



Barwon
Coast



Annual Report 2023-2024

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Barwon Coast acknowledges the Wadawurrung People as the Traditional Owners of the land, waters, seas and skies of Ocean Grove, Barwon Heads, 13th Beach, Bancoora and Breamlea.

We say thank you to Wadawurrung Elders, past and present, and whose Ancestors have cared for this part of Wadawurrung Country for thousands of generations. We are committed to listen and work together meaningfully with Traditional Owners to make Wadawurrung and Country strong.

Always was, always will be. Sovereignty never ceded.



Overview of this Report

Barwon Coast Committee of Management Inc. (Barwon Coast) Annual Report 2023–24 presents a comprehensive overview of our organisational performance throughout the financial year. This document captures the essence of Barwon Coast's operational landscape, detailing our key accomplishments, navigated challenges, and the breadth of services and programmes we deliver. We provide an in-depth exploration of our coast and parks management, operational strategies, and project implementations. Complementing our narrative, the report includes a rigorously verified Performance Statement and externally audited Financial Report, offering stakeholders a transparent and detailed account of our year's journey and achievements. Our charter is unwavering and aspirational: Protect and enhance the reserves' natural environment and provide opportunities for residents and visitors to enjoy the area through:

- natural resource protection
- making Wadawurrung Country and Culture strong
- commercial leases and licenses
- local port operations
- accommodation services
- community engagement.

The Annual Report is available both digitally and as a hardcopy. It can be viewed electronically on our website **barwoncoast.com.au**

Comments and/ or questions about this Annual Report are welcome via email:

office@barwoncoast.com.au

About Barwon Coast

Barwon Coast is delegated by the Minister for Environment, under the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978*, to manage 19km of coastal Crown land including the beaches and foreshores of Ocean Grove, Barwon Heads, Thirteenth Beach, Bancoora and Breamlea.

In collaborative partnership with Traditional Owners, Barwon Coast is dedicated to preserving and enriching the natural environment of our coastal reserves, while creating meaningful opportunities for both local residents and visitors to experience and appreciate this unique landscape.

Barwon Coast bears the comprehensive responsibility for managing a diverse range of coastal assets, including foreshores, public open spaces, indigenous flora and fauna, critical infrastructure, coastal trails, public amenities, caravan parks, camping grounds, and the Local Port of Barwon Heads. Our strategic approach ensures that revenue generated from accommodation services, leases, and licences is directly reinvested into the careful stewardship and maintenance of these Crown land reserves.

Our holistic management approach encompasses strategic planning, capital works and asset management, climate adaptation strategies, community education initiatives, robust stakeholder engagement, collaborative partnerships with volunteer groups, and the provision of essential corporate services.

State government policy

The Marine and Coastal Policy 2020 is the State Government's policy and approach for marine and coastal planning and management in Victoria. Barwon Coast's programs and operations are guided by the Policy including, the 'Planning and Decision Pathway', that direct decision makers to:

1. acknowledge Traditional Owners' rights, aspirations and knowledge
2. protect and enhance the marine and coastal environment
3. respect and understand the dynamic natural processes in planning and managing risk
4. strengthen resilience to climate change
5. use and develop sustainably.

Decision makers must do this through taking a stewardship approach, engaging with communities and collaborating with the range of organisations and groups involved in marine and coastal management.

Our Mission and Values

Barwon Coast has an organisational mission and supporting values to express our purpose and who we are as an organisation of dedicated people working towards the same goals.

Mission

We care for Country respectfully, preserving the coast for people to connect, understand and protect, whilst enjoying the unique natural environment.

Values

— care —



We work towards shared goals.

By acting with integrity, we are genuine and trustworthy.



We are inclusive and recognise the contribution of everyone.

We take pride in a job well done.



Funding

We generated approximately \$10.08 million in funds annually, from the direct and indirect operation of activities that occur on the reserve, including the operation of caravan and camping parks, and through leases, licences and permits. This is supplemented by securing Grants for specific projects.

All funds are reinvested in maintaining and improving coastal Crown land, public infrastructure and caravan and camping facilities.

Barwon Coast receives no recurring funding from Federal, State or Local government.

Relevant legislation

The *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978* enables Barwon Coast to manage, improve, maintain and control the land for the purposes for which it is reserved.

Barwon Coast is responsible for the implementation of a range of government legislation and policies including:

Acts

- *Marine & Coastal Act 2018*
- *Flora & Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*
- *Wildlife Act 1975*
- *Environment Protection Act 1970*
- *Planning and Environment Act 1987*
- *Occupational Health & Safety Act 2004.*

Policies and guidelines

- Marine and Coastal Policy 2020
- Siting and Design Guidelines for Structures on the Victorian coast (May 2020)
- Policy statement – improving equity of access to Crown land caravan and camping parks 2011.

We have a five-year management agreement with Department of Transport and Planning for the Local Port of Barwon Heads. Barwon Coast is appointed as waterway manager, empowered under the *Port Management Act 1995* and under the *Marine Safety Act 2010*.

The responsible Victorian Ministers for the reporting period:

July 2023 to October 2023 - Ingrid Stitt MP, Minister for Environment

October 2023 to June 2024 - Steve Dimopoulos MP, Minister for Environment.

Rights Holder

The Wadawurrung People are the Rights Holder of the lands and waters within the Barwon Coast region, a connection that spans millennia. As the First People of Wadawurrung Country, they possess profound cultural knowledge and an inherent connection to Country that predates colonial settlement. Barwon Coast is committed to genuine partnership, acknowledging the Wadawurrung People's sovereign status and fundamental rights. Our approach centres on deep respect, active listening, and engagement that is guided entirely by the Wadawurrung's own priorities, ensuring their cultural perspectives and self-determination are genuinely honoured and embedded in our collaborative work.

The Barwon coastline is rich in Wadawurrung culture, and we pay our respects to their Elders past present and future; and the Elders from other communities who may visit our coast.

Caring for Country

Barwon Coast staff work with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (WTOAC) via monthly meetings, quarterly CEO meetings, project based Cultural Heritage advice and on Country events, and working with the Gobata Dja (Caring for Country) team. Barwon Coast staff support and develop these important relationships.

Over the last 12 months programs and projects with the WTOAC have included:

- the return of language to Country with the naming of Bukareeyoo (the area previously informally known as the Ocean Grove Spit)
- over several days, Wadawurrung Elders stayed on Country and participated in the 'Warri Coastal Sharing Day'
- NAIDOC week celebrations with the community
- engagement of the Gobata Dja team to undertake works on Country
- partnership on the Bancoora Coastal Adaptation Plan
- partnering in a grant application to the Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund
- partnering in the walking trail and storytelling concepts along the river from Ocean Grove to the Barwon Heads Bluff
- updating of the Lobster Pot displays
- a joint executive leadership forum on Country, including Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee
- granted several Cultural Heritage Permits for capital works projects.



Partnerships

We work closely with a diverse range of partners to protect and enhance the unique coastal environment of the Southern Bellarine. Our strategic partnerships play a crucial role in delivering comprehensive care for our precious coastal reserves.

Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA)

As our primary state government partner, DEECA supports Barwon Coast through robust governance, policy guidance, and strategic initiatives. Our collaboration has been characterised by:

- monthly operational meetings ensuring aligned objectives
- quarterly strategic partnership discussions
- participating in the Coastal and Marine Management Plan mid-term review
- collaborative workshops improving *Marine and Coastal Act* consent processes
- ongoing consultation and shared knowledge exchange.

City of Greater Geelong

Our partnership with the City of Greater Geelong focuses on delivering integrated services and infrastructure that support both residents and visitors. Key collaborative areas include:

- coordinated approach to social infrastructure management
- aligned strategies for dog control and road management
- joint tourism promotion initiatives
- shared asset management approaches
- community safety coordination.

Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CCMA)

Our environmental conservation efforts are significantly enhanced through our partnership with CCMA, focusing on:

- management of Blue Green Algae on the Barwon River
- implementation of the *Kitjarra-dja-Bullarto Langi-ut Master Plan*
- supporting Estuary Water volunteers and adaptation planning across the region.

Barwon Water

We're working with Barwon Water to implement several initiatives including:

- installation of shorter shower signage in caravan park amenities and camping reserves and quick rinse signage at beach showers
- three new drinking fountains installed at Main Beach, Flinders Play Space and Ocean Grove Main Beach
- deployment of data loggers at various caravan parks.

Neighbouring Coastal Managers

Strategic collaborations with Bellarine Bayside and the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority have been instrumental in:

- sharing operational experiences
- identifying new partnership opportunities
- creating operational efficiencies
- collaborative resource sharing
- joint advocacy for improved coastal management processes.

We meet most regularly and collaborate with Bellarine Bayside. Recent examples include sharing of an OHS position, committee strategy workshops, tariff approaches and advocating to enhance the MACA consent process.

Community Groups

Our partnerships with local community-based environmental groups have been vital in:

- engaging the community in coastal conservation
- supporting volunteer-led conservation efforts
- enhancing environmental awareness.

Groups include Breamlea Coastcare, Friends of the Lobster Pot, Friends of the Bluff, Estuary Watch, Ocean Grove Coastcare, and Friends of the Hooded Plover Bellarine.

Surf Life Saving Clubs

Ongoing support and collaboration with Ocean Grove, Barwon Heads, 13th Beach, and Bancoora Surf Life Saving Clubs have focused on:

- operational guidance
- ensuring alignment with Coastal Marine Management Plan (CMMP)
- supporting water safety initiatives.

These diverse partnerships underscore our holistic approach to coastal management, environmental protection, and community engagement. By working collaboratively, we can more effectively preserve and enhance our precious coastal environments for current and future generations.



Our Locality

Barwon Coast is delegated to manage 19km of the coast along Victoria's Bellarine Peninsula. This includes the beaches and foreshores of Ocean Grove, Barwon Heads, 13th Beach, Bancoora and Breamlea.

Area of jurisdiction

Barwon Coast uses precincts to divide the Reserves into seven management areas, these include six distinct landscape precincts and accommodation services as the principal commercial activity.

