Community Values Study

Cape to Cape Resilience Project





Environment, Land, Water and Planning











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Photo credit

Various - Many of the photos throughout this document have been submitted by community members as part of our engagement activities. We thank them for sharing these images with us for this project.

Acknowledgment

We acknowledge and respect Victorian Traditional Owners as the original custodians of Victoria's land and waters, their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it. We honour Elders past and present whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices.

We are committed to genuinely partner, and meaningfully engage, with Victoria's Traditional Owners and Aboriginal communities to support the protection of Country, the maintenance of spiritual and cultural practices and their broader aspirations in the 21st century and beyond.



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Glossary of terms

Community en	gagement terminology
Community	A group of individuals who share a common sense of belonging and where there is a level of trust between members:
	Geographic – based around where people live, such as neighbourhood, suburb, town or region
	 Interest – based around common interests such as conservation, community connection and improvement or recreation interest
	 Identity – based on sharing a common identity such as age, culture or lifestyle
	The Cape to Cape community encompasses everyone who lives, works, visits and cares for the Cape to Cape region.
Community engagement	Refers to the planned and unplanned ways we (DELWP and consultants) interact and relate to our partners, stakeholders and communities. Community engagement is undertaken across many aspects of the project and to achieve a range of outcomes, including capturing of values and aspirations; participation in decisions, actions or outcomes; building and maintaining relationships; and increasing community capacity for planning, action and learning.
Community values	For this Community Values Study, a value is something that is important and meaningful to someone. A coastal value exists when an aspect of the coast is significant (of value) to a stakeholder. This can include cultural, environmental, social and/or economic aspects.
Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAP)	Body corporates approved to deal with Aboriginal heritage matters on behalf of the relevant Traditional Owners within the RAP area. The members of the body corporate are Traditional Owners. Registered Aboriginal Parties for the entire study area have not been determined by the Aboriginal Heritage Council. Bunurong Land Council are the Registered Aboriginal Party for parts of the Cape to Cape coastal and estuarine areas (see Figure 4).
Stakeholders	Described as any individual, group of individuals, organisation, or political entity with an interest or stake in the outcome of a decision.
Traditional Owners	People with traditional and customary rights in a particular part of the land. Some Aboriginal Traditional Owner groups have also had these rights recognised by the Australian legal system under a Native Title determination (Commonwealth) or a Traditional Owner Settlement Agreement (Victoria).
Coastal hazard	adaptation terminology
Coastal hazards	Natural coastal processes that may negatively impact on the marine and coastal environment, including impacts on human use, values, property or infrastructure. Hazards include coastal erosion and inundation (flooding) due to storm tide and sea level rise.
Coastal vulnerability	The susceptibility of people and places along the coast to adverse impacts from coastal hazards. Includes the degree of exposure, and ability to cope with, respond to and adapt to coastal hazards.
Risk assessment	A systematic process of evaluating the potential risks (likelihood and consequence) of coastal hazards, helping to inform a response and adaptation actions.
Resilience	The capacity of social, economic, and environmental systems to cope with a hazardous event, trend or disturbance, responding or reorganising in ways that maintain their essential function, identity, and structure, while also maintaining the capacity for adaptation, learning, and transformation.
Adaptation	The process of adjustment to actual or expected disturbances such as coastal hazards. In human systems, adaptation seeks to proactively manage or avoid harm or make use of beneficial opportunities. Some natural systems may benefit from human intervention in helping to facilitate these adjustment process.
Coastal adaptation	Future modification of behaviour through change in coastal land management, land-use or infrastructure, that reduces or prevents adverse impacts associated with coastal hazards.
i	Further definitions of terms relevant to coastal hazard adaptation and the Cape to Cape Resilience Project can be found on the Cape to Cape Resilience Project website:



Introduction

Project context

The coastline around Inverloch, Venus Bay and Anderson Inlet is a beautiful and dynamic part of the landscape. Natural processes such as winds, waves, tides, currents and catchment flows move sand and sediments, reshaping the coastline. These processes sometimes impact on places and things we value, and the way we use the coast.

The coastline at and around Inverloch has experienced significant erosion (sand loss) in recent years. Public assets, infrastructure and community values are at risk of damage and loss. In other areas, sand has accumulated, creating larger sandy beaches.

In response to the recent changes along the coastline, a Regional and Strategic Partnership (RaSP) was established in August 2020, led by DELWP. The RaSPs are a new tool under the *Marine and Coastal Act 2018* that bring stakeholders together on regionally significant issues. The Inverloch RaSP is the first created under the new Act and brings together Traditional Owners and nine agencies (Table 1). They each have a role in managing coastal and foreshore values, assets and infrastructure around Inverloch.

To prepare and proactively plan for future changes to the coastline, the RaSP is delivering the Cape to Cape Resilience Project.



This project

Overseen by the Inverloch RaSP, the Cape to Cape Resilience Project is a coastal hazard adaptation project that combines the latest science, technical assessments and community aspirations to develop a long-term plan to manage important coastal places, assets and other values in the future.

