

Media Release

Jaclyn Symes MLC

Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

Treasurer

Minister for Industrial Relations

Minister for Regional Development



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TAKING APOLLO BAY'S HISTORIC HARBOUR INTO THE FUTURE

The Allan Labor Government is charting a course for the future of Apollo Bay Harbour, with the finalisation of a critical redevelopment plan that will honour the precinct's maritime history and support commercial operations.

Minister for Regional Development Jaclyn Symes has now released the plan, describing the document as a key step in the revitalisation of the beloved precinct, which is backed by \$12.6 million from the Australian Government.

The redevelopment project is part of the Geelong City Deal, a \$676 million initiative between the Australian and Victorian Governments and local councils to unlock the Great Ocean Road's considerable economic potential.

The plan identifies a range of redevelopment opportunities and options, including improved public spaces such as a viewing deck over the Port Operations Depot to showcase the area's spectacular coastal scenery.

Apollo Bay visitors will also benefit from improvements to the Mothers Beach carpark and better pedestrian connections into town and around the precinct, while observing familiar and iconic features, such as a whale shark sculpture created for the 2006 Commonwealth Games and a southern rock lobster mural.

Importantly, the Fisherman's Cooperative building will be expanded to include new dining options; the return of the wet fish market and an outdoor terrace with additional space and seating for locals and visitors to enjoy the Co-op's famous fish and chips.

The plan also outlines improvements to the Port Operations Depot, including a new workshop and a new public toilet with a Changing Places restroom to provide an accessible facility for visitors. There will also be a provision for a new marine search-and-rescue boat storage shed close to the boat ramp.

The Apollo Bay Harbour is integral to the town's history and identity, from its early establishment to its principal fishing industry and the iconic 77-year-old Fishing Co-op.

The final precinct plan has been shaped by extensive community and stakeholder consultation, with the final document incorporating the vision and aspirations of Apollo Bay residents to retain the historic working character of the port throughout the harbour redevelopment process.

The project will be delivered by the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority (GORCAPA). Further information about the plan is available at www.haveyoursay.greatoceanroadauthority.vic.gov.au

Quotes attributable to Minister for Regional Development Jaclyn Symes

"I'm delighted to see this highly anticipated plan finalized in consultation with the community, to ensure it recognises the history of the harbour precinct, while providing fantastic new facilities for its future."

"We have a vision for the future of the Great Ocean Road and are investing in projects that will strengthen the community and support industry, businesses and jobs."

Quotes attributable to Minister for Environment Steve Dimopoulos

"This terrific project will mean real benefits for local residents and visitors, as well as delivering essential improvements for the port and its workers."

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“The look and feel of the new Co-op and depot building really reflects the community’s feedback – it’s a subtle, yet meaningful, change that honours and highlights the rich history of the site.”

Quotes attributable to Federal Labor Senator for Victoria Raff Ciccone

“The Albanese Government’s \$12.6 million investment will improve visitor experiences and public spaces, supporting recreation, tourism and economic opportunities in this wonderful region.”

“This is a strong example of governments at all levels working together to create long-term benefits for communities in Wannon.”