Accommodation Services

Barwon Heads Caravan Park

Riverside Campground

Riverview Family Caravan Park

Breamlea Caravan Park





Summary 1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024

Our team



68 staff

26 casual / 2 fixed term / 21 full time /
19 part time / 18 new team members /
12 ceased employment

54% female
46% male

49.5
average
age

5.9 years

average length of service

Revenue

\$10.08m

all of which is reinvested
into the coastal reserve of service

85%

was generated by our caravan
park guests



Community engagement



1,205 community members engaged through
community events, sessions, surveys and workshops

12,500+
followers across 8 social media accounts across 4 brands

966 survey submissions

1,551 community emails sent

Tourism

\$11.2m

 value of buildings and infrastructure

Riverview, Barwon Heads & Breamlea:

600 Twelve Month Permit holders

30 accommodation units

450 casual camp sites

Riverside:

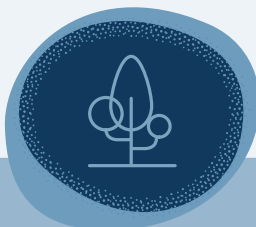
228 unpowered sites open for summer

40,000+ visitors stayed **280,000+** nights

38 leases and licences including community
clubs, commercial operators, surf schools and more



Natural resource protection



Area subject to foreign Flora:

405.7 Hectares

Area of Key Habitat Protected:

136.0 Hectares = 33%

Area subject to foreign Flora:

300 Hectares = 75%

Port of Barwon Heads



2 jetties

28 navigation aids & 1 mooring to support safe boating

12 on water inspections per annum

1 sector light and rear and front leads

Strip lights on Barwon Heads bridges

\$2m million of assets managed on behalf of the State Government

Facility management

\$13m of coastal reserve infrastructure

410 bins collected

25,655 times per year, containing

5744 cubic metres of waste

12 amenity blocks maintained



Open space management

832 hours of beach maintenance

7 playgrounds

12 public BBQs

30 picnic tables

9 outdoor showers

500 metres of coastal fencing renewed

1500m² of coastal trail renewed



Chair and CEO Foreword

We're pleased to present Barwon Coast's Annual Report for 2023-24, a year marked by significant achievements, strategic developments and steadfast commitment to our coastal stewardship responsibilities.

This year has been one of transition and growth for our organisation. In February 2024, we welcomed Gareth Smith as our new CEO, following the retirement of Gary McPike. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Gary for his dedicated service and leadership.

Our commitment to protecting and enhancing the natural environment whilst providing meaningful opportunities for community connection remains unwavering. This year, we've made substantial progress in several key areas. The completion and implementation of our Caravan and Camping Parks Master Plan marks a significant milestone, setting a clear direction for the next decade with over \$20 million in planned investments. This strategic initiative will ensure our accommodation services continue to support both tourism and conservation objectives.

We're particularly proud of our strengthening partnership with the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners. The celebration of returning language to Country with the naming of Bukareeyoo at the area informally referred to as Ocean Grove Spit – a project that won the Victorian excellence award in Geographic Place Naming – exemplifies our commitment to meaningful collaboration. The successful delivery of NAIDOC week celebrations and the Warri Coastal Sharing Day further enhanced these important relationships. We are grateful to the Barwon Heads Community Bank's ongoing investment in our facilities. The continued evolution of the Barwon Coast Discovery Centre (formally the Barwon Estuary Heritage Centre), was supported by a \$100,000 grant from the Bank's Legacy Project funding program. This funding has enabled detailed design work for the Centre's future renovation, alongside new branding development and furniture updates. Their generous support has also extended to the Breamlea Community Hall, through a separate grant for new furnishings.

Environmental protection remains at our core, with dedicated programs addressing pest plant management, wildlife protection, and habitat preservation across our 19-kilometre coastline. Our team's vigilance in supporting over 20 wildlife species and monitoring six breeding sites for the endangered Hooded Plover demonstrates our hands-on approach to conservation.

The past year has presented its challenges, particularly in managing increasing visitation pressures while protecting our sensitive coastal environment. We've responded through strategic infrastructure improvements, including the replacement of beach access stairs at Bukareeyoo and The Ant (13th Beach), and significant upgrades to our caravan park facilities. These investments, totalling \$1.69 million in new assets, reflect our commitment to sustainable coastal management.

Looking ahead, we're focused on several priorities: implementing our Coastal and Marine Management Plan, progressing the Bancoora Coastal Adaptation Plan, commencing a Foreshore Master Plan for our coastal reserves in consultation with the community and stakeholders and continuing to enhance our visitor facilities and environmental programs. We're also committed to strengthening our workplace culture, as evidenced by our 'Growth and Contribution' performance management system and expanded safety initiatives.

We acknowledge the dedication of our 67 staff members, our committed volunteer groups, and our many partners who contribute to our success. Their collective efforts have helped us achieve strong financial results, with \$10.08 million in revenue being reinvested into coastal reserve management and improvement.

As we look to the future, we remain focused on our mission: caring for Country respectfully, preserving the coast for people to connect, understand, and protect whilst enjoying the unique natural environment. We thank our community, stakeholders, and partners for their continued support in this important work.



Sandra Gatehouse
Chair



Gareth Smith
Chief Executive Officer

Coastal Planning

Our Coastal and Marine Management Plan (CMMP) 2020-2025 continues to be a cornerstone of our strategic approach to coastal management. As of May 2024, we have achieved significant progress with 80% of all actions either completed, ongoing, or completed with ongoing components. This demonstrates our strong commitment to implementing the CMMP's strategic objectives, with many projects and tasks successfully delivered or actively underway during the reporting period.

Strategic Implementation Highlights

Our CMMP is designed across six distinctive landscape precincts and an accommodation services precinct, providing a comprehensive and nuanced approach to coastal management. This strategic framework allows us to address the unique characteristics and requirements of each area while maintaining an integrated management approach.

Caravan and Camping Parks Master Plan

A significant milestone in our planning journey was the development and finalisation of the Caravan and Camping Parks Master Plan:

Key Achievements:

- public consultation period: 21 August to October 2023
- final Master Plan released in December 2023
- immediate commencement to implement strategic actions, including:
 - * consolidation of camping areas
 - * playground upgrades
 - * bbq shelter improvements
 - * camp kitchen renovations
 - * development of two new Beach Houses, including one accessibility compliant.



Precinct Master Planning

Funding was approved to commence development on a master plan for our six landscape precincts in the 2024 financial year. This key initiative of the CMMP will ensure:

- tailored management strategies for each unique coastal environment
- holistic approach to conservation and community use
- strategic long-term vision for each precinct.

Our planning approach emphasises:

- community consultation
- environmental preservation
- sustainable development
- adaptive management.

These efforts will reflect our commitment to thoughtful, forward-looking coastal management that balances environmental protection with community needs.

Adaptation Planning

Supported by DEECA, we are leading the preparation of the Bancoora Coastal Adaptation Plan. This is a project to understand the important values of the area, and how any changes to the shoreline in response to rising seas and greater storms in the coming years may impact on these values and what we can do to adapt and plan for these changes.

Key project planning elements, such as securing funding, developing partnerships, engaging consultants, establishing the Project Steering Group and preparing the communications and engagement plans were completed over the last 12 months.

This project is now well underway with the community involved in identifying the important values and uses of Bancoora Beach and Breamlea foreshore.

Marine and Coastal Act consents

In line with the CMMP and as a requirement of the *Marine and Coastal Act* any works that are undertaken on marine and coastal Crown land require consent from the Minister for Environment. The works to implement the CMMP that needed *Marine and Coastal Act* consent included:

- replacement of access stairs at Bukareeyoo and The Ant (13th Beach)
- bird hide signage
- facilities for Changing Places Ocean Grove Main Beach
- use of Food Trucks over the 2023/2024 summer at Ocean Grove Main Beach
- installation of CCTV cameras at Barwon Heads Flinders Park and Ocean Grove Main Beach
- installation of bollards for dune protection on 13th Beach.

Barwon Coast has also provided preliminary advice on *Marine and Coastal Act* consent elements to its lessees, including Bancoora Surf Life Saving Club and the Barwon Heads Football Netball Club on their redevelopment projects.

Natural Environment Protection

Our Natural Resource Management team protect, maintain and help preserve our culturally and environmentally significant coastal reserves. The environmental activities of staff across all teams at Barwon Coast are complemented by professional when required to maximise positive outcomes.

Partnerships with adjoining land managers and support of community volunteers help broaden the knowledge and inform the best practice methods, with programs focused on introduced plant control, introduced animal control plus wildlife protection. The programs are maintained to provide healthy habitat for flora and fauna for future generations.

Flora

Our team implements a continuing works program to address pest plant threats and protect vulnerable species observed throughout the dune system. The works program is supported through use of contractors.

The skills and alertness of our staff working in the field have improved our understanding of the diversity and abundance of plant species in the sand dune system. Pleasingly, staff observations recognise an increasing abundance of orchid species, key indicators of a healthy environment.

Volunteer support assists staff in planting activities and maintenance of planted areas.

Fauna

Our staff are alert and responsive to the needs of wildlife across the coastal reserves. The value of fauna is a focus to guide resource allocation and extending education outreach activity into the community. During 2023/24, key fauna protection and management activities included:

- protecting the Hooded Plover by monitoring and people management at six breeding sites
- remote camera program across the reserves sand dunes, to build awareness of indigenous fauna and the presence and location of introduced species.

Pest plants

A persistent approach to managing woody and grass pest plants across the reserves is currently a key activity, with staff also remaining alert to new and emerging pests.

In performing pest plant management works, staff apply care in the use of herbicides and manual removal activities, supported by the Gobata Dja team from Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, and other skilled contractors.





Pest animals

We operate an active pest animal control program with specific focus on the European Rabbit and Red Fox across the coastal Crown land reserves of Barwon Heads and Ocean Grove. Other introduced pest fauna that are recognised and targeted include feral cats and rats.

Our staff have significant knowledge of the Reserve and of control methods utilising baiting, trapping and fumigation techniques for outcomes that improve the habitat values of the dunes.

Wildlife support

For this financial period the our team provided wellbeing support to in excess of 20 wildlife species. This included seals, penguins, dolphins, wallabies, possums and two White-Faced Storm Petrels.

Notable wildlife sightings included Royal Spoonbills, Sooty Oystercatchers, Peregrine Falcons, Velella's and Blue-Bottle sea jellies.

We prioritised the following programs:

- managing invasive plants along our coastline
- managing pest animals
- protecting threatened species
- supporting more than 20 wildlife species, both land and marine based.



Reserve Development

Infrastructure & facilities

We maintain a range of infrastructure and facilities for visitors, including but not limited to:

- toilets
- showers
- playgrounds
- BBQ areas
- walking paths
- car parks.

With eleven public toilet blocks and well-loved playgrounds in Barwon Heads and Ocean Grove Main Beach, staff are kept busy meeting community expectations.

Public open spaces

We provide services to improve amenity for visitors to our beaches, walking tracks and other public open spaces. This service includes daily monitoring of beach cleanliness, picking up rubbish along the beaches and throughout the Reserve, mowing, pruning and general grounds maintenance.

Asset and safety protection

Barwon Coast continued its program of asset and safety protection particularly in the following areas:

- compliance with planning, building and other regulatory requirements in construction activities
- essential safety services in public buildings (including Barwon Coast managed leases)
- seven playgrounds (public and within caravan parks)
- fire services in caravan parks
- tree inspections
- public access reports in coastal reserves.



5744
cubic metres

**of rubbish removed from
reserves and caravan parks**

21% of this
was sent for recycling



Infrastructure and facility upgrades

During 2023-24, we delivered significant infrastructure and facility improvements across our managed areas, working closely with stakeholders and partner organisations.

