

# MINUTES

<p>1.</p>	<p><b>ATTENDEES:</b>          Anthony Alfirenko – GORCAPA          Leigh Irvine – GORCAPA          John Marriner – Apollo Bay Community Representative          Peter Biddle – Apollo Bay Ocean Rescue          Nick Polgeest – Apollo Bay Fishermen’s Coop          Russell Frost – Community/Commercial Fishers          Bill Gross – Apollo Bay Community Representative          Gary Summers – Apollo Bay Sailing Club          Wayne Diffey –Recreational Fishers and Boaters</p> <p>David Butterfield - Colac Otway Shire, Marcus Pola - Colac Otway Shire, Fiona Waddington – Colac Otway Shire, Cr Chris Potter – Councillor Colac Otway Shire, Cr Graham Costin – Colac Otway Shire.</p> <p>MINUTES – Cathy Donovan, Colac Otway Shire</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p><b>APOLOGIES.</b>          Alistair Dadds –GORCAPA          Lisa Mills - GORCAPA          Cath Olive - GORCAPA</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p><b>MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING &amp; Business Arising</b>          The minutes of the meeting 14 November 2023 were accepted.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p><b>TRANSITION OF PORT TO GORCAPA</b>          It was noted that the Port of Apollo Bay is now with David Butterfield, Manager, Property, Procurements and Contracts within the COS structure until the transition of the Port to GORCAPA.          A Statement of Intent (from DEECA) has been signed by GORCAPA and COS that that Port of Apollo Bay and the remaining Apollo Bay land parcels transfer on 1 July 2024.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p><b>REVIEW OF APOLLO BAY HARBOUR DEVELOPMENT PLAN – Leigh Irvine</b>          The Review of the Apollo Bay Harbour Development Plan (the Review) has now been completed. This includes consideration of feedback from COS, the Apollo Bay Fishermen’s Coop and the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action and Ministerial approval. A summary is being prepared for public release.</p>



	<p>Leigh provided updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The procurement of a head consultant is in progress and an appointment is expected for March/April.</li> <li>• The Review will inform site requirements, redesign of the project as well as how the project outcomes can be delivered within remaining budget.</li> <li>• Consultation costs (e.g. to determine areas of risk and key design elements) will be paid out of GORCAPA budget and not the budget for the Harbour Redevelopment funding.</li> <li>• The budget shortfall is significant, but GORCAPA is committed to delivering all four elements of the City Deal project, though noting that the form of delivery may differ from the original proposal. Space and consolidation opportunities will be considered also. The delivery will align to the requirements of the Review and the Marine and Coastal Act legislation.</li> <li>• The new design will need to take account of the Harbour precinct and so all projects (including VFA projects) need to be considered together. This is a pre-requisite for planning approval requirements.</li> <li>• The redesign period is expected to take up to 12 months. However, Leigh affirmed that some underpinning elements might be able to be staged to start earlier. If some projects commence earlier than others it will increase overheads (and reduce budget).</li> <li>• Leigh will raise the Nelson Street Walkway project element with the Project Working Group as a priority for completion.</li> </ul> <p>Comments and discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The committee is concerned about delays to the Harbour Redevelopment and advised that a shorter timeline would reduce further budget losses and assist with the operations of the Port users that are impacted by the redevelopment time delay. The committee also expressed frustration that a new consultation phase is likely to further delay the project (which has already been delayed significantly).</li> <li>• The committee asked that GORCAPA explain to the community more broadly the elements of the COS City Deals Project plan and design that did not meet GORCAPA approval, or were considered a risk, by the review.</li> <li>• It was noted that the POABCC is the established stakeholder group for the Port.</li> <li>• Cr Potter flagged that the COS Council would continue to support advocacy for increased budget for the project should GORCAPA want this support.</li> </ul>
<p>6.</p>	<p><b>SET ASIDE PROPOSAL</b></p> <p>The POABCC agreed in principle to a set aside to prohibit the activity of cargo management by commercial category 2 vessels (e.g. proposed freight service between King Island and Apollo Bay) at the Extraordinary meeting on 23 January 2024. Terms and conditions will be developed in relation to any permit applications on a case-by-case basis against the set aside.</p> <p>Legal advice is being sought, including the scope of the Set Aside and whether it will be applicable domestically or internationally.</p> <p>Fiona noted that Passenger Boats also want to have access to the harbour and the Set Aside process may incorporate these vessels. A passenger boat is due on 14 February 2024 but will be anchored outside the harbour.</p> <p>The committee endorsed what the Port of Apollo Bay has done in relation to the Set Aside.</p>

	<p>Fiona advised that a legal case was made against the recent direction to the Bass Strait Freight service and heard in the Supreme Court last week. The judge ruled in favour of the direction made by the Port management team. Recommendations have been made, which the Port is undertaking due diligence on, particularly in relation to safety, environment and suitability of port infrastructure to support the conceptual freight management proposal.</p> <p>Fiona also noted that whilst some BSF documents had been circulated to some people, these have no status as they are only drafts.</p> <p>The POABCC noted that they are not against any individual proposal, such as that of BSF, but can't form a view until all the information is provided and the Set Aside completed.</p>
7.	<p><b>ANNUAL REVIEW OF FEES AND CHARGES</b></p> <p>It is uncertain what the approval process for the 2024-2025 Fees and Charges will be due to the transition process. Previously they were approved by Council in June annually as part of the budget process.</p> <p>A proposed draft was tabled by Fiona.</p> <p>The committee agreed the proposed changes were fair and with the alignment of the fees and charges structure with a 'like' Port such as Portland.</p> <p>It was noted that some Ports align their fees and charges to CPI.</p> <p>Fiona explained that the fees and charges contribute to the Port budget but the major budget income was provided by the Department of Transport.</p>
8.	<p><b>UPDATE ON PORT CONDITION AND CURRENT PROJECTS AT THE PORT</b></p> <p>Remediation of Structure A is under way and completion expected by March.</p> <p>Sheet pile wall (Structure D) remediation – there may be some close off to the public due to safety in the contract management plan. A north and south side exclusion zone has been created.</p> <p><u>VFA funded projects:</u></p> <p>Boat ramp toilets, Fish Cleaning tables, Ocean Rescue storage shed - Status update – the Victorian Fisheries has been asked to continue to roll this budget over whilst the Harbour Redevelopment is undertaking a redesign.</p> <p><b>SAFETY – RISKS, ISSUES AND INCIDENTS.</b></p> <p>Seals at boat ramp – the fencing will remain in place to discourage feeding of seals.</p> <p>Pier lighting has been disconnected for safety reasons and is not needed.</p>
10.	<p><b>GENERAL BUSINESS.</b></p> <p>A suggested improvement was requested – revegetation of the sand dunes so that the northerly winds don't impact on boats e.g. paintwork. Anthony said that the revegetation of the sand dunes was being considered in the context of the retaining wall.</p>
11.	<p><b>ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS</b></p>
12.	<p><b>NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p>7 May 2024 12.30 pm Conference Room, Colac Otway Shire, 69 Nelson Street</p>