

# RENEWAL PLAN FOR WYE RIVER, SEPARATION CREEK AND KENNETT RIVER

Consultation draft 2017

March 2018 - March 2019





**Acknowledgements**

Wye River Separation Creek and Kennett River Renewal Association (WSKRA) (Inc) wishes to acknowledge the support of DELWP in the production of this Renewal Plan.

**Photo credit**

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# Wye River, Separation Creek and Kennett River Community Statement

## **Values and Principles**

*Wye River, Separation Creek and Kennett River is a small, inclusive and respectful community in a place of great natural beauty that highly values the forest, beach and natural landscape, and works to preserve and sustain them*

- *All community voices are valued and respected*
- *Natural beauty is enhanced by small scale and informal facilities*
- *Regeneration of indigenous flora and fauna has the highest priority*
- *Development is sympathetic to the environment and of minimal impact*
- *Risk is managed to balance amenity, public health and safety*

## **As far as possible, our future is about community driven and community owned renewal**

This Renewal Plan for Wye River, Separation Creek and Kennett River has been produced by the Wye River Separation Creek and Kennett River Renewal Association (WSKRA) in consultation with the community, to identify and implement initiatives to achieve the vision that the community has identified for itself and which is encapsulated in this values and principles statement.

## **The Renewal Plan lays the foundations for achieving the vision encapsulated by the Community Statement**

The Renewal Plan has been endorsed by the Leadership Group responsible for the oversight of the recovery of Wye River and Separation Creek following the fire. The Leadership Group is comprised of the Emergency Management Commissioner, the Secretary of the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and the Chief Executive, Colac Otway Shire (COS). The Group noted that the outstanding funding decisions will be made on merit at the appropriate time.

The community is broadly comprised of:

- 600 private properties
- 3,000 summer campers
- 2,500 summer renters in residential structures
- Temporary residents and tourists year round

The primary community structures are the:

- CFA Fire Station
- Wye River Surf Life Saving Club
- Foreshore Caravan Park
- Kennett River Surf Life Saving Club

The primary private businesses are the:

- BIG 4 Caravan Park
- General Store and Café
- Kennett River café and store
- Kennett River Holiday Park
- Wye Beach Hotel
- Wye and Kennett SLSC Bunkhouses
- holiday rentals, and
- support services for business and property owners

The focus for much renewal activity in Wye River and Separation Creek in 2017 was on:

- weed eradication, revegetation and management of trees damaged by the fire
- community and individual support to build and support wellbeing
- continuing installation of retaining walls and other structures to stabilise land
- development of plans and capability to implement a community wide drainage scheme to improve management of stormwater across the landscape
- works to stabilise landslide areas impacting the Great Ocean Road (GOR), Paddy's Path and Stanway Drive to improve access
- facilitating the planning and rebuilding process

In Kennett River a focus has been on:

- discussing ways of building resilience and preparedness for future threats from fire activities and possible infrastructure that would make us better prepared for future threats
- building closer relationships with the Wye CFA and learning from their experience

Together with existing work, the initiatives included in this plan have been aligned to the community led Work Groups established as part of WSKRA:

- Community Connection and Wellbeing
- Flora, Fauna and Beachscape
- Planning, Building and Fire
- Business and Tourism

# 1. Community Connection and Wellbeing

Initiatives under the general heading of *Community Connection and Wellbeing* address the first part of the Wye River and Separation Creek Community Statement

*Wye River, Separation Creek and Kennett River is a small, inclusive and respectful community...*

- *All community voices are valued and respected*

Initiatives undertaken and/or currently occurring include the following:

- *#Wye I Love* and *#wyewinter* – a photographic competition which encouraged entrants to celebrate the region by posting images on social media with hashtags
- Two Visitor Information Fact Sheets were produced and distributed over Christmas 2016 and Easter 2017. Each Fact Sheet had an update on the community recovery, infrastructure works updates and information about activities.
- A Winter Community Lunch was held in July 2017 at the Wye River SLSC with around 70 people attending.
- *A Showcasing Local Trades and Services* forum was held in October 2017. Nine key note speakers and representatives from trade and service related businesses attended to assist property owners navigate the building process and get advice from industry experts.
- *A Trades and Services Directory* is currently in production. The directory will be printed and distributed to properties in the community and will also be available online.
- A community arts project, *The Wye Experience*, is being developed. It is envisaged as a short film and mixed media experience on the history of Wye River.
- A number of communication channels are available to the community and are now managed by Colac Otway Shire, these include - WyeSep Connect web portal, WyeSep Connect Facebook and the monthly Community Renewal Newsletter.
- Information regarding mental health services was made available on Wye Sep Connect website. Opportunities for individuals and groups were promoted and trends monitored. This will be a focus in 2018-9. There is evidence that the 2 year anniversary after an event such as the bushfire can be a stressful point for people.
- Determined attempts to find a cheap/free accommodation option at Wye River after the Lions Club cabin became unavailable were unsuccessful.

The Kennett River Association (KRA) has implemented an annual cup day weekend community barbeque to strengthen relationships between people across the entire community.

While initiatives responding to the particular and diverse needs of individuals continue to be required it is also apparent that initiatives that enable our community to come together are also very beneficial and essential

## Renewal Plan Activities

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### **Building and sustaining an inclusive and respectful community**

**Activity:** Based on community input, continue a community activity program that links to existing events and includes three community-wide events spread across the year

**Outcome:** A *diverse and* inclusive community that is looking after its collective and individual wellbeing

**Lead & Partners:** Community Connection and Wellbeing Work Group, WSKRA, with Wye River Surf Lifesaving Club (WRSLSC), Wye River Separation Creek Progress Association (PA), Wye River CFA, Kennett River Association and COS

**Resources:** COS has allocated resources to support a range of community activities for 2018. Funding for events beyond this time needs to be identified and the community will need to continue to provide in-kind support for all activities

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### **Supporting individual people - maintaining capacity for individual counselling and other support services**

**Activity:** Maintain and develop the capacity for the provision of individual and/or community support services, including access to counselling and emergency medical services. Monitor trends and respond appropriately.

**Outcome:** Continuing care and support for people rebuilding and adjusting to the impact of the bushfire and landslip risks

**Lead & Partners:** Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), with Lorne Hospital and COS

**Resources:** Support services to continue to be provided through Lorne Community Hospital and for community members living elsewhere promotion of counselling services accessible via a General Practitioner for referral to an appropriate counselling service.

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### **Maintaining capacity for community connection**

**Activity:** Maintain the *WyeSep Connect* website and the Community Renewal Newsletter to continue to play a key role in enabling the community to build essential connections, keep up to date with issues and reports and to participate in renewal activities

**Outcome:** Effective communications and connections are built and maintained

**Lead & Partners:** COS

**Resources:** COS website and communications resources and substantial community volunteer support

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## Recognising connections with the community of Kennett River

**Activity:** Given the close connections between the communities of Wye River and Separation Creek and Kennett River, the community of Kennett River has accepted an invitation to join in the development of this plan for the wider community for 2018 -19

**Outcome:** Development of a community plan that recognises the interconnection and interdependence of the communities of Wye River, Separation Creek and Kennett River

**Lead & Partners:** WSKRA, with PA, KRA, Wye River CFA, WRSLSC

**Resources:** Community representatives and associations, with support from COS

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## Reducing isolation - improving telecommunication via NBN and telecom services

**Activity:** Continue to advocate for the Commonwealth Government to secure the provision of reliable mobile phone and NBN access. This will improve access to and contact with vital medical, emergency and other support services, and assist property owners with their rebuilding. This is also vital support for businesses

**Outcome:** Reliable mobile phone connection and access to internet services at all times

**Lead & Partners:** WSKRA, WRSLSC, PA, Wye River CFA, COS, Victorian Government and Federal Member for Corangamite

**Resources:** To be determined and sought, it has proved to be very difficult to advance this issue with the relevant authorities.



