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PHOTO: SUSANNAH MALEY

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Mission Statement

“The Victorian Coastal Council is the peak body that advocates for and champions the Victorian coast.”

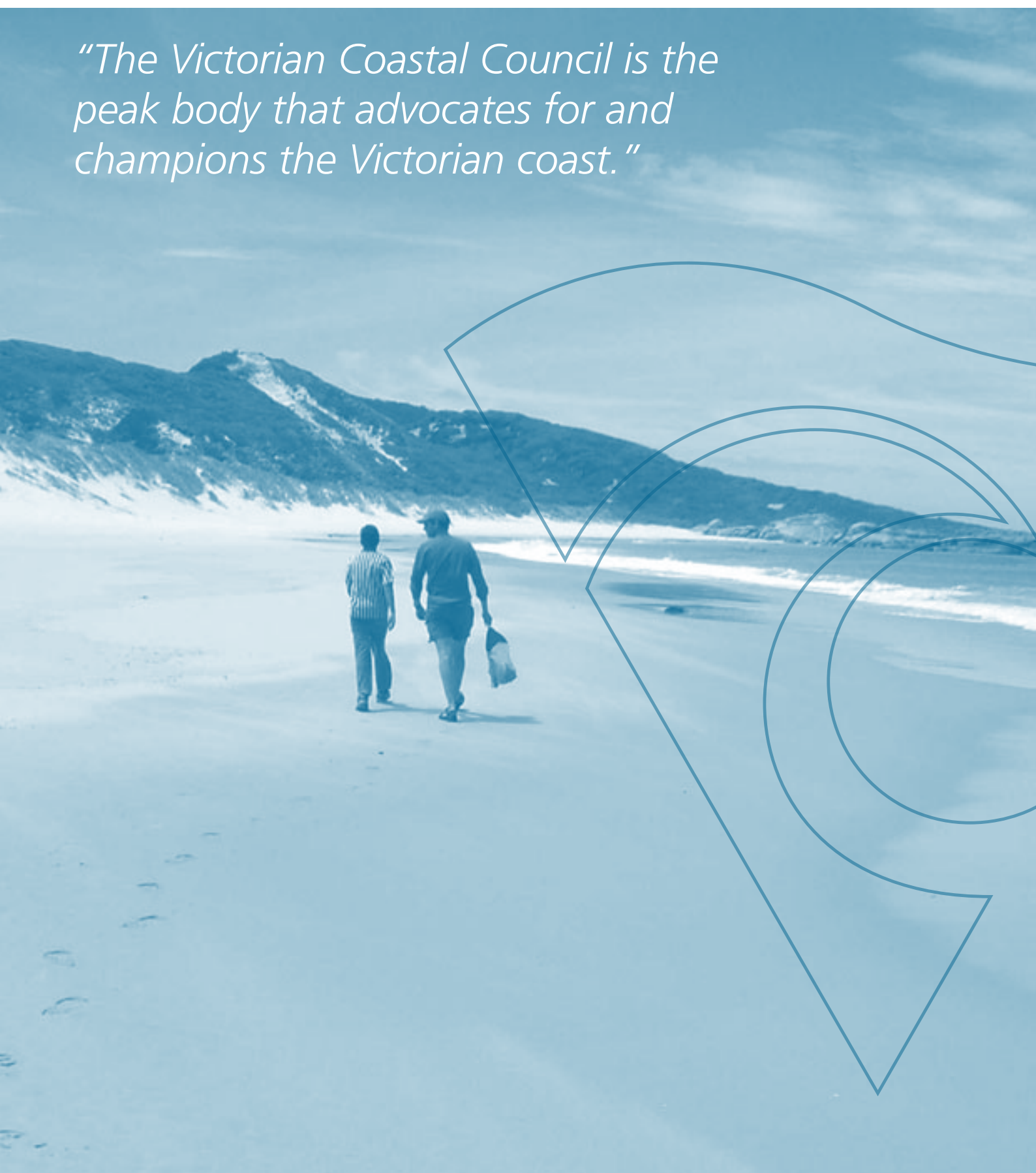


PHOTO: RYAN CROSS

2 Chairman's Report



On behalf of the Victorian Coastal Council, I have much pleasure in submitting the tenth report of the Victorian Coastal Council to the Minister for Environment.

Victoria is indeed fortunate to have a functioning and independent advisory structure in the Victorian Coastal Council and three Regional Coastal Boards. Established under the provisions of the *Coastal Management Act 1995*, these bodies continue to provide independent advice to the Minister for Environment, undertake statewide and regional strategic planning and advocate for the coast.

In 2005/2006 Council celebrated its tenth anniversary, marking the occasion with a number of major achievements.

In May 2006, after much planning and behind the scenes work, Council hosted *Coast to Coast 2006: Australia's National Coastal Conference* attracting over 400 delegates, including international participants from New Zealand, China, Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines and Italy. The conference successfully profiled the key challenges facing our coast, highlighting that from the sea change phenomenon to climate change impacts our fragile coast demands greater protection by all three tiers of government.

In April 2006 the Victorian Government accepted the recommendations of the *Coastal Spaces Report* to improve and clarify strategic planning and tools for managing sustainable coastal development in non-metropolitan coastal areas. The Government's commitment to direct urban development to existing settlements was confirmed and Council welcomed the Victorian Government's allocation of \$2 million to support local governments in strengthening their planning for coastal settlements. I was privileged to chair the steering committee and particularly pleased with the successful partnership between Council and DSE.

In the last ten years much effort has gone into securing Victoria's reputation as a world leader in Integrated Coastal Zone Management. Victoria has a well-developed coastal policy framework, the Victorian Coastal Strategy 2002, to guide use and development in coastal regions. Council looks forward to the scheduled 2007 review of the Strategy and the opportunity to engage with the many stakeholders who value the coast.

Regional Coastal Boards continue to contribute significantly to Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM). The Central West Estuaries Coastal Action Plan, prepared by the Western Coastal Board was approved by Council and endorsed by the Minister for Environment. The Council has approved the Boating Coastal Action Plan prepared by the Central Coastal Board and will recommend endorsement to the Minister. I am pleased to acknowledge the enormous amount of work, particularly with stakeholders, involved with developing these plans.

Coast to Coast 2006 was also a huge amount of work and I want to thank Council's conference steering committee members Duncan Malcolm, Liz Johnstone, Lynn Murrell, John Sweetman, Andrew Buckley, and particularly Cathy Ronalds, for their tireless efforts. I also thank Council members Rob Gell, Duncan Malcolm and Michael Keough who presented at the conference, along with the conference's major sponsors, the Department of Sustainability and Environment and the Department of Environment and Heritage. My thanks also go to Kerri Erler, who resigned in March 2006, for her contribution during her time with Council.

There is still much to be done and partnerships with all stakeholders need to be strengthened. We must continue to build on the achievements of the last ten years, working with nature and investing wisely in integrated coastal zone management.

Council looks forward enthusiastically to its ongoing role as an advocate for Victoria's coast.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Diane James". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Diane James
Chairman

3 Highlights

Coastal Spaces Initiative

Council welcomed the Victorian Government's adoption of the Steering Committee's recommendations and announcement of a \$2 million funding package to accompany the release of the *Coastal Spaces Recommendations Report*. The recommendations seek to improve and clarify strategic planning and tools for managing sustainable coastal development in non-metropolitan coastal areas (see page 13 for further information).

Victorian Coastal Awards for Excellence

Council and CoastAction/Coastcare presented the seventh Victorian Coastal Awards for Excellence at a ceremony in April 2006 to recognise and acknowledge the achievements of those that have played a significant role in protecting and enhancing the values of Victoria's coast. Diane James and the Hon. John Thwaites, MP Minister for Environment, presented awards in eleven categories to:

- *Zoe Hogg*, founding member of Earthcare and former coordinator of the St Kilda Little Penguin study (Lifetime Achievement)
- *Dr Mark Norman*, scientist, who has discovered more than 150 new species of octopus (Outstanding Individual Achievement)
- *MGS Architects* for the *Sandy Point House Project, South Gippsland* (Building & Design Category)
- *Moyne Shire* for biodiversity protection of *Griffiths Island, Port Fairy* (Coastal Conservation & Management by a Land Manager)
- *Bass Valley Primary School* for *Mangrove rehabilitation at Grantville* (Coastal Conservation and Protection by a Community Group)
- *Aboriginal Trust, Framlingham*, for the *Kooyang Sea Country Plan* covering local Indigenous management of coastal land from Lorne to the SA border (Cultural Achievement)
- *East Gippsland Waterwatch* for the *Gippsland Lakes Relay 2005* involving 2,500 students from over 75 schools from Warragul to Lakes Entrance (Education)
- *Parks Victoria-Coastal Zone CRC Partnership* for *mapping Victoria's six largest outer-coast marine national parks* (Innovation)
- *Marine and Coastal Community Network* for the *newsletter 'Waves'* (Media)
- *Melbourne Water Corporation* for the *Western Treatment Plant upgrade* (Water Quality)
- *Dr Tim Ealey* for improving the Westernport ecosystem through mangrove and seagrass regeneration (Species Protection)

Council also congratulates the 350 Coast Action/Coastcare groups in Victoria who continue to deliver quality educational programs and activities involving a volunteer base of more than 20,000 people.

Coastal Action Plans

Council approved the Central West Estuaries Coastal Action Plan (Western Coastal Board) and the Boating Coastal Action Plan (Central Coastal Board) under the provisions of the *Coastal Management Act 1995*, bringing the total number of Coastal Action Plans (CAPs) either approved or under development to ten in the Western Coastal Region, four in the Gippsland Coastal Region and three in the Central Coastal region.

Coast to Coast Conference

In May 2006 Council hosted *Coast to Coast 2006: Australia's National Coastal Conference* in Melbourne.

- The seventh and largest National Coastal conference program featured an outstanding line-up of local and international speakers, concurrent sessions and nine field trips
- Over 400 delegates were registered, including international delegates from New Zealand, China, Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines and Italy
- The conference included keynote addresses by Vikki Spruill, President, Seaweb, USA on Marine Conservation and Social Marketing, Tim Costello AO, Chief Executive Officer, World Vision Australia on Post-Tsunami, Rebuilding Sustainable Coastal Communities and Dr Guy Pearse on Why Australia's "Greenhouse Protectionism" Costs Coastal Communities
- Victorian Minister for Environment and Water, John Thwaites launched the results of *Mapping Underwater Victoria* – two multi-million dollar scientific projects. The Victorian Government funded Marine National Park Mapping Program surveyed six of the state's marine national parks, while the State and Federally funded *Victorian Marine Habitat Mapping* initiative worked on the locations outside the parks

- The event was accompanied by a pre-conference Natural Resource Management Workshop, meetings of the National Estuaries Network and the Inter-governmental Coastal Advisory Group (ICAG), and a Research for Coastal Management Symposium convened by the Coastal CRC
- The Hon. Elaine Carbines MLC, Parliamentary Secretary for Environment, hosted a plenary panel on Sea Change. The panellists were Prof. Ian Lowe AO, FTSE, President Australian Conservation Foundation, Brian Haratsis, Managing Director, Macroplan Australia, Tony De Domenico, Chief Executive, Urban Development Institute of Australia, Victoria and Alan Stokes, Executive Officer, National Sea Change Taskforce
- A Conference resolution endorsed establishing the first Australian Coastal Society to create an independent national body for all those people committed to the health of Australia's coast. Professor Bruce Thom, University of Sydney, was appointed interim Chairman
- Conference presentations are now available on Council's web site www.vcc.vic.gov.au

PEMSEA

- Experiences and knowledge continue to be shared resulting from the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in 2004 between the Partnerships for Environmental Management of the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) and the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE). The Council had facilitated the signing of this memorandum (See page 9 for further information)
- Council and DSE hosted a visit to Victoria by 38 delegates from the Republic of Korea in May 2006. The delegates were organised under the auspices of the MoU with PEMSEA and included local government and the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries.

Science Panel

- An expert Science Panel was convened comprising 24 eminent Victorian based scientists to provide advice to Council on emerging issues and knowledge gaps relevant to Victoria's coastal and marine environment.

Other Partnerships

- Council allocated \$5,000 to Museum Victoria to support the publication of "Guides to Marine Life"
- Council allocated \$5,000 for a bronze sponsorship for the International Youth Coastal Conference, to be held on Port Phillip Bay from 15–18 October 2006.

Other Coastal Highlights in Victoria

- The establishment of the Great Otway National Park in November 2005 linking the existing Otway National Park and the Angahook-Lorne, Carlisle and Melba Gully State Parks with tracts of former State Forest to create the largest park on the Victorian coast
- The State Government's 2005/06 budget announcement of \$9 million for infrastructure maintenance and beach renourishment around Port Phillip Bay and \$11.2 million for risk mitigation on the coast and the November 2005 announcement of the Provincial Victoria initiative including \$61.5 million for Regional Ports over four years. The Regional Ports funding comprises \$30 million to maintain and upgrade port assets and \$31.5 million for the Lakes Entrance Sand Management Program
- The first International Marine Protected Areas Congress was held in Geelong in October 2006. Parks Victoria, in conjunction with the World Commission on Protected Areas and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Authority, co-hosted this important event. 800 people from 80 countries attended the Congress to share global expertise and focus on key issues in marine conservation and sustainable use of marine resources to facilitate improved management of marine environments worldwide
- The release of the Reference Group report on Caravan and Camping Parks on Coastal Crown Land in May 2006, and the announcement of an Improvement Grant Program of \$4.8 million over four years.
- The Melbourne stopover for the 'Volvo Ocean Race' – a round-the-world yacht race – in January 2006 and the Rescue 06 World Surf Life Saving Championships at Lorne and Geelong in February 2006
- The approval of the East Gippsland Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS) prepared by the East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority. An RCS is now in place for each of the five coastal CMAs extending to the State's three nautical mile limit.

4 Vision for the Coast

“A biologically rich and diverse coastal and marine environment for our use and enjoyment today and for our children tomorrow.”

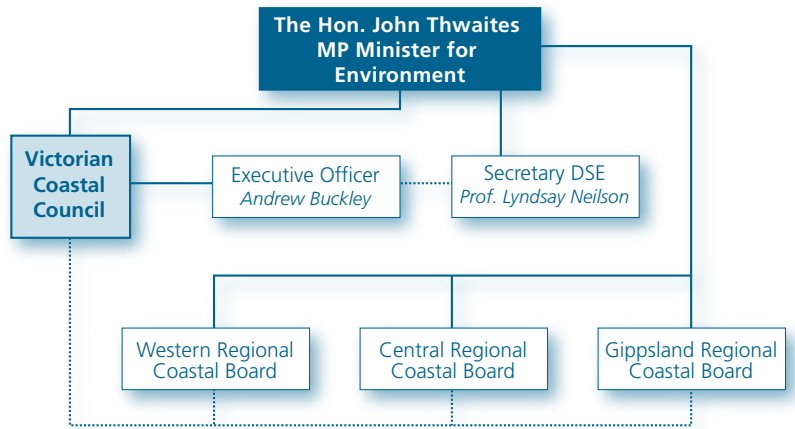
PHOTO: KATHRYN TIPPLE

5 Reporting Relationship and Functions

The Victorian Coastal Council is established under the *Coastal Management Act 1995* as the peak advisory body on coastal issues in Victoria. It is accountable to the Minister for Environment, the Hon. John Thwaites MP.

Its role is to provide strategic direction and improve coordination of coastal planning and management.

As an independent body accountable to the Minister for Environment, the Council is provided with a budget and secretariat support through the Sustainability and Environment Portfolio.

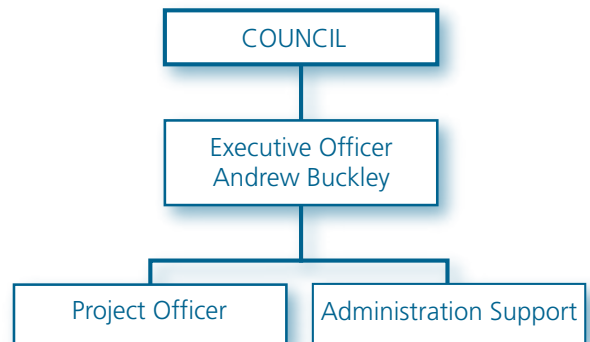


The functions of the Council under the *Coastal Management Act 1995* are:

- To undertake statewide strategic coastal planning
- To prepare and submit to the Minister a draft Victorian Coastal Strategy
- To provide advice to the Minister
- To facilitate the operation of Regional Coastal Boards
- To monitor the development of Coastal Action Plans
- To coordinate the implementation of the Victorian Coastal Strategy and Coastal Action Plans
- To prepare and publish guidelines
- To liaise with and encourage the cooperation of Government departments, public authorities, municipal councils, industry, community groups and persons and bodies involved in the planning, management and use of the coast in furthering the objectives of the Act
- To provide opportunities for the public and interested groups to be informed of and involved in the work of the Council
- To encourage the work of volunteers in using and conserving coastal resources
- To give consideration to the needs of Aborigines and other interested groups in relation to the coast.

6 Council Activities

6.1 VCC Operational Chart



6.2 Council Meetings

Seven Council business meetings were held during 2005/2006. In July 2005 a combined meeting took place between the Council and the three Regional Coastal Boards to celebrate Council's 10-year anniversary.