The project includes:	The expected outcomes of the project include:
 New research through a Coastal Hazard Assessment (CHA), 	 Identification of coastal hazards from Cape Paterson to Cape Liptrap and the extent of potential impact
• Extensive community engagement and Community Values Study (this document)	Inundation, erosion and groundwater data and hazard mapping for the region
 A coastal risk and vulnerability assessment, and 	 Stakeholders have up-to-date information to inform planning decisions and management of assets Community values have influenced the direction of the research.
 Coastal resilience planning to develop the Cape to Cape 	management strategies and resilience planning
Resilience Plan (a medium to long term plan including adaptation	management strategies
pathways and implementation).	 Strategic approach to plan short, medium and long-term management of this coastline (<5 years, 5 – 25 years, >25 years, respectively).

The Community Values Study

This Community Values Study is a key initial study for this project (Figure 1). It will provide a basis for better understanding the community's values, priorities and perspectives in the context of adaptation and resilience planning for the coastal areas of the Cape to Cape region. The Community Values Study has an important role in informing technical and strategic work at various stages of the broader project.



Figure 1. Cape to Cape Resilience Project timeline (Community Values Study highlighted)

The community has a strong connection with the local coastal areas, from Cape Paterson to Cape Liptrap. Individuals hold a range of values that influence how they behave and interact with their coastal areas. Understanding what people love and enjoy about their coastlines and how they use these areas, is key to ensuring decision making on management and planning, is appropriate for this community and environment, and aligns with their core values.

The purpose of this Community Values Study is to build and document a shared understanding of the values, experiences and relationships that the Cape to Cape community has with this coastline. Together with the Cultural Values Assessment and Coastal Hazard Assessment, this study will inform and shape various elements of the technical and strategic assessments, including risk and vulnerability, economic analyses, development of suitable adaptation options, and region-wide coastal resilience planning.

The values of other key stakeholders and agencies, including the members of RaSP, will also be considered at part of the project. However, the focus of this document is on the values of the Cape to Cape community.

What do we mean by values?

In the context of this Community Values Study, a value is something that is important and meaningful to someone. A coastal value exists when an aspect of the coast is significant (of value) to a stakeholder. This can include cultural, environmental, social and/or economic aspects. It is important to note that this definition carries an assumption that values are represented by people. The Marine and Coastal Policy (DELWP, 2020) vision also asserts that marine and coastal ecosystems are valued in their own right.

Values represent important individual and collective judgements about what in this world and this life is truly important, worthwhile, and meaningful (Jones *et al.*, 2016). Their basis and motivation can vary, and may potentially derive from a person's worldview, an attachment to specific places or landscapes, or from interactions between people, places and the natural world.

In the coastal environment, community values can be wide-ranging, from physical features or assets, services and activities that coastal areas support, and feelings these areas evoke, through to sentiments triggered by a coastal setting. Some values can also be hard to articulate, perhaps of sensory nature or in

the thoughts or inspiration they conjure. There are many views across the community, which means there may also be individual values that are potentially in conflict with each other.

It is important to hear from a diversity of people and perspectives to ensure a strong understanding of the range of interests, values and aspirations the community hold for the region, and to help tailor the approach to adaptation planning.

How can we use these values?

Community values have an essential role in developing adaptation and resilience planning. Each aspect of this Cape to Cape Resilience Project is to be grounded in the knowledge and understanding of what the community value about this coastline. These values form the foundation of how we develop objectives for managing the coast, approaches to manage risk, and decisions made around adaptation.

Values are embedded in all investigations and assessments being undertaken as part of the Cape to Cape Resilience Project (Figure 2).

By undertaking a Community Values Study early on, it provides necessary foundations and knowledge to use throughout the broader project, identifying valuable areas, assets and sentiments for consideration. It also emphasises why it is worthwhile focussing time and resources into understanding and managing these areas.

Coastal hazards can and are currently threatening some community values. We can quantify or measure the threat by understanding or predicting the consequence or impact that various coastal hazard types may have on the values, and the risks may they pose. This can include both economic assessments to estimate the monetary worth of values and associated damages/costs that may arise without hazard management, and risk assessments to determine vulnerable assets and areas.

This understanding can help identify and justify where management and adaptation measures may be necessary to alleviate these impacts and protect values over time.

There are many ways to manage a coastline and coastal hazard impacts. Values must be part of the discussion when determining feasibility of management options. There are some management options which, while functional in addressing a threat, may not align with (or are even detrimental to) one or more values. It is important to continually reflect on the community values that we are trying to manage, protect or enhance.

Development of a strategic, proactive response to manage coastal hazard impacts and increase the resilience of this coastline, must consider values to shape an approach that is consistent with the community's current and future aspirations for these coastal areas.



Figure 2. Embedded nature of community values across the project studies

Approach

This section provides an overview of the study area extent and details on how information is being gathered and analysed to form an understanding of the coastal values of stakeholders and community for the project.

The Cape to Cape region

The study area for the Cape to Cape Resilience Project is between Cape Paterson and Cape Liptrap on the south Gippsland Coast (Figure 3). The study area includes the towns of Inverloch, Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower. The north and western parts of the study area, west of the Pound Creek waterway, lie within the Bass Coast Shire Local Government Area (LGA), while the southern and eastern portions lie within the South Gippsland Shire LGA.