## 2. Flora, Fauna and Beachscape

*Wye River, Separation Creek and Kennett River is a community in a place of great natural beauty that highly values the forest, beach and natural landscape and works to preserve and sustain them.*

- *Natural beauty is enhanced by small scale and informal facilities*
- *Places high priority on indigenous flora and fauna*

Initiatives undertaken or currently underway include the following

- reinstatement and re-opening of Paddy's Path
- delineation and upgrade of the Wye River Walk (in collaboration with the PA)
- weed management – short term
- planning and commencement of long term weed management, revegetation and feral pest control
- management of fire effected trees on municipal reserves
- regeneration in Harrington Park
- reinstatement work at the Foreshore Caravan Park
- ongoing community activities such as plant advice and giveaways, replanting, bird observation day, weed management information
- monitoring waterways
- upgrade of the Wye Playground
- installation and administration
- of bird boxes
- establishment of revegetation support program for all fire effected private properties
- Planned activities include plant and weed workshops, community bird watching and rock pool rambles.



## Renewal Plan Activities

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### Replanting to renew flora and fauna

**Activity:** Implement a replanting and weed eradication/control plan to support a coordinated approach to landscape regeneration by property owners, COS, Southern Otway Landcare Network (SOLN), Parks Victoria and DELWP that contributes to land stability, local character and the recovery of local fauna and flora. Halt opportunistic species impacting negatively on indigenous plant regeneration and creating a fire risk

**Outcome:** The essential character of the community is restored and the landscape regenerated through the planting of a significant number of plants and trees each year for the next 3 - 4 years, encouraging the return of local fauna and flora species without unduly increasing bushfire risk; protecting and enhancing ecosystem health and biodiversity through a weed control program targeting identified high-risk species and priority areas; a monitoring program established to track the success of weed control and revegetation and associated community engagement, education, and support

**Lead & Partners:** Wye River Vegetation Restoration Committee, Flora, Fauna and Beachscape Work Group, COS with DELWP, Otway Coast Committee (OCC) VicRoads, Parks Victoria, SOLN, Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CCMA)

**Resources:** Resources required for replanting initiatives and comprehensive weed control have been determined based on the replanting and weed control plan. The State Government has provided funds to support replanting of fire-affected properties. Parks Victoria has been allocated \$3.4m by the State Government to assist the community in the area affected by the Wye River-Jamieson Creek fire to recover environmentally, socially and economically, with the Renewal Plan being a primary input to this process. WSKRA has made a submission to Parks Victoria for, amongst other priorities discussed below, this funding to be allocated for weed control in the Great Otway National Park around Wye River and Separation Creek to compliment weed control activities on other public land and private land and to trap feral animals. Additional grant funds need to be sort to support SOLN and COS weed control works within the town boundaries.

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### Monitor and maintain trees on Council owned and managed land

**Activity:** Implement a program of regular tree health monitoring and active management of remnant trees on COS owned or managed land to remove unsafe trees and actively manage remaining trees for longevity and habitat

**Outcome:** Trees on council owned land are actively managed with retention of as many viable trees as possible, whilst responding to public risk

**Lead & Partners:** COS

**Resources:** COS has commissioned and implemented an independent assessment of the health of trees on Council land including recommendations for the ongoing management of trees. Council has taken action to manage trees on Council land and this will continue.



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## Re-open Harrington Park

**Activity:** Harrington Park has been re-opened with indigenous plant regeneration being assisted and monitored through a Southern Otway Landcare Network (SOLN) project with school children, and community volunteers controlling weeds.

