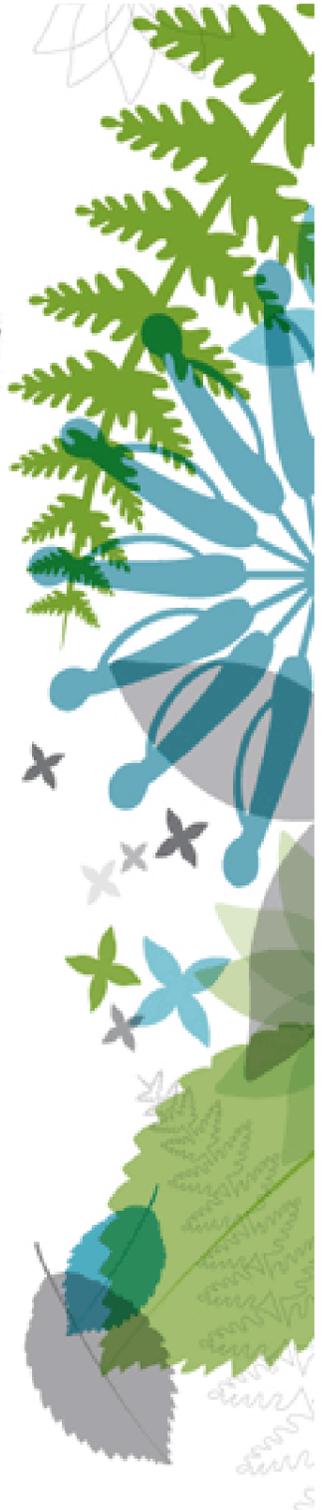


# Colac Otway Shire Priority Projects for Corangamite electorate communities



Colac Otway Shire is a richly diverse area under two hours from Melbourne with strong agricultural-based, tourism and timber industries. Apollo Bay is the shire's second largest centre with a permanent population of 1000 that swells to more than 15,000 during the summer season. Colac Otway's smaller communities - from Birregurra to Swan Marsh, Cressy to Lavers Hill and every township in between - also play an integral part in our shire's appeal as a wonderful place to live and visit.

The following projects have been identified as critical to meeting the needs of our Corangamite electorate communities and sustaining the future growth of our shire and surrounding region.

## Apollo Bay

Port of Apollo Bay Renewal	\$14.6m
Apollo Bay Harbour Precinct Redvelopment	\$2.64m
Apollo Bay Early Years Hub	\$3.9m
Apollo Bay Recreation Reserve Master Plan	\$50,000
Apollo Bay Senior Citizens upgrade	\$350,000
GOR Authority Head Office	Advocacy
Apollo Bay & Colac Residential Housing Stock Analysis	\$50,000

## Forrest

Forrest Mountain Bike Trail Strategy implementation	\$1.05m
Forrest Fire Refuge	\$8 - 10m
Forrest Wastewater improvements	\$10.9m
Forrest Common Master Plan implementation	\$500,000

## Across the shire

Strategic Local Roads Upgrade - Binns Road	\$2m
Local Coastal Hazard Assessment - Stage 2	\$800,000
Mobile Blackspots	\$5m
Arterial Road Network Upgrades & Maintenance	Advocacy
Increased Commuter Rail Services & High Speed Rail	Advocacy

## Birregurra

Birregurra Recreation Reserve: Pavillion	\$2m
Oval lighting	\$300,000

## Lavers Hill

Lavers Hill to Crowes and Melba Gully Trail Plan - Implementation	\$900,000
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# PORT OF APOLLO BAY RENEWAL



## Project Description:

The Port of Apollo Bay (the port) contributes \$43m annually to Victoria's economy and is a key State owned asset supporting tourism, commercial and recreational fishing, marine safety, and other sporting and recreational marine activities.

Colac Otway Shire Council is the designated Port Manager through an agreement with State Government. Key assets of the port are failing, leading to unsafe navigational conditions at the port entrance and within the harbour.

The failure of key assets is having a knock-on effect on other port assets, causing damage and further significant safety hazards.

Capital renewal investment of \$14.6m is urgently required to remediate failed assets to protect the \$43m annual contribution to the State's economy.

Recurrent expenditure at the port needs to be increased by \$300k per annum to improve sand management practices to provide a safe harbour and prevent future major in-harbour dredging projects. The lack of adequate funding also impacts on the ability to attract investment towards the Harbour Precinct redevelopment.

## Benefits:

### Benefits of Investment in the harbour:

- Retain and encourage an expanded commercial fishing economy at Apollo Bay.
- Encourage recreational boating opportunities and an enhanced tourism and leisure experience.
- Improved economic opportunities and facilities for local residents.
- Provision of a safe haven for marine vessels during inclement weather conditions

## Action:

To secure funding to undertake the essential improvements to harbour infrastructure to ensure that the Port of Apollo Bay is able to continue to operate as a functional and prosperous working harbour.

In-harbour dredging and excavation	\$ 4.85M
Main breakwater remediation	\$ 4.32M
Lee breakwater remediation	\$ 3.73M
Winch & Slipway repair & power upgrade	\$ 1.42M
Marina, boat ramp & jetty repairs	\$ 0.28M

**Total: \$14.60M**



# APOLLO BAY HARBOUR PRECINCT REDEVELOPMENT COMPLETION



## Description:

The Apollo Bay Harbour Masterplan sets an exciting vision to transform the precinct around the Port of Apollo Bay into a premier tourist destination which can be enjoyed by the community and the thousands of visitors who travel the Great Ocean Road and Otways every week.

An enticing entrance to the working harbour - one of just three safe blue water havens in Victoria west of Port Phillip Bay - along with an upgrade of boat trailer and visitor parking, and toilet facilities is part of the plan.

A new boardwalk, pedestrian and bicycle paths and trails linking Apollo Bay's shopping centre with the harbour and Mother's Beach, a new sailing club facility, a new port operations base, an extension of the Fisherman's Co-operative building and other key infrastructure upgrades also feature in the vision.

Colac Otway Shire Council has been successful in attracting a \$12.5-million commitment through a City Deal which will allow a majority of the harbour precinct redevelopment to be undertaken.

Council requires a further \$2.64 million to complete the master plan including constructing a new Apollo Bay Sailing Club facility, additional paths and trails and fencing.