Our focus on improving beach accessibility saw the completion of major upgrades to beach access stairs at Bukareeyoo and The Ant in Ocean Grove and 13th Beach, funded through our partnership with DEECA. We also strengthened the Rotunda Beach Access and completed design work for future stairs at "The Hole" (13th Beach) and "Wedge Street" (Ocean Grove), securing grant funding for implementation in 2024-25.

Public amenity improvements included the installation of updated dog regulation signage across all managed areas, aligning with the City of Greater Geelong's new regulations. Through our partnership with Barwon Water, we installed two fully accessible drinking fountains at Ocean Grove Main Beach and Hodgson Street, featuring artwork by Wadawurrung Artist, BJ O'Toole.

Significant upgrades across our caravan parks enhanced both visitor experience and operational efficiency. At Breamlea Caravan Park, we renewed potable water infrastructure and upgraded fire services, improving water supply reliability and compliance. The Community Hall received comprehensive improvements including three-phase power, climate control systems and new entertainment equipment.

At Barwon Heads Caravan Park, we prioritised safety improvements through the removal of the sewer pump house and electrical service upgrades, addressing key audit recommendations. Internal cabin refurbishments ensure our accommodation continues to meet visitor expectations. Riverview Caravan Park saw the completion of our parks-wide technology upgrade with new boom gates and software systems installation.

Our commitment to environmental sustainability and asset renewal continued with the restoration of 1,500m² of coastal trail and 500 metres of coastal dune fencing. We also expanded our commitment to sustainable operations by adding three electric vehicles to our fleet - two housekeeping buggies and one utility vehicle - bringing our total to five electric vehicles.

Coastal stewardship

Victoria’s Marine and Coastal Policy 2020 defines stewardship as ‘caring for the natural marine and coastal places that exist in and around communities we live in and taking actions that benefit the environment’.

We value the roles that environmental education, local volunteers, and supporting community projects have in building a sense of community involvement and stewardship in caring for the coast.

Education

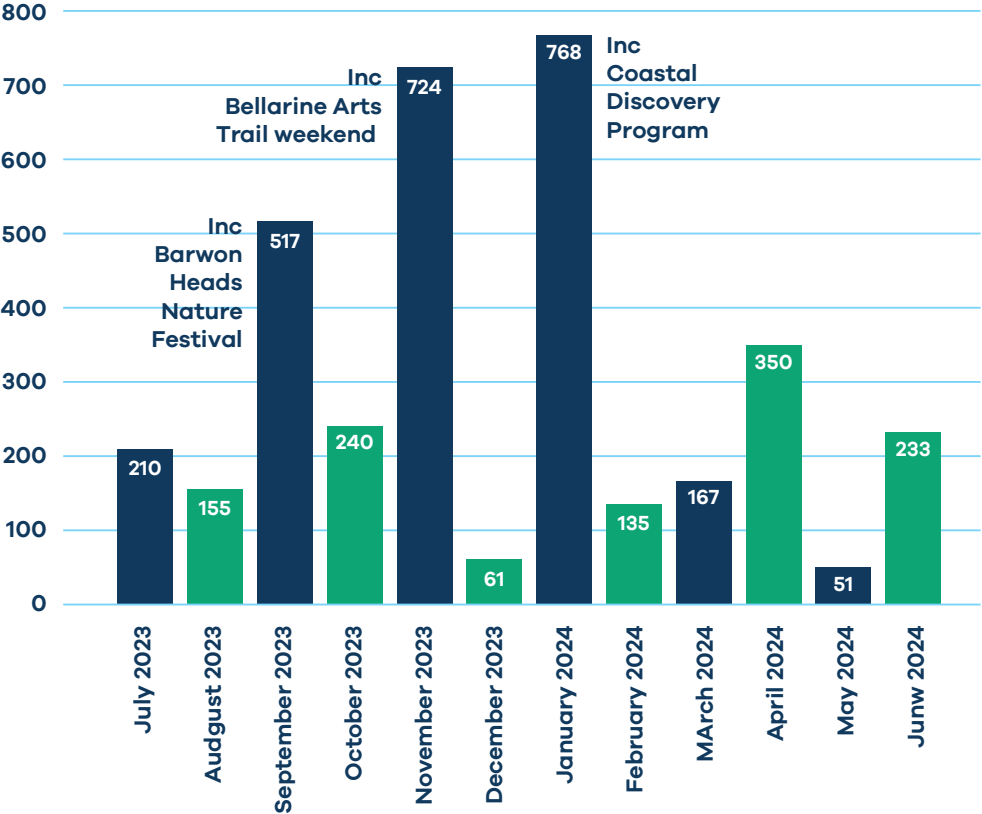
Education plays a vital part in coastal and marine management – raising awareness, inspiring connection, and shaping behaviours that help care for our coast.

We deliver a range of free environmental activities for residents and visitors. This year over 1,030 kindergarten children and school students ranging from Grade 1 to VCE have participated in activities provided by us and our partners. An additional 713 people joined activities in January as part of the Coastal Discovery Program and Surf Life Saving Club Nippers programs.

The Barwon Coast Discovery Centre, managed by Barwon Coast is a valuable education facility used by us, Friends of the Lobster Pot and Friends of the Bluff. With some significant funding from the Barwon Heads Community Bank, this year a project working group of staff and volunteers has guided plans for a renewal of the building’s internal spaces, architecture and fit out. Funding is being sought to implement this project which aims to preserve the facility’s heritage charm while setting an exciting direction as a resource for the local community and engaging destination for visitors.

With regular openings and events the Centre is popular year-round.

Barwon Coast Discovery Centre -
Number of visitors per month



Volunteer support

We support volunteer groups to run education activities and events, develop resources and undertake environmental works. The contributions made by their members increases the number of local people and visitors who engage with and care for the coast each year.

Barwon EstuaryWatch

We provide space in the Barwon Coast Discovery Centre for Barwon EstuaryWatch volunteers to meet, calibrate equipment and store water quality testing kits. Approximately 11 volunteers meet monthly to monitor the health of the Barwon estuary, which helps inform local waterway management. On occasion, volunteers share their knowledge and skills with students taking part in Barwon Coast's education activities.

Breamlea Coastcare

Breamlea Coastcare works across land managed by Barwon Coast, Parks Victoria and the City of Greater Geelong. A small, dedicated group of volunteers have contributed 200 hours this year working on Barwon Coast-managed land alone. Their achievements include a significant amount of weed removal (targeting species such as Polygala, Purple senecio, Cape ivy, Panic veldt grass and succulents) and planting, along with additional hours spent on research, community education, administration and collaborating with land managers.

This year Breamlea Coastcare was successful in attaining an Australia Post grant which sees their members providing mentoring to help residents identify and remove invasive plants and replace them with indigenous species.

Friends of the Bluff

2024 marks Friends of the Bluff's 30-year anniversary of connecting people with the coast and providing community education on, around and about the Barwon Bluff, Barwon Bluff Marine Sanctuary and Barwon River. Their member list of 120 people continues to grow, with new members making significant contributions alongside those who have been driving the group since its inception.

Some of the group's significant achievements this year include delivering 12 activities during our summer Coastal Discovery Program, the Barwon Heads Nature Festival, monthly Conservation Conversations, a Clean Up Australia Day event, professional development activities for Barwon Coast staff and the fully revised 'Life on the Edge' field guide.

Friends of the Hooded Plover Bellarine

Volunteering through BirdLife Australia's Beach-nesting Birds program, Friends of the Hooded Plover Bellarine works closely with Barwon Coast and other partners to protect the Hooded Plover, a listed vulnerable species.

A small team of volunteers is busy year-round, ramping up to around 20 active volunteers throughout the breeding season, which typically runs from August to April. With only 11 adult pairs remaining along the coast from Breamlea to Point Lonsdale, volunteers monitor the occurrence of adult birds, nesting activities and hatchings, and provide education to beachgoers and locals to help give Hoodies the best chance of raising chicks each season.

Friends of the Lobster Pot

Friends of the Lobster Pot volunteers open the Barwon Coast Discovery Centre to the public every Sunday from 1-4pm, with extended hours during school holidays and for special events. This involves hundreds of volunteer hours spent speaking to visitors, maintaining displays, planning activities, collaborating with Barwon Coast, and much more.

Volunteers continuously work hard to set up new, innovative and engaging displays – from touch tables to microscopes to historical photos to digital technology - showcasing the environmental and heritage values of Barwon Coast, which have been enjoyed by over 3,610 people this year alone. For November's Bellarine Arts Trail, volunteers created new displays with a jellyfish theme and hosted three artists in the Centre and Barwon Coast's Education Room, attracting over 655 visitors across the weekend.

Ocean Grove Coastcare

Established in 2010, Ocean Grove Coastcare is led by a committee of seven dedicated volunteers and has a mailing list of over 120 people.

In partnership with us, the group continues to run popular community planting days for National Tree Day and World Environment Day, as well as weeding days and an event for Clean Up Australia Day. Ocean Grove Coastcare also raises awareness of the beauty and values of our coastline and the Great Southern Reef through events involving guest speakers and films, often attracting up to 70 people for each session.

Community projects supported by Barwon Coast

Barwon River Bird Observation Point: This project funded through a Landcare Victoria grant is progressing in partnership with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation and residents, for implementation by the end of 2025. Involving a low fence, seat and signage, it will invite people to linger and enjoy the river view, with a focus on Wadawurrung connections, migratory birds and Ramsar wetlands.



Communications and Engagement

At Barwon Coast, our approach to Communications and Engagement is fundamental to our organisational mission, bridging connections between our organisation, the local community, and valued stakeholders. Our dedicated team provides comprehensive support across multiple channels, ensuring transparent, informative, and meaningful interactions.

Connecting and Informing

Our communications approach is multifaceted, designed to:

- promote and highlight our organisational work
- educate and engage our local community
- provide timely and relevant information.

Communication Channels Include:

- project updates and insights
- strategic marketing campaigns
- media and issues management
- internal communications
- signage and visual branding.

Digital Highlights for 2023/2024



Over 470,000+
visits to caravan park websites

360,000+
social media profile reach

12,500+
followers across social platforms

1,600+
targeted community emails

1000
responses from community surveys

232
attended community events

8
active social media channels

4
managed websites

Community and Stakeholder Engagement

Our commitment to meaningful engagement was demonstrated through several key initiatives:

NAIDOC Week Celebration

- sunrise ceremony attended by over 150 community members
- collaborative event with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners
- celebrating connection to Country and cultural heritage.

Caravan Parks and Camping Master Plan

- series of community 'drop-in' information sessions
- comprehensive community survey
- engagement with Twelve Month Permit holders and campers
- inclusive planning approach.

Community Consultations

- horse trainer engagement for 13th Beach dune protection project
- boating and jetty user communications for infrastructure works
- Breamlea community conversations about the future of the local general store.

These engagement efforts form part of our dedication to transparent, collaborative, and community-centred approaches in everything we do.



Port of Barwon Heads

We manage the Local Port of Barwon Heads and seek to ensure safe, enjoyable and accessible boating for all.

Barwon Coast have a five-year management agreement with Transport Safety Victoria to oversee management of the Local Port of Barwon Heads. Barwon Coast's CEO is the designated Port Manager, with daily operation overseen by delegated staff.

Barwon Coast fulfils the role of Waterway Manager as appointed by Maritime Safety Victoria (MSV). We engage with MSV officers and Water Police over the peak summer period to uphold waterway safety and oversee approved swing moorings in the Barwon River. The maintenance of lit navigational aids remains a focus of Local Port operations, including ensuring the aids meet MSV standards in order to protect mariner safety. During the reporting period Barwon Coast coordinated jetty head deck and pile works. Barwon Coast also upgraded river channel navigational aids, supported by the Boating Safety and Facility Program grant.

2 jetties

28 navigation aids & 1 mooring
to support safe boating

12 on water inspections per annum

1 sector light and rear and front leads

Strip lights on Barwon Heads bridges

\$2m million of assets managed on
behalf of the State Government



Completed projects 2023-2024

- repair works to Ozone Jetty (Stage 3)
- repair works to Main Jetty (Stages 2 and 3)
- Channel Safety Realignment Project (Stage 1)
- replacement of navigational aids
- installation of boating safety camera at Main Jetty in partnership with Safe Transport Victoria
- annual Safety and Environmental Management Plan update.
- annual Emergency Management Plan update.
- 12 On Water asset inspections.
- 22 "Notice to Mariners" issued.



Tourism

Barwon Coast is the largest accommodation provider on the Southern Bellarine. We manage three caravan parks and a seasonal campground, which offer a range of accommodation options for visitors to the region, tourists and families. Collectively, the parks generate the majority of Barwon Coast's revenue, enabling the broader land management obligations of care and protection of the coastal reserve.

Barwon Coast caravan parks play an important role in providing opportunities for people to enjoy our coast. They are places of connection to the land and to each other. The connection to place, created through return visits, fosters a sense of stewardship for the caravan parks and the wider coast. Campers staying at one of Barwon Coast's caravan parks support generations respectfully enjoying these beautiful areas. As the manager of Crown land, we're responsible for improving and supporting equity of access to its caravan parks and camping grounds. This is achieved by providing a range of accommodation options and styles at different price points from premium to budget. We aim to provide a 'place and experience for everyone' from premium cabins to unpowered sites.

The caravan park operations also contribute to the local visitor economy. For the full-year 2023, Barwon Coast attracted over 40,000 visitors to its caravan parks and campgrounds; 36,400 or 91% of which were from outside the Greater Geelong area. Through this visitation, the City of Greater Geelong's Economic Performance and Communications team indicate that the tourism impact injects \$3.72 million direct revenue into the local economy annually, an additional \$35.4 million indirect revenue due to supply chain and consumption impacts and supports 302 local jobs and \$19.4 million in wages and salaries.

The Caravan and Camping Parks Master Plan

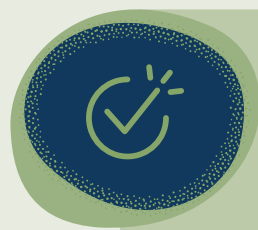
Finalised after community and camper consultation and approved by Barwon Coast's Committee in December 2023, The Master Plan, spans ten years and requires over \$20 million in investment, with almost half allocated to new and replacement accommodation. Each action within the Master Plan has been identified as priority 1, 2 or 3 and were considered against the age, condition and importance of assets. Priority 1 actions preference revenue generating assets such as new built accommodation, and priority 2 and 3 actions focus on revenue protecting activities such as the replacement or refurbishment of ageing assets and infrastructure within the Parks.



Riverview Family Caravan Park

Located in Ocean Grove between the ocean and the river, Riverview has two distinct camping areas and experiences. There are well grassed, flat and generous powered casual camping sites available all year, and Twelve-Month Permit (TMP) sites. These support camping and connection to the river and contribute positively to the vibrancy and atmosphere of the park.

The caravan park's location supports a broad range of recreational and leisure activities such as boating, fishing, sailing, surfing and walking. The park is a favourite with school groups exploring the Barwon River estuary and the rich cultural heritage of the southern Bellarine. Skirted by a remnant Moonah woodland and saltbush on the river trail, the park celebrates and nurtures the native coastal vegetation.



Highlights

- design, planning and consents for two new playgrounds
- design, planning and consents to upgrade BBQ shelter
- replaced old boom gates and upgraded access control system
- begun refurbishments former Manager's residence to accommodate short-term stays

2023 / 2024	Accommodation	Campsites	TMP sites	Total
Number	7	137	377	521
Occupancy	47%	38%	94%	60%
Revenue	\$206,000	\$898,000	\$2,100,000	\$3,204,000

Barwon Heads Caravan Park

Barwon Heads Caravan Park is located where the river estuary meets Bass Strait and the Southern Ocean. It's a cherished camping destination flanked at one end by the commanding limestone cliffs of the Bluff and at the other a boutique town that celebrates local food and wine.

This caravan park has the most diverse mix of holiday options ranging from modestly priced unpowered sites to premium family accommodation with ocean and river views. The Park's Beach and Boat Houses are unique as a caravan park offering and have become one of the distinguishing features of the Barwon Heads township.



Highlights

- internal refurbishment of two camp kitchens
- design, planning and consents for two additional Beach Houses
- internal refurbishment of two Beach Houses
- begun refurbishments former Manager's residence to accommodate short-term stays

2023 / 2024	Accommodation	Campsites	TMP sites	Total
Number	20	255	159	434
Occupancy	74%	42%	95%	70%
Revenue	\$1,130,000	\$1,770,000	\$923,000	\$3,823,000

Riverside Campground (seasonal)

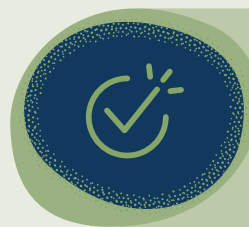
For all but seven weeks of the year, Riverside Campground on Bukareeyoo is a much loved and well used public reserve located on the Ocean Grove side of the Barwon River. During the peak summer season, Easter holiday period and Labour Day weekend, the campground provides a unique and authentic, no frills, camping experience amongst the coastal vegetation.

2023 / 2024	Campsites
Number	227
Occupancy	89%
Revenue	\$474,000

Breamlea Caravan Park

The hamlet of Breamlea is one of the most secluded and unique destinations on the Southern Bellarine. With a permanent population of less than 200 residents, Breamlea has a rich history and is an area of considerable cultural significance. The Breamlea Caravan Park has the feeling of a natural bush camping experience.

Barwon Coast has operated Breamlea for just two years and the occupancy patterns are slowly maturing. The park has a mix of permit and casual sites in this unique setting. In 2023/24 the park infrastructure has benefited from some significant capital expenditure on the water supply and presentation of the high-quality villas.



Highlights

- upgraded the infrastructure for potable water supply
- upgraded fire service assets and water supply
- internal refurbishment of two, family villas
- internal refurbishment of camp kitchen / Breamlea community hall
- launched a new website for Breamlea Caravan Park

2023 / 2024	Accommodation	Campsites	TMP Sites	Total
Number	4	81	63	148
Occupancy	35%	20%	98%	51%
Revenue	\$77,000	\$355,000	\$310,000	\$742,000



Leases and Licences

During the reporting period, we issued 38 leases and licences including 27 tour operator licences (comprising ten water-based and five land-based licensees), as well as agreements with community clubs, commercial venues, and surf schools.

Commercial Hospitality Leases

Barwon Coast has two significant commercial hospitality leases, the iconic At the Heads Restaurant and Bar overlooking the Barwon Estuary and The Dunes Restaurant and Kiosk within the surf beach complex at Ocean Grove Main Beach.

Community Club Leases

Barwon Heads Football and Netball Club holds a licence for seasonal use of the multi-purpose facility (MPF), the oval, netball courts and some car park areas within Barwon Heads Caravan Park. It also holds a lease for specific areas of the MPF

Ocean Grove Surf Life Saving Club holds a lease and licence for their clubrooms in the Surf Beach Complex at Ocean Grove Main Beach

Barwon Heads 13th Beach Surf Life Saving Club holds a lease and licence for their clubhouse at 13th Beach and patrol tower and a licence for the areas surrounding both buildings

Bancoora Surf Life Saving Club holds from an expired lease whilst new facilities are being designed to inform a new lease

Barwon Heads Sailing Association leases storeroom space in the Ozone Latrine building on Flinders Parade, Barwon Heads

Barwon Heads Golf Club - leases a small parcel of coastal land at its 4th tee.

Financial Summary

Barwon Coast generates approximately \$10.08 million in funds annually, from the direct and indirect operation of activities that occur on the reserve, including the operation of caravan and camping parks, and through leases, licences and permits. This is supplemented by securing grants for specific projects.

All funds are reinvested in maintaining and improving coastal Crown land, public infrastructure and caravan and camping facilities.

Financial Overview

We produced a total comprehensive income (accounting profit) in the financial year of \$2.25 million.

\$2.17 million of this arose from the net gain on revaluation of building assets. The remaining \$76,000 was the surplus from continuing operations (operating profit).

Revenue from the operation of caravan parks came to \$8.48 million, a considerable increase on the \$8 million recorded in the prior year. This growth was primarily due to increases in caravan park tariffs, which remain competitive relative to similar organisations. All caravan parks achieved growth of between 4% and 8%.

Grants

\$319,000 of capital grant revenue was recognised in this financial year – on the completion of new beach access stairs at Bukareeyoo and The Ant 13th Beach, partial completion of Barwon Coast Discovery Centre improvements and installation of new water fountains at Ocean Grove and Barwon Heads.

Expenses also saw healthy growth (increasing by \$845,000 compared to the previous financial year though \$163,000 of this growth was in the non-cash expense of depreciation).

We continue to manage expenses pragmatically while many of our most significant expenses have considerable inflationary pressure. These include wages, waste, utilities, insurance and repairs and maintenance.



**84% of total
revenue**

**generated by visitors to our
caravan parks and campground**

**New assets
\$1.6 million**

The Committee

Under the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978*, Committee members are appointed for a term of up to three years. They operate in a voluntary capacity, meeting monthly to oversee and provide direction to the CEO.

The Committee also forms Sub-Committees when required. During the reporting period, the following Sub-Committee were in place; Audit, People and Culture, Business Development and Continuity and Culture, Heritage and Education.



Sandra Gatehouse

Chair

Qualifications - B Jurisprudence. LLB Monash

Experience - Sandra is a lawyer by training with a diverse range of management and legal experience in public sector governance and communications. She has demonstrated capacity in risk management, contracting, strategic planning and stakeholder management and is an active participant in community affairs.