**Outcome:** Harrington Park is open for community use

**Lead & partners:** COS, with the Flora, Fauna and Beachscape Work Group

**Resources:** COS, Southern Otway Landcare Network (SOLN), and community volunteers controlling weeds.

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## Establish a demonstration fire-resistant garden

**Activity:** Develop a demonstration fire-resistant garden

**Outcome:** Guidance and assistance is provided to property owners on the establishment and maintenance of indigenous fire resistant gardens

**Lead & partners:** COS with the Flora, Fauna and Beachscape Work Group (FFB)

**Resources:** COS, SOLN, CCMA and FFB, with the community. Work has commenced, the site has been cleared and planting is to occur in autumn 2018

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## Improve beach access between Wye River and Separation Creek

**Activity:** Advocate for improved beach access between Wye River and Separation Creek at high tide and thereby ensure there is safe pedestrian access between Wye River and Separation Creek if landslip occurs along Paddy's Path and/or the Great Ocean Road is closed causing residents to be isolated. This would also provide a new walking loop incorporating Paddy's Path

**Outcome:** Safe pedestrian access between Wye River and Separation Creek is provided at all times and isolation of residents is prevented

**Lead & Partners:** WSKRA

**Resources:** WSKRA will advocate for government funds to be made available for this project.

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## **Advocate for the effective management of fuel on town boundaries**

**Activity:** The former Donleavy Fitzpatrick estate has been sold to a private owner. Liaison with all owners of private land adjacent to town boundaries, to ensure effective management of fuel on town boundaries, is required.

**Outcome:** Fire risk to the community reduced.

**Lead & Partners:** DELWP, COS, WSKRA, with other community associations.

**Resources:** DELWP, COS, WSKRA.

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## **Drainage Scheme to assist revegetation**

**Activity:** The implementation of the drainage scheme for Wye River provides opportunity for a positive impact on the re-establishment of indigenous flora and fauna.

**Outcome:** Revegetation with plants indigenous to the area, with specific micro environments recognised and re-established, such as the proposed wetland in the Boulevard Gully in Wye River. Replanting assists the return of indigenous fauna such as koalas.

**Lead & Partners:** COS, Flora, Fauna and Beachscape Work Group.

**Resources:** COS, funded by the Victorian Government

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## **Support the health and return of koala population**

**Activity:** The koala population in Wye River and Separation Creek has been dramatically reduced by the loss of habitat and the fire and there are threats to the health of koalas and other wildlife in Kennett River. Support is required to return the population to healthy and sustainable levels, such as appropriate vegetation as part of the replanting program, visitor management and relocation of koalas from over populated areas.

**Outcome:** The koala population is supported to return to pre fire levels in the longer term.

**Lead and Partners:** DELWP, COS, GORRT.

**Resources:** DELWP, COS.

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### 3. Planning, Building and Fire



The members of the community wish for Wye River, Separation Creek and Kennett River to be places where...

- *Natural beauty is enhanced by small scale and informal facilities*
- *Development is sympathetic to the environment and of minimal impact*
- *Risk is managed to balance amenity, public health and safety*

Initiatives undertaken or currently being undertaken include the following

- approval by COS of applications for rebuilding damaged or destroyed homes in a facilitated and streamlined fashion
- development and implementation of action to reduce the propensity for landslide and improve drainage across the community
- implementation of retaining walls and other soil mesh treatments to minimise further land movement above and below Paddy's Path
- completing the building of retaining walls in high risk areas on public and private land to maximise community safety
- repair of lower risk retaining walls
- restoration of roads to a standard appropriate to the weather and land conditions and construction of an emergency local-use-only road between Wye River and Separation Creek



- Action to develop a community based bushfire management plan for Wye River, Separation Creek, Kennett River and Grey River.
- implementation of a construction and traffic management plan to ensure access for property owners and trades people during the rebuilding of lost or damaged homes
- restoration of power and telecom services in Bass and Iluka Avenues - Action undertaken to enable residents to make a decision on a proposal from Power or to restore services by underground or overhead cables.