A new sailing club would provide clubrooms, race control facilities, storage for the new rescue boat based at the Port of Apollo Bay, roll-in access to the harbour, beach grassed surrounds for small craft laydown and shade sails.

The club facilities would also include public changerooms and amenities for boat ramp users and beach visitors, with an extended sewer line as part of construction.

New fencing at the harbour will provide safe public access and improve the visual appeal of the precinct, while additional trails will provide safe pedestrian links throughout the harbour area.

## Benefits:

### Funding to complete the Apollo Bay Harbour Masterplan would:

- Create a new tourist destination which complements the Apollo Bay village character and boosts tourist spending in Apollo Bay.
- Provide new sailing club facilities and public amenities.
- Provide a secure base for a new rescue boat which will service the coastline from Lorne to Cape Otway.
- Improve public safety around the harbour with designated pedestrian/cycling trails and secure fencing.

## Cost:

- \$120,000 for fencing
- \$1.2M for new Sailing Facility with change rooms; and
- \$1.32M for additional paths/trails etc.

### Total \$2.64M

*\*to complete redevelopment; in addition to \$12.5m funding commitment from Federal Government in City Deal*



# EARLY YEARS HUB – APOLLO BAY



## Project Description:

A new Early Years Hub in Apollo Bay, located at the Apollo Bay P-12 College would provide a suite of services for young people including: a pre-school program, childcare, maternal and child health and other paediatric services.

The existing Apollo Bay kindergarten is owned by Council and consists of a near 60-year-old, clad building requiring significant upgrades to meet current demand and standards. It is estimated that the required refurbishment of the Apollo Bay kindergarten is in the vicinity of \$350,000+.

Otway Health has ceased providing the only accredited childcare services in Apollo Bay. Due to the future risk of a lack of appropriate early years facilities in Apollo Bay, Council and relevant organisations including Otway Health, Apollo Bay P-12 School and the kindergarten agree that there is a need for improved services through a partnership approach.

The three entities are united in advocating for the establishment of a single early years hub at the Apollo Bay P-12 College site.

The major employment in Apollo Bay is in the hospitality/tourism industries which is, in the majority, casual/part - time work across a wide range of hours.

A lack of access to childcare will create economic stress for families unable to commit to paid work. AEDC results for the Apollo Bay region show poor results across all domains especially emotional maturity (20.0% vulnerability compared to 8% in Victoria) and communication skills/general knowledge (16.7% vulnerability compared to 7.6% in Victoria).

A new early years hub would provide a purpose-built facility that supports a comprehensive suite of early years services in an educational environment.

It would serve the needs of a growing community by providing a facility that meets contemporary early years education expectations and most importantly an integrated approach to meet the developmental needs of all children within Apollo Bay and district.

## Benefits:

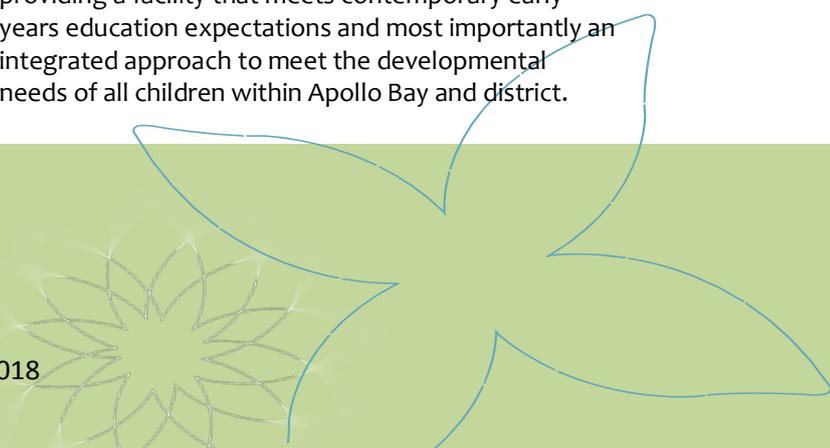
### The project would:

- Provide a purpose-built facility that meets contemporary early years education expectations and supports a comprehensive suite of early years services for children aged 0-6 years.
- Include a range of Services including:
  - Maternal and Child Health
  - Kindergarten
  - Child Care
  - Visiting child specialists
- Enable an integrated approach to meet the developmental needs of all children aged 0-18 in Apollo Bay and district.

## Action:

Design and construct an Early Years Hub at the Apollo Bay P-12 College site.

**Cost:** \$3.9m



# APOLLO BAY RECREATION RESERVE MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT



## Description:

The Apollo Bay Recreation Reserve is the resort town's only community recreation facility and includes a sporting oval, tennis courts, associated off-field facilities and a heavily used camping ground.

The Apollo Bay Recreation Reserve and Camping Ground provides vital community infrastructure, which significantly adds to the liveability of Apollo Bay.

In addition, the camping ground is an important component of the resort town's accommodation offering.

There are significant challenges with providing sufficient camping areas in Apollo Bay and this project will determine the future sustainability and development of the reserve.

Located adjacent to the coast, the location of the reserve provides great opportunities for sustainable development.

The proposed development of the community infrastructure should also consider the commercial opportunities to support hospitality and tourism and create sustainability options for local community groups.

The project will significantly impact the Apollo Bay accommodation offering by providing affordable options and feeding the range of other service based offerings available over the summer months.

## Benefits:

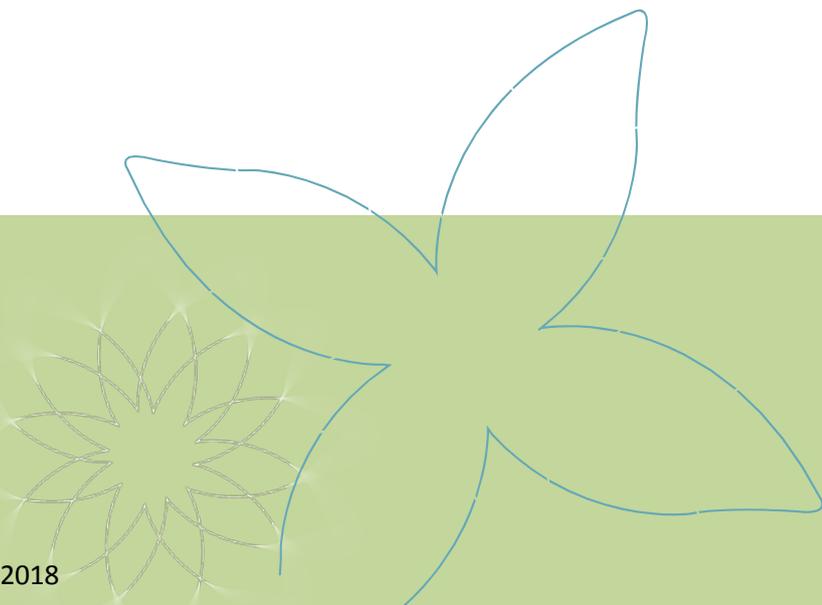
This project would prepare a much needed master plan for the reserve to guide future infrastructure developments for community sport along with short-term holiday accommodation.