Peter Farrell

Deputy Chair

Qualifications - M Forest Sci, B Forest Sci (Hons), Dip Forestry (Creswick)

Experience - Peter worked in natural resource management for his entire career, mostly in North East Victoria. Here he was the Regional Director responsible for the delivery of public land, forest and fire management programs, as well as biodiversity protection. Since retiring Peter has served on the Boards of the North East Catchment Management Authority and Goulburn Valley Water, bringing skills in strategic planning, corporate governance and community engagement. Peter is also Treasurer of Community Garden Ocean Grove.



Meredith Blackstock

Member

Qualifications - Grad. Dip. Erg., MBA, GAICD

Experience - Meredith is a highly experienced human resources professional and a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors who has held a number of positions in large national and international companies across the manufacturing, distribution and maritime industries. From July 2015 until February 2022 Meredith served as a Director of the Western Community Legal Centre.



Stuart Brown

Member

Qualifications - Chartered Accountant, GAICD, MBA

Experience - Stuart is an experienced commercial finance leader with a diverse background, including non-profit, NYSE and ASX listed organisations, and has held finance leadership roles in many organisations across Australia, Asia and Europe. Stuart has broad experience in corporate governance, with previous experience as a Non-Executive Director at a community legal organisation and leads the finance function for a well-known charity. He has a keen interest in conserving the natural environment along the Barwon Coast coastal reserves.



Shelly Fanning

Member

Qualifications - Planner & Legal Practitioner – LL.M/LL.B(Hons) / BEnvPlan MPIA

Experience - Shelly is the Managing Director of Coastal Planning and has previously been a sessional lecturer at Deakin University's School of Architecture and Built Environment. Shelly's areas of expertise are strategic / statutory land use planning and litigation. Her extensive experience has provided her with a broad understanding of land use practices in both the public and private sector. Shelly lives on the Great Ocean Road and is also a registered wildlife carer. She is passionate about caring for the coastal environment.



Geraldine Keely

Member

Qualifications –Grad Dip in Health Services Management, Registered Nurse (non-practising) and member of the AICD.

Experience - Gerry is a Registered Nurse with an extensive background in critical care nursing and health service management roles, including six years in the regional office of the Department of Health. She has held a previous board role at Timboon District Health Service and currently works at Barwon Health. Gerry has lived in Barwon Heads for the past 21 years after moving with her family from Melbourne, and is an active participant in the local community and a keen gardener.



Naomi Wells

Member

Qualifications – BSG, Wildlife (Hons)

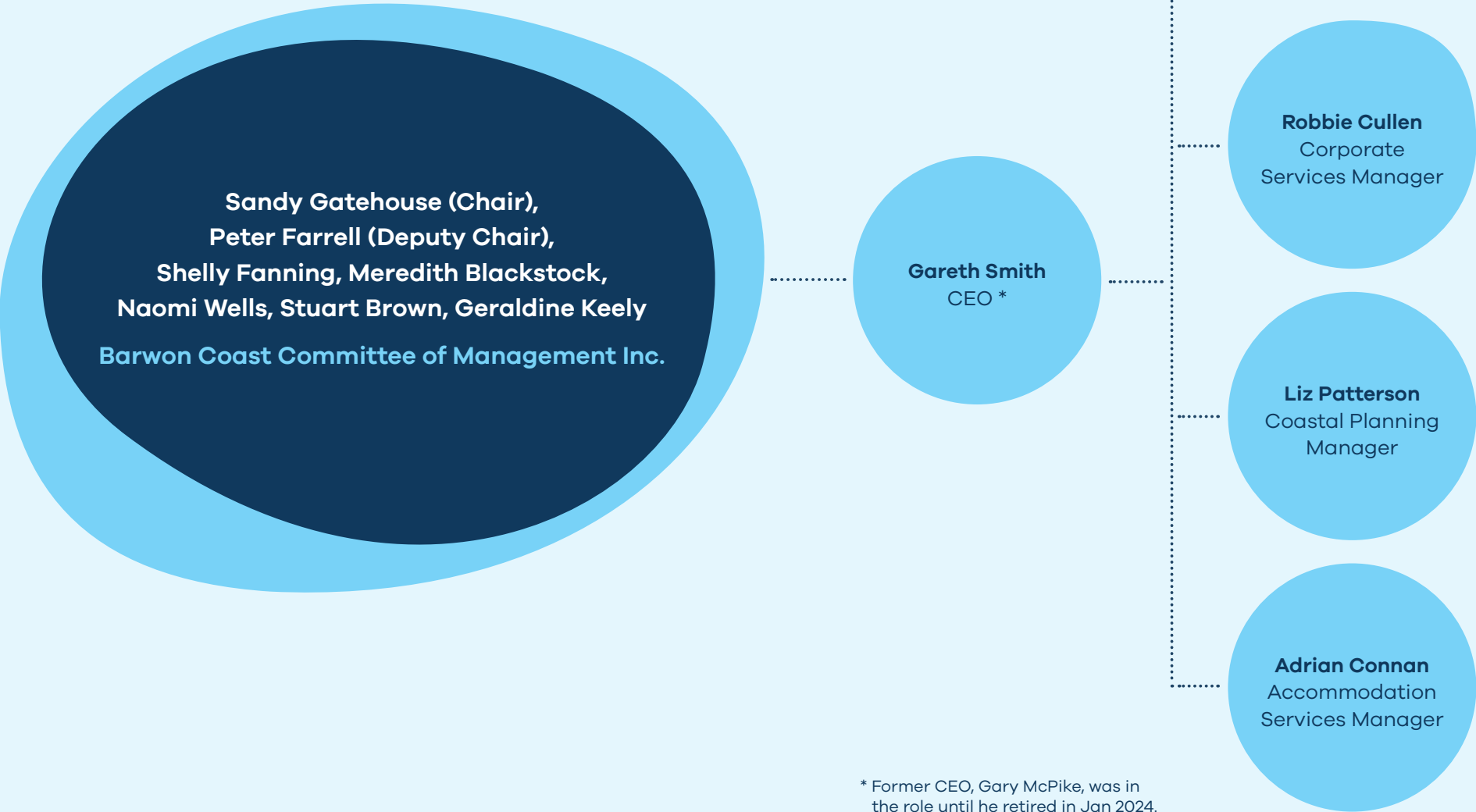
Experience - Naomi specialises in community engagement, environmental education and graphic design, and leads education and community engagement projects for the Bellarine Catchment Network. Naomi has a strong connection to the Barwon Heads area and often works closely with many community groups including the Friends of the Bluff on a variety of projects. She is very passionate about biodiversity and the protection of our environment. Naomi also serves on the Geelong Field Naturalists Club as Minutes Secretary. She is passionate about promoting and celebrating diversity and inclusion for all with a particular focus on Traditional Owners and the LGBTQIA+ community.

Committee attendance

During the financial year, 11 normal Committee meetings, plus four Audit Sub-Committee, three Business Development & Continuity Sub-Committee, two Culture, Heritage & Education Sub-Committee and three People & Culture Sub-Committee meetings were held.

	Committee meetings	Audit Sub-Committee	Business Development & Continuity Sub-Committee	Culture, Heritage & Education Sub-Committee	People & Culture Sub-Committee
Members	Attended / eligible to attend	Attended / eligible to attend	Attended / eligible to attend	Attended / eligible to attend	Attended / eligible to attend
Sandy Gatehouse	11 / 11	4 / 4	3 / 3	2 / 2	3 / 3
Peter Farrell	10 / 11	3 / 4	N/A	N/A	2 / 3
Meredith Blackstock	9 / 11	N/A	N/A	2 / 2	2 / 3
Stuart Brown	9 / 11	4 / 4	N/A	N/A	N/A
Shelly Fanning	9 / 11	N/A	3 / 3	N/A	3 / 3
Geraldine Keely	9 / 11	2 / 4	2 / 3	N/A	N/A
Naomi Wells	10 / 11	N/A	2 / 2	0 / 2	N/A

Barwon Coast Senior Management Organisational Chart



* Former CEO, Gary McPike, was in the role until he retired in Jan 2024.

Workforce Data

The Committee employs a CEO and the CEO employs and guides a variety of staff to undertake the different management responsibilities in caring for the coast.



68 staff

26 casual / 2 fixed term / 21 full time /
19 part time / 18 new team members /
12 ceased employment

54% female
46% male

49.5
average
age

5.9 years
average length of service

Our People

Over the past 12 months we have continued to build on our workplace culture. We introduced staff recognition awards in line with our values, highlighting those staff who are living out our values. We continue to promote and foster our mission and values in the work we do across the organisation.

Developing our staff is a key part of what we do. We implemented a comprehensive performance management approach for our entire staff, named 'Growth and Contribution'. This new system acknowledges our employees' professional development throughout the year and identifies areas where we can support their further growth. Additionally, it emphasises the individual contributions each staff member has made to Barwon Coast, showcasing their accomplishments and the tasks they've undertaken.

We have implemented new policies for recruitment and higher duties to enhance fairness and transparency in our recruitment processes. Staff training and development remain a priority, with this year's focus on equipping our managers with change management skills. This initiative aims to provide them with a solid foundation for guiding any type of change, ensuring our staff are part of the change process.

During the reporting period, 11 team members joined Barwon Coast and 10 left the organisation. The main reasons for departure was professional development / career advancement. Organisational staff turnover was 16%. During the year we saw the retirement of our CEO – Gary McPike and welcomed Gareth Smith as Barwon Coast's new CEO. Gareth commenced in February 2024.

As a new initiative, we are now collaborating with Bellarine Bayside to jointly share our Workplace Health and Safety officer. This innovative partnership aims to build stronger collaborations and enhance work practices across our two organisations. This approach benefits both organisations with diverse insights, leading to improved safety standards and robust OHS protocols. We believe this partnership sets a new benchmark for inter-organisational working and Barwon Coast will continue to look at other roles in which ways we can work together.

Health and Safety

Over the past twelve months, Barwon Coast has made significant strides in enhancing its safety management system and continuing to build a robust safety culture. The role of Safety Champion has evolved from a simple reporting tool into a more comprehensive system that allows staff to sign off on safety tasks, this then demonstrates our compliance with various industry standards.

Incident management

Between 1 July 2023 and 30 June 2024, a total of 118 incidents were raised (18 of these involved members of the public). These included 24 slips/trips/falls, 21 vehicle incidents and 11 security incidents.

There were five notifiable incidents to WorkSafe, these are incidents that require notification to the OHS regulator (WorkSafe Victoria). Notably, we have achieved a consistent reduction in lost-time injury hours over the past five years, decreasing from 2,939 hours in FY20 to 699 hours in FY24, demonstrating our ongoing commitment to workplace safety. Barwon Coast's WorkCover premium rate of 2.6467 per cent is higher than the weighted industry rate of 2.2490 per cent. Barwon Coast remains committed to improving ways to reduce workplace injuries through early intervention and supportive return-to-work practices to reduce claim costs.

Additional Highlights

We continue to develop our Summer Ranger program and expanded the season and responsibilities. Overall, we had a team of eight summer rangers and one supervisor working over December and January, who all helped keep our busy activity nodes clean and building on their environmental management skills.