## **Renewal Plan Activities**

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### **Safer Together – place based planning to increase resilience against fire and the impact of natural events**

**Activity:** Develop a Community Based Bushfire Management Plan for Wye River, Separation Creek, Kennett River and Grey River to increase resilience against bushfire and landslide risks. This will include identifying activities on public and private land, and within and outside community boundaries to reduce fire risk and increase community resilience. It will also raise awareness of the Expert Panel Guidelines for improving the resilience of new as well as existing buildings and for the development of bushfire plans for each property owner and/or resident. The development of the plan will also consider the potential of and provide information on Indigenous burning practices.

**Outcome:** A Community Bushfire Management Plan, agreed by the communities of Wye River, Separation Creek, Kennett River and Grey River, and that is supported by DELWP and COS, which can be implemented through ongoing land management, fuel reduction, and built form management that progressively lifts the resilience of the community and reduces the impact of any future bushfire and landslip. All property owners advised of Expert Panel Guidelines regarding building and maintaining buildings in a fire prone area.

**Lead & Partners:** COS, with DELWP, the Planning, Building and Fire Work Group, CFA (local brigade, District 6 and South West Region), and Parks Victoria.

**Resources:** DELWP, which has lead the establishment of a community partnership to support the establishment of the plan and will continue to do so in conjunction with the CFA local brigade.

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### **Facilitating rebuilding**

**Activity:** Monitor the traffic management plan to facilitate home rebuilding and repair activity and access to surviving homes, while maintaining amenity for owners of existing homes.

**Outcome:** Effective traffic and vehicle management during the period of main construction activity including safe use of local roads, vehicle turning circles, streamlined

permit processes for heavy vehicle access, and resolution of on-site logistics and access requirements in a proactive way.

**Lead & Partners:** COS, with VicRoads.

**Resources:** Development of the plan commenced in November 2016 and has been implemented by COS in early 2017.

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## Securing reliability of access

**Activity:** Implement capital and maintenance works to support the reliable operation of the GOR, safe and effective use of north-south access routes and effective communication concerning the status of road access. Secure local, alternate access between Wye River and Separation Creek and explore the options for a safe pedestrian path from Cassidy Drive to Kennett River bridge.

**Outcome:** GOR operational reliability improved with more effective communication about the status of the road, effective north-south access routes maintained and emergency access between Wye River and Separation Creek provided. The community is reliably informed of the accessibility of all roads at all times.

**Lead & Partners:** VicRoads, with COS.

**Resources:** State and Commonwealth Governments have together provided approximately \$150m for the repair and maintenance of the GOR from Torquay to Peterborough. VicRoads has been undertaking works to maintain the GOR, including the construction of retaining walls between Wye River, Separation Creek and Kennett River. COS is currently restoring and will implement improvements to local roads as appropriate.

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## Implementing drainage works to manage stormwater

**Activity:** Develop and implement a community wide stormwater drainage scheme

**Outcome:** With appropriate community consultation, stormwater across the community is managed to mitigate the risk of uncontrolled stormwater impacting land stability and with legal points of water discharge for private properties resolved. Interference with the landscape is minimised and indigenous revegetation is assisted.

**Lead & Partners:** COS, with VicRoads, DEWLP and OCC

**Resources:** Funding has been provided to COS by Victorian State Government. COS appointed consultants to consult with the community and develop the overall stormwater plan, for implementation in early 2018.

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## Monitor and forecast development activity

**Activity:** Implement surveys of intention to build on a recurring basis to assess future development activity and inform logistical support plans and to support community awareness of overall extent and timing of rebuilding activity.

**Outcome:** Improved capability to support effective rebuilding activity and streamline logistical support required.

**Lead & Partners:** COS

**Resources:** COS to continue to track and forecast development activity as part of usual business. A Rebuilding Intentions Survey was conducted in February 2017 and a further one is being undertaken in November 2017.