The coastal area of interest includes:

- The open coast from Cape Paterson west along the coastal cliffs towards Inverloch
- The open foreshore and surf beach at Inverloch
- The dynamic estuaries and tidal mudflats of Anderson Inlet
- The open coast and dunes of Venus Bay south to Cape Liptrap
- Inland from the coastline, allowing for assessment of estuary and groundwater impacts.



Figure 3. Cape to Cape Resilience Project area

Methodology

This Community Values Study looks to capture a sense of what is special and significant to this community in these environments.

It has been developed utilising input from various sources, to better understand and appreciate some of the many coastal and marine values for this region.

Importantly, this includes using insights and knowledge from individuals within the Cape to Cape region and its surrounds. However, perspectives and experiences across Victoria and nationally have also provided useful and relevant supporting context for the analysis.

The study has included a literature review and program of engagement events and activities to gather perspectives from a broad range of community stakeholders.



Background literature review

A review of background information was undertaken, including existing policies, plans and strategies, Statewide and regional assessments, census and existing survey data, and previous studies undertaken around the study area. Key documents and data reviewed include:

- Council strategies and plans for both South Gippsland and Bass Coast Shires including:
 - Whole of Council plans and community visions
 - Environment, biodiversity and climate change strategies and action plans
 - Visitor economy and tourism strategies
 - Economic development strategies
 - Open space and recreation strategies
- Census data including population, demographics and housing tenure
- South Gippsland Conservation Society's Inverloch Coastal Resilience Project and consultant reports – see Text Box 1
- Regional plans and studies such as:
 - o Gippsland Regional Plan 2020-2025
 - o Regional catchment and waterway strategies
 - State-wide studies and assessments, such as:
 - Victorian Marine and Coastal Community Attitudes and Behaviours Research Study (Wave 5) – see Text Box 3 (section 2)
 - Assessment of the values of Victoria's Marine Environment

While the focus of this study is the community values of those within and connected to the Cape to Cape region, the document review has also sought to understand coastal communities and their values more broadly.

This includes gaining an understanding of the values, behaviours and attitudes of neighbouring communities and broader Gippsland, Victorian, Australian and international coastal communities facing similar challenges.









Text box 1: Inverloch Coastal Resilience Project

In 2018 the South Gippsland Conservation Society (SGCS) started the Inverloch Coastal Resilience Project to raise awareness of the coastline erosion occurring at Inverloch since 2012. They have been monitoring coastline changes at Inverloch Surf Beach and Anderson Inlet, analysing factors contributing to changes, and identifying impacts on environmental and community values.

This included four separate reports on this study area:

- ecological values
- coastal geomorphology
- Aboriginal cultural heritage
- preliminary economic assessment.

An overarching summary document was also produced.

Community values

Through this project, the SGCS has also worked to engage the local community and stakeholders through a range of events and activities. A public exhibition was held to share outcomes of the Inverloch Coastal Resilience Project. They also gathered a range of perspectives via a community survey, that have been consider in this study.

Key values-related outcomes of the survey include:

- **93%** of people rated visiting the beach among their top three favourite activities in Inverloch
- 73% of people rated sightseeing and coastal walks among their top three favourite activities in Inverloch.
- 81% of people said the natural setting was extremely important to their experience at Inverloch surf beach



Inverloch Coastal Resilience Project

The most commonly cited favourite beach activities were:

- Beach walks
- Water activities
- Nature appreciation / sunset viewing





The **Aboriginal Cultural Heritage** study also highlighted 15 Aboriginal places located at or around the coastal reserve at Inverloch, noting that many more sites may be unknown.

Landscape and erosion context: The coastal geomorphology study undertaken as part of the Inverloch Coastal Resilience Project highlights the uniqueness of the coast in the region and some of the recent changes observed.

The coast in and around Inverloch includes:

- Shore platforms, coastal bluffs, marine terraces, sand beaches and backshore sand ridges
- Anderson Inlet, a large barrier-defined tidal inlet with mixed marine, estuarine and riverine processes
- Coastal landforms of state geoscience significance



Observed changes include:

- History of recession and accretion between the 1970s and 1990s near Ozone Street
- Widespread recession between Flat Rocks and Ozone Street since 2013
- Accretion of the coastline east of Ozone Street
- · Changes to estuary and lagoons along the coast

Source: South Gippsland Conservation Society sgcs.org.au/icrp.php

Text Box 2:

State-wide coastal attitudes context

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) undertakes research into community attitudes and behaviours in relation to coastal and marine environments. There have so far been five 'waves' of the Victorian Marine and Coastal Community Attitudes and Behaviours Research Study. These studies were conducted in 1996, 2000, 2007, 2011 and the latest in 2018.

The objectives of the studies are to:

- understand and track community views toward the Victorian coast and marine environments
- identify community values, issues and concerns related to these environments
- contribute to informing future policy, planning and management of the Victorian coast
- refresh and, where possible, contribute to the previous research data.

