

Newsletter

October / 2021



Geelong City Deal projects in Colac Otway Shire

The [Geelong City Deal](#) is delivering three major infrastructure projects funded by the Australian Government along the Colac Otway Shire coastline at Apollo Bay, Kennett River and Skenes Creek.

The City Deal is a 10-year plan to revitalise Geelong and unlock the potential of the Great Ocean Road economy. The Australian and Victorian governments, together with local government, will deliver \$382.48 million under the City Deal, supporting the region's continued economic diversification and growth of the visitor economy.

Project details are on the [Colac Otway Shire website](#).

Geelong City Deal Annual Progress Report 2021

The Geelong City Deal agreement was signed in March 2019. The first Annual Progress Report, released in November 2020, was a welcome opportunity to learn more about the nature and scope of the projects being delivered in our region by this funding agreement.

The second Annual Progress Report for the Deal was recently released and it shows strong progress being made with the approval of the vast majority of Project Plans and implementation of many key projects.

Frank Castles, Project Director here in Apollo Bay features on page three of the report. You can view the report [here](#).

Online community update – November

The City Deal project team will be providing a community update, online, from the 1st to 15th November.

Whilst we were hoping to provide this information in a live setting such as the local hall, the ongoing Covid restrictions means that these sessions will now be online.

This will be a great opportunity for the community to find out more about the projects in further detail. Visual representations will be available to see where the projects are up to and there will be online Q&A sessions to ask questions of the City Deal team and consultants.

Please [register here](#) to be notified of when the information goes live and to book into a Q&A session.

Apollo Bay Harbour Redevelopment

The City Deal team and Design consultants will be available in early November to talk through the latest updates for the Apollo Bay Harbour precinct upgrades. Focus areas for discussion at this stage include:

- Waterfront promenade and public realm design involving boardwalks, footpaths, and public space infrastructure
- Civil works within the harbour development precinct involving road works, carpark formalisation, retaining walls and footpaths
- Port operations depot relocation and new buildings

The team looks forward to providing an update on how these projects are coming together since the Development Plan was approved for the Harbour in December 2020. It's a good opportunity to confirm the project scope for proposed works (*subject to completion of detailed studies and subsequent planning approval or state government equivalent*) included within the funded City Deals program – what we will and won't be doing! (*PLEASE NOTE: The Fishermen's Co-op Upgrades will be discussed at a future time, not at the November session.*)

Kennett River Tourism Infrastructure Improvements

The Kennett River project continues to work through the Detailed Design phase with works being undertaken by the consultants. These works include:

- Geotechnical and geomorphology assessments
- Flora and fauna and biodiversity studies
- Cultural heritage studies
- Public toilet block elevation, above existing ground level
- Estimate of probable construction costs
- Road safety audit

Updates regarding recent findings for the project will be available in November and include:

- Visual representations of the new public toilet block as provided by the preferred tenderer Modus
- Information on the proposed wastewater treatment plant
- Visual amenity, or renders, of the new road and parking configuration

The draft Kennett River Precinct Masterplan received comprehensive community feedback, and is now available via the website.

Apollo Bay to Skenes Creek Coastal Trail

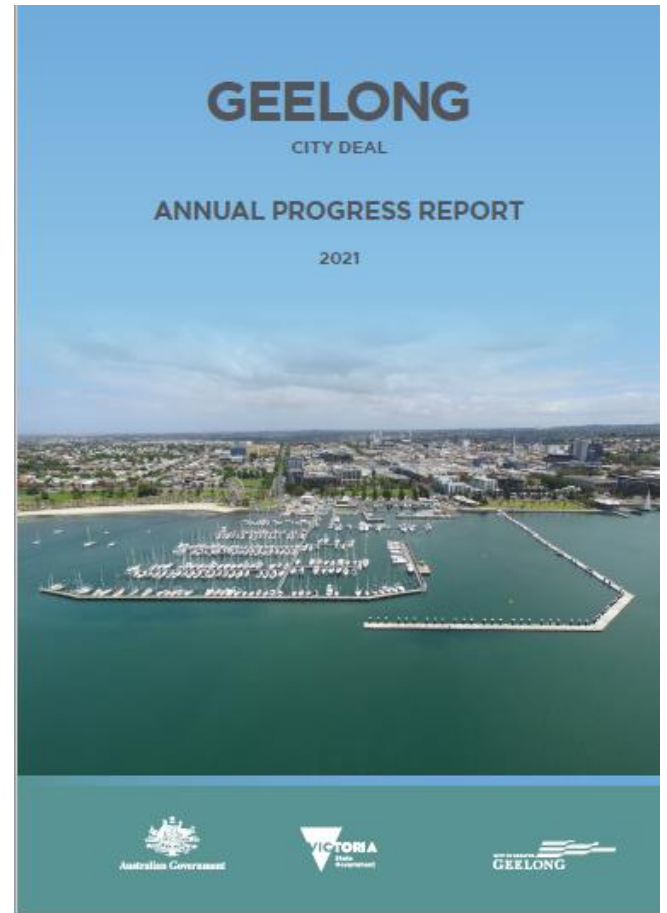
Recent estimates of probable construction costs, that would deliver all the features and details of the desired trail, are over budget. A review is now underway with the project control group, a community delegation, Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority and funding managers Regional Development Victoria to determine:

- What options are available to reduce costs to make the trail affordable within the \$5 million budget
- What features (ie. trail width) can be re-assessed
- If extra funding sources are available

The design team continue to undertake the relevant studies and investigations for the Coastal Trail area, and these assessments have included:

- Underground service locations
- Geotechnical and geomorphology assessments
- Flora and fauna and biodiversity studies
- Works adjacent waterways
- Landscape visual impact assessments
- Cultural heritage studies
- Road safety audit

The above studies will inform both consent applications and design. An update on the progress of the Trail will be available in November.



[Click here](#) to view the Annual Progress Report

Project Timeline

It is anticipated these Geelong City Deal projects will be planned, designed and constructed over three years. Due to the range of projects and stakeholders involved, a staged approach will see an approximate delivery timeframe of:

