



Barwon Coast Committee of Management Inc.

Vision Statement

As the custodian of the Barwon Coast environs, we will ensure its ecological diversity for present and future generations.

Mission Statement

To conserve, present and enhance the natural and developed environs for the enjoyment and use by all.



More Information

For further information please contact Frances Northeast at the DSE Anglesea office on telephone 03 5220 2020.

Further information on Coast Committees of Management can be found at the Department of Sustainability and Environment website www.dse.vic.gov.au

Alternatively further details on Barwon Coast can be found on their website at www.barwoncoast.com.au

For an Expression of Interest application package please contact:

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Call for Expression of Interest

Barwon Coast Committee of Management Inc.



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Invitation to be part of the Barwon Coast Committee of Management Inc.

Community members are invited to help care and manage the coastal reserves along the Barwon Coast on behalf of the Victorian Community. If successful, suitably skilled people will be appointed for a three year voluntary term as a member of the Barwon Coast Committee of Management Inc (Barwon Coast). Barwon Coast is a statutory body established under the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978*.

Applicants must demonstrate a clear understanding of the values of the coast (ecological, social, cultural and economic) and tensions between various values and use of coastal resources. This understanding provides the rationale for the planning and management of the coast. This is a unique opportunity to help shape the future of these community assets for generations to come.



Overview of the Barwon Coast Committee of Management Inc.

Barwon Coast is the appointed manager of 13km of coastline from Collendina to the west end of Thirteenth Beach, and includes Ocean Grove, Barwon Heads and Thirteenth Beach Foreshore Reserves.

There is a high concentration of Aboriginal archaeological and cultural sites along the coast. The Wathaurung Corporation - a Registered Aboriginal Party under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* - has legislative powers to manage and protect their cultural heritage over part of the reserve. One other application under this act has been received for consideration by the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council that includes areas managed by Barwon Coast

The diverse and high quality natural, cultural and recreational features of the Southern Bellarine Peninsula attract visitors from interstate and overseas. The reserve supports significant tracts of natural vegetation and coastal habitats for a range of native fauna including the Hooded Plover and Coastal Moonah Woodlands that are listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*. The committee are also responsible for the management of the Barwon River lower estuary. Development of recreational and tourism facilities to serve residents and visitors is focused at Barwon Heads and Ocean Grove. These townships often host high profile events including the Rip to River surf beach run, Barwon Heads Festival of the Sea, Surf lifesaving carnivals and a leg of the annual cycling event Amy's Ride.

The committee establishes the broad strategic direction for management for the reserve (including business planning and preparation of detailed budgets) and takes a long term view when making decisions about the future of the coastline. They generate revenue to support coastal management and can seek funds via various government grants.

The predominant revenue source is coastal caravan parks, but also licences and leases. All revenue is directed back to coastal and caravan park management. The committee is supported by 28 paid staff and up to 8 part time staff overseen by the General Manager. There is also a strong network of volunteer groups that assist with natural resource management activities along the coast.

Management Issues

There are a broad range of management issues along the Barwon Coast foreshore reserves. Some of these are seasonal by nature. The incumbent committee will need to address issues surrounding climate change, population and growth and protection of marine ecological integrity. Other key issues include:

- Providing for the protection of significant environmental and cultural values.
- Undertaking integrated planning to provide clear direction for the future.
- Ensuring the sustainable use of natural coastal resources.
- Ensuring development on the coast is located within existing modified and resilient environments where the demand for the development is evident and the impact can be managed.
- Continued implementation of Barwon Coast projects including responsibilities as the Port manager, the Barwon Coast Trails Strategy Action Plan 2005, redevelopment of the caravan parks, development of a Pest Plant Management Strategy, various carpark landscape works and the management of the impacts associated with the replacement of the Barwon Heads bridge.
- Continued implementation of the strategies, policies and guidelines for the use and the development of the coast. These include, but are not limited to:
 - Victorian Coastal Strategy 2008
 - Boating Coastal Action Plan 2007
 - Barwon Coast Coastal Management Plan 2006/07-2009/10
 - City of Greater Geelong Planning Scheme.
 - Caravan and Camping Parks on Coastal Crown Land (Report of 2006).

Member Responsibilities

Committee members are accountable for the oversight of Barwon Coast. Members must make assurances to Government that Barwon Coast is operating efficiently and effectively to achieve its roles and functions. The committee must establish and monitor controls to ensure that Barwon Coast comply with legislation, Government policy and proper administrative procedures for expenditure of public funds and stewardship of public resources. Other duties of the committee members include:

- A commitment to attend a minimum of 75% of the out of hours committee meetings.
- Adherence to standard meeting procedures.
- Represent the views of the committee and government regarding coastal and public land management issues.
- Participate in the committees decision making process.
- Ensure the community has appropriate and adequate involvement in decision making and on ground management activities.
- Ensure that the reserve is managed and utilised properly.
- To declare and avoid any Conflict of Interest to maintain community trust and confidence.
- As a minimum, abide by the 'Code of Conduct for Victorian Public Sector Employees' and 'Committee of Management Responsibilities and Good Practice Guidelines'

Diversity

The Victorian Government is committed to ensuring that the diversity of our committees represents the diversity of our communities. Women, Indigenous people, people with a disability, young persons and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

General Powers, Duties and Responsibilities of a Committee of Management

The day to day management of the reserve has been delegated by the Minister for Environment & Climate Change to the Committee of Management. However, this is not a delegation of power held by the Minister to reserved land. The government retains its rights as the landowner and sets the policy framework for the Victorian coast. The Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) is the day to day representative of the landowner.

The powers, duties and responsibilities to manage the reserve, consistent with these policies, are outlined in Section 15 of the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978* (CLRA) that include:

- To manage and maintain the reserve;
- Appropriate development of the relevant Crown reserve subject to Ministerial consent (under the *Coastal Management Act 1995*);
- Employ people;
- Enter into license, lease or other tenure agreements subject to Ministerial approval;
- Make regulations for the use of the reserve;
- Collect entry fees and other charges;
- Expend monies on the reserve.



Insurance

Committees appointed under the CLRA are insured under the DSE Public and Products Liability policy. The indemnity arrangement requires a committee to notify DSE as soon as they become aware of a claim or an incident likely to result in a claim and to provide all relevant information. The claim is then managed by DSE and includes the cost of legal representation arranged by DSE in accordance with the Whole of Government Legal Panel Contract.

Appointment

New members will be appointed by the Minister for Environment and Climate Change (or delegate) under Section 14 (4) of the CLRA.

Number of Members

The committee comprises a minimum of three and up to ten community representatives. All members are volunteers. Newly appointed members will join 4 currently appointed members.

Term of Appointment

The term of appointment is for three years to 30 June 2013.

Incorporation

The committee of management is a body corporate incorporated under the CLRA. Incorporation simplifies legal processes instigated by the committee and provides powers to borrow and invest money subject to approval by the Treasurer of Victoria.

Probity and Police Checking

All candidates seeking appointment to a government body must undergo the following checks to the satisfaction of the Minister:

- a National Police Record Check;
- Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC), and
- Insolvency Trustee Services Australia (ITSA) checks.

Each candidate must also complete a Declaration of Private Interests form for the consideration of the Minister.

Notification

All applicants will be notified in writing of the receipt of their application and advised of the outcomes of the process after the appointments have been made.