The research explores what and how different kinds of activities pose a threat to marine and coastal environments, as well as attitudes towards key challenges including climate change, population growth and coastal development. The latest wave of research informed the Marine and Coastal Policy (2020) and draft Marine and Coastal Strategy (2021).

The outcomes of the latest wave of research include:

55%of people cited walking/hiking as their most common activity48%Of people believed they would be affected by climate change in the next five years85%Of people agreed that Victoria's coastal and marine error trunnent should be more carefully arror trunnent should be more carefully arror trunnent should be more carefully areas likely to be affected by sea level rise should be responsible for managing their own riskImage: The top five values of Victoria's marine and coastal environment were reported as:Image: The top five functions of Victoria's marine and coastal environment were reported as:Image: The top five values of Victoria's marine and coastal environment were reported as:Image: The top five functions of Victoria's marine and coastal environment were reported as:Image: The top five values of Victoria's marine and coastal environment were reported as:Image: The top five functions of Victoria's marine and coastal environment were reported as:Image: The top five functions of Victoria's marine and coastal environment were reported as:Image: The top five functions of Victoria's marine and coastal environment were reported as:Image: The top five functions of Victoria's marine and coastal environment were reported as:Image: The top five functions of Victoria's marine and coastal environment were reported as:Image: The top five functions of Victoria's marine and coastal environment were reported as:Image: The top five functions of Victoria's marine and coastal environment were reported as:Image: The top five functions of Victoria's marine and coastal environment were reported as:Image: The top five functions of Victoria's marine and fount environmentImage: The top five functions of Victoria's marine and coastal environment were reported as	80%	of people rated Victoria's coastal and marine environment as the State's most important natural feature		75%	of respondents agreed that sea level rise poses a threat to Victoria's coastal and marine environment in the coming decades
 85% Of people agreed that Victoria's coastal and marine error ment should be more carefully marged The top five values of Victoria's marine and coastal environment were reported as: Natural beauty Pristine beaches Wildlife/marine life Accessibility and facilities Quiet and peacefulness Contributing to the economy via tourism 	55%	% of people cited walking/hiking as their most common activity		48%	Of people believed they would be affected by climate change in the next five years
 ✓ The top five values of Victoria's marine and coastal environment were reported as: ✓ Natural beauty ✓ Pristine beaches ✓ Wildlife/marine life ✓ Accessibility and facilities ✓ Quiet and peacefulness ✓ Contributing to the economy via tourism 	85% Of people agreed that Victoria's coastal and marine environment should be more carefully managed		56%	of people agreed that individuals who live in coastal areas likely to be affected by sea level rise should be responsible for managing their own risk	
Contributing to the economy via tourism	 The top five values of Victoria's marine and coastal environment were reported as: Natural beauty Pristine beaches Wildlife/marine life Accessibility and facilities Quiet and peacefulness 		00	 The top five functions of Victoria's marine and coastal environment were reported as: Providing habitat for flora and fauna Providing a place where people can experience nature Providing a place for people to spend leisure time Providing a physical buffer to protect the natural and built environment 	
					Contributing to the economy via tourism

Inverloch was reported to have the 14th highest frequency of visitation, with 4% of overall respondents reporting it as the most recent coastal location they visited.

Source: Wave 5 – Marine and Coastal Community Attitudes and Behaviours Research <u>marineandcoasts.vic.gov.au/home/wave-5-marine-and-coastal-community-attitudes-and-behaviours-research</u>



The community

The northern and western parts of the Cape to Cape region, north and west of the Tarwin River are formally recognised as the lands of the Bunurong People, represented by the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation. Traditional Owners for the remainder of the study area have not been formally recognised by the Aboriginal Heritage Council. The Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, Boon Wurrung Foundation, and Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation all have connections and interests in the catchment and coastal areas of this region.

Clans known to inhabit the area around Cape Paterson and Inverloch include the Yallock Bulluk Bunurong and the Yowenjerre Bunurong. Conflict between the Yowenjerre and European settlers, sealers and neighbouring clans, together with European diseases, caused rapid decline in the population by the 1840s and the last families left to join other tribes in the Melbourne area (IHS, 2021). Since the 1840s, numerous events have shaped the region we know today including initial European settlement, nearby coal mining, and expansion of the region as a tourism destination.

The major population centres in and around the Cape to Cape region now include Cape Paterson, Inverloch, Middle Tarwin, Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay. The region is also split between two local councils, Bass Coast Shire Council to the west of Pound Creek, and South Gippsland Shire Council to the east and south. Coastal management is a shared responsibility between a range of managing agencies including these councils, Parks Victoria and DELWP.

The towns and villages of the region hold the appeal of a seaside town, but also have a vibrant and positive atmosphere, with a strong sense of community. There are numerous festivals, farmers markets, art galleries, shops, cafes and restaurants, with the creative community welcoming visitors, holiday makers and long-term residents. More about the history, demographics and tourism in the region is provided in sections below.

Stakeholders

Stakeholders have an important role to play throughout the Cape to Cape Resilience Project and beyond.

What do we mean by stakeholders?

