

# Media Release

**The Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP**

Minister for Energy, the Environment and Climate Change  
Minister for Solar Homes



Wednesday, 8 September 2021

## PROTECTING VICTORIA'S ICONIC GREAT OCEAN ROAD

The Victorian Government introduced legislation in Parliament today that will ensure the iconic Great Ocean Road is protected by reforming how the road's coast and parks are managed.

Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change Lily D'Ambrosio introduced the *Great Ocean Road and Environs Protection Bill 2021* into the Parliament – the second of two bills to implement reforms in the *Great Ocean Road Action Plan*.

The Bill makes the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority, established last year, the dedicated parks manager for coastal Crown land from Torquay to Warrnambool – with similar functions, powers and obligations as Parks Victoria.

The small area of National Parks transferred to the Authority along the road will continue to be managed under the *National Parks Act* in partnership with Parks Victoria, with no change to their status or obligation to be managed as an area designated for conservation.

The Victorian Government has provided more than \$28 million to deliver the reforms, including \$19 million for the Authority to deliver upgrades to tourism infrastructure.

Before the reforms, management arrangements were fragmented, with no over-arching plan or single authority covering the entire length of the road.

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, Lily D'Ambrosio

*"The Great Ocean Road is one of the country's most iconic destinations, but it is facing challenges including managing the numbers of visitors and climate change impacts."*

*"We are acting to ensure it is managed properly and protected into the future."*

### Quote attributable to Member for South Barwon Darren Cheeseman

*"These reforms will help the region long-term and ensure it bounces back from the impacts of the Coronavirus by supporting local jobs, driving investment and better managing the visitor experience."*

### Quote attributable to Member for Western Victoria Gayle Tierney

*"These reforms will deliver a more coordinated approach that will benefit local communities and businesses and ensure the amazing environment is protected for future generations."*