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## Ensure accurate land information to support rebuilding

**Activity:** Secure current air photography and geographic information services to support private and public sector development works and activities

**Outcome:** Up to date aerial photography to inform ongoing land management and development activities, as well as securing historical record of change over time

**Lead & Partners:** DELWP, with COS and VicRoads

**Resources:** Funding provided by DELWP to capture updated air photography in late 2016 and mid-2017





## 4. Business and Tourism

- *Natural beauty is enhanced by small scale and informal facilities*
- *Development is sympathetic to the environment and of minimal impact*

The Otways Coast Destination Plan aims to

- increase visitor length of stay
- increase visitor expenditure
- increase visitor dispersal seasonally
- increase visitor satisfaction.

An important guiding objective for this plan is to maintain the environmental sustainability of Wye River, Separation Creek, Kennett River and Wongarra visitation through accessible nature based tourism experiences. Responsible tourism and respect for nature are guiding principles.

Current initiatives include the 'Wye Pub to Club Walk/Run' and investigation of the potential to link the Great Ocean Road Walk to other walking tracks.

The Great Ocean Road Taskforce has been established to coordinate the multiple authorities involved in managing the road and support responsible governance and planning.

The environmental impact of all business and tourism infrastructure should be minimized to maintain and enhance our fragile post-fire environment, to maintain the character and boundaries of Wye River, Separation Creek and Kennett River and to sustain a quality experience for residents and visitors alike. Tourism is having negative impact in some areas

### ***Renewal Plan Activities***

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#### **Linkage of Long Distance Walks to Great Ocean Road Walk**

**Activity:** Advocate for linked walks from Apollo Bay to Torquay. Submissions will be made by WSKRA to government for funding to conduct a feasibility study for this initiative.

**Outcome:** Support for long-term feasibility analysis of the opportunities and impacts of linked walks connecting to the Great Ocean Walk

**Lead & Partners:** Business and Tourism Work Group, with Regional Development Victoria (RDV) where initiatives support tourism, Great Ocean Road Regional Tourism (GORRT), Colac Otway and Surf Coast Shires.

**Resources:** Advocacy is required to secure funding to undertake the feasibility and impact analysis as a first step.

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## Walking Tracks

**Activity:** Plan and build walking tracks in Wye River along former logging rail and more recent fire tracks, including the Rail Trail Loop adjacent to Wye River, provide mapping and signage of local tracks and roads that may be suitable for walks, develop long distance walks such as a walk from Separation Creek to the Jamieson River camping reserve using the original walking track linking Wye River to Lorne. All tracks should be positioned to be able to contribute to future linked walks.

The highest walk priority is from Jamieson River to Wye River, in sight of the coastline. Tourism has been slow to return to our area since the fire, and the walk would be a world-class attraction. Should this route prove not to be practicable the alternative is a walk between Wye and Kennett Rivers, again with magnificent coastal views, and symbolically linking the communities. Irrespective of which walk is funded, the start or finish would be the proposed walk southwest of Wye River, taking in former logging rail tracks and the Bird's Track. WSKRA has made a submission to Parks Victoria for the allocation of funding for the development of these walks. Funding for short walks at Kennett River close to the river has been applied for.

**Outcome:** Low impact tourism encouraged, recreational activities developed and the health and wellbeing of tourists and residents enhanced.

**Lead & Partners:** Business and Tourism Work Group, with Parks Victoria, COS and PA

**Resources:** Parks Victoria with funding provided by the Victorian Government. Smaller walk such as the Rail Trail loop being an achievable alignment subject to further planning and approvals, and linkage to the preferred walks.

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## Economic activity along the Great Ocean Road

**Activity:** The State Government has established a bi-partisan Task Force to protect and grow the GOR and attract visitors to it. There continues however to be a need for coordinated leadership, investment and protection of the GOR in partnership with State and local government, business leaders and local communities.

**Outcome:** Improved confidence in reliable regional access, accurate targeted communications when the GOR is impacted by incidents, with a clear focus on a coordinated effort and resourcing to ensure sustainable management of the road

**Lead & Partners:** GORRT, with local tourism associations, local businesses, the Business and Tourism Work Group, Barwon and Great South Coast Regional Partnership, OCC, Visit Victoria, COS, Surf Coast Shire, Regional Development Victoria (RDV), the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources and VicRoads

**Resources:** Funding for future marketing and communication initiatives needs to be identified consistent with the agreed priorities of The Otways Coast Destination Plan.