A stakeholder is any individual, organisation or group of organisations that has an interest in the project. This includes those who:

- Have a direct influence over, or are required to participate in, any decisions and discussions as part of the Cape to Cape Resilience Project
- Can contribute knowledge and advice to improve understanding of coastal hazards and the potential adaptation options
- Will experience benefits or costs associated with managing coastal hazards in the Cape to Cape region
- Have an interest in the process or its outcomes

Our key stakeholders for the project are the Regional and Strategic Partnership members, Traditional Owner groups, the Stakeholder Reference Group and the broader community.

Regional and Strategic Partnership

The Inverloch Regional and Strategic Partnership (Inverloch RaSP) is the first to be created under the new Act and was formally gazetted on 6th August 2020 by the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, the Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio. The Inverloch RaSP brings together Traditional Owners with nine agencies (Table 1), each with a role in the management of coastal and foreshore values, assets and infrastructure around Inverloch and the Cape to Cape region.

Table 1. Inverloch Regional and Strategic Partnership members

RaSP member		Reason for selection
For Sevenement. End Weter and Planning	Department of Environment, Land, Water, and Planning	Lead partner agency
	Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation	Registered Aboriginal Party - Traditional Owner responsible for representing Bunurong community and protecting cultural and heritage values
State Covenant	Department of Transport	Manager of adjacent land and infrastructure affected by erosion
BASS	Bass Coast Shire Council	Local Government authority and land manager for parts of the affected coast
HERITAGE VICTORIA HERITAGE VICTORIA HERITAGE VICTORIA	Heritage Victoria	Manager of non-Indigenous heritage places including the historic shipwreck Amazon (1863)
	Gippsland Ports	Anderson Inlet waterway manager
Parks	Parks Victoria	Local land manager for parts of affected coast
South Gippsland Shire Connet!	South Gippsland Shire Council	Local Government authority and land manager for parts of affected coast
South Gippsland Water	South Gippsland Water	Manager of land and infrastructure affected by erosion
West Glippsland Castrante Management Automy	West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority	Agency responsible for providing coastal erosion advice under the <i>Marine and Coastal Act</i> 2018

Traditional Owner Group/Representatives

The Bunurong people, represented by the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (BLCAC), are formally recognised as Traditional Owners for land areas of the north and west of the Tarwin River (Figure 4). As the Registered Aboriginal Party, the Victorian *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* recognises BLCAC as the primary guardians, keepers and knowledge holders of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage for this area.

Currently, Traditional Owners for the land south and east of the Tarwin River, including Venus Bay, Cape Liptrap Waratah Bay and Wilsons Promontory have not been formally recognised by the Aboriginal Heritage Council. Both Bunurong and Gunaikurnai peoples have cultural connections to this area and are represented by BLCAC, the Boon Wurrung Foundation and Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Council (GLaWAC). GLaWAC are the Registered Aboriginal Party for much of Gippsland, including the coast and lakes east of Deep Creek, near Port Franklin.

Further information about Aboriginal culture of the region is provided in sections below.

Stakeholder Reference Group

The Stakeholder Reference Group (SRG) is an independent group that support the Cape to Cape Resilience Project. The group includes invited stakeholders and community members selected through expressions of interest. The SRG ensure representation of community views and needs. They assist two-way information flow and communication between the RaSP and the community.

With 16 representatives, the group brings together community members from a diversity of backgrounds. It includes Traditional Owner representatives, as well as people with a wide range of experience and/or

interests including conservation and the environment, tourism, recreation, public safety, regional history, coastal processes and science.

Broader community

Cape to Cape region's broader community includes:

- Residents of Inverloch, Tarwin Lower, Venus Bay and the surrounding communities.
- People who live elsewhere, but own property or a holiday home in the Cape to Cape region.
- People who work, study or operate their business in the region.
- Occasional visitors, tourists and holidaymakers to the region.

It is important to hear the diverse range of interests, values and aspirations among the community.



Inverloch Surf Beach

Understanding the region

This section provides regional context on how the community interacts with, responds to and behaves on this coastline. This understanding connects to values they hold for these areas. It includes aspects of Aboriginal culture, European history, environment, local economy (with a tourism focus), recreation and community demographics.

Aboriginal cultural connections

The following is a summary of historical accounts of Aboriginal culture and practices in and around the study area. It is derived from non-Indigenous historical sources and does not incorporate the oral history of the contemporary Aboriginal community. A separate Cultural Values Assessment is being undertaken by BLCAC as part of the project, as well as targeted workshops with other Traditional Owner groups.

Clan and group boundaries are dynamic in nature and are said to have changed over time. Land was not thought of as a commodity to be bought and sold, but rather a living entity to be cared for (Wilson and Ellender, 2002). Bunurong and Gunaikurnai peoples both have land and sea areas of cultural importance within the Cape to Cape study region.

The South Gippsland region, including the stretch of coastline north and west of the Tarwin River estuary, is formally recognised as the land of the Bunurong People of the Kulin nation. The Bunurong People are thought to include five separate clans. The Yallock-Bullock and Yowenjerre clans are understood to have occupied the area around the Bass River and the eastern-most side of Bunurong Land (VEAC, 2010). Today, land and sea Country continue to be a part of the identity of the Bunurong People.