## Action:

The development of a master plan to guide future infrastructure investment at the reserve, along with a business case to analyse camping opportunities in the local market place and drive future investment and marketing.

## Cost:

Master plan development	\$50,000
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# APOLLO BAY SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRE



## Project Description:

Colac Otway Shire Council seeks to gain funding for the refurbishment of the Apollo Bay Senior Citizens Centre to ensure it meets community requirements.

The centre is the only community facility in the district suitable for medium-sized events.

A refurbishment of the centre will allow the community to have access to a community cinema, conferencing/meeting facilities, and spaces for the various community users groups including Apollo Bay Arts Inc., Probus, Apollo Bay & District Historical Society, U3A, Apollo Bay Playgroup, Otway Health, local choirs, along with exercise and wellbeing groups.

## Benefits:

### The project would provide:

- Increased usage and accessibility.
- Will meet current BCA and DDA compliance.
- A community asset to meet current and future community needs.
- A location of relief for community members in extreme weather, particularly those living out of town.

## Action:

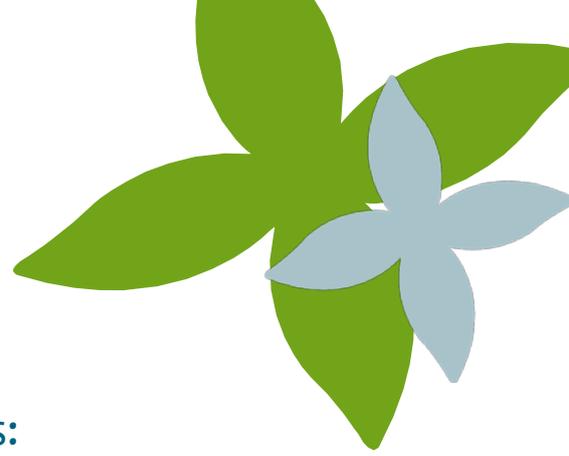
To provide funding to undertake a number of improvements including:

- Kitchen refurbishment.
- Replacing all windows and external doors.
- Upgraded amenities including an accessible toilet.
- Improved access including a new front ramp and external pathways to meet BCA and DDA compliance.
- Internal and external painting.
- Upgrade south/front façade and enhance landscaping.
- Construct new storage sheds.
- Replacement of all floor coverings.
- Upgrade heating & cooling throughout.

**Cost:** \$350,000



# GREAT OCEAN ROAD AUTHORITY HEAD OFFICE



## Project Description:

Advocate for the new Great Ocean Road Authority head office to be located in Apollo Bay.

The new Great Ocean Road Authority will provide a single point of management for the coastal strip along the length of the Great Ocean Road.

It is anticipated the Authority will be the single regulatory body for this area and enable consistent and timely decisions around development and other regulatory matters.

Apollo Bay is a central point along the Great Ocean Road and would be an ideal location for the Head Office.



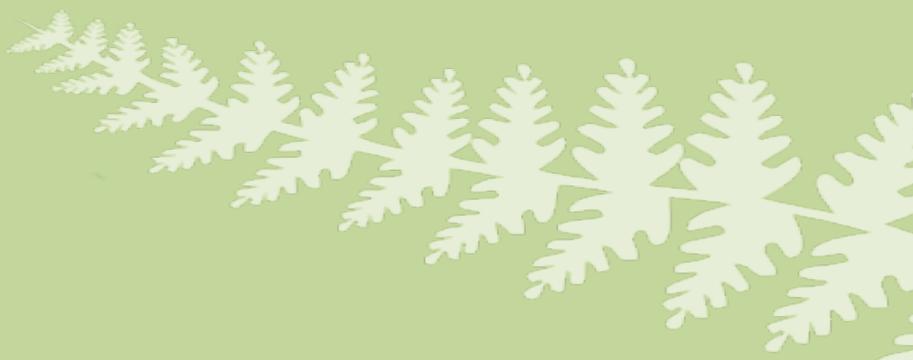
## Benefits:

### The project would provide:

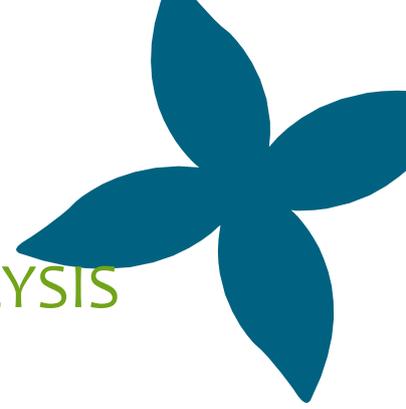
- A central location along the Great Ocean Road, easily accessible to all parts of the Great Ocean Road region.
- A perfect opportunity for the decentralisation of a Government authority.
- An economic boost for the Colac Otway Shire through job creation.
- Easy access for those working in the Authority but not living in the area.
- A great place, or selection of places to live for those working in the Authority who do want to move to the area.

## Action:

- Develop an Investment Prospectus to highlight the benefits and suitability of Apollo Bay as the appropriate location for the Authority head Office.
- Advocate to the appropriate State Government Departments/ Ministers for Apollo Bay to be the location of the Authority's head office.



# APOLLO BAY AND COLAC RESIDENTIAL HOUSING STOCK ANALYSIS



## Project Description:

The growth of Colac to a population of 20,000 residents by 2050 is a strategic aim of the G21 Regional Growth Plan. As part of Council's response, Council engaged Southern Cross Town Planning to prepare the Colac Housing Needs Assessment 2016.

This assessment guided the development of the draft Colac 2050 Growth Plan established in response to the anticipated population increase. The Colac Housing Needs Assessment Paper estimated that 60–111 new dwellings will be required per year to meet the housing needs of Colac until 2031.

Apollo Bay's permanent population of 1000 swells to more than 15,000 during the summer period, however increasing development and a booming tourism industry will also require more residential housing to accommodate that growth.

The Colac and Apollo Bay Residential Housing Stock Analysis project aims to establish an in-depth understanding of the housing needs across the different sectors of demand in the two communities, to identify areas of undersupply and help guide policy direction for Council and other agencies.

This project will assist/inform Council in capitalising on growth opportunities in Colac and Apollo Bay. The next stage of analysis requires additional expertise to consider the various niche areas of demand for housing – for example, single dwellings for elderly people close to facilities, larger homes for families, or social housing for the disadvantaged.

The project will examine options and locations for new housing capable of meeting future demand in both Colac and Apollo Bay.

## Benefits:

### The project would:

- Provide an in-depth understanding of the demand for the various forms of housing in Colac and Apollo Bay.
- Identify options and locations for how to accommodate the different housing needs.
- Ensure different housing needs are met.

## Economic outcomes:

The project will provide the following economic outcomes:

- Ensure that an appropriate range of housing is provided to support a growing population in Colac and Apollo Bay, while allowing people to live in the town and support the local economy.
- Support the growth of the building sector in Colac.

## Action:

Engage suitably qualified consultant to build on the work undertaken to date, and undertake a comprehensive analysis of Colac's and Apollo Bay's housing needs.

## Cost:

**\$50,000**



# BIRREGURRA RECREATION RESERVE REDEVELOPMENT



## Project Description:

The Birregurra Recreation Reserve is Crown land managed by a local Committee of Management delegated by the Department of Sustainability and Environment.

The Reserve is an important community facility and is home to the Birregurra Football Netball Club, Birregurra Tennis Club and the Birregurra Cricket Club.

The Reserve is also used for other community events and activities including the Birregurra Festival, Annual Fire Brigade Auction, private fitness classes, model car club, occasionally as a camping ground for tourists and became a DELWP base for firefighters in 2016 after the Wye River Christmas Day fire.

A master plan was developed in 2013 and funding secured to complete some components including the oval surface redevelopment, and netball and tennis courts lights and redevelopment.

Two major components – the pavilion and lights for the oval – now require funding to complete the master plan and provide important facilities for the Birregurra community.

The existing sporting clubrooms were built in the 1960's and extended in the mid 1970's to accommodate change rooms for the football club.

The main pavilion, including the social area and change rooms, require replacement as they do not currently meet sporting club requirements

The social area is too small for after-match functions and the size of the change rooms and social area do not meet minimum standards for a local-level facility, according to AFL Facility Guidelines.

Services including power, plumbing and the use of septic tanks are inefficient or unreliable and maintenance and operating costs to keep the pavilion functioning are increasing.

## Benefits:

### The project would:

- Complete the Birregurra Recreation Reserve Master Plan to provide an integrated, healthy and welcoming sporting and community precinct for the town and surrounding district.
- Provide a new pavilion with adequate change facilities and a community social space.
- Provide oval lighting which would improve the training options for the expanding number of junior teams and senior football teams.
- Provide a vital community hub for the growing township of Birregurra now and into the future.

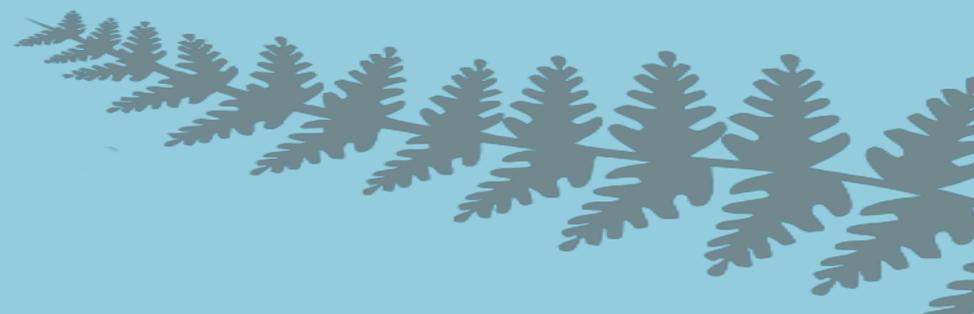
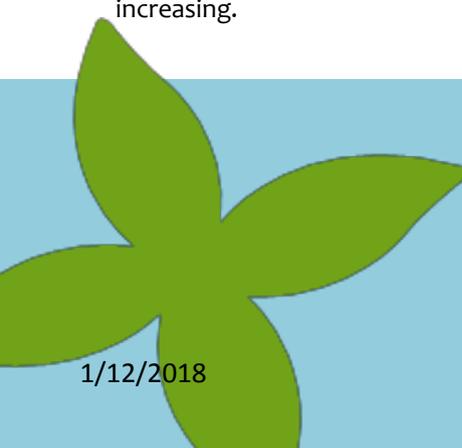
## Cost:

**Pavilion - \$2m**

**Oval lighting - \$300,000**



# Birregurra



# FORREST MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION



## Project Description:

The development of new trails, upgrades to existing trails, critical road safety infrastructure with township connections and an all-user skills park. These enhancements will secure Forrest as a key Mountain Bike and tourist destination in the Great Ocean Road region and Victoria.

The initial stage of design and quantity surveying to more accurately confirm costs to progress the Implementation phase has been funded through a Federal Government Grant \$100,000 with matching Council funds.

The trail network currently attracts 25,000 visitors annually generating significant economic returns for Forrest and the wider region.

In 2015 Council in partnership with key agencies, user groups and the community completed the Forrest Mountain Bike Trails Strategic Plan (the Plan). The total cost to implement the Plan is \$1.05 million.

A cost-benefit assessment by **MacroPlan** demonstrates the project has an estimated benefit cost ratio of **1.65**, which represents strong economic justification for the project.

The Plan highlighted the need for an all-user skills park and an increase in trails in Forrest to remain competitive with other emerging trail networks throughout the state and country. An increase in the number and variety of trails is critical to ensuring that the Forrest is available to a boarder section of users, return visitation and event attraction; thereby increasing the economic activity generated in the former timber harvesting town.

