



Media release

From the Minister for Environment

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NEW COASTAL COUNCIL APPOINTED

A new Chair and members of the Victorian Coastal Council have been appointed for the next three years, Environment Minister John Thwaites announced today.

Mr Thwaites said the Victorian Coastal Council was the peak body for the strategic planning and management of the Victorian coast.

“Victoria’s coast and marine parks and sanctuaries are very valuable resources and with people flocking to the coast like never before, it is more important than ever that it is managed sustainably if we are to enjoy it now and into the future,” Mr Thwaites said.

“The Victorian Coastal Council provides advice to Government on key issues facing Victoria’s coast and marine environment,

“It is an important link with local communities, bringing people together to work in partnership to achieve positive outcomes for our coastal and marine environments.”

“The Council will face many challenges among the most important of which will be providing leadership and advice on the impact of climate change on the coast.”

“It will also oversee the development and implementation of the third Victorian Coastal Strategy which will provide a vision for the Victorian coast for the next four years.”

Members of the Victorian Coastal Council include Cr Libby Mears (Chair), Maggie Baron, Matt Boland, Caroline Douglass, Rob Gell, Mick Keough, John Sweetman and Geoff Vincent.

The Victorian Coastal Council members also include the Chairs of the three Regional Coastal Boards appointed in mid 2006: Liz Johnstone, Chair of the Central Coastal Board; Duncan Malcolm, Chair of the Gippsland Coastal Board and Lynn Murrell, Chair of the Western Coastal Board.

Mr Thwaites said the membership of the Victorian Coastal Council comprised an ideal diversity of skills and experience.

“The Council members have a mix of experience across conservation, town planning, tourism, business and commerce, coastal engineering and recreation as well as an understanding of indigenous issues.”

“The new Chair, Cr Libby Mears, has significant experience in coastal issues, local government and leadership as former Mayor of the Surf Coast Shire,” Mr Thwaites said.

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“Libby is a passionate advocate for the coast with a particular interest in the role that coastal communities play in coastal protection and management and in promoting the sustainable use of our coastal resources.”

Cr Mears said that she was honoured to have the opportunity to lead a skilled team dedicated to managing Victoria’s coast.

“The work of the Victorian Coastal Council over the past decade under the leadership of Diane James has seen Victoria’s system of coastal and marine planning and management recognised as world’s best practice.” Cr Mears said.

“I am very excited about continuing this work in partnership with the many groups and individuals to ensure clear direction and strong support for coastal and marine issues.”

New appointments to the Victorian Coastal Council are made under the Coastal Management Act 1995 and approved by Order in Council.