The Bunurong People are sometimes known as the 'saltwater' people or 'coast' people and they got much of their food from the coastline and abundant marine resources. The coastal environment that forms much of

their traditional territory was the primary food source for the Bunurong (Ecology & Heritage Partners, 2016). The Bunurong were hunter gathers and women carried collecting bags and long digging sticks for digging tubers and collecting shellfish. Their reliance on coastal and marine food resources is evidenced by the number of middens found along the broader Bass, Westernport and Port Phillip Bay coastline. Included in these middens is evidence of fish, shellfish, freshwater mussels and crayfish (Ecology & Heritage Partners, 2016).

Further information about the coastal values Bunurong People will be included in a separate Cultural Values Assessment



Currently, Traditional Owners for the land south and east of the Tarwin River, including Venus Bay, Cape Liptrap, Waratah Bay and Wilsons Promontory have not been formally recognised by the Aboriginal Heritage Council, with Bunurong and Gunaikurnai people both having connection to these areas. The Brataualung clan, the westernmost clan of the Gunaikurnai, is associated with South Gippsland areas.

Early explorers noted that much of the land of Wilsons Promontory and surrounds was empty of people and apparently had been for some time. Around the time of European settlement, the Yowenjerre population declined due to disease, capture and removal of men and women by whalers and sealers, and conflict between the neighbouring Gunaikurnai clan (Wilson and Ellender, 2002). The population of the Aboriginal clans is uncertain. By some accounts it is thought there were only two members of the Yowenjerre clan left by the 1840s (Ellender, 2002), other accounts suggest by 1863, there were around 11 people of the Yowenjerre clan and 17 from the neighbouring Brataualung clan (SGSC, 2004). This is thought to be a decrease of around 95% of the population of the area within 20 years of European settlement (SGSC, 2004).

There is an opportunity to learn from marine and coastal knowledge and practices of Traditional Owner groups who have managed marine and coastal areas over time. Acknowledgement and appreciation of this history allows us to draw from such knowledge in future management approaches, protecting and enhancing what has come before, enabling its continuation in the future. Various studies have looked to understand more on the cultural history of these areas, and a range of strategies and initiatives are working to preserve these significant areas.

Gunaikurnai whole of Country values and objectives

Information from GLaWAC's Whole of Country Plan (GLaWAC, 2015)

Gunaikurnai people have occupied, used and managed coastal land and sea environments for many thousands of years. This include areas that were once dry land, but are now covered by sea, when sea levels rose thousands of years ago. As sea



levels rose and the low plains became submerged, Gunaikurnai ancestors would have used bark canoes to travel around the area and harvest fish. GLaWAC's 'Whole-of -Country' principles say that Country is linked, there is no separation between landscapes, waterways, coasts and oceans.

Coastal areas were among the mostly densely populated parts of Gunaikurnai Country. Rich in food resources from both land and sea, coastal areas provide a good place for people to live, camp and hunt, particularly older people. The coast also acts as a launching area for expeditions. This included travelling in bark canoes to harvest fish and other seafood at sustainable levels.

Areas of cultural sensitivity (Figure 4) are some of the formally documented and recognised culturally significant areas in the Cape to Cape region, noting that many more are likely to exist throughout the region. Boundaries of Registered Aboriginal Parties are also shown for the region.

A risk assessment for Aboriginal cultural heritage values was undertaken as part of the Inverloch Coastal Resilience Project (SGCS, 2019). The report concluded that several Aboriginal sites are at high to very high risk of destabilisation by sea level rise and associated erosion. Numerous archaeological sites include occupation sites at Morgan Creek, near Point Smythe and at Ten Mile Creek (VEAC, 2010). There is also potential for undiscovered sites to be found in these areas.



Figure 4. Registered Aboriginal Parties and mapped areas of cultural sensitivity in the Cape to Cape region.

Note: This map does not reflect all locations of cultural significance protected under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006, and that many more are likely to exist throughout the region. Areas shown are those mapped in Aboriginal Victoria's 'Areas of Cultural Sensitivity' spatial data.

European history

Following initial exploration, European settlement at Inverloch began in the 1840s, and the town was developing as both a port and seaside resort by the beginning of the 20th Century (Table 2). There have also been many accounts of erosion and floods affecting the coast during European settlement (Text Box 3).

Table 2. Some key events in the 1800s and 1900s history of the Cape to Cape region