The Plan also highlighted the need for a road underpass and a riders' link between the trails closest to the township and those trails outside Forrest. These developments will ensure that riders have a safe access to the northern trails network.

An update of signage and marketing collateral is required to ensure any new trails or upgraded trails are clearly marked and promoted.

The full implementation of the Plan will provide significant economic benefit not only to the Forrest Township but across the Municipality. Benefits include increased visitation, employment opportunities and increased tourism output.

## Benefits:

The project would provide:

- Increased visitation to Forrest, building on the success of the existing trails network – up from 25,000 to 49,500 per annum
- Builds on the potential of regional and rural Victoria
- Increased economic activity and private sector investment opportunities for Forrest
- Add 32 new jobs to the Otways hinterlands region
- Accommodation benefits with an additional 92 rooms required
- Added tourism output of \$8.4 million per annum.
- Support Forrest being recognised as a key destination in the Great Ocean Road region and as a key mountain bike destination in Australia
- Add value to the existing nature-based and emerging foodie experiences of Forrest and the Otways
- A project that is supported by all land managers and local community members
- The Plan considers universal design, social connectivity and the unique environmental qualities of Forrest.

## Action:

**Project funding to:**

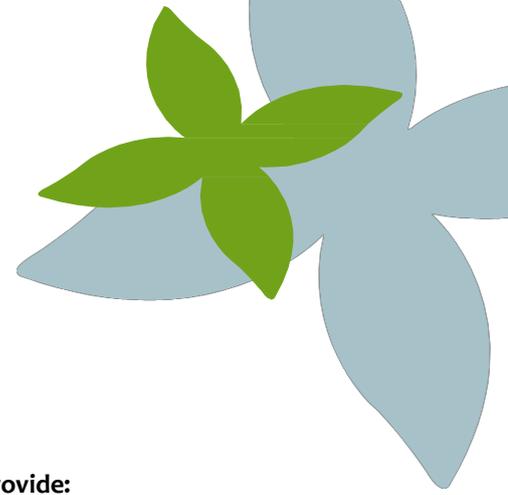
Construct new and upgraded trails and facilities, establish an underpass under Birregurra-Forrest Road, and new signage and marketing materials.

## Cost:

\$620,000 – new and upgraded trails  
\$350,000 – underpass for trails connection  
\$80,000 – new signage and marketing collateral  
\$1,050,000 - Total



# FORREST FIRE REFUGE AND LEARNING CENTRE



## Project Description:

Forrest remains without a last-resort refuge to escape to during a bushfire, nine years after the Victorian Government listed the town among 52 communities most at-risk in the state.

The Forrest community is undertaking a project to assess the feasibility of an innovative and community-driven concept - The Gateway concept is for a financially self-sustaining, mixed-use complex encompassing:

- A co-located built place of refuge, fire station and community activity centre, and
- A learning and experience centre with a focus on tourism, education and collaborative research.

Forest Fire Management division vacated three sites at Forrest's main street last year, with the State Government earmarking the sites for future community use.

The potential for utilizing the vacated real estate assets for public wellbeing and safety, economic development, research and education, and tourism is unique and significant.

Community consultations have repeatedly demonstrated that a place of last resort from bushfire is the number one priority to address, particularly after the recent Wye River and Camperdown/Cobden fires.

The public education facility will generate income through sales and fees to meet ongoing costs of the complex.

This concept ensures that investment in a place of refuge has ongoing return during the extensive time when the site is not used as a refuge.

Co-locating a place of refuge with CFA and community facilities, together with an education and research facility, demonstrates a best-practice, multi-use model which offers a greater return on public investment.

## Benefits:

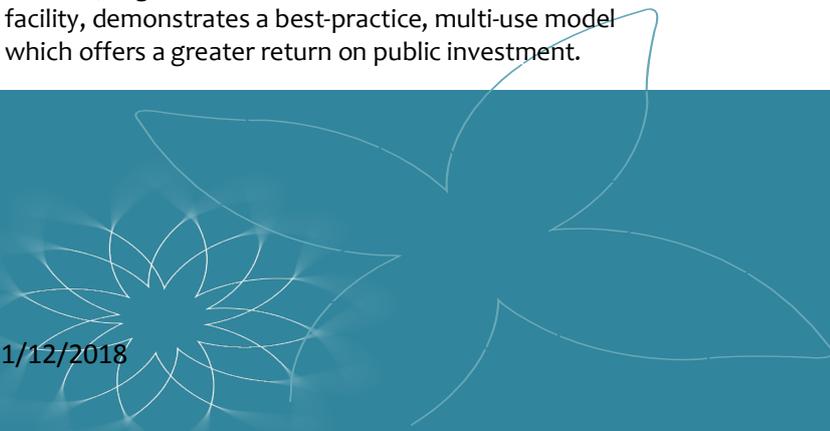
### This project would provide:

- a place of refuge from bushfire
- a fire station
- community hub
- a centre for collaborative research and education focused on climate change adaptation
- an interactive facility to develop the quality of the Otways visitor experience

**Cost:** \$8 - \$10million



# Forrest



# FORREST WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM

## Project Description:

Installation of a town-wide wastewater treatment system in Forrest as recommended by the joint Barwon Water-Colac Otway Shire Forrest Wastewater Options Investigation project.

The Forrest Wastewater Investigation was initiated in response to community concern about odour and public health risk, and constraints to economic development in a town with high demand for tourism development.

Initial property audits have confirmed a significant degree of non-conformance with state regulations and high degree of off-site discharge into the public drainage system.

The proposed system would rely on installation of new on-site treatment systems for properties, with holding tanks connecting to a small diameter pressure sewer pipe that allows off-site treatment at a central site for re-use of water.



# Forrest

## Benefits:

### The Barwon Water project would:

- Improve amenity for residents and visitors to the town through reduced odor.
- Reduced risk of public health issues.
- Resolve current challenges being experienced by commercial uses within the town such as the Caravan Park, brewery, shop and cafes – the caravan park in particular is highly comprised by inadequate area to dispose of treated effluent.
- Facilitate future tourism related development to occur, both commercial development and/or redevelopment of older housing which generates higher effluent discharge.
- Complement other tourist related investment in Forrest such as the mountain bike trails, and facilitates achievement of State, regional and local tourism objectives related to the Great Ocean Road and Great Otway National park.

## Action:

- Funding to support installation of the proposed wastewater treatment system.

