



KENNETT RIVER TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

New road and parking improvements and public toilet facility



Geelong City Deal funded tourism infrastructure improvements

The Kennett River Tourism Infrastructure Improvements project is a \$1.9 million, three year project funded by the [Geelong City Deal](#). 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. The improvements at Kennett River are designed to enhance safety and improve the visitor experience. The proposed infrastructure upgrades include:

- **New road and parking improvements at the entrance to Kennett River - \$1.2M**

New parking and traffic management infrastructure will include new signage, pedestrian paths, road sealing and vehicle parking. The improvements will prevent large coaches from entering the local road network in Kennett River and will provide parking for small tour buses.

- **A new permanent public toilet facility - \$300,000**

A new well-located public toilet is required for easy access by visitors and needs to cater for demand at peak visitor times. The toilet size is compatible with the carpark capacity and is designed to accommodate the predicted total number of tourists.

An associated onsite **wastewater treatment facility** (WWTP) is required for the new public toilet to manage wastewater in this environmentally sensitive area. Funding of \$400,000 has been provided by the Geelong City Deal project and investigations for installing a new treatment plant west of the wetlands were completed earlier this year ([click here for WWTP report](#)). In September 2021, the Department of Land, Water, Environment and Planning (DELWP) announced funding to improve the wastewater treatment plant in the Kennett River Family Caravan Park. Discussions are currently underway to determine if both toilets can be handled by one wastewater treatment plant, and once known, these outcomes will be communicated to all stakeholders.

The Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority is a newly established public land manager for the Great Ocean Road. The Authority manages a wide variety of public land from National Parks to coastal beaches to town foreshores. Once completed, the new infrastructure improvements at Kennett River will be the responsibility of this Authority.



Road and parking improvements

The road and parking improvements at the entrance to Kennett River have been long sought after by the local community. In 2017, local community group the Kennett River Association (KRA) applied for grant funding from Colac Otway Shire to address their concerns about the unsustainable tourism model in Kennett River. The community group estimated that over 1,000 visitors a day would converge on their small town. Coaches, mini buses, vans, caravans and cars would park in an ad-hoc manner around the township; wildlife was being fed in the middle of the road and consequently being injured or killed by traffic using the road, and the community was also concerned that it was only a matter of time before a pedestrian incident occurred.



Previous tourism pressures, 2017 – photos supplied with funding application

Following this, in 2019, Colac Otway Shire Council finalised the Tourism Parking and Traffic Strategy for Kennett River. This strategy, developed with the community, sought to manage tourism parking and traffic infrastructure proactively by identifying:

- the capacity of town to manage increased tourist numbers, and
- infrastructure priorities to improve the tourist and resident experience, as well as ensure ongoing public safety

Community and stakeholder consultation occurred over a number of years to achieve the best possible outcome for the project. The engagement demonstrated there is general agreement for the need for well-located public amenities, safe pedestrian areas, and clear management of different types of vehicles in the town.



In 2020, funding of \$1.9 million by the Geelong City Deal project for the tourism infrastructure improvements in Kennett River was announced. This funding is for new parking and traffic management infrastructure to enhance pedestrian safety and improve the visitor experience. Key elements include:

- Improving pedestrian safety and creating new pedestrian paths
- Road sealing
- Vehicle parking, including long vehicle parking
- Providing a new, well located public toilet and WWTP
- New signage including signage to ban large coaches
- Providing dedicated parking for small tour buses



Road sealing and Improved pedestrian safety and pedestrian paths

The proposed new parking configuration provides:

- 29 car parking spaces (including 4 allocated for disabled access)
- 6 x 22-seater bus spaces, plus 2 long vehicle spaces (buses excluded)
- 8 x motorbike parking
- 5 x bicycle racks

OUTCUT DRAIN DISCHARGING INTO RIVER OR WETLANDS

SEALED ACCESS FOR OFA VEHICLES TO ACCESS RIVER WATER WITH LOCKABLE BOLLARD

DISABLED PARKING

EXISTING EARTH MOUND (400 m²)

WASTE WATER TREATMENT

PLAYGROUND SPACE (300 m²)

3m X 3m X 17 MM BLS PARKING

2P PARKING

EXISTING EARTH MOUND (130 m²)

2 X LONG VEHICLE PARKING (2P (BLUES EXCLUDED))

DISABLED PARKING

TOILET BLOCK ACCESS TRACK

PUBLIC TOILET

RAINWATER TANK 15kL 2.5m x 5.1m

WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT (WWTP) 2 x 50kL TANKS 2.3m x 5.5m COLOUR MINGO GRAY (COLOUR BOND COLOUR)

BICYCLE PARKING RACKS

DISABLED PARKING

EXISTING PROPERTY ACCESS RETAINED

WWTP ACCESS TRACK

LOADING BAY 8m x 2.7m

HADDON AVENUE

OAK RIVER ROAD

10P PARKING

PROPOSED LIGHTING

CREATE THRESHOLD TREATMENT ROAD MARKING TO DISCOURAGE NON-LOCAL TRAFFIC FROM TRAVELLING FURTHER ALONG HADDON AVENUE

EXPOSED AGGREGATE FOOTPATH

RAISED PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

LOCATION FOR OR RELOCATED PUBLIC PHONE BOOTH AND MAIL BOX (APPROXIMATELY 2m x 3m)