Business meetings:

14 July 2005
7 September 2005
10 November 2005
8 December 2005
9 February 2006
6 April 2006
22 June 2006

Attendance at Council business meetings:

Member	Attendance
Diane James	6
Duncan Malcolm	7
Liz Johnstone	6
Lynn Murrell	5
Rob Gell	6
Neil McCarthy	5
Maggie Baron	7
Kerri Erler	2 (of 5)
John Sweetman	6
Michael Keough	4
Genevieve Overell	4

6.3 General Business

Victorian Coastal Council Business Plan 2004–2007

Priority actions and directions of Council are guided by the Business Plan.

Appointment of Genevieve Overell

Genevieve Overell, Deputy Secretary, Built Environment, DSE, was appointed to the Victorian Coastal Council from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2007 to fill a casual vacancy.

Resignation of Kerri Erler

Kerri Erler resigned from the Victorian Coastal Council on 22 March 2006.

Celebrating Ten Years of the Victorian Coastal Council

In July 2005 a joint meeting of the Victorian Coastal Council and the three Regional Coastal Boards celebrated the ten-year anniversary of the Council. Presentations and discussion focussed on major successes and future challenges of the Council and the Boards.

Presentations recognising ten years of service to the Council and/or the Boards were made to Diane James, Lynn Murrell and Fred Herbert.

Presentations given by Council representatives

- Marine and Coastal Ecology Course – Warrnambool
- Korean Delegation – Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries and Local Municipalities of Republic of Korea
- Various presentations to Municipal Councils on the Coastal Spaces Project
- Victorian Catchment Management Conference
- Global Oceans Forum, workshop on National, provincial, local governments: roles and responsibilities – Lisbon, Portugal
- Coast to Coast 2006 – Australia's National Coastal Conference.

Presentations received by Council

- Marine National Parks Research Program – Anthony Boxshall, Manager
- Victorian Aquaculture Industry & Aquaculture Advisory Group, Issues Discussion Paper – Anthony Forster, Manager Aquaculture, Fisheries Victoria, DPI, and John O’Connor, Chairman Aquaculture Advisory Council
- Coastal Spaces Project – John Ginivan, Project Director, DSE
- Eastern Water Recycling Project – Brian Bayley, Project Director, Eastern Water Recycling Project
- Wyndham Cove Marina Development – Stephen A’Beckett, Development Director, Preditia Investments P/L
- Port Phillip Bay Channel Deepening Project – Stephen Bradford, CEO, Port of Melbourne Corporation (PoMC), Nick Easy, Executive General Manager, PoMC
- Western Coastal Board’s Coastal and Marine Web Portal – Simon Coverdale, Project Manager, Western Coastal Board
- The Effects of Marine Pests on Nutrient Management in Port Phillip Bay – Professor Michael Keough.

Submissions made by Council

- The Gleneagles Communique – Senator the Hon. Ian Campbell, Minister for Environment and Heritage (Commonwealth), with a copy to the Hon. John Thwaites MP, Minister for Environment
- Regulation Development Plan – Environment Protection (Ships’ Ballast Water) Regulations – Environment Protection Authority
- Victoria’s Tourism and Events Industry – Building a Ten Year Government Strategy Discussion Paper – Department of Innovation and Regional Development
- Aquaculture Issues Discussion Paper – Aquaculture Advisory Group
- Indicators, Targets and Monitoring for Estuarine, Coastal and Marine Environments – Department of Sustainability and Environment
- VCC Siting and Design Guidelines – The Hon. Rob Hulls MP, Minister for Planning, with a copy to the Hon. John Thwaites MP, Minister for Environment
- Possible Use of the HMAS Canberra as a Dive Site in Victoria – the Hon. John Thwaites MP, Minister for Environment
- Review and Revision of the Victorian Coastal Strategy – the Hon. John Thwaites MP, Minister for Environment
- Proposed Wellington Waters Development – the Hon. Rob Hulls MP, Minister for Planning, with a copy to the Hon. John Thwaites MP, Minister for Environment
- Current Status of Coastal Management in Victoria – Coastal Issues and Policy Reform Overview – WAVES (May edition, Marine and Coastal Community Network)
- Ministerial Reference Group on Future Natural Resource Management Project Delivery (Commonwealth)
- Evaluation of Coastal, Estuarine and Marine Outcomes of Regional Investment (Commonwealth).



PHOTO: GRIFFIN ZAKHAROV

Victorian Coastal Council Media

(available at www.vcc.vic.gov.au)

The following media releases were issued:

- Calling all Coastal Crusaders – Nominations for Coastal Excellence Awards (30 September 2005)
- Last Chance to Recognise Victorians Caring for the Coast (24 October 2005)
- Victorian Coastal Awards for Excellence 2006 Winners Announced (7 April 2006)
- Editorial comment "Looking after our Coastal Spaces" (Geelong Advertiser, 26 April 2006)
- The Risk to our Coastal Communities – A National Conference in Melbourne Looks at the Issues (22 May 2006)
- Launch of the Australian Coastal Society (25 May 2006)

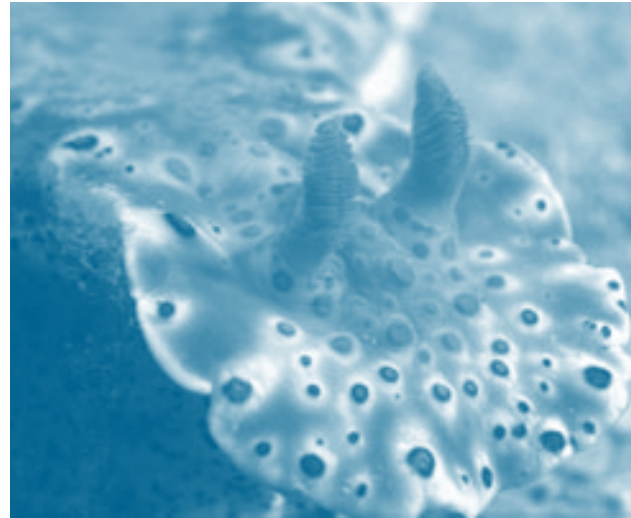


PHOTO: ANDREW NEWTON

PEMSEA (Partnerships for the Environmental Management of the Seas of East Asia)

- Report to PEMSEA on Collaborative Opportunities with East Asia – the report "Initiatives in the East Asian Region Report" describes existing initiatives between Australia and East Asia, with a Victorian focus. It includes how initiatives may be linked to the implementation priorities of PEMSEA's Sustainability Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA).
- Parks Victoria sponsored four delegates representing PEMSEA (one person from each of Cambodia, China, Philippines and Indonesia) to attend the Coast to Coast 2006 Conference, Melbourne, May 2006.
- Parks Victoria sponsored three PEMSEA delegates (one person from each of China, Indonesia and Vietnam) to attend the International Marine Protected Areas Congress in Geelong, October 2005.
- DSE and the Victorian Coastal Council hosted a visit to Victoria by 38 delegates from the Republic of Korea in May 2006. The delegates were organised under the auspices of the MoU with PEMSEA and included local government and the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries.
- East Asian Seas Congress 2006 – The Victorian Coastal Council, Parks Victoria and the Department of Sustainability and Environment will be co-convening the Marine Protected Areas Effectiveness Seminar at the forthcoming East Asian Seas Congress 2006, to be held in Haikou City, China, 12–16 December 2006.

Other Partnerships

The Victorian Coastal Council provided the following allocations to:

- Museum Victoria (\$5,000) – To support the publication of the new Museum Victoria publications "Guides to Marine Life."
- International Youth Coastal Conference (\$5,000) – A bronze sponsorship package to support the International Youth Coastal Conference 2006, to be held on Port Phillip Bay from 15–18 October 2006.

Conference Attendance

Council representatives attended the following conferences:

- Greenhouse 2005 – Action on Climate Change
- Western Australian Coastal Conference
- Victorian Catchment Management Conference
- Coast to Coast 2006 – Australia's National Coastal Conference
- International Marine Protected Areas Congress
- Global Oceans Forum, Lisbon, Portugal

Council's Chairman, Diane James participated in the following National roles:

- Chairman of Judges, Banksia Awards 2006
- Chairman, National Stakeholder Advisory Committee for the Coastal CRC (to June 2006)
- Member, Independent Advisory Panel (IAP) of the Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) (to 3 October 2005)

6.4 Sub-committees

Council operated two standing sub-committees. In addition, special purpose sub-committees were operated to manage the Victorian Coastal Awards for Excellence and the Coast to Coast National Coastal Conference.

Standing Sub-committees and their purpose are:

Science Sub-committee: to provide strategic advice to Council on current and emerging scientific issues relevant to coastal and marine environments.

- Prof. Michael Keough (Chairman)
- Rob Gell
- Duncan Malcolm

Two meetings were held during 2005/2006: 10 January and 28 February.