**Cost:** Advocacy \$10.9M

# FORREST COMMON MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION



## Description:

The Forrest Common shares the northern boundary with the Forrest Caravan Park and southern boundary with the former mill site and railway buildings which are about to undergo major development as a brewery tourist accommodation and development.

The population of Forrest is 230 but the township is undergoing an economic and social transformation, with a rapid increase in tourism along the coast and throughout the Great Otway National Park.

Forrest Common is less than one hectare in area and currently has a playspace, barbecue, skate strip, car parking and two tennis courts.

The Forrest Common Master Plan has been developed in partnership with the community with key directions:

- Retain the openness of the existing grassed area and provide interesting zones for display of indigenous people's artwork and stories.
- Establish a timeline along a 2.5 metre wide concrete circuit path on the interpretive information of the history of the settlement, the railways, timber mills, agriculture, bike and walking trails.
- A bushfoods garden will be associated with the time line trail.
- The circuit trail is to have seating at regular intervals, establish a simple grassed mounded amphitheatre with a flat performance space of grass that can be used for performances, tai chi and other activities.
- Improve the existing playspace to cater for a wider range of age groups
- To alleviate storm water surcharge across the reserve from Station Street, the provision of a concrete kerb and channel to the east side of Station Street will enable the reserve to be enjoyed year round.
- Replace the existing bollards with a pipe rail and timber post combination fence parallel to Station Street.
- Retain the two existing asphalt tennis courts as a key recreation activity.
- Install a basketball ring / area within the common area.

## Benefits:

The Common is highly valued by the local community as the key open-space resource within the Forrest township zone and integrates well with the use of the tennis courts and the neighbouring caravan park.

The implementation of the Master Plan will enhance the community space for both local residents and visitors.

The improvements will create an area with facilities for a wider range of ages and interests, while address drainage and other issues with the area.

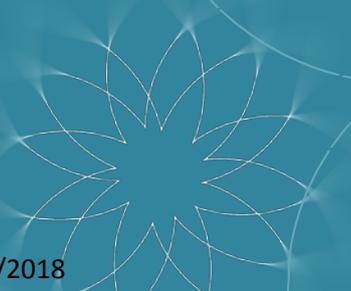
## Action:

The cost of the development of the Forrest Common Master Plan is beyond the Council's and the community's ability to fund in the short-term.

The Master Plan's flexible design has been developed to allow the project to be staged according to priorities.

The plan requires Federal and/or State Government support for implementation.

**Cost: \$500,000**



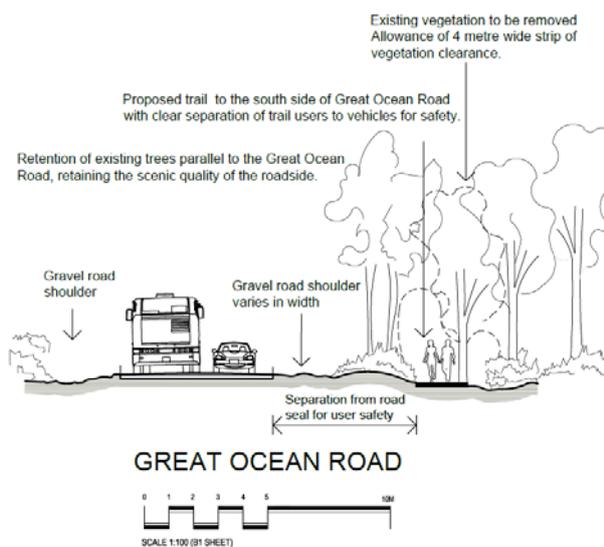
# LAVERS HILL TO CROWES AND MELBA GULLY TRAIL PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

## Project Description:

Council worked with the Lavers Hill community to investigate the feasibility of an off-road trail between Lavers Hill and Melba Gully. A thorough community engagement process provided opportunities for community involvement and feedback to determine the alignment for the off-road trail.

The proposed 3.9 kilometre off-road trail will connect the town centre of Lavers Hill to Crowes, and then further to the Melba Gully picnic facilities. It's been designed with consideration of the safety of all trail users and vehicles using the Great Ocean Road.

The cost of developing necessary detailed planning, permits and construction is \$950. The off-road trail would become an extension of the Old Beechy Rail Trail from Colac through to the Crowes Buffer Stop. This work provides a strong base for the project which has the potential to become a major tourism drawcard for the area.



## Benefits:

### The project would provide:

- The Lavers Hill community (including Lavers Hill P-12 College) with a safe off-road trail that connects Lavers Hill to the Crowes Buffer Stop and Melba Gully. The trail will increase the physical activity options available to the community and students.
- The Lavers Hill community with a tourism drawcard with the potential to attract visitors to the area.
- An extension of the Old Beechy Rail Trail which runs from Colac to Ferguson. The Lavers Hill to Crowes and Melba Gully Off-Road Trail directly connects to three historic sites of the former Old Beechy Railway Line.

## Action:

Council advocates on behalf of the Lavers Hill community for this project to receive funding for implementation.

The thorough background report provides an analysed feasibility of the community's preferred alignment for an off-road trail.

The detailed concept plans can be used to support applications for external funding for the works required, including detailed design and necessary permits and documentation, project management and construction of the proposed off-road trail.

**Cost:** \$950,000

# STRATEGIC LOCAL ROAD UPGRADE – BINNS ROADS

## Project Description:

In Victoria, Councils are responsible for community infrastructure worth \$73 billion.

In regional locations Councils have large asset bases which include road networks and community buildings.

**Colac Otway Shire Council currently owns and manages \$288million worth of assets including 1,632kms of local roads.**

Binns Road is an important link between Beech Forest and the Great Ocean Rd, west of Apollo Bay.

This unsealed road carries high volumes of tourist traffic to the Californian Redwood Forest and to Hopetoun Falls.

It also serves the timber industry as this is an area that contains significant private timber resource.

The interaction between the timber industry and visitor economy vehicles presents significant safety issues.

Colac Otway Shire Council has secured funding to widen and seal 1.5 kilometres of the road from the north at Beech Forest.

Council is seeking funding to enable widening and sealing of a 6-kilometre section will provide a safer route from Turtons Track, Beech Forest, through to the popular Redwoods.

The scope of works required includes widening, safety treatments including guard rails, repair of landslips and sealing.