Our workforce continues to actively engage in the People Matter Survey, achieving a 78% participation rate. The valuable feedback received from this survey informs and directs our ongoing organisational improvements across all departments.

Employee Wellbeing

Our commitment to staff wellbeing continued to strengthen throughout 2023-24. We enhanced our health and wellbeing program through targeted initiatives including regular team-building activities at bimonthly BBQs and a trial of weekly yoga classes. These activities provided valuable opportunities for staff connection beyond day-to-day operations, supporting both physical and mental wellbeing while fostering stronger workplace relationships.



Minister's Statement of Expectations

Barwon Coast is delegated by the Minister for Environment under the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978* to manage the Crown land foreshore reserves from Collendina to Breamlea. The Act states the Committee, "shall manage improve maintain and control the land for the purposes for which it is reserved". The Crown land parcels that Barwon Coast manage are reserved for either 'public purpose' or 'public and recreation purposes'.

The Minister for Environment issued a 'Statement of Expectations' (SOE) to Barwon Coast in 2018 and an amended update in 2019, that provides more specific detail on the priorities and focus for Barwon Coast during their term of appointment.

The table opposite sets out the elements of the SOE and how Barwon Coast is progressing in meeting these expectations.



Reporting on Minister's Statement of Expectations

Key elements	Progression
1. Structure, cultural operational focus - Adopt principles of good governance whilst meeting the community expectations of transparency, accountability and participation.	Building upon an existing culture of good governance, over the past 12 months we have continued our Internal Audit program, developed a Committee Charter; reviewed our Sub-Committee structure with a reduction from four to two sub-committees with enhanced strategic focus; and updated our Privacy Policy; Gifts, Benefits & Hospitality Policy; Conflict of Interest Policy and Register. We have also commenced a review of our Risk Management Framework
2. Occupation of the reserve - maximising community and environmental benefits in the process of issuing leases and license and supporting non-for-profit organisations that have a long-term association with areas managed by Barwon Coast.	Have a CMMP that provides guidance on 38 leases on licence across the reserve. Rollout out a fair and transparent Expressions of Interest process for Tour Operator Licences across the reserve.
3. Use and development of the reserve - Barwon Coast having oversight of implementing the Marine and Coastal Policy at a site level through preparing and submitting <i>Marine and Coastal Act</i> consent applications.	Barwon Coast prepare and submit MACA consents for use and development for projects they are leading and on behalf on their users (lease holders etc).
4. Coastal and Marine Management Plan – prepare and submit a Coastal and Marine Management Plan, as per DEECA guidelines and include risk-based approach for managing coastal assets.	A CMMP was submitted and then approved by the Minister in December 2021. Barwon Coast has been implementing this over the last two years. Barwon Coast has a risk management framework, policy and plan in place.

Reporting on Minister's Statement of Expectations (Cont.)

Key elements	Progression
5. Community Engagement - ensuring community engagement is embedded in all committee dealings.	<p>Barwon Coast has developed a Community Engagement Framework to guide its engagement activities.</p> <p>Barwon Coast has a role 'Community and Engagement Coordinator' that supports the organisation in undertaking engagement activities.</p>
6. Communications Protocol - ensure processes for effective communication between Barwon Coast and DEECA and also a process for how and when risks are communicated.	DEECA and Barwon Coast meet regularly at an operational level and quarterly at an executive level to support effective communications. This assists in communicating risks to DEECA.
7. Annual Report – incorporating SOE requirements into Barwon Coast operations and reporting on the progress in the Annual Report.	As per this table.
8. Procurement – ensuring good governance practice for procurement and purchasing.	Barwon Coast have a procurement policy and financial delegations which work together to ensure we achieve value for money and good governance practice.
9. Committee Policies and Guidelines - enact model policies in place (consistent with DEECA and Victorian Public Sector Commission).	Barwon Coast have various policies which reflect DEECA/VPS model policies and ensure risk is managed at both a strategic and operational level.

Financial Statements

Contents:

1. Committee's Report
2. Comprehensive Income Statement
3. Statement of Financial Position
4. Statement of Changes in Equity
5. Statement of Cash Flows
6. Notes to the Financial Statements
7. Independent Auditor's Report
8. Committee Members Declaration

Principal Activities

"Barwon Coast Committee of Management Inc. ("Barwon Coast") was declared a corporation under section 14(2) of the *Victorian Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978* from 1 July 1995. The registered office and principal place of operations is located at Barwon Heads, Victoria 3227. The principal activities of Barwon Coast during the financial year were predominately the maintenance of coastal Crown land foreshore reserves, the provision of camping and accommodation within those reserves, the management of leases and licences within the reserves and management of the Local Port of Barwon Heads.

Barwon Coast is responsible for the management of Crown land across Collendina, Ocean Grove, Barwon Heads, 13th Beach, Bancoora and Breamlea."

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

None

OPERATING SURPLUS	2024	2023
Surplus/(Loss) from Continuing Operations	76,433	300,604

AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION

The lead auditor's independence declaration for the year ended 30 June 2024 has been received and can be found on page 64 of the financial report.

This committee's report is signed in accordance with a resolution of the Committee of Management.



Sandra Gatehouse
Chair of the Committee



Stuart Brown
Audit, Risk and Finance Sub-Committee Chair

Dated this 23rd day of October 2024

BARWON COAST COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT INC.
FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024
AUDITOR'S REPORT



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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF BARWON COAST COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT INC.

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Barwon Coast Committee of Management Inc., which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of material accounting policies, and the committee members' declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of Barwon Coast Committee of Management Inc. is in accordance with the *Crown Lands (Reserves) Act 1978*, including:

- (i) giving a true and fair view of the committee's financial position as at 30 June 2024 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- (ii) that the financial records kept by the committee are such as to enable financial statements to be prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosure Requirements.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the committee in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110: *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Information Other than the Financial Report and Auditor's Report Thereon

The committee is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the committee's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2024, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the Committee for the Financial Report

The committee is responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosure Requirements and the *Crown Lands (Reserves) Act 1978* and for such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the committee is responsible for assessing the ability of the committee to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the committee either intends to liquidate the committee or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

RSD Audit Pty Ltd
ABN 85 619 186 908

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Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the committee's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the committee.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the committee's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the committee's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the committee to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the committee regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

RSD Audit

Nick Bell
Partner

29 October 2024

BARWON COAST COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT INC.
 FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024
COMPREHENSIVE INCOME STATEMENT

	NOTE	2024	2023
REVENUE			
Revenue from Operating Activities	2	9,427,292	8,822,136
Grants for Operating Activities	2	333,683	305,256
Grants for Capital Development	2	319,077	332,678
		10,080,052	9,460,070
EXPENDITURE			
Expenditure from Operating Activities	3	8,689,696	8,008,048
Depreciation	3	1,313,923	1,151,418
		10,003,619	9,159,466
SURPLUS/(LOSS) FROM CONTINUING OPERATIONS		76,433	300,604
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Item not reclassified subsequently to profit or loss:			
Net gain on revaluation of buildings		2,174,202	—
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR		2,250,635	300,604
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE ENTITY		2,250,635	300,604

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements

BARWON COAST COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT INC.
FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	NOTE	2024	2023
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	4	1,067,997	1,847,268
Other Term Deposits	4a	3,005,680	2,500,000
Trade and Other Receivables	5	542,802	251,982
Inventories	6	6,538	7,629
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		4,623,017	4,606,879
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, Plant and Equipment	7	25,926,236	23,477,261
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		25,926,236	23,477,261
TOTAL ASSETS		30,549,253	28,084,140
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	8	2,011,174	2,134,003
Deferred income	9	987,269	836,428
Employee entitlements	10	698,725	516,933
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		3,697,168	3,487,364
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Employee entitlements	10	61,893	57,219
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		61,893	57,219
TOTAL LIABILITIES		3,759,061	3,544,583
NET ASSETS		26,790,192	24,539,557
EQUITY			
Retained surplus		22,613,296	22,536,863
Asset revaluation reserve	1(m)	4,176,896	2,002,694
TOTAL EQUITY		26,790,192	24,539,557

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements

BARWON COAST COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT INC.
FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	NOTE	2024	2023
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts from Site Fees, Leases and Other		10,163,469	9,245,221
Payments to Suppliers and Employees		(9,222,770)	(8,937,633)
GST Paid to the ATO		(269,900)	(218,841)
Interest Received		198,337	67,902
Net Cash Inflows from Operating Activities	11(b)	869,136	156,649
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts from Capital Grants		469,920	165,146
Payment for Property, Plant and Equipment		(1,686,828)	(2,059,353)
Transfer to Term Deposits		(505,680)	(2,500,000)
Proceeds on Sale of Property, Plant and Equipment		74,181	170,481
Net Cash Outflows used in Investing Activities		(1,648,407)	(4,223,726)
NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH HELD			
		(779,271)	(4,067,077)
Cash at the Beginning of the Year		1,847,268	5,914,345
Cash at the End of the Year	4,11(a)	1,067,997	1,847,268
Total available cash assets			
Cash at end of year as noted above		1,067,997	1,847,268
Amounts held in term deposit	4A	3,005,680	2,500,000
Total available cash		4,073,677	4,347,268

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements

BARWON COAST COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT INC.
 FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

	RETAINED EARNINGS \$	ASSET REVALUATION RESERVE \$	TOTAL \$
BALANCE AT 1 JULY 2022	22,236,259	2,002,694	24,238,953
Surplus for year	300,604	–	300,604
Other comprehensive income for the year	–	–	–
BALANCE AT 30 JUNE 2023	22,536,863	2,002,694	24,539,557
BALANCE AT 1 JULY 2023	22,536,863	2,002,694	24,539,557
Surplus for year	76,433	–	76,433
Other comprehensive income for the year	–	2,174,202	2,174,202
BALANCE AT 30 JUNE 2024	22,613,296	4,176,896	26,790,192

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements

BASIS OF PREPARATION

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

"Barwon Coast Committee of Management Inc. (Barwon Coast) applies Australian Accounting Standards, the presentation requirements in those Standards as modified by AASB 1060 and the disclosure requirements in AASB 1060.

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements that have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures for For-Profit and Not-for-Profit Tier 2 Entities of the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB). The entity is not-for-profit for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards.

Australian Accounting Standards set out accounting policies that the AASB has concluded would result in financial statements containing relevant and reliable information about transactions, events and conditions. Material accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are presented below and have been consistently applied unless stated otherwise.

All amounts are reported in Australian Dollars (AUD), rounded to the nearest whole dollar. Minor discrepancies are due to rounding.

The financial statements were authorised for issue on 15th October 2024 by the entity's Committee of Management."

Change in Accounting Policy:

There have been no material changes in accounting policies as compared to policies adopted in the prior reporting year.

a. Revenue

Revenue from the rendering of a service is recognised upon the delivery of the service to the customers. Site fees and on site accommodation revenues are recognised in the accounting period to which they relate with deposits and receipts held as deferred income (liability) until earned.