The Science sub-committee convened an expert Science Panel comprising 24 eminent Victorian-based scientists to provide advice to Council on emerging issues and knowledge gaps relevant to Victoria's coastal and marine environment. This action recognises the critical role that independent and credible scientific advice has in developing policy, particularly in the mid- to long-term and responds to the current absence of a scientific advisory body for the coast and marine environments with a 'whole of coast' perspective.

The report resulting from the Science Panel workshop held 28 February will be forwarded to the Minister for Environment when finalised. It identifies three key issues of environmental concern: the effects of increasing environmental variability that will be associated with climate change, the precise nature of the links between catchments, estuaries and surrounding marine areas and the effect of coastal development on surrounding coastal habitats. It also identifies two other key issues concerning Victoria's technical capacity to deal with emerging environmental issues: understanding the state of Victoria's coastal environments and matching Victoria's technical capacity to scientific needs.

Planning Sub-committee: to ensure co-ordination of Victorian planning as it affects the coast, advise on Coastal Action Plans, coastal development and approval arrangements for the coast and to oversee the preparation of coastal guidelines.

- Maggie Baron (Chairman)
- Neil McCarthy
- Kerri Erler (until 22 March 2006)
- Genevieve Overell (Delegate Peter Allen, Executive Director Statutory Systems, DSE, attended sub-committee meetings)
- Liz Johnstone (observer)

Seven meetings were held during 2005/2006: 1 July, 30 August, 8 November, 8 December, 31 January, 28 March and 13 June.

The Sub-committee:

- Reviewed and made recommendations to Council on the Central West Estuaries Coastal Action Plan (WCB), Boating Coastal Action Plan (CCB) and the draft Estuaries Coastal Action Plan (GCB)
- Reviewed and made recommendations to Council on the review of the status of Coastal Action Plans in the Western Coastal Region, prepared by WCB
- Provided advice to Council and the Coastal Spaces Steering Committee on draft policy and guidelines for the Coastal Spaces Project.



PHOTO: MURRAY DAVIDSON

7 Membership

Members of the Victorian Coastal Council are:

Chairman

Diane James



Diane James was appointed an inaugural member of the Victorian Coastal Council in 1995. She has been Chairman since 1997 and has been involved in every aspect of the development of the Victorian Coastal Strategy, the State Government's policy for the planning and management of Victoria's entire 2000 km coastline. Throughout the past decade, Diane has played a role on a number of State and Commonwealth Government boards and committees and has made a significant contribution to Victoria's position as a national and international leader in coastal planning and management. She has presented papers in China, France, Portugal and the USA, as well as throughout Australia.

Diane chaired a number of committees for the National Oceans Office involved in implementation of Australia's Oceans Policy in the South East marine region. She has been an active campaigner for the introduction of marine protected areas in this State and received a Recognition Award from the Deputy Premier in March 2003 for her "significant contribution to the development of a system of marine national parks and sanctuaries." In the private sector, Diane runs a company involved in marketing, distribution, and international export.

Members

Duncan Malcolm



Duncan Malcolm lives on a farm at Boisdale in Gippsland. He has a strong interest in natural resource management developed through various positions he has held and has worked hard to develop strategic linkages between resource managers and participants at regional, State and Federal levels. Duncan's current positions include Chairman of the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council, Chairman of the Gippsland Coastal Board and he is a member of a number of other committees and bodies. He is a former Chairman of both the Irrigation Association Australia and the Lakes and Wilderness Tourism Association Inc.

Lynn Murrell



Lynn Murrell is a former Secondary School Teacher and a Councillor for the City of Portland for over 18 years. Mr Murrell owns a primary production property at Cape Nelson. Lynn has been extensively involved representing his community at a local, regional, State and Federal level and is a current member of the Victorian Economic, Environment and Social Advisory Council, Greater Green Triangle Area Consultative Committee Good Governance Panel and the Natural Resources Conservation League. Lynn is also Chair of the Western Coastal Board and a former member of the Glenelg-Hopkins Catchment Management Authority. In April 2005 Lynn completed a solo walk of Victoria's coastline from the South Australian border to the New South Wales border. During the 103-day walk Lynn raised awareness about Victoria's coastline and assessed the feasibility of a state coastal walking trail.

Liz Johnstone



Liz Johnstone is a Senior Policy Advisor with the Municipal Association of Victoria. She has extensive experience in local government and community associations as a former councillor and Mayor of the City of Port Phillip, the Association of Bayside Municipalities and the Australian Local Government Women's Association. At Port Phillip her particular area of interest was in the planning and environmental area. She is also Chair of the Central Coastal Board. Liz trained as an accountant and has a background in small business.

Rob Gell



Rob is a coastal geomorphologist by training. He taught Environmental Science and Physical Geography at tertiary level, then for twenty-five years he presented television weather. Rob currently works as an environmental and communications consultant and is Chairman of Access Environmental Pty Ltd. He is also a company director, a published author and a photographer. He is President of Greening Australia Victoria and Chairman of the Mornington Peninsula and Westernport Biosphere Reserve Foundation Ltd. Rob is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and an Inaugural Fellow of the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand. Rob also serves on the boards of the Natural Resources Conservation League of Victoria, Earth Share Australia and Surfing Victoria. He has been a local government councillor and was a councillor of the ACF. He is also the Patron of the Geography Teachers Association of Victoria, Wildlife Victoria, Life Education Victoria, the Safety House Association, a Mentor of the Environmental Jobs Network and is in his fifth year as an Australia Day Ambassador for the State of Victoria.

Neil McCarthy

For the last 25 years, Neil has worked in the field of natural resource management in Victoria and Japan and has experience in commercial forestry, business management, park management and endangered species conservation. Neil played a lead role in establishing Melbourne Parks and Waterways and Parks Victoria. Parks Victoria, established in 1996, is recognised as one of the world's leading park organisations. It is also unique in that it manages a whole system of parks from conservation to urban. He has been responsible for introducing and establishing a strategic management approach to the Parks industry in Australia. This has included introducing prudent business management practices as well as innovative improvements in conservation management. Neil was responsible for establishing the Parks Forum that is Australia and New Zealand's peak industry organisation. Neil is the chair of Parks Forum. Neil's qualifications include a Bachelor of Forest Science and a Masters Degree in Business Administration. Neil completed Australia's premier leadership program, Leadership Victoria in 1999 and was former Chair of the Leadership Victoria's Fellows Group.



Maggie Baron

Maggie Baron is the director of Baron Planning and Projects P/L, a Melbourne based public policy, planning and heritage consultancy. She is a sessional member of Planning Panels Victoria and serves as a Panel member considering Planning Amendments and Environment Effects Statements. She has also been appointed to the MCG re-development and Barwon Heads Bridge Ministerial advisory committees. Maggie has extensive experience in heritage, planning and cultural resource management and is a regular provider of professional development programs. She has also initiated professional development programs to build capacity in relation to Indigenous heritage management. Maggie has a strong commitment to governance and is the Deputy Chair of the Department of Primary Industry's audit and risk management steering committee.



Kerri Erler

Kerri Erler is the former Chief Executive Officer of the Queen Victoria Women's Centre Trust and is now a Senior Manager with the Victorian Department of Human Services. Kerri is a former Mayor of the Borough of Queenscliffe. She has been involved at the community level in coastal management issues on the Bellarine Peninsula and was involved in the campaign to establish marine national parks in Victorian waters. Kerri resigned from the Victorian Coastal Council on 22 March 2006.



Michael Keough

Professor Michael Keough is a leading marine scientist with an international reputation in marine ecology. He leads a research team at the University of Melbourne that has been successful in demonstrating the impacts of pest species in Victorian waters. He is a frequent contributor to state and national workshops on coastal management, and has advised state governments on marine monitoring. He contributed to State of the Marine Environment reports at both state and national level. Michael serves on the EPA Scientific Advisory Panel and is a member of the Australian Research Council's College of Experts.



John Sweetman

John Sweetman AM has over 30 years experience in the tourism and hospitality industry, working with peak bodies and with industry both in Victoria and nationally. John was the foundation Executive officer of the Victorian Tourism Industry Council (VTIC). As managing director of J Sweetman & Associates Pty Ltd, he continues to work across the tourism and hospitality industries and with industry sector associations, including relationships with Tourism Victoria. John is the Chairman of the Tourism Accreditation Board of Victoria, Service Skills Victoria and Service Skills Australia. John was recognised for his contribution to the tourism industry in the 1996 Australia Day Honours.



Genevieve Overell

Genevieve Overell is Deputy Secretary, Built Environment, Department of Sustainability and Environment. Genevieve has a Property Law background. She was a Partner at Sparke Helmore and previously KPMG Legal. With broad ranging Property Industry experience, Genevieve has been a Victorian Councillor of the Property Council of Australia, and Chair of the Australian Property Law Group, Victoria. With an interest in Corporate Governance, Genevieve is a frequent presenter at industry fora.