## Benefits:

- Support economic growth.
- Provide for a network that is able to serve industry as well as residents and the visitor economy.
- Improve road safety.

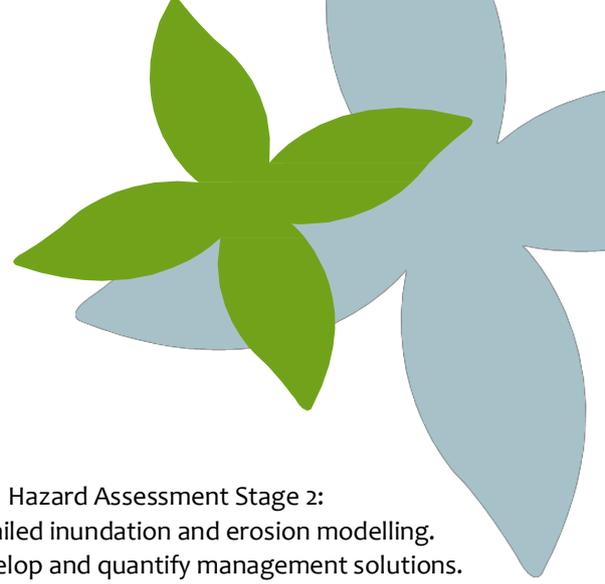
## Action:

Design and construct 4.5-kilometres of road and necessary bridge improvements at Binns Rd, Beech Forest.

**Cost:            \$2M**



# LOCAL COASTAL HAZARD ASSESSMENT - Stage 2



## Project Description:

The Barwon South West Local Coastal Hazard Assessment Project is a partnership between four Councils, two Coastal Committees of Management and the Victorian Government identifying key assets and vulnerabilities along the southern coastline.

Stage 1 of the Local Coastal Hazard Assessment Project is nearing completion; the next stage is to identify priority areas requiring more detailed assessment, which would include both inundation and erosion modelling.

Local Coastal Hazard Assessments use a risk-based approach to improve understanding of coastal hazards e.g. inundation, erosion and storm surge.

Incorporating coastal hazard information and climate change risks into decision making processes for coastal management enhance management authorities' adaptive capacity, and ability to reduce risks to coastal assets, infrastructure and communities. This project will also increase collaboration and knowledge sharing between Barwon South West councils and relevant agencies.

## Benefits:

### The project would provide:

- Accurate information on assets at risk from coastal erosion and inundation.
- Management solutions for high-risk areas.

## Economic outcomes

The project will provide sufficient information to manage the long-term future of coastal assets. This information is vital in maintaining and enhancing the tourism sector for internationally renowned natural assets such as the Great Ocean Road.

## Action:

Local Coastal Hazard Assessment Stage 2:

- Detailed inundation and erosion modelling.
- Develop and quantify management solutions.

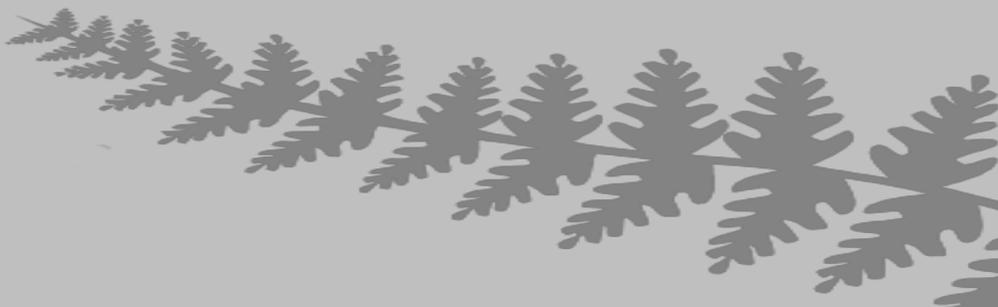
**Cost:** \$800,000



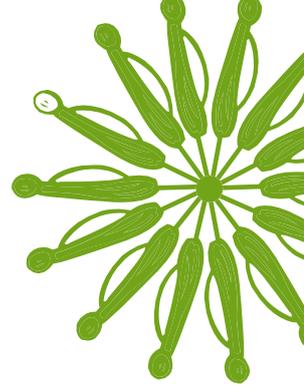
Coastal erosion impacting car parks and walking paths in Apollo Bay



Coastal erosion impinging on car park at Mounts Bay, Marengo



# MOBILE PHONE BLACKSPOT FUNDING



## Project Description:

**Extension of the existing Mobile Blackspot Funding program to ensure 100% coverage in shire communities and along key arterial roads.**

The Mobile Phone Blackspot program has been welcomed with \$100 million committed in Round 1 and a further \$60 million allotted over two years to Round 2 commencing in July 2016. A significant number of mobile blackspots have been addressed across the Shire. However Colac Otway Shire has both some of the highest numbers of international visitors as well as the most significant fire danger areas in the State if not the nation. Mobile telephony in these areas provides an important safety function as well being a virtual Visitor Information Centre for travelling visitors. Under these circumstances it is desirable for key arterial roads such as the Great Ocean Road to have 100% coverage along its length as well as along important roads that feed into the Great Ocean Road such as the Colac-Forrest-Apollo Bay Road and the roads between Colac and Lavers Hill. Both these roads are travelled by international visitors unfamiliar with our roads and road laws as well as providing important community escape routes in times of disaster or emergency.

Addressing mobile black spots by securing funding for new towers is a priority for Colac Otway Shire in the following areas:

- Beac
- Hordern Vale
- Wongarra
- Johanna
- Mt Defiance
- Kennett River
- Forrest
- Aire Valley
- Cororooke
- Apollo Bay to Hordern Vale
- Kennedys Creek

## Benefits:

- Safer transport for local residents and visitors alike.
- Significantly improved emergency management capability.
- Greater local economic benefit from international and interstate visitors who will be able to access more information about local attractions and destinations as they travel.