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## **Improving tourist infrastructure on the Great Ocean Road (Wye River, Separation Creek and Kennett River Section)**

**Activity:** Advocate for improving the basic infrastructure on the GOR near Wye River, Separation Creek and Kennett River essential for tourists, such as toilets and rubbish collection. The lack of these basic facilities not only diminishes the quality of the tourist experience but has also become a health hazard to them and residents. Interpretive signage and adequate management of tourist bus and self-drive parking is also required.

**Outcome:** The basic infrastructure and services expected by tourists to the GOR is in place, is maintained, is consistent with the character of the GOR and respects the values of residents. Tourist bus impacts on the town of Kennett River and its wildlife are appropriately managed to create a positive experience for all parties. Registration and training for bus/mini bus drivers and passenger orientation to minimise environmental and negative community impacts is required.

**Lead & Partners:** VicRoads, OCC with COS, Surf Coast Shire, DELWP

**Resources:** State and Commonwealth Governments.

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***All renewal activities included in this document must be delivered in a manner consistent with the community developed and owned statement of values and principles.***





## 5. Continuing to Transition

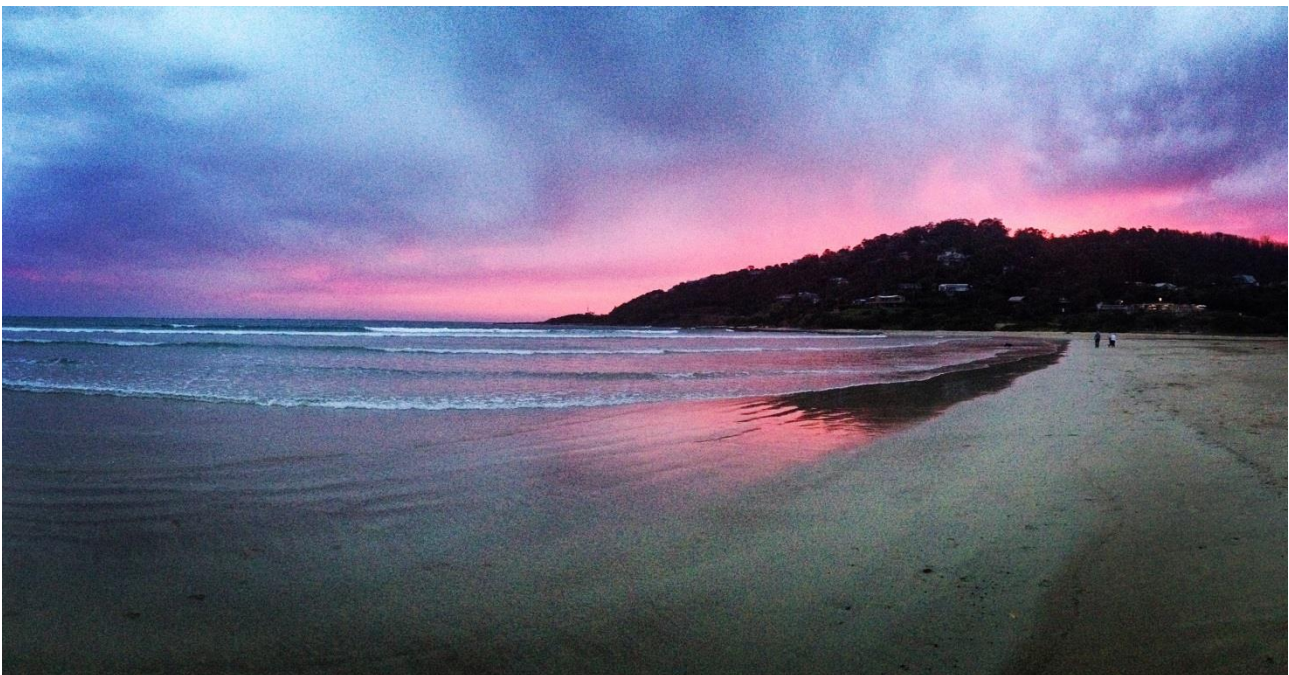
To start a discussion of how the Community Resilience Committee could transition from a government established committee to a community based and owned committee the CRC Community Representatives convened a meeting with the primary community associations<sup>1</sup> on 15 January 2017. The outcomes of this meeting were presented and discussed at the Community Forum facilitated by the PA on 22 January 2017.