Non-reciprocal grant revenue is recognised in profit or loss when the entity obtains control of the grant and it is probable that the economic benefits gained from the grant will flow to the entity and the amount of the grant can be measured reliably.

If conditions are attached to the grant which must be satisfied before it is eligible to receive the contribution, the recognition of the grant as revenue will be deferred until those conditions are satisfied.

When grant revenue is received whereby the entity incurs an obligation to deliver economic value directly back to the contributor, this is considered a reciprocal transaction and the grant revenue is recognised in the statement of financial position as a liability until the service has been delivered to the contributor, otherwise the grant is recognised as income on receipt.

Barwon Coast receives contributions of assets from the government and other parties for zero or a nominal value. These assets are recognised at fair value on the date of acquisition in the statement of financial position, with a corresponding amount of income recognised in profit or loss.

Donations and bequests are recognised as revenue when received.

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest method, which for floating rate financial assets is the rate inherent in the instrument. Dividend revenue is recognised when the right to receive a dividend has been established.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax.

b. Property, Plant and Equipment

Buildings are measured at fair value. The surf life saving club buildings that are on land managed by Barwon Coast are not considered assets of Barwon Coast and are not recognised in the financial statements. Infrastructure, facilities, plant and equipment are measured on the cost basis and are therefore carried at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. In the event the carrying amount of infrastructure, facilities, plant and equipment is greater than its estimated recoverable amount, the carrying amount is written down immediately to its estimated recoverable amount and impairment losses are recognised either in profit or loss or as a revaluation decrease if the impairment losses relate to a revalued asset. A formal assessment of recoverable amount is made when impairment indicators are present (refer to Note 1(d) for details of impairment).

Profit and loss on disposal of fixed assets are brought to account in determining the result for the year.

Assets that have been contributed at no cost, or for nominal cost, are valued and recognised at the fair value of the asset at the date it is acquired.

DEPRECIATION

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets, including buildings, is depreciated on a straight line basis over the asset's useful life to the entity commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

Work in Progress is shown at cost and is not depreciated until such time as work is completed and the asset is fit for use. When Work in Progress is complete the asset is transferred to Property, Plant and Equipment.

The depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable assets are:

Class of fixed asset	Depreciation rate
Buildings	1.5% - 20%
Infrastructure	1.5% - 33.3%
Facilities	2% - 33.3%
Office Equipment	5% - 33.3%
Motor Vehicles and Plant	6.6% - 20%
General Equipment	5% - 50%
Work in Progress	nil%

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at the end of each reporting period.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains or losses are recognised in profit or loss in the period in which they arise. When revalued assets are sold, amounts included in the revaluation surplus relating to that asset are transferred to retained earnings.

c. Financial Instruments

Initial Recognition and Measurement

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the entity becomes a party to the contractual provisions to the instrument. For financial assets, this is equivalent to the date that the company commits itself to either purchase or sell the asset (ie trade date accounting is adopted). Financial instruments are initially measured at fair value.

Classification and Subsequent Measurement

Financial assets and liabilities at amortised cost

"Financial assets and liabilities are measured at amortised cost if both of the following criteria are met:

- the assets are held to collect the contractual cash flows, and
- the assets' contractual terms give rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interests.

These assets and liabilities are initially recognised at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method less any impairment. "

Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income

"Debt investments are measured at fair value through other comprehensive income if both of the following criteria are met and the assets are not designated as fair value through net result:

- the assets are held to achieve its objective both by collecting the contractual cash flows and by selling the financial assets, and
- the assets' contractual terms give rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interests."

Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss

By default, all other financial assets that do not meet the measurement conditions of amortised cost and fair value through other comprehensive income are subsequently measured at fair value through profit or loss. The initial designation of financial instruments to measure at fair value through profit or loss is a one-time option on initial classification and is irrevocable until the financial asset is derecognised.

d. Impairment of Assets

At the end of each reporting period, the entity assesses whether there is any indication that an asset may be impaired. If such an indication exists, an impairment test is carried out on the asset by comparing the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs of disposal and value in use, to the asset's carrying amount. Any excess of the asset's carrying amount over its recoverable amount is recognised immediately in profit or loss, unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount in accordance with another Standard (eg in accordance with the revaluation model in AASB 116). Any impairment loss of a revalued asset is treated as a revaluation decrease in accordance with that other Standard.

Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, the entity estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

e. Employee Benefits

Short-Term Employee Benefits

Provision is made for the entity's obligation for short-term employee benefits. Short-term employee benefits are benefits (other than termination benefits) that are expected to be settled wholly within 12 months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related service, including wages and salaries. Short-term employee benefits are measured at the (undiscounted) amounts expected to be paid when the obligation is settled.

The entity's obligations for short-term employee benefits such as wages and salaries are recognised as a part of current trade and other payables in the statement of financial position.

Other Long-Term Employee Benefits

The entity classifies employees' long service leave and annual leave entitlements as other long-term employee benefits as they are not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related service. Provision is made for the company's obligation for other long-term employee benefits, which are measured at the present value of the expected future payments to be made to employees. Expected future payments incorporate anticipated future wage and salary levels, durations of service and employee departures, and are discounted at rates determined by reference to market yields at the end of the reporting period on government bonds that have maturity dates that approximate the terms of the obligations. Upon the remeasurement of obligations for other long-term employee benefits, the net change in the obligation is recognised in profit or loss classified under employee benefits expense.

The entity's obligations for long-term employee benefits are presented as non-current liabilities in its statement of financial position, except where the entity does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period, in which case the obligations are presented as current liabilities.

Retirement Benefit Obligations

Defined contribution superannuation benefits

All employees of the entity receive defined contribution superannuation entitlements, for which the entity pays the fixed superannuation guarantee contribution (for FY24 this was 11% of the employee's average ordinary salary) to the employee's superannuation fund of choice. All contributions in respect of employees' defined contribution entitlements are recognised as an expense when they become payable. The entity's obligation with respect to employees' defined contribution entitlements is limited to its obligation for any unpaid superannuation guarantee contributions at the end of the reporting period. All obligations for unpaid superannuation guarantee contributions are measured at the (undiscounted) amounts expected to be paid when the obligation is settled and are presented as current liabilities in the entity's statement of financial position.

f. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

g. Goods and Service Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the statement of financial position.

Cash flows are presented on a gross basis. GST paid to the ATO is presented as a net figure under Cash Flows From Operating Activities.

h. Income Tax

No provision for income tax has been raised as the entity is exempt from income tax under Div 50 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

i. Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the entity has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured. Provisions recognised represent the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

j. Comparative Figures

Where required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform with changes in presentation for the current financial year.

k. Trade and Other Payables

Trade and other payables represent the liabilities for goods and services received by the company during the reporting period that remain unpaid at the end of the reporting period. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

l. Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgements

The committee members evaluate estimates and judgements incorporated into the financial statements based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future events and are based on current trends and economic data, obtained both externally and within the organisation.

m. Asset Revaluation Reserve

The asset revaluation reserve records fair value movements on property, plant and equipment held under the revaluation model.

n. Trade and other receivables

Trade and other receivables includes amounts due from customers for services performed in the ordinary course of business. Receivables expected to be collected within 12 months of the end of the reporting period are classified as current assets. All other receivables are classified as non-current assets.

o. Financial instruments

Financial Assets

Financial assets measured at amortised cost comprise trade and other receivables and cash and cash equivalents in the statement of financial position.

Impairment of financial assets

"Impairment of trade receivables have been determined using the simplified approach in AASB 9 which uses an estimation of lifetime expected credit losses. The expected probability of non-payment of the receivable is multiplied by the amount of the expected loss arising from default.

The amount of impairment is recorded in a separate allowance account with the loss being recognised as an expense. Once the receivable is determined to be uncollectable, then the carrying amount is written off against the associated allowance."

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
NOTE 2 - REVENUE		
REVENUE FROM CARAVAN PARKS		
Barwon Heads Caravan Park	3,922,436	3,634,086
Riverview Family Caravan Park	3,330,097	3,208,956
Riverside Camp Ground	472,128	453,239
Breamlea Caravan Park	756,700	712,100
	8,481,361	8,008,381
OTHER INCOME		
Foreshore leases, licences and permits	577,607	547,338
Interest received on financial assets	198,337	67,902
Grants & Appropriations - operating	333,683	305,256
Grants - capital	319,077	332,678
Gain on disposal of non current asset	–	(3,603)
Breamlea General Store and LPO	125,106	138,688
Other income	44,881	63,430
	1,598,691	1,451,689
TOTAL REVENUE	10,080,052	9,460,070

BARWON COAST COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT INC.
 FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024
 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT.)

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
NOTE 3 - EXPENSES		
OPERATING EXPENSES BY FUNCTION		
Barwon Heads Caravan Park operating expenses	1,906,562	1,828,524
Riverview Family Caravan Park operating expenses	1,530,556	1,466,666
Breamlea Caravan Park operating expenses	384,903	485,542
Breamlea General Store operating expenses	166,338	168,271
Breamlea Post Office operating expenses	39,416	45,190
Riverside Camp Ground operating expenses	126,466	90,270
Maintenance - foreshore reserves	1,813,949	1,754,923
Administration - management/reception/provisions	1,830,807	1,580,976
Education, engagement and planning	414,563	342,703
Local Port of Barwon Heads Expenses	328,136	194,991
Foreshore leases, licences and permits expenses	124,049	49,639
Depreciation expense	1,313,923	1,151,418
Property, plant and equipment write down	23,951	353
TOTAL EXPENSES	10,003,619	9,159,466

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
NOTE 4 – CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
Cash at bank	1,064,456	1,843,510
Cash on hand	3,541	3,758
TOTAL CASH & CASH EQUIVALENTS	1,067,997	1,847,268

NOTE 4a - FINANCIAL ASSETS

Term Deposits	3,005,680	2,500,000
TOTAL FINANCIAL ASSETS	3,005,680	2,500,000

NOTE 5 – TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

Trade debtors	113,343	161,551
Grants receivable	236,500	–
Accrued Revenues	64,687	28,888
Prepaid expenses	137,531	61,543
Provision for bad debts	(9,259)	–
	542,802	251,982

NOTE 6 – INVENTORIES

Opening Inventory	7,629	13,600
Purchases	68,162	67,263
Cost of sales	(69,253)	(73,234)
Closing balance	6,538	7,629

BARWON COAST COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT INC.
 FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024
 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT.)