8 Implementation of the Coastal Management Act 1995

8.1 Objectives of the Coastal Management Act

- a) To plan for and manage the use of Victoria's coastal resources on a sustainable basis for recreation, conservation, tourism, commerce and similar uses in appropriate areas;
- b) To protect and maintain areas of environmental significance on the coast including its ecological, geomorphological, geological, cultural and landscape features;
- c) To facilitate the development of a range of facilities for improved recreation and tourism;
- d) To maintain and improve coastal water quality;
- e) To improve public awareness and understanding of the coast and to involve the public in coastal planning and management.

8.2 Strategic Coastal Planning

8.2.1 Coastal Spaces Project

Council has continued to direct a focus on strategic coastal planning through the Coastal Spaces Project. Diane James chaired the Steering Committee that also included Council members and Regional Coastal Board chairs Lynn Murrell, Duncan Malcolm and Liz Johnstone. Barbara Norman, from the Central Coastal Board also was a member. The Steering Committee's report recommended containing urban and residential development within existing settlements, to encourage sustainable development along the coastline.

The Victorian Government received and endorsed the Steering Committee's recommendations and in April 2006 announced a \$2 million funding package to accompany the release of the Coastal Spaces Recommendations Report. The funding will help implement the report's findings and assist coastal councils to ensure that the necessary planning is undertaken to protect significant coastline areas. It will ensure that proper, strategic planning leads development in the right direction, rather than allowing ad hoc decisions to set unwelcome precedents and urban sprawl. The State Planning Policy Framework will be updated so that the boundaries are clearly identified in council planning schemes, with non-urban spaces protected for future generations.

Under the funding package announced to support the Coastal Spaces Recommendations Report:

- Up to \$1 million from the Government's Provincial Statement will support non-metropolitan coastal councils to manage change through strategic township planning
- \$600,000 will support local councils to implement the Coastal Spaces Landscape Assessment and Great Ocean Road Regional Landscape Assessment studies
- \$325,000 of Commonwealth National Heritage Trust funding will be used to develop policy and guidelines to address coastal acid sulfate soils
- \$100,000 will support Wellington Shire Council to deal with old, undesirable subdivisions on Gippsland's coast
- Investment will continue in innovative solutions to address environmental hotspots through the town and country water supply program.

8.2.2 Advice on Coastal Planning

Council approved the Central West Estuaries Coastal Action Plan prepared by WCB, the Boating Coastal Action Plan prepared by CCB and reviewed the draft Gippsland Estuaries Coastal Action Plan prepared by GCB.

Council provided written advice to the Minister for Environment relating to:

- Possible use of the HMAS Canberra as a dive site in Victoria
- Review and revision of the Victorian Coastal Strategy
- Proposed Wellington Waters development (also provided to the Minister for Planning).

8.2.3 Coastal Action Planning – Regional Coastal Boards

Coastal Action Plan development status is outlined in Table 1.

Table 1 Status of Coastal Action Plans (CAP) 2005/2006

RCB	CAP title	Progress
CCB	Waterfront Geelong CAP (1999)	Reviewed*
CCB	Corio Bay CAP (2005)	Implementation
CCB	Mt Eliza to Point Nepean CAP (2005)	Implementation
CCB	Boating CAP (2006)	Approved by CCB and VCC. To be submitted to Minister
GCB	Gippsland Lakes CAP (1999)	Implementation. Under review
GCB	Gippsland Boating CAP (2002)	Implementation
GCB	Integrated Coastal Planning for Gippsland CAP (2002)	Implementation
GCB	Gippsland Estuaries CAP (2006)	Final draft
WCB	Warrnambool CAP (1997)	Implementation. Major review completed
WCB	Anglesea CAP (1999)	Implementation. Major review completed
WCB	Lorne CAP (1999)	Implementation. Major review completed
WCB	Moyne CAP (2001)	Implementation. Interim review completed
WCB	Skenes Creek to Marengo CAP (2001)	Implementation. Interim review completed
WCB	Central West Victoria Regional CAP (2002)	Implementation. Interim review completed
WCB	South West Victoria Estuaries CAP (2002)	Implementation. Interim review completed
WCB	South West Victoria Regional CAP (2002)	Implementation. Interim review completed
WCB	Glenelg CAP (2004)	Implementation
WCB	Central West Victoria Estuaries CAP (2005)	Approved. Implementation

* The Waterfront Geelong CAP was reviewed and has been superseded by the Corio Bay CAP

8.2.4 Regional Coastal Planning Initiatives – Other

Status of other coastal plans that were being developed, completed, approved or under review during 2005/2006, per Regional Coastal Board region is listed in Table 2.

Table 2 Status of other coastal plans 2005/2006

Region	Title of Plan	Status	Responsibility
WCB	Anglesea River & Estuary Management Plan	Completed	Surf Coast Shire Council
	Anglesea Riverbank Master Plan	Completed	Surf Coast Shire Council
	Apollo Bay Structure Plan	Developing	Colac Otway Shire Council
	Belfast Lough Environmental Management Plan	Developing	Moyne Shire Council
	Corangamite Region Wetland Strategy	Developing	Corangamite CMA
	Corangamite Regional River Health Strategy	Developing	Corangamite CMA
	Deep Creek Master Plan	Approved	Surf Coast Shire Council
	Discovery Bay Marine National Park Draft Management Plan	Developing	Parks Victoria
	Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary Management Plan	Approved	Parks Victoria
	Environment and Land Management Plan (GORC)	Developing	Great Ocean Road Coast CoM
	Fitzroy Estuary Management Plan	Developing	Glenelg Hopkins CMA
	Glenelg Hopkins Fishery Management Plan	Developing	DPI Fisheries Victoria
	Glenelg Hopkins River Health Strategy	Approved	Glenelg Hopkins CMA
	Glenelg River Estuary Management Plan	Approved	Glenelg Hopkins CMA
	Great Otway National Park and Otway Forest Park Management Plan	Developing	Parks Victoria
	Hopkins River Estuary Management Plan	Approved	Glenelg Hopkins CMA
	Indigenous Partnership Strategy	Completed	Parks Victoria
	Marengo Reefs Marine Sanctuary Draft Management Plan	Developing	Parks Victoria
	Merri Estuary Management Plan	Developing	Glenelg Hopkins CMA
	Merri Marine Sanctuary Management Plan	Developing	Parks Victoria
Painkalac Creek Environmental Flow Determination	Developing	Corangamite CMA	

Region	Title of Plan	Status	Responsibility
WCB	Painkalac Creek Estuary Management Plan	Completed	Surf Coast Shire Council
	Pathway Strategy	Completed	Surf Coast Shire Council
	Point Addis Marine National Park Management Plan	Approved	Parks Victoria
	Point Danger Marine Sanctuary Management Plan	Approved	Parks Victoria
	Pollution Source Investigation for Lorne	Developing	Surf Coast Shire Council
	Portland Aquaculture Fisheries Reserves Management Plan	Developing	DPI Fisheries Victoria
	Surry Estuary Management Plan	Developing	Glenelg Hopkins CMA
	The Arches Marine Sanctuary Management Plan	Developing	Parks Victoria
	The Crags Management Plan	Completed	Moyne Shire Council
	Torquay / Jan Juc Structure Plan	Developing	Surf Coast Shire Council
	Torquay Foreshore Master Plan	Completed	Great Ocean Road CoM
	Twelve Apostles Marine National Park Management Plan	Developing	Parks Victoria
	Wastewater Management Plan – Aireys Inlet	Developing	Surf Coast Shire Council
	Wastewater Management Plan – Moggs Creek	Developing	Surf Coast Shire Council
	White's Beach Master Plan	Approved	Surf Coast Shire Council
Wye River/Sep Creek/Kennett River Structure Plan	Developing	Colac Otway Shire Council	
Yambuck Lake Estuary Management Plan	Approved	Glenelg Hopkins CMA	
CCB	Balnarring Foreshore Reserve Coastal Management Plan	Developing	Balnarring CoM
	Barwon Bluff Marine Sanctuary Management Plan	Developing	Parks Victoria
	Barwon Coast Coastal Management Plan	Developing	Barwon Coast CoM
	Buckley Park Foreshore Coastal Management Plan	Developing	City of Greater Geelong Council
	Bunurong Marine National Park Management Plan	Developing	Parks Victoria
	Capel Sound Coastal Management Plan	Under Review	Capel Sound Foreshore CoM
	Churchill Island Marine National Park Management Plan	Developing	Parks Victoria
	Coastal Priorities for the Central Region	Approved	CCB
	Dromana Foreshore Management Plan	Review completed	Dromana Foreshore CoM
	Eastern Port Phillip Bay Aquaculture Fisheries Management Plan	Approved	DPI Fisheries Victoria
	Flinders Aquaculture Fisheries Management Plan	Approved	DPI Fisheries Victoria
	French Island Marine National Park Management Plan	Developing	Parks Victoria
	Geelong Aquaculture Fisheries Management Plan	Approved	DPI Fisheries Victoria
	Hastings Coastal Management Plan	Developing	Mornington Peninsula Shire Council
	Jawbone Marine Sanctuary Management Plan	Developing	Parks Victoria
	Merricks Beach Foreshore Reserve Coastal Management Plan	Developing	Merricks Beach Foreshore CoM
	Mornington Coastal Management Plan	Developing	Mornington Peninsula Shire Council
	Mt Eliza Foreshore Coastal Management Plan	Completed	Mornington Peninsula Shire Council
	Mushroom Reef Management Strategy	Developing	Parks Victoria
	Pinnacle Channel Aquaculture Fisheries Management Plan	Approved	DPI Fisheries Victoria
	Point Cooke Marine Sanctuary Management Plan	Developing	Parks Victoria
	Port Phillip Heads Marine National Park Management Plan	Completed	Parks Victoria
	Portsea Foreshore Coastal Management Plan	Completed	Mornington Peninsula Shire Council
	Pt Lillias Aquaculture Fisheries Reserve Management Plan	Developing	DPI Fisheries Victoria
	Queenscliffe Coastal Management Plan	Developing	Borough of Queenscliffe & DSE
	Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary Management Plan	Approved	Parks Victoria
	Rocky Shoreline Coastal Management Plan (combines Shoreham, Balnarring & Merricks)	Developing	Mornington Peninsula Shire Council
	Sandringham Coastal Management Plan	Developing	Bayside City Council
	Shoreham Coastal Management Plan	Developing	Shoreham CoM
	Truganina Explosives Reserve Coastal Management Plan	Completed	Hobsons Bay City Council
	Yaringa Marine National Park Management Plan	Developing	Parks Victoria
	GCB	Andersons Inlet Fisheries Reserve Management Plan	Approved
Beware Reef Marine Sanctuary Management Plan		Developing	Parks Victoria
Cape Howe Marine National Park Management Plan		Developing	Parks Victoria
Corner Inlet Marine National Park Management Plan		Approved	Parks Victoria
East Gippsland Regional Catchment Strategy		Approved	East Gippsland CMA
Lake Tyers Recreational Fishery Reserve Management Plan		Developing	DPI Fisheries Victoria