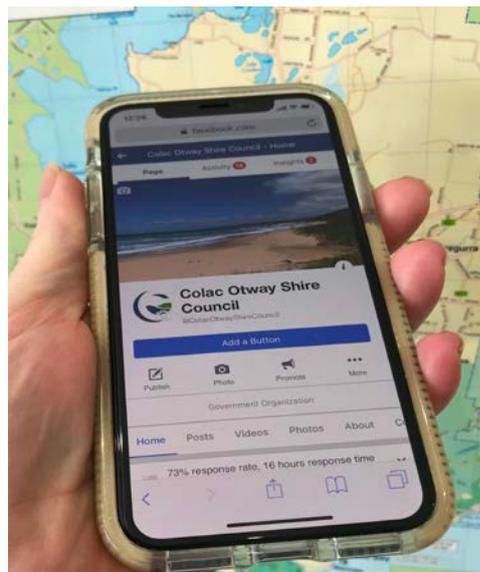
## Action:

**Project funding to:**

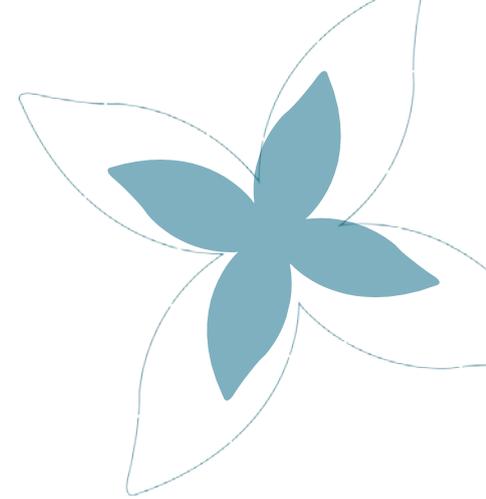
- Deliver 100% mobile phone coverage of the Great Ocean Road and arterial feeder roads.
- Deliver 100% mobile coverage to every community in Colac Otway Shire.-

## Cost:

\$5m commitment toward implementation with a further review after those funds are expended.



# ARTERIAL ROAD NETWORK UPGRADES AND MAINTENANCE



## Project Description:

Victoria's arterial road network is critical for the safe and efficient movement of transport across the south west region. Particularly in an emergency, such as bushfire, this network provides the core links for all road users to access major city centres, transport distribution hubs, ports for export and import of materials, and airports.

Arterial roads are vital for the region's tourism visitation as well as critical for the success of major industry operating in our shire. All of which is underpinned by the need for our residents to access major city centres safely.

Unfortunately the state of the arterial roads in our region are beyond a state of disrepair, with many key roads reduced to an unsafe and dilapidated state forcing transport users to Council's local road network. The flow on effect of the state road network condition has placed the local road network under extreme pressure, requiring additional funding.

The arterial linkage roads from the Princes Highway to the Great Ocean Road were put under enormous strain during the 2015-2016 bushfires, floods and landslides, which closed the Great Ocean Road.

These arterial roads are important to the region's tourism industry, but during the Great Ocean Road's closure they became vital links requiring ongoing upgrades and improvements to provide a safe network for tourists and residents.

**In particular the State-managed Colac-Forrest Road, the Colac-Lavers Hill Road (from Ferguson) require significant investment to provide safe road widths, suitable pavement quality, and passing lanes to cater for the significant tourist traffic.**

## Benefits:

Increased productivity and funding is vital for the arterial roads to be maintained and upgraded to meet the increasing demand on the road network in our region.

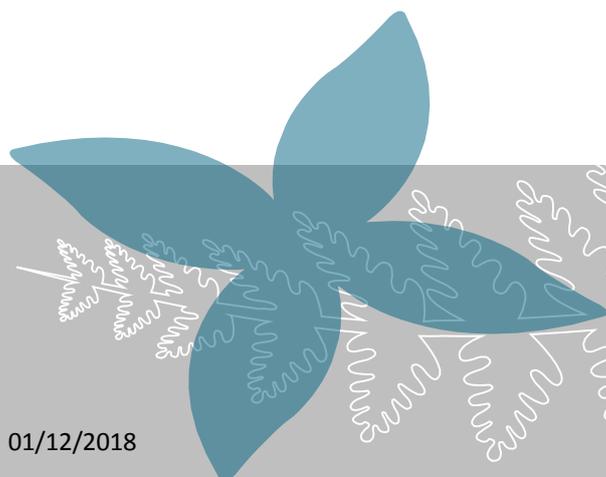
Funding support will ensure transport, tourism and local communities to have a well-maintained road network for day to day use and in emergency situation to stay safe and connected.

## Action:

It is vital that state and federal government funding support is continued and increased to assist with the maintenance and necessary improvements to our region's arterial road network.

## Cost:

Advocacy



# INCREASED COMMUTER RAIL SERVICES & HIGH SPEED RAIL



## Project Description:

This project seeks to increase Colac-Geelong rail service to five services daily and advocate for a high-speed rail network for the Warrnambool to Geelong line.

The ongoing over subscription of the current commuter bus services demonstrates there is a demand for increasing the rail service. Providing additional reliable, fast services will further increase demand.

The introduction of reliable short haul rail services has consistently proved a significant driver of both economic and population growth in regional towns.

Its anticipated increasing rail services and introducing high-speed rail between Colac and Geelong will drive similar growth in Colac. New, faster services will also provide increased community connectedness and resilience as workers and students are able to stay in Colac and commute rather than relocating for work or study.

In June 2014, G21 prepared and finalised its G21 Regional Public Transport Strategy, which Colac Otway formally adopted in August 2014. This comprehensive strategy included extensive stakeholder consultation and data analysis in each G21 local government area.

The Victorian Government recognised the importance of this work and provided a \$100,000 grant through Regional Development Victoria to develop the strategy.

The region requires an increase in service levels between Geelong, Colac, Warrnambool, Ballarat (serving Bannockburn) and Apollo Bay to five services daily in the short term, using coaches primarily but trains where feasible.

Supporting infrastructure is also considered vital for increased rail services to be a viable alternative for the community, including but not limited to adequate parking in the vicinity of train stations.

## Benefits:

### The project would provide:

- Improved accessibility to Colac and surrounds as well as providing positive economic benefits to the Colac community.
- Reduced vehicle traffic in Colac and surrounds.
- Colac is a commutable distance to Melbourne, a high speed rail service can only have a positive effect on house prices and attracting people more to live, work and visit the Colac Otway region

## Action:

Advocate to the Victorian Government provide increased commuter rail services in line with the findings put forward to the G21 Regional Public Transport Strategy along with provision of a high-speed rail network on the Warrnambool-to-Melbourne line.

## Cost: Advocate

