

Public land management transfers – Port Campbell



GREAT OCEAN ROAD
COAST & PARKS AUTHORITY

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why is land management responsibility being transferred to the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority (the Authority)?

The coast and parks along the Great Ocean Road are so special, and so important to Victorians, that the Victorian Government established the Authority as a dedicated coast and parks manager.

We will have responsibility to protect and manage visitation of the coast and parks along the full length of the Great Ocean Road, enabling a holistic approach to addressing the impacts of increasing visitation, environmental processes, severe weather events and climate change.

As the dedicated coast and parks manager our purpose is to protect, conserve, enhance and manage public land. We are also the designated lead agency for visitation management policy, planning and infrastructure by responsible entities along the Great Ocean Road.

Revenue raised on the land we manage is reinvested back into the Great Ocean Road coast and parks to ensure the special part of the state can be enjoyed now and for generations to come. This includes improved environmental, education, conservation and visitor services right along the coastline.

Which Port Campbell land parcels will management responsibility be transferred?

The transfer of management responsibility for select public land parcels in Port Campbell will occur in stages before 1 November 2025.

Stage 1

The first stage, which has been completed, involves parcels that were previously under the management of the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), Parks Victoria and Corangamite Shire Council (the Council), these include:

- NRMA Port Campbell Holiday Park
- The Port Campbell Surf Life Saving Club
- The Port Campbell Beach and Rocket Shed
- The Port Campbell Visitor Information Centre
- A portion of the vegetated area on the headland, inland of the former Great Ocean Road

Stage 2

The second stage includes the Port Campbell Recreation Reserve and camping area, which is currently under the management of the Port Campbell Recreation Committee. The transfer of management responsibility is being worked through in collaboration with the Port Campbell Recreation Committee and DEECA.

Stage 3

The third stage will focus on areas currently under the management of Parks Victoria. These will include the Port Campbell Jetty, the Port Campbell National Park, the Arches Marine Sanctuary and the Twelve Apostles Marine National Park. Across this region, there are areas with high environmental and local significance, and we will continue to work with the community and stakeholders to improve our understanding of the land prior to transfer. We are currently working with Parks Victoria to ensure continuity in the management and maintenance of the land.

Other areas, including the remaining area around the former Great Ocean Road and the Port Campbell foreshore, will transfer to the Authority from the Council once works for the Port Campbell Town Centre project have been completed.

Maps of the transfer areas are available at haveyoursay.greatoceanroadauthority.vic.gov.au/land-transfers

These maps will be updated as the project progresses.

What will change following the transfers?

We will work closely with DEECA, the Council and Parks Victoria to ensure the smooth transition of management responsibility for these parcels so the local community and visitors should not experience any change in the way they use the areas.

While our short-to-medium term management of this land will remain consistent with that applied by the previous land managers, we are engaging with community to best understand the areas and shape our management plans for the future.

We are committed to being transparent and accountable in our management of land for which we have responsibility. This includes working with and listening to the community and stakeholders to understand their views or concerns about land for which management responsibility is transferring.

We're also working with Traditional Owners to respect the cultural values and aspirations of the land and waters.

Who is the authority accountable to in its management of public coast and parks?

We are a statutory authority governed by a Board of Directors and operate under the Great Ocean Road and Environs Protection Act 2020.

As a statutory authority, we are accountable to the Minister for Environment. Our Board includes a nominee from each recognised Traditional Owner group in the region, the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation and the Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation, and all Board members have strong links to local community groups and organisations along the Great Ocean Road.

Further information on our Board is available on our website

Will my ability to access and use the land change?

Public access and use of these parcels will not change following the transfer of land management responsibility. Management and administration of the land will remain consistent with the requirements set out under the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978* and *National Parks Act 1975*, as appropriate.

How can I be involved in shaping the future land management of these areas?

As part of the land management transfers process we are seeking to understand what the community and stakeholders value most about these areas and their aspirations for future land management.

To have your say, share your valuable knowledge and to stay up to date with our land management transfer updates, please visit haveyoursay.greatoceanroadauthority.vic.gov.au/land-transfers

Feedback from the community, visitors and stakeholders will help shape how we manage these parcels in the future.

Who can I contact if I have any questions about the land management transfers?

Enquiries relating to these land management transfers and future land management transfers should be directed to the Authority.

Phone: 1300 736 533

Email: info@greatoceanroadauthority.vic.gov.au

Why is management responsibility being transferred in stages?

The transfer of management responsibility for parcels vary in complexity due to the purpose of use, zonings, environmental considerations and maintenance requirements, which will take time to work through to ensure a smooth transition of management responsibilities.

How are the land parcels selected for management responsibility transfer?

The *Great Ocean Road and Environs Protection Act 2020* sets out the management responsibility of public land reserves and *National Parks Act 1975* land located within the Great Ocean Road coast and parks region that will be transferred to our organisation by 1 November 2025. The boundaries of the public land or marine areas are outlined in separate titles and individually surveyed. This work is undertaken in line with existing State Government processes for the treatment of public land.

Is the Authority responsible for the Great Ocean Road in these areas?

The Great Ocean Road is funded and maintained by VicRoads. Any issues related to the Great Ocean Road should be forwarded directly to VicRoads by calling 13 11 70 or by visiting their website –

www.vicroads.vic.gov.au

Will these land management transfers impact nearby private land?

There are no impacts on adjacent or nearby private landowners / freehold land. Management is being transferred for public land only.

Useful resources:

- [The land we manage Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority \(greateoceanroadauthority.vic.gov.au\)](http://greateoceanroadauthority.vic.gov.au)
- [Great Ocean Road and Environs Protection Act 2020 \(legislation.vic.gov.au\)](http://legislation.vic.gov.au)
- [Great Ocean Road Action Plan \(planning.vic.gov.au\)](http://planning.vic.gov.au)