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
NOTE 7 - PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT		
BUILDINGS		
Barwon Heads Caravan Park		
At Valuation	11,099,344	3,770,497
Less accumulated depreciation	5,888,202	410,855
Total	5,211,142	3,359,642
Riverview Family Caravan Park		
At Valuation	4,614,697	2,075,794
Less accumulated depreciation	2,092,781	250,144
Total	2,521,916	1,825,650
Accommodation On Site		
At Valuation	–	1,503,323
Less accumulated depreciation	–	130,127
Total	–	1,373,196
Ocean Grove Surf Beach Complex		
At Valuation	3,248,333	2,817,635
Less accumulated depreciation	84,133	175,862
Total	3,164,200	2,641,773
Coastal Reserve Buildings		
At Valuation	7,724,601	2,995,937
Less accumulated depreciation	4,915,709	393,564
Total	2,808,892	2,602,373

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Breamlea Caravan Park Buildings		
At cost	2,799,063	1,061,741
Less accumulated depreciation	1,397,896	47,351
Total	1,401,167	954,402
Buildings Total		
At Valuation	29,486,038	14,224,927
Less accumulated depreciation	14,378,721	1,407,903
Total	15,107,317	12,817,024
INFRASTRUCTURE		
Barwon Heads Caravan Park		
At cost	1,269,692	1,427,236
Less accumulated depreciation	536,577	552,098
Total	733,115	875,138
Riverview Family Caravan Park		
At cost	1,677,994	1,716,538
Less accumulated depreciation	759,981	736,913
Total	918,013	979,625
Coastal Reserve Infrastructure		
At cost	8,988,780	9,022,456
Less accumulated depreciation	2,876,774	2,712,661
Total	6,112,006	6,309,795

BARWON COAST COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT INC.
 FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024
 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT.)

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
NOTE 7 - PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT (cont.)		
Breamlea Caravan Park		
At cost	252,654	150,823
Less accumulated depreciation	15,602	4,310
Total	237,052	146,513
Infrastructure Total		
At cost	12,189,120	12,317,053
Less accumulated depreciation	4,188,934	4,005,982
Total	8,000,186	8,311,071
FACILITIES		
Barwon Heads Caravan Park		
At cost	149,402	494,571
Less accumulated depreciation	39,334	236,112
Total	110,068	258,459
Riverview Family Caravan Park		
At cost	222,666	431,973
Less accumulated depreciation	118,345	275,799
Total	104,321	156,174
Coastal Reserve Facilities		
At cost	1,763,641	1,622,452
Less accumulated depreciation	667,457	678,542
Total	1,096,184	943,910

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Facilities Total		
At cost	2,135,709	2,548,996
Less accumulated depreciation	825,136	1,190,453
Total	1,310,573	1,358,543
OFFICE EQUIPMENT		
At cost	186,167	275,911
Less accumulated depreciation	73,380	152,162
Total	112,787	123,749
MOTOR VEHICLES & PLANT		
At cost	754,617	816,664
Less accumulated depreciation	162,441	312,171
Total	592,176	504,493
GENERAL EQUIPMENT		
At cost	268,749	263,750
Less accumulated depreciation	57,817	136,974
Total	210,932	126,776
WORK IN PROGRESS		
At cost	592,265	235,605
Total	592,265	235,605
TOTAL PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT		
At cost/ valuation	45,612,665	30,682,906
Less accumulated depreciation	19,686,429	7,205,645
Total	25,926,236	23,477,261

BARWON COAST COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT INC.
 FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT.)

NOTE 7 - PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (cont.)

	BUILDINGS	INFRASTRUCTURE	FACILITIES	OFFICE EQUIPMENT	MOTOR VEHICLES & PLANT	GENERAL EQUIPMENT	WORK IN PROGRESS	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance at beginning of the year	12,817,023	8,311,069	1,358,542	123,748	504,497	126,778	235,605	23,477,262
Transfers from Work in Progress	252,521	223,279	286,833	5,569	–	–	(768,203)	–
Reclassifications	426,485	(260,253)	(174,649)	(1,663)	–	10,079	–	0
Additions at cost	34,600	99,783	17,235	24,756	233,303	128,334	1,124,863	1,662,874
Revaluations	2,174,203	–	–	–	–	–	–	2,174,203
Impairments	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Disposals	(7,656)	(3,920)	(2,755)	(4,367)	(44,045)	(11,438)	–	(74,181)
Depreciation expense	(589,859)	(369,774)	(174,634)	(35,258)	(101,578)	(42,818)	–	(1,313,922)
Carrying amount at 30 June 2024	15,107,318	8,000,186	1,310,572	112,787	592,176	210,933	592,265	25,926,236

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
NOTE 8 - TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES		
Trade creditors	404,375	376,286
Accrued charges	234,110	177,401
Caravan parks booking fees in advance	1,333,087	1,545,579
Wages Clearing	39,602	35,326
Other	–	(589)
TOTAL TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES	2,011,174	2,134,003
NOTE 9 – DEFERRED INCOME		
Grants in Advance	987,269	836,428
TOTAL DEFERRED INCOME	987,269	836,428
NOTE 10 – PROVISIONS		
CURRENT		
Employee entitlements - Rostered Days Off	31,731	41,971
Employee entitlements - Annual Leave	304,528	237,267
Employee entitlements - Long Service Leave	362,466	237,695
TOTAL CURRENT PROVISIONS	698,725	516,933
NON-CURRENT		
Employee entitlements - Long Service Leave	61,893	57,219
TOTAL NON-CURRENT PROVISIONS	61,893	57,219
TOTAL PROVISIONS	760,618	574,152

BARWON COAST COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT INC.
 FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024
 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT.)

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
NOTE 10 – PROVISIONS (cont.)		
Movement in Employee Benefits		
Analysis of total provisions:		
Opening balance at 1 July	574,152	729,567
Additional provisions raised during the year	518,055	285,133
Amounts used	(331,589)	(440,548)
Balance at 30 June 2024	760,618	574,152

Provision For Employee Benefits

Provision for employee benefits represents amounts accrued for rostered days off, annual leave and long service leave.

The current portion for this provision includes the total amount accrued for rostered days off, annual leave entitlements and the amounts accrued for long service leave entitlements that have vested due to employees having completed the required period of service. Based on past experience, the company does not expect the full amount of annual leave or long service leave balances classified as current liabilities to be settled within the next 12 months. However, these amounts must be classified as current liabilities since the company does not have an unconditional right to defer the settlement of these amounts in the event employees wish to use their leave entitlement.

The non-current portion for this provision includes amounts accrued for long service leave entitlements that have not yet vested in relation to those employees who have not yet completed the required period of service.

In calculating the present value of future cash flows in respect of long service leave, the probability of long service leave being taken is based upon historical data. The measurement and recognition criteria for employee benefits have been discussed in Note 1(e).

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
NOTE 11 – CASH FLOW INFORMATION		
(a) Reconciliation of cash		
For the purposes of the statement of cash flows, the entity considers cash to include cash on hand, in banks and bank overdrafts. Cash at the end of the reporting period as shown in the statement of cash flows is reconciled to the related items in the statement of financial position as follows:		
Cash at Bank	1,064,456	1,843,510
Cash on hand	3,541	3,758
	1,067,997	1,847,268
(b) Reconciliation of net cash used in operating activities to operating result		
Reclassification		
Operating surplus/(loss)	76,433	300,604
Less revenue classified in Investing Activities	(319,077)	–
Property, plant and equipment write down	23,951	353
Loss (gain) on disposal of property, plant and equipment	–	3,603
Depreciation	1,313,923	1,151,418
Movements in balance sheet:		
(Increase)/decrease in receivables	(290,820)	26,228
Increase/(decrease) in payables	(122,829)	(1,133,439)
(Increase)/decrease in inventory	1,091	5,971
Increase/(decrease) in deferred income	–	(42,675)
Increase/(decrease) in provisions	186,464	(155,415)
Net cash provided by operating activities	869,136	156,649

	2024	2023
	\$	\$

NOTE 12 – RELATED PARTIES

The Committee of Management members are the only related parties.

During the year there were no financial transactions with related parties except for a small remuneration paid for the performance of their duties.

NOTE 13 – KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL COMPENSATION

Any person(s) having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the entity, directly or indirectly, including any director (whether executive or otherwise) of that entity is considered key management personnel. The totals of remuneration paid to key management personnel of the company during the year are as follows:

Key Management Personnel Compensation	688,943	465,052
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NOTE 14 – REMUNERATION OF AUDITOR

Davidsons Assurance Services Pty Ltd

Audit of the Financial Statements	–	11,700
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RSD Audit

Audit of the Financial Statements	12000	–
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	2024	2023
	\$	\$

NOTE 15 – CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND COMMITMENTS

There were no material contingent liabilities and commitments at end of financial year. (2023:nil)

NOTE 16 - OPERATING LEASE RECEIVABLES

Description of operating lease arrangements

"Barwon Coast provides a number of leases and licences for assets on Crown land. These include hospitality venues, part of a golf course, Surf Life Saving Clubs and sports clubs. These leases and licences have been classified as operating leases, because they do not transfer substantially all of the risks and rewards incidental to the ownership of the assets. The average term of operating leases is 21 years.

The following table sets out a maturity analysis of lease payments, showing the undiscounted lease payments to be received after the reporting date."

Amounts receivable under operating leases

Not later than one year	542,140	515,330
Later than one year and not later than five years	2,336,157	2,220,627
Later than five years	8,519,467	8,920,940

NOTE 17 - EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING PERIOD

None noted

BARWON COAST COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT INC.
FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024
AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION



41A Breen Street
Bendigo, Victoria
PO Box 448, Bendigo, VIC, 3552

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Auditors Independence Declaration in accordance with the Crown Lands (Reserves) Act 1978 to the Committee of Barwon Coast Committee of Management Inc.

In accordance with the *Crown Lands (Reserves) Act 1978*, I am pleased to provide the following declaration of independence to the Committee of Barwon Coast Committee of Management Inc. As the lead audit partner for the audit of the financial report for the year ended 30 June 2024, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been no contraventions of:

- (i) The auditor independence requirements of the *Crown Lands (Reserves) Act 1978* in relation to the audit; and
- (ii) Any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

RSD Audit

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nick Bell'.

Nick Bell
Partner
41A Breen Street
Bendigo VIC 3550

Dated: 29 October 2024

RSD Audit Pty Ltd
ABN 85 619 186 908
Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation

BARWON COAST COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT INC.
COMMITTEE MEMBERS' DECLARATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

In accordance with a resolution of Barwon Coast Committee of Management Inc. the Committee members of the entity declare that:

- 1 The financial statements and notes, as set out on pages 40 to 63:
 - a Comply with Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosure Standard; and
 - b Give a true and fair view of the financial position of the entity as at 30 June 2024 and of its performance for the year ended on that date.
- 2 At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Barwon Coast will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

For and on behalf of the Committee:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stuart Brown'.

Stuart Brown
Audit, Risk and Finance Sub-Committee Chair

Dated this 23rd day of October 2024

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT BARWON COAST COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT INC.

To stay up to date with the latest news, including our work, volunteering, events, and opportunities to get involved:

- follow us on Facebook

facebook.com/BarwonCoastVIC

- and LinkedIn

linkedin.com/company/barwoncoast

Visit **barwoncoast.com.au** to find out more.

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**Barwon Coast Committee
of Management Inc.**

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