Region	Title of Plan	Status	Responsibility
GCB	Lake Wellington Wetlands Management Plan	Under Review	Parks Victoria
	Mallacoota Inlet Recreational Fishery Reserve Management Plan	Developing	DPI Fisheries Victoria
	Marlay Point Foreshore Management Plan	Developing	DSE/CoM
	Ninety Mile Beach Marine National Park Management Plan	Developing	Parks Victoria
	Point Hicks Marine National Park Management Plan	Developing	Parks Victoria
	Sandy Point Foreshore Management Plan	Developing	DSE/CoM
	Shallow Inlet Foreshore Management Plan	Developing	DSE/CoM
	Urban Design Frameworks for Coastal Settlements in South Gippsland (4 Towns)	Developing	South Gippsland Shire Council
	Urban Design Frameworks for Coastal Settlements in Wellington and East Gippsland Shires (18 Towns)	Developing	Wellington & East Gippsland Shire Councils
	Wilson's Promontory Marine National Park Management Plan	Approved	Parks Victoria
	Woodside Beach Foreshore Management Plan	Developing	DSE/CoM

Regional Coastal Boards

Regional Coastal Boards contributed to planning initiatives in their regions. Ten Coastal Action Plans (CAPs) now exist in the Western Coastal Region, four in the Gippsland Coastal Region (three approved and one in development) and three in the Central Coastal region (two approved and one in development). Each Board participated in the development process for the Coastal Spaces initiative at the steering committee and local reference group levels. In addition all three Boards:

- Made submissions, participated on steering groups and made presentations to panels on a wide range of statutory and strategic planning issues
- Participated in management planning for Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries in all regions
- Participated on Regional Catchment Investment Planning (RCIP) steering committees and technical assessment groups in Catchment Management Authority regions
- Facilitated the implementation of the coastal and marine actions in Regional Catchment Strategies and the inclusion of coastal management issues into Regional Catchment Investment Plans.

Western Coastal Board

- Launched the Central West Estuaries Coastal Action Plan at Barwon Heads in November 2005
- Finalised a review process for nine existing CAPs
- Signed MoUs with all stakeholders for the Central West Victoria (CW) and South West Victoria (SW) Regional CAPs. The CAP MoU process has proved a valuable opportunity to build stakeholder relationships and discuss a range of issues
- Supported Implementation Committees (ICs) for the CW Regional CAP, CW Estuaries CAP and SW Regional CAP who played a vital role in the CAP process
- Progressed Coastal Access Guidelines for the West Coast to final draft stage in readiness for community consultation.

Key 2005/2006 submissions on municipal planning initiatives:

- Review of the Colac-Otway Shire planning scheme
- Revision of the Warrnambool Municipal Strategic Statement
- Colac Otway Shire (COS) Planning Scheme Amendment C22 and Panel Hearing for COS Amendment C29 – Great Ocean Green
- 35-lot primary dune subdivision at Port Fairy
- Peterborough Urban Design Guidelines
- Glenelg Shire Master Community Settlement Plan
- Apollo Bay Structure Plan
- Port Fairy Planning Implementation Strategy

Central Coastal Board

- Prepared an implementation report on the Corio Bay Coastal Action Plan
- Launched and commenced implementing the Mt Eliza to Point Nepean Coastal Action Plan
- Finalised the Boating Coastal Action Plan
- Completed an NHT funded project for building capacity for natural resource management in Western Port, including production of planning scheme tools and a model policy framework to support planning schemes for Western Port

- Completed a scoping paper for a Western Port Coastal Action Plan
- Commenced an NHT funded project, in partnership with the Port Phillip & Westernport CMA, to facilitate implementation of the coastal and marine actions of the Port Phillip and Western Port Regional Catchment Strategy.

Gippsland Coastal Board

- Initiated the second stage of the Impact of Climate Change on the Gippsland Coast project, including vulnerability assessment, modelling the potential impact on key sites and adaptations
- Participated on the project control group overseeing the development of Urban Design Frameworks for 18 coastal settlements in Wellington and East Gippsland Shire, and a further four settlements in South Gippsland Shire
- Supported Wellington Shire Council in the development of its program to address Inappropriate Coastal Subdivisions along the 90-Mile Beach
- Developed the Gippsland Estuaries Coastal Action Plan
- Considered strategic implications of development proposals around Anderson Inlet and the Gippsland Lakes and provided appropriate responses to the decision-making processes
- Assisted the process for inclusion of the Slipway Rd Foreshore and urban design framework for Raymond Island into the Paynesville UDF process
- Initiated discussions and the development of a brief for undertaking a 'Coastal Summer Census' to better understand the pressures that our coast is experiencing in the summer months.

8.3 Protecting the Environment

WCB, CCB and GCB participated as members of the Marine National Parks Management Plan Advisory Group for Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries in their regions. All three Boards identified a range of objectives and actions for protecting the natural environment through Coastal Action Plans and promoted environmental objectives through participating in planning processes.

Western Coastal Board

- Extended a research grant to Deakin University for the study of beach wrack removal (wrack refers to the piles of seaweed, terrestrial plants, and animal remains that wash ashore)
- Provided a submission to the Aquaculture Advisory Group Issues Discussion Paper stressing the need for ecological sustainability and best practice environmental management in marine aquaculture.

Central Coastal Board

- Contributed to the Port of Hastings Strategic Land Use and Transport Corridor Planning Study highlighting the importance of appropriate assessment of environmental impacts among the Port precinct and berthing options, including assessment of impacts across the whole of Western Port, as well as the port environs
- Participated in the steering committee for the Western Port Greenhouse Alliance Climate Change Adaptation Project.

Gippsland Coastal Board

- Participated on the Gippsland Integrated Natural Resources Forum and contributed to developing the Gippsland Resources Report Card 2006
- Participated in the Gippsland Lakes Taskforce
- Coordinated the ongoing implementation of the Gippsland Lakes Future Directions Action Plan. As part of this plan over \$2 million in funding was allocated to 25 projects in 2005/2006
- Completed the environmental audit of Corner Inlet and its catchment and developed a joint organisational approach to reducing the impact of the catchment on seagrass distribution in the Inlet
- The Chair acted as the independent Chair for the steering committees for the Mallacoota Inlet Recreational Fisheries and the Lake Tyers Recreational Fisheries Management Plans
- Participated in the decision making process for the artificial opening of estuaries in Gippsland.

8.4 Improved Recreation and Tourism

Victoria's coast continues to increase in popularity as a recreation and tourist destination. This continuing trend means changing demands on coastal resources and infrastructure. Effective management is required to minimise the negative impacts of this increase.

