developing policy initiatives in environmental, governance, strategic land use planning, tourism, community planning, consultation and engagement areas from local to State level. Julie is a practicing retail pharmacist and a member of the Greenfleet Australia Board and Corangamite Catchment Management Authority. She is also a Fellow of the Institute of Company Directors and was awarded a Centenary of Federation Medal for services to local government and community. Julie has lived in Anglesea for over twenty years.

Meetings attended: 6 of 9

Neil Longmore

Neil has a law degree from Deakin University and a post graduate qualification in urban and regional planning from the University of New England. He is currently the principal solicitor of the Barwon Community Legal Service, based in Geelong providing legal services to the disadvantaged in the Barwon region with special interest in immigration issues and affordable housing. Neil is a native of

Colac and has lived for the past 25 years at Gellibrand River, where he runs a small sheep farm and a private environmental law practice. He was founding Secretary of the Old Beechy Rail Trail, a member of the Gellibrand-Kawarren Progress Association and a member of the Otway Coast Committee. Neil makes a significant contribution to the Board in the areas of planning and environmental law.

Meetings attended: 4 of 9

Susan Mudford

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

Meetings attended: 7 of 9

Alain Purnell

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

Meetings attended: 8 of 9

Lynette Skilbeck

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

Meetings attended: 8 of 9

Members – Agency Representatives

Rod Newnham – Parks Victoria

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

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

Prior to taking on the Regional Manager role in March 2006 Rod was the Director of Capital Infrastructure for Parks Victoria. This role gave him experience in the development, implementation and challenges of a broad range of marine and coastal infrastructure. Various senior roles over the

last few years have enabled Rod to build skills in developing connections with local communities. His strong background in fire and the community focus on this issue have highlighted the importance of this skill. After graduating as a Williamson fellow in 2004 Rod now sits on the Ballarat and Western region leadership committee where he can participate in his passion of developing young rural regional leaders.

Meetings attended: 3 of 9

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

Grant Hull was appointed to the role of Group Manager, Biodiversity and Environmental Planning, DSE South West based in Ballarat, in November 2007. Grant holds a degree in applied biology and has worked for DSE and its predecessor and allied organisations since 1977. This has included positions as park ranger and conservation reserves management and policy officer with the former National Parks Service and Chief Ranger with Parks Victoria. For over ten years Grant lead the coastal management and statutory planning staff, and has a comprehensive knowledge of the Victorian planning system, wetlands, ecology and management. He has on various occasions since 1997 deputised for the DSE representative on the Western Coastal Board and was appointed as the full-time member for this term of the current Board.

Meetings attended: 8 of 9

Staff

Steve Blackley (Executive Officer)

Steve commenced in December 2005 and represents the Board on a range of committees and initiatives. He was Executive Officer of the Central Coastal Board from 2002-2004 and worked with the GORCC in 2005. Prior to 2002 he worked for a variety of organisations in NSW on coastal planning and management, communications, land and biodiversity management, water management and fisheries. He was a member of the Surf Coast Shire Planning Committee during 2004-05 and has worked for national, State and local NGOs. He has a degree in Coastal Management.

Margot Harrison (Executive Assistant/Coastal Projects)

Margot joined the Board in July 2007 and works 4 days per week. Her position is split between administrative/executive support and project work. Margot has a degree in Applied Science (Planning) and has wide experience in human resource management, administration and planning.

Gavin Prentice (Project Manager) – to March 2009

Gavin commenced with the Board in March 2008 on a 12 month fixed term contract (4 days per week). He was previously the Regional Coordinator of the Wetlands and Water programs for the Queensland Murray Darling Committee. Prior to this Gavin was consulting with Sinclair Knight Merz in Toowoomba and Brisbane. Gavin is a 1996 graduate of the Bachelor of Natural Resources, UNE.

Simon Coverdale (Project Manager) – to March 2009

Simon was on two-years' Leave Without Pay until his resignation in March 2009.

2.3 Board Meetings

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

MEETING NO.	LOCATION	DATE
1-08/09	Warrnambool	11 July 2008
2-08/09	Torquay	12 September 2008
3-08/09	Warrnambool	10 October 2008
4-08/09	Melbourne	11 December 2008
5-08/09	Warrnambool	13 February 2009
6-08/09	Port Campbell	13 March 2009
7-08/09	Teleconference	21 April 2009
8-08/09	Torquay	7 & 8 May 2009
9-08/09	Colac	22 June 2009

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

2.4 Sub-Committee meetings

The Board operated two sub-committees to guide the Board in the areas of Governance and Resourcing issues at the commencement of the 2008-09 year and amalgamated these into a single Sub-Committee in September 2008.

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

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

The amalgamated Sub-Committee provides the Board with advice on a range of governance, financial and capacity-related matters and met 4 times during the year.

3. PRIORITIES FOR 2009-10

The Board expects many challenges during the coming year and has articulated its priorities in the 007-10 Business Plan. The Board sees the following as important areas for progression in 2009-10 to be confirmed by the incoming Board:

- Completion of the Coastal Priorities project, further refinement of the process and implementation of the next annual priority-setting cycle
- Completion of the Boating CAP, including undertaking extensive consultation to finalise it for submission to the Victorian Coastal Council, Ministerial endorsement and commencement of an Implementation process
- Completion of statutory reviews of Coastal Action Plans and investigating the feasibility of second generation CAPs in partnership with other Regional Coastal Boards and the VCC
- Promoting and facilitating the regional delivery of the VCS 2008 Implementation Plan.
- Hosting the 2010 Western Coastal Forum.

For further information contact:

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