Year	Key events and development
1802	French exploration of the Victorian coastline found an inlet, now known as Anderson Inlet, and a large bay, named Venus Bay (SGSC, 2004)
1800s - 1820s	Whalers and sealers travelled the coast hunting seals, sea lions and whales for fur, meat and oil (SGSC, 2004).
1840s	Overland exploration of the lower Tarwin and inlet by Samuel Anderson (SGSC, 2004). Anderson and others subsequently ran cattle and grew wheat in the area (IHS, 2021). Thomas Townsend and Henry and George Smythe survey the inlet and coastline from Cape Liptrap to Cape Paterson, naming several features - Townsends Bluff, Point Smythe, Eagles Nest and Petrel Rock (IHS, 2021).
1860s	In December 1963, bound for Mauritius from Melbourne, the barque <i>Amazon</i> wrecked at Inverloch, approximately 150 m west of the mouth of what is now known as Wreck Creek (IHS, 2021).
1870s	The Inverloch township (then known as Anderson Inlet) began to take form. The <i>Land Act</i> of 1869 paved the way for land selection and clearing, and much of the modern-day town is built on subdivisions of selections taken up at this time (IHS, 2021). Venus Bay originally named Evergreen.
1880s - 1890s	Anderson Inlet renamed as Inverloch (after Loch Inver in Scotland, meaning lake entrance) (IHS, 2021). Coal mines began operating in the area, with miners' cottages built in Inverloch. The town developed as a port that serviced local farms, the coal industry and as a seaside resort, with bath houses and a dedicated swimming area. Facilities such as a post office and school were opened (SGSC, 2004; IHS, 2021).
1900s - 1910s	In 1903, William Ferguson (of the Geological Survey of Victoria) carried out a geological survey of the Inverloch area and discovered Australia's first dinosaur bone. Wonthaggi coalfield came into operation in 1909, with Inverloch growing as a port to service the industry, shipping coal to Melbourne (SGSC, 2004).
1920s - 1930s	Inverloch jetty used for annual regattas, stalls, demonstrations and competitions, including the 'Miss Inverloch' competition. The 1936-37 Inverloch Carnival attracted visitors over summer and included highland dancing, illusion shows, races and sandcastle competitions. A five-month long miners' strike occurred in 1934. Miners' shacks were built at Shack Bay and Flat Rocks west of Inverloch.
1940s - 1960s	Venus Bay township officially named in 1940s and the estate was subdivided into 1500 blocks in 1959. Inverloch continues to build as a tourism destination, with foreshore camping up to the 1970s. After WW2, the original site of the Inverloch jetty filled with sand and a new jetty was built in 1956 and extended in 1977.
1970s - 1990s	Inverloch's popularity as a seaside destination continued to grow in the 1970 and 1980s. The Inverloch's foreshore continue to be readily used for camping until the late 1970s. During this same period, the road to Cape Paterson was sealed and the remaining miners' shacks were removed (IHS, 2021). The coastal communities continue to expand, through subdivision developments at Inverloch and Venus Bay.



Smythe's Anderson Inlet survey



Beach road, Inverloch circa 1920s



Inverloch pier, undated



Inverloch pier, 1920s



Aerial view, 1960s Photos: Victorian Collections

More recent coastal change, management and structures will be examined as part of the Coastal Hazard Assessment.

Text box 3: European accounts of past storms, erosion and management works

Coastal hazards at Inverloch are not a new issue, with newspaper articles from the 1890s,1900s and 1910s reporting on flooding and erosion around Inverloch and Anderson Inlet.

The Argus – Friday 29th September 1893

INVERLOCH, Tuesday

"A very severe storm commenced here on Sunday night and continued without break until yesterday. The lowlying lands were soon covered with water, and the small streams connecting the inlet became rivers, in several instances dangerous to cross on horseback. A flock of sheep and lambs belonging to Mr. G. Beilby was rescued with difficulty, by his manager from an island which the floods had formed in Screw Creek paddock."

trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/8696194

The Argus - SEA ENCROACHMENTS: DAMAGE AT INVERLOCH – Friday 20th July 1906

INVERLOCH, Thursday

"Sea encroachments are in progress, all along the foreshores enclosing Anderson's Inlet, and it is estimated that these have swept away fully a chain's width [around 20 m] of frontage during the past three years. In some places acres of land have been thus obliterated. Some years ago a small hut, built by a fisherman near to the Pound Creek jetty, stood high and dry, fully a chain distant from high-water mark. The sea gradually lessened the margin - foundations, water-rotted, gave way - and the little structure collapsed into the sea. The site on which it stood is now portion of the Inlet. These encroachments are not confined to one side of the beach but are common to the whole encircling shores. When the original surveys were made a minimum width of a chain and a half was reserved along the whole foreshore, rather more than half of this reserved space has disappeared, and the probability seems to be that the gradual expansion of the water surface will continue."

trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/9669888

Management of this erosion has also been occurring for over 100 years.

Great Southern Star (Leongatha) - Tuesday 4th May 1915

"A letter from the Hon. J. E: Mackey states that the Public Works Department have accepted a tender for the erection of timber sheeting at Inverloch, to protect the foreshore and roadway from erosion by the tides. The works are estimated to cost £250."

trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/89106698



Left: Wooden retaining wall at Inverloch, undated. Right: Eagles Nest, circa 1930.

Environment and ecosystems

The environment and ecosystems of the Cape to Cape region are diverse, with many unique habitats, supporting rich flora and fauna. These environments include the rocky caves and headlands around Cape Paterson, the sandy beaches and dunes around Inverloch, the shallow marshes of Anderson Inlet and barrier dune system along Venus Bay. The following section highlights some of the key locations and features of the Cape to Cape environment. Key native vegetation groups and marine environments are also mapped (Figure 5). The Inverloch coastal area within the Bass Coast Shire boundary has been declared as a Distinctive Area and Landscape (DAL) under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* for its unique attributes, including environmental, landscape and cultural significance.