The consensus from this discussion was that the CRC is seen to play a critical coordinating role for the community and that this role should continue but evolve over the coming 12 months.

The CRC continued to undertake its role and function but its membership changed. The community representatives of the CRC continued as members and were joined by representatives from the primary community associations (PA, Wye River CFA, KRA, and WRSLSC). The first CRC meeting with the new membership took place in April 2017.

This newly constituted CRC in April 2017 made a major submission to the Emergency Services Victoria Inquiry on Resilient Recovery and provided extensive comments to the Review of the Wye River and Separation Creek Fire Recovery. In May 2017 the CRC gave a presentation to the Mayor, Councillors and senior managers of COS in Wye River on the issues facing members of the community and in June 2017 made a written submission to the COS Draft Council Plan 2017-2021.

In September 2017 the CRC completed its transition and became an incorporated association, the Wye Sep Kennett Renewal Association (WSKRA), but its purpose and functions unchanged – to champion and guide a community led and community based approach to the renewal of our community after the 2015 fire and the following landslips.



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<sup>1</sup> Kennett River Association, Wye River and Separation Creek Progress Association, Wye River CFA and Wye River Surf Life Saving Club

In October WSKRA briefed the Acting CEO and senior managers of COS in Wye River on the issues facing the community, made an extensive submission to Parks Victoria on the allocation of the \$3.4m allocated for the recovery of the environment and the community following the fires and responded to the Environmental Impact Statement for the Drainage Plan.

Community meetings have been held in Wye River in March, May and September and in Melbourne in March and September.

Discussion of this draft Renewal Plan for Wye River, Separation Creek and Kennett River March 2018 – March 2019 will occur at the Community Forum in January 2019 and then be finalised by March 2019.

The first AGM for WSKRA will be held in February next year. While membership of the WSKRA committee is for 12 months, at this first AGM four community members will step down from the committee and thereby provide an opportunity for other members of WSKRA to express their interest in joining the committee.

If you are interested in joining the committee, or voting at the AGM, you will need to complete a membership application form stating you support the principles and purposes of the association. The membership form is available [here](#)

We encourage and welcome all members of the Wye, Sep and Kennett community to stay involved with the work of WSKRA.

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the 1990s, the number of people who have been infected with HIV has increased in almost every country in the world. In 1990, there were 1.5 million people infected with HIV, and in 2000, there were 39 million. The number of people who have died from AIDS is also increasing. In 1990, there were 1.5 million people who had died from AIDS, and in 2000, there were 10 million.

The increase in the number of people who have been infected with HIV and the number of people who have died from AIDS is due to a number of factors. One of the main factors is the increase in the number of people who are using intravenous drugs. In 1990, there were 1.5 million people who were using intravenous drugs, and in 2000, there were 10 million.

Another factor is the increase in the number of people who are having unprotected sex. In 1990, there were 1.5 million people who were having unprotected sex, and in 2000, there were 10 million. This is due to a number of factors, including the increase in the number of people who are using condoms and the increase in the number of people who are using condoms correctly.

The increase in the number of people who have been infected with HIV and the number of people who have died from AIDS is a global problem. It is a problem that affects people of all ages and all ethnicities. It is a problem that is caused by a number of factors, including the increase in the number of people who are using intravenous drugs and the increase in the number of people who are having unprotected sex.

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