

Great Ocean Road Coastal Trail Design

Section 8 - Grey River to Skenes Creek

Community input is invited to help finalise the route and facilities for a new coastal walking trail.

Planning is underway to deliver the Great Ocean Road Coastal Trail from Fairhaven to Skenes Creek.

The Great Ocean Road region showcases some of Australia's most spectacular rainforests, rivers and waterfalls.

We are delivering an iconic new coastal walking trail on Gadabunud Country, Eastern Maar Nation, along the Great Ocean Road from Fairhaven to Skenes Creek. Once complete, approximately 90km of existing and new trails will link up the Surf Coast Walk and the Great Ocean Walk.

Multiple suspension bridges will provide never before seen views and new 'all seasons' walking experiences for locals and tourists to enjoy the region while appreciating the continuing Aboriginal heritage of Gadabunud Country.

The Great Ocean Road Coastal Trail will provide a 4-6 day long hike, half-day walks and shorter loop trails. This is expected to increase visitor spend in the region, with the trail linking together local townships and extending tourism opportunities throughout the year.

The trail is being planned through a partnership of DELWP, the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority, Parks Victoria and Traditional Owners, the Eastern Maar Peoples.

Project planning

Stakeholder and community engagement is required to develop a Trail Masterplan.

Community feedback was sought in 2019 about the trail's potential opportunities, benefits and challenges. This helped to refine initial concept designs.

We now need community knowledge and opinion to inform decisions about:

- the route for the walking trail, associated walking loops and key features, e.g. new suspension bridges and lookouts
- the location and scale of facilities, e.g. car parks, toilets and camping areas.

For planning and engagement purposes, the project has been split into eight sections. This Fact Sheet relates to Section 8, from Grey River to Skenes Creek.

Section	To/From
1	Fairhaven to Spout Creek
2	Spout Creek to Lily Pond Bushland Reserve
3	Lily Pond Bushland Reserve to Cumberland River
4	Cumberland River to Jamieson Creek (this Fact Sheet)
5	Jamieson Creek to Wye River
6	Wye River to Kennett River (this Fact Sheet)
7	Kennett River to Grey River (this Fact Sheet)
8	Grey River to Skenes Creek (this Fact Sheet)

Grey River to Skenes Creek

This section of the trail has not been funded for construction, as further investigations are needed.

This section of the trail will be approximately 15.5km long. The route will hug the coastline and is a mix of beach and trail walking all the way to Skenes Creek.

From Grey River, the trail will cross the Great Ocean Road to the coastal side, heading towards Cape Patton. It will then cross the Great Ocean Road and head up 'The Rise' for 3.5km via a new trail section, before arriving at Carisbrook Falls.

The trail will then descend to Carisbrook River, following it for 500m to the car park. The walk will then cross the Great Ocean Road to return to the ocean side for a stretch of about 10-11km of beachside walking.

From Skenes Creek a walking trail to Apollo Bay is currently being planned by Colac Otway Shire.



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Loop walk

A short loop walk is proposed from Grey River to Cape Patton. It will start at the Grey River car park, along a track to the beach, and will then head south on the beach for 500m. The walk will then climb off the beach and onto a plain at the base of Cape Patton before winding its way north to connect back to beach access track and car park.

How you can be involved

Continuing to involve communities, local groups and organisations with an interest in the future of the Great Ocean Road will ensure the trail's design is well-informed and takes advantage of the best opportunities.

You can share your ideas and local knowledge with the project team at community consultation sessions in October 2021, online at www.engage.vic.gov.au/trail-design or by emailing coastaltrails@delwp.vic.gov.au

The design team will also consult with working groups, including councils, community and business representatives, government departments and authorities.

More information

Visit the DELWP website for background information and updates [Great Ocean Road Coastal Trail \(forestsandreserves.vic.gov.au\)](http://forestsandreserves.vic.gov.au)

Visit Engage Victoria (www.engage.vic.gov.au/trail-design) to:

- Find out about, and register for, community consultation events for all sections of the trail (see below)
- Read background documents that detail the work done to date
- Follow the page to receive email updates as the project progresses.

If COVID restrictions prevent face-to-face sessions, community engagement will occur online. So that we can keep you up to date, please register your attendance at Engage Victoria.

We'd like to hear your thoughts on:

- **The trail** e.g. the route from Grey River to Skenes Creek, the new section up 'The Rise' and along to Carisbrook Falls, the existing Carisbrook Falls walk, and the return loop walk to Cape Patton.
- **The features** e.g. The Great Ocean Road crossings at Grey River, Cape Patton and Carisbrook Falls.
- **The current facilities** e.g. car parking at Grey River and Carisbrook Falls, as well as toilets and camping facilities in this section.
- **Where we could put new facilities** e.g. new car parks, toilets and camping facilities in this section from Grey River to Skenes Creek.

Questions specific to each section of the trail can be answered in the online survey at www.engage.vic.gov.au/trail-design

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