Key locations and features of the Cape to Cape coastal and marine environment

Rocky shoreline between Inverloch and Cape Paterson

This stretch of coast is partly covered by the new Yallock-Bulluk Marine and Coastal Park which incorporates the previous Bunurong Coastal Reserve and Marine Park. These areas make up the largest continuous marine protected area in central Victoria and are home to several threatened species such as the Hooded Plover, Growling Grass Frog and Swamp Skink (Parks Victoria, 2006). The caves and rocks around Eagles Nest also provide habitat for breeding peregrine falcons (VEAC, 2019). Eagles Nest is recognised as a site of national geological and geomorphological significance, with opportunities for scientific investigation, education and fossil collection (Parks Victoria, 2006).

Inverloch foreshore dunes

The Inverloch foreshore and dune system has seen extensive clearing of native vegetation; however the narrow strip of native vegetation remains an important habitat and east-west bio-link, identified in the Bass Coast Biodiversity Biolinks Plan (BCSC, 2018). Remnant native vegetation consists of coastal dune scrub, with some significant species recorded in the vicinity (BCSC, 2014).

Anderson Inlet

Anderson Inlet is a Wetland of National Importance and East Asian-Australasian Shorebird Site (WGCMA, 2015). It is also recognised as a Birdlife Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) (Birdlife, undated). The region supports several bird species including chestnut teal, double-banded plover, eastern curlew, great knot, orange-bellied parrot, Pacific gull, and red-necked stint. Coastal vegetation includes important mangrove and saltmarsh communities. These coastal vegetation communities provide habitat and a buffer between the inlet and the terrestrial environment / infrastructure.

Cape Liptrap Coastal Park including Venus Bay beaches, and Point Smythe

Cape Liptrap Coastal Park was historically largely unmodified due to lack of agricultural value and therefore remains an important nature reserve. The Park includes extensive heathland and coastal forest communities along with providing habitat for many threatened flora and fauna species (Parks Victoria, 2003). Venus Bay beach and surrounding sandy beaches also provide important nesting and feeding areas for hooded plover, red-necked stints and sanderling (VEAC 2019).

Offshore and marine habitat

Protected marine areas in the region include areas covered by the new Yallock-Bulluk Marine and Coastal Park and Bunurong Marine National Park. A variety of offshore and marine habitats are protected in these areas, which are home to several threatened species. These habitats include extensive intertidal sandstone rock platforms and shallow subtidal rocky reefs. These platforms and reefs are somewhat unique from the rest of Victoria, extending several kilometres from shore. Areas of sandy seafloor also support seagrass, forming important fish habitat (VEAC, 2019; Parks Victoria, 2006).











The coastal processes of these environments will be examined as part of the Coastal Hazard Assessment.



Figure 5. Marine habitat and vegetation mapping for the Cape to Cape region.

Data sources: <u>https://seamapaustralia.org/map/</u> and <u>https://discover.data.vic.gov.au/dataset/native-vegetation-modelled-1750-ecological-vegetation-classes-with-bioregional-conservation-sta</u>

Tourism and recreation

Note: This information is being used to inform an understanding of community behaviours and motivations. Detailed economic analyses are to be undertaken at other stages of the Cape to Cape Resilience Project.

Tourism visitation data is available for the Wonthaggi-Inverloch and Foster (which includes Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower) statistical areas (TRA, 2020). Over the last 20 years, daytrips have increasing across the Gippsland region (Figure 6) and for the Inverloch region. The average number of daytrips in a financial year for the Wonthaggi-Inverloch and Foster region increasing from around 465,000 between 1999 and 2010 to around 686,000 between 2010 and 2020 an increase of nearly 50%. Daytrip visitation for the broader Gippsland region has also been steadily increasing over the last 15 years. Similarly, the number of overnight trips increased from 392,000 (1999 to 2010) to 488,000 (2010 to 2020).



Figure 6. Number of day trips (top) and overnight trips (bottom) for the Wonthaggi- Inverloch and Foster statistical areas over the last 20 years, with Gippsland (separate scale) for comparison. Source: Tourism Research Australia, 2020

The reasons for people gave for visiting the region are generally for holidaying or visiting friends or family (Figure 7). This is especially true for overnight trips where over the last 20 years only 7% of overnight trips have been for business or other purposes. Holidays accounted for around 53% of day trips and 69% of overnight trips. This is a higher percentage of holidaymakers compared to the Gippsland region as a whole where 46% of day trips and 49% of overnight trips are for a holiday.





Figure 7. Reasons people gave for visiting the Wonthaggi-Inverloch and Foster region for daytrips (top) and overnight stays (bottom)

Tourism is considered make an important contribution to the local economy. In the Cape to Cape area, tourism supports around 6-12% of total jobs, generates around 3-9% of total economic output. This is comparable to each local council as a whole (Table 3).

Table 3. Snapshot of jobs supported by tourism, economics output generated from tourism and value added by tourism for the region. Source: REMPLAN (2021)

	Inverloch	Bass Coast Shire	Foster (including Venus Bay, Fish Creek, Foster)	South Gippsland Shire	Gippsland region
Jobs supported