PROPOSED LIGHTING REFER FIGURE 1

GREAT OCEAN ROAD

LIMIT OF WORKS

EXISTING GUARDRAIL

CONNECTION TO EXISTING PEDESTRIAN PATH

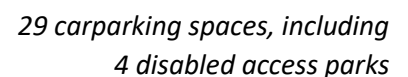
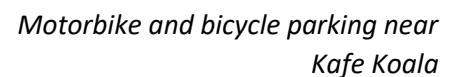
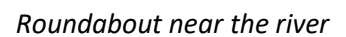
EXISTING BEACH ACCESS

THE REFUGE ISLAND IS A PROJECT REQUIREMENT AND HAS BEEN LOCATED AS FAR NORTH AS POSSIBLE WITHOUT ENCROACHING INTO THE HADDON AVENUE INTERSECTION. REFUGE LIGHTING IS MANDATORY HOWEVER RPA ARE EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITY OF AN EXEMPTION FOR THIS SITE OR THE POSSIBILITY OF MOTION SENSOR LIGHTING.

GRAVITIC SAND OR SIMILAR FOOTPATH

INSTALLATION OF FRANGIBLE BOLLARDS AT 2m OFFSET FROM EDGE OF PAVEMENT TO PREVENT VEHICLES PARKING ON AND DAMAGING FOOTPATH

EXISTING BEACH ACCESS



- Road safety audit
- Flora and fauna assessment

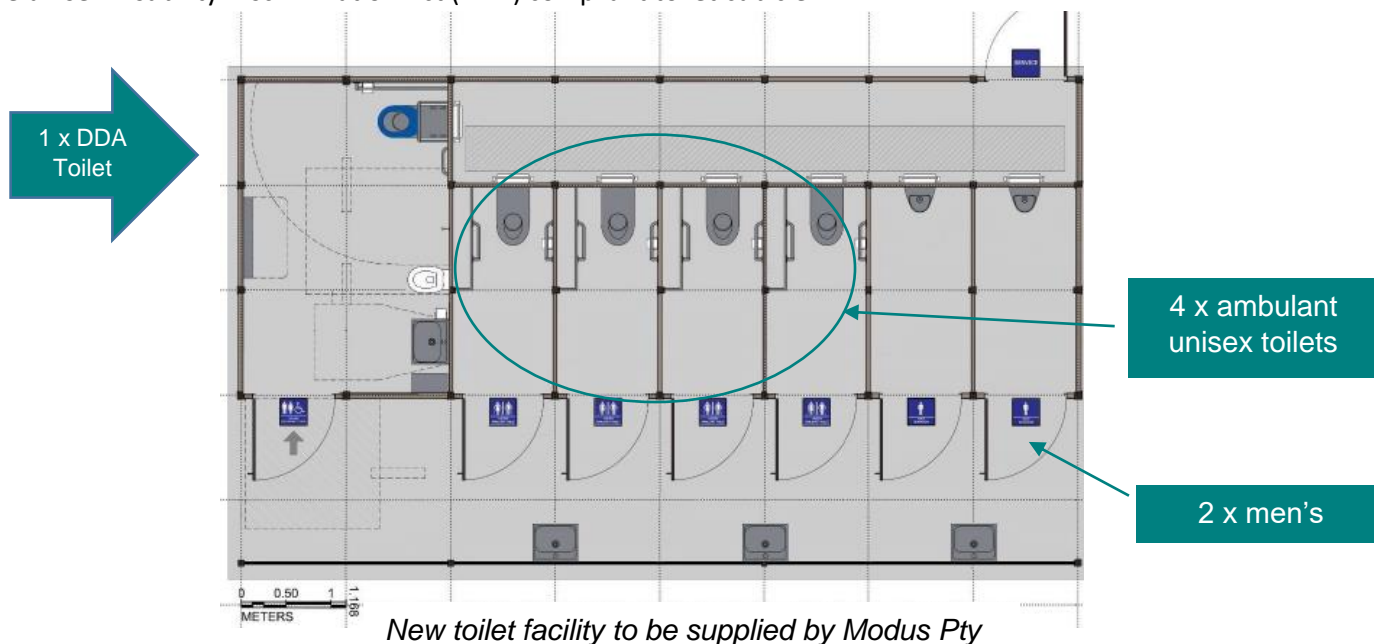


New public toilet facility

A new public toilet facility will be built at the entrance to Kennett River for easy access by visitors. The community was invited to participate in an online survey to determine the preferred location of the toilet (to be located at the southern end of the Service Road) as well as the look of the new public toilet. The community's preference for the look of the toilet was for timber slat on aluminium panelling with a skillion roof. The finished floor level of the public toilet is to be set at the 1% AEP flood level for Kennett River, to tolerate a 1 in 100 year flood event.



The size of the toilet block will be 9m x 4.8m. There will be four ambulant unisex cubicles, a men's urinal section and one unisex Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) compliant toilet cubicle.



The toilet size will be compatible with the carpark capacity and is designed to accommodate the predicted total number of tourists.

Queueing probability analysis, undertaken by an expert consultant and endorsed with the support of key agency stakeholders, was used to determine the cubicle numbers. Queueing analysis uses a number of calculations to work out how many toilet pans, basins and urinals to include in a public toilet facility (click here to view [the toilet modelling report](#)).

The new public toilet facility will be cleaned and maintained as is currently provided with the temporary toilets.

It is expected that construction of the new road and parking and public toilet infrastructure will commence in 2022.