In 2005/2006, 218 applications for use and development of coastal Crown land pursuant to the *Coastal Management Act 1995* were received and assessed by delegates of the Minister for Environment. 202 were approved and 16 were unsuccessful. Successful applications have an estimated total value in excess of \$ 50,825,600 and were predominantly for maintenance and upgrades (see Figure 1). This compared to 193 applications in 2004/05, with 185 successful applications having an estimated total value of \$36,362,300.

Council notes continuing investment through the Government's Boating Safety and Facilities program, the Recreational Fishing Grants program and the DSE's Coastal Risk program. All are contributing to safer facilities and experiences for coastal visitation and use.

Western Coastal Board

- Participated on the Steering Committee for the Environment and Land Management Plan for coastal reserves managed by the Great Ocean Road Coast Committee in the Surf Coast Shire.
- Continued developing Coastal Access Guidelines

Central Coastal Board

- Developed the Boating CAP regarding boating facilities in Port Phillip and Western Port Bays
- Commenced implementation of the Mt Eliza to Pt Nepean CAP and the Corio Bay CAP, both of which focus on recreational use of the coast.

Gippsland Coastal Board

- Contributed to the development of the Draft East Gippsland Shire Tourism Strategy
- Participated in the development of the Tourism Victoria/Parks Victoria Nature Based Tourism Strategy
- Commenced work with DSE, East Gippsland and Wellington Shires on identifying appropriate opportunities for improving boating facilities around the Gippsland Lakes
- Participated on the Technical Reference Group for the proposed Open Ocean Access Boat ramp at Mallacoota.

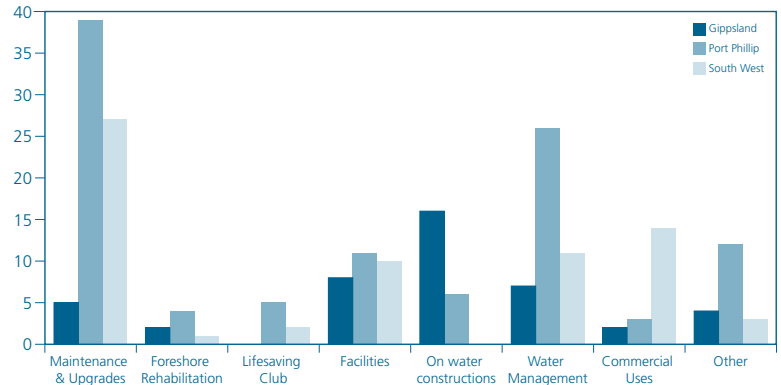
8.5 Maintaining and Improving Coastal Water Quality

The ongoing facilitation of partnerships between stakeholders is essential to achieving improved coastal water quality. Regional Coastal Boards continue to play an important role in facilitating these partnerships regionally. They also provide input to regional water strategies by emphasising the need for water quality protection in coastal and estuarine systems. Council and Boards provided input to the development of a Victorian agreed set of estuarine and marine indicators for inclusion in the National Natural Resource Management Monitoring and Evaluation Reporting Framework.

Western Coastal Board

- The Corangamite CMA, in partnership with the WCB established an Estuary Watch project to focus on monitoring and improving water quality in estuarine systems
- Implemented the Central West and South West Estuaries CAPs including actions targeted at improving estuarine water quality. A key mechanism for protection of estuarine water quality is the development of Estuary Management Plans consistent with the frameworks outlined in the CAPs
- Supported the development of the Estuary Entrance Management Decision Support System in partnership with Deakin University and chaired the steering committee.
- Submitted to the Corangamite CMA's River Health Strategy and to the Central Region's Sustainable Water Strategy.

Figure 1: Coastal Management Act consents 2005–06



Coast to Coast 2006



PEMSEA delegates attending Coast to Coast 2006 (from left): Wang Antao (China), Anabelle Cayabyab (Philippines), I Made Anom Wiranta (Indonesia), Prak Visal (Cambodia)



Minister Thwaites and representatives from the Department of Environment and Heritage (Commonwealth), Parks Victoria, Glenelg Hopkins CMA, Coastal CRC, Deakin University, the University of Western Australia and Fugro Survey

Coast to Coast 2006



Diane James, Chairman, VCC and Conference Steering Committee with Tim Costello, AO, Chief Executive, World Vision Australia



Questions from the floor



Part of the Seachange Plenary Panel (from left): Alan Stokes, Executive Officer, National Seachange Taskforce, Tony De Domenico, Chief Executive, UDIA(Vic), The Hon. Elaine Carbines, MLC, Parliamentary Secretary for Environment (Chair)



Part of the conference exhibition

Central Coastal Board

- Participated on the Steering Committee for the Water Quality Improvement Plan for Port Phillip & Western Port
- Advocated for the full review of the Port Phillip Bay Environmental Management Plan.

Gippsland Coastal Board

- Participated in, and contributed financially to, the Gippsland Regional Water Monitoring Partnership
- Implemented the Gippsland Lakes Boat Pump out project and sought out opportunities for ongoing funding and maintenance
- Contributed to finalising the East and West Gippsland Water Quality Strategy
- Participated in the Steering Committee developing the Gippsland Lakes Environmental Water Reserve
- Initiated a project to evaluate the water quality benefits of a barrier at McLennan's Straits.

8.6 Increasing Awareness and Understanding of Coastal Issues

Promoting awareness and understanding of coastal and marine issues is an ongoing priority for the Council. Throughout the year Council has undertaken a range of activities including:

- Organising and hosting Coast to Coast 2006: Australia's National Coastal Conference
- Issuing media releases and comment via print media and newsletters
- Giving presentations at international forums and meetings with international delegations
- Developing a Coastlinks web portal as a one-stop-shop for accessing information about Victoria's coastal and marine environment and management. This portal is based on the successful Western Coastal Board's West Victorian Coast and Marine Information Reference site, which was launched in February 2006 and provides access to existing web sites structured around ten coastal and marine themes
- Recognising excellence through the Victorian Coastal Awards for Excellence
- Maintaining its website www.vcc.vic.gov.au. Council notes that 61,582 visitors accessed the site in 2005/2006.

Western Coastal Board

- Elaine Carbines, Parliamentary Secretary for the Environment, launched a web portal The West Victorian Coast and Marine Information Reference at Jan Juc, in February 2006. 5,000 promotional postcards were also circulated. (see www.westerncoastalboard.vic.gov.au/wvcmir)
- Engaged with stakeholders as part of the CAP MoU process providing valuable opportunity to raise awareness of coastal issues
- Provided quarterly reports on the Board's progress to key stakeholders to promote understanding
- Commenced the South Western Victoria Coastal and Marine Values Audit project
- Participated on the South West Sustainability Partnership
- Hosted an information session/discussion for Moyne Shire Councillors in Port Fairy on climate change projections and planning implications for the Moyne coast
- Jointly hosted the DSE South West Regional Planners' Forum held in Port Campbell in July 2005 attended by 41 planners from a range of councils and agencies
- Held the first in a series of public fora in conjunction with regional meetings. The Western Coastal Sessions, Surf Coast event was held in Torquay on 18 May. Speakers included Elaine Carbines MLC, Beth Davidson of the Seachange Taskforce and Dr Lawrie Baker of GORCC
- Chaired the Coast and Marine Technical Working Group for Glenelg Hopkins CMA
- Secured funding to conduct a feasibility study into developing a Mobile Marine Interpretation Facility.

Central Coastal Board

- Hosted the Bellarine Stakeholder Roundtable in August 2005
- Held a joint meeting with the Port Phillip and Westernport CMA in November 2005
- Held a forum for the five Western Port Councils and key DSE and Parks Victoria staff in December 2005
- Hosted a tour of boating facilities in Port Phillip in May 2006 as part of developing the Boating CAP

- Produced seven editions of About the Bays newsletter for distribution to over 350 stakeholders
- Regularly updated the Board's website throughout the year. A draft new website format has been developed and uploaded
- Attended regular meetings of the Association of Bayside Municipalities.

Gippsland Coastal Board

- Conducted meetings with Local Governments, West Gippsland CMA, Gippsland Ports and East Gippsland Water on coastal issues
- Hosted a workshop for the Estuary Opening Decision Support System project in Bairnsdale
- Participated as a partner in the Catchment-to-Lake relay for schools in the catchment area of the Gippsland Lakes
- Made presentations to community groups and other forums on various coastal issues.



Victorian Coastal Awards for Excellence 2006 category recipients, the Minister for Environment, the Hon. John Thwaites MP and Diane James, Chairman, VCC



Dr Mark Norman, Outstanding Individual Achievement Coastal Award for Excellence recipient and Minister for Environment, the Hon. John Thwaites MP



Zoe Hogg, Lifetime Achievement Coastal Award for Excellence recipient and Minister for Environment, the Hon. John Thwaites MP

9 Regional Coastal Boards

Regional Coastal Boards continue to play a significant role in coastal planning and management in their regions by facilitating outcomes and participating in a wide range of initiatives led by partner agencies and stakeholders. Key areas of involvement include:

- The development, implementation and review of coastal action plans
- Facilitating regional coordination and priority setting
- Encouraging implementation of the Victorian Coastal Strategy.

A summary of some of the activities that have been actively pursued by the Boards has been noted in preceding sections.

For further information refer to the Board's internet sites which are:

www.westerncoastalboard.vic.gov.au

www.ccb.vic.gov.au

www.gcb.vic.gov.au

10 Council Operations

10.1 Administration

Council's office is Level 2, 8 Nicholson St, East Melbourne 3002
Telephone 9637 9456 Fax 9637 8592 Email vcc@dse.vic.gov.au
Website www.vcc.vic.gov.au

Chairman Diane James

Executive Officer Andrew Buckley

The Executive Officer is responsible for managing the day to day operations of the Council and staff.

Staff: Number by employment status

Employment Type	2005–2006			2004–2005		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
Ongoing	1	1	2	1	1	2
Fixed Term	0	0	0	0	0	0
Temporary Employees	1	0	1	1	0	1
Total	2	1	3	2	1	3

Notes

Staff employed through employment agencies are included under temporary employees. VCC ongoing staff are also included in employment statistics for the Department of Sustainability and Environment.

10.2 Statement of Pecuniary Interests

All members of Council and the Executive Officer have completed declarations of pecuniary interests for the current reporting period including details of shares held by members.

Declarations of pecuniary interest in relation to agenda items are sought at the commencement of any business meeting and noted in the minutes of the meeting.

10.3 Consultancies and Contracts

During 2005/2006 Council did not engage any consultants or enter into any major contracts as defined by the Department of Treasury and Finance guidelines.

10.4 Publications

Council produced the following publications during the year:

- Annual report 2004/2005– available from the VCC and via website
- Press releases – available via website
- Coast to Coast 2006: Australia's National Coastal Conference proceedings – available via website
- Coastal Spaces Recommendations (DSE publication) – available via website.

During 2005/2006 Council's two major promotional activities were the Coast to Coast 2006: Australia's National Coastal Conference (May 2006) and the seventh Victorian Coastal Awards for Excellence (April 2006).

10.5 National Competition Policy

The Council adheres to the principles of the National Competition Policy (NCP) to ensure that any business competition with private entities takes place in an environment where the Council has no competitive advantages. Obligations under the NCP are the responsibility of the Corporate Finance Division of the Department of Sustainability and Environment.

10.6 Freedom of Information (FOI)

The Freedom of Information Act 1982 allows the public a right of access to documents held by the Council. The Council operates in accordance with FOI procedures established through the Department of Sustainability and Environment. A request must be in writing and a fee of \$21.50 for 2006/07 is payable. No FOI requests were made to Council in this business year. FOI requests can be made to the Authorised Officer for DSE, Deidre Egan, ph 9637 8575 (see s.10.10 for additional contact details).

10.7 Merit and Equity

Victorian Public Service merit and equity principles are applied in the appointment and management of staff. The VCC follows the merit and equity principles used by the Department of Sustainability and Environment in accordance with the *Public Administration Act 2004*.

10.8 A Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Society

The Council ensured that the final version of the Victorian Coastal Strategy released in January 2002 included published material in agreed priority multi-lingual text advising on where to obtain further information on the Victorian Coastal Strategy.

10.9 Women, Youth and Indigenous Affairs

Council is committed to involving Victoria's community, including women, youth and Indigenous Victorians in the management and enjoyment of the coast. The Victorian Coastal Strategy identifies actions to implement Indigenous cultural outcomes and to improve communications with Aboriginal communities in coastal areas, while Council's business plan includes actions to strengthen community involvement in coastal planning and management. In addition, Council operates in an environment ensuring equity in Council's processes and participation with stakeholders.

Keynote and concurrent sessions representing issues of particular relevance to Indigenous Australians were scheduled at the Coast to Coast 2006 Conference.

Council provided a bronze sponsorship (\$5,000) to support the International Youth Coastal Conference 2006, to be held on Port Phillip Bay from 15–18 October 2006.

10.10 Whistleblowers Protection Act

The *Whistleblowers Protection Act 2001* is designed to protect people who disclose information about serious wrongdoing within the Victorian Public Sector and to provide a framework for the investigation of these matters.

The Protected Disclosure Coordinator for the Department of Sustainability and Environment acts as an agent for the Victorian Coastal Council to receive disclosures under the *Whistleblowers Protection Act 2001* and applies departmental procedures in managing disclosures. Disclosures may also be made directly to the Ombudsman. The contact details for the Protected Disclosure Coordinator and Ombudsman are:

Deidre Egan, Protected Disclosure Coordinator
Department of Sustainability and Environment
PO Box 500, East Melbourne Vic 3002.
Telephone: 9637 8575 Facsimile: 9637 8129 Email: Deidre.Egan@dse.vic.gov.au

The Ombudsman Victoria
Level 3, South Tower, 459 Collins Street, Melbourne Vic 3000.
Telephone: 9613 6222 Toll free: 1800 806 314

10.11 Overseas travel

Global Oceans Forum, Lisbon, Portugal – Diane James attended the forum and chaired a plenary session, co-chaired a working group session and presented to a workshop for small island nations and developing countries on "National, provincial, local governments: roles and responsibilities."

10.12 Building Act

The Council uses DSE facilities to perform its operations – refer to the DSE Annual Report.

11 Budget and Expenditure

11.1 Budget and Expenditure

The operating budget of the Council is provided within the budget of Department of Sustainability and Environment.

The financial operations of the Council have not been separately audited. Audited statements are incorporated into the overall financial Statements of the Department of Sustainability and Environment Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2006 and it is considered unnecessary for Council to have a separate audit committee. The table below shows expenditure incurred against the allocations provided for the 2005/2006 financial year.

	2005–2006		2004–2005		2003–2004		2002–2003		2001–2002		
	Budget	Expenditure	Budget	Expenditure	Budget	Expenditure	Budget	Expenditure	Budget	Expenditure	
Council Operation (includes all sitting fees and reimbursements, secretariat expenses, training and items such as annual report). Specific project operating expenses are included against key result areas.	\$167,000	\$182,630	\$163,000	\$193,601	\$167,000	\$192,482	\$116,000	\$110,000	\$116,000	\$120,000	
		Scientific Panel Support	–	–	–	–	\$5,000	\$1,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	
		Regional Coastal Boards support	\$5,000	\$4,123	\$5,000	\$1,947	\$5,000	\$12,000	\$5,000	\$9,000	
Business Plan – Implementation		Business Plan – Key Result Areas reported against 2001/02 to 2004/05									
Key Result Area 1 – Reposition Coastal Values through Leadership and Advocacy	\$52,000	\$55,347	Key Result Area 1 – Strategic Planning, Victorian Coastal Strategy review program	\$42,000	\$54,714	\$40,000*	\$45,740	\$60,000	\$55,000	\$70,000	\$80,000
Key Result Area 2 – Provide Strategic Direction for Coastal Planning and Management	\$5,000	\$0	Key Result Area 2 – Coordination, project funding, management and training	–	–	\$10,000	\$11,426	\$30,000	\$28,000	\$24,000	\$25,000
Key Result Area 3 – Coordinate the Implementation of the VCS and CAPS	\$7,000	\$389	Key Result Area 3 – Community Awareness and Involvement, Awards for Excellence, updates on activities	\$20,000	\$7,912	\$15,000	\$23,949	\$40,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$55,000
Key Result Area 4 – Practice Good Governance and Accountability	\$0	\$0	Key Result Area 4 – Leadership and Advocacy, provision of advice	\$10,000	\$150	\$3,000	\$0	\$14,000	\$14,000	\$10,000	\$16,000
TOTAL:	\$231,000	\$238,366	\$240,000	\$260,500	\$240,000	\$275,545	\$270,000	\$270,000	\$280,000	\$310,000	

*Plus \$10,000 carried forward from 02/03

11.2 Operating Position

There were no significant changes in financial position during the year. There were no major changes or factors affecting performance. There were no subsequent events that will affect performance in future years. Operations are managed in accordance with DSE procedures and guidelines for expenditure, purchasing and reporting.



PHOTO: PAULA GLADDERS

12 Disclosure Index

The 2005/2006 Annual Report of the Victorian Coastal Council is prepared in accordance with all relevant Victorian legislation. This index has been prepared to facilitate identification of the Council's compliance with statutory disclosure requirements.

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22A	Details of consultancies > \$100,000	None (21)
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12A	Disclosure of major contracts	None (21)
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* See Department of Sustainability and Environment Annual Report. Operations are managed in accordance with DSE procedures and guidelines for occupational health and safety and industrial relations and related issues.

Information relevant to the headings listed in Financial Reporting Direction 22A of the *Financial Management Act 1994* is held at the VCC's office and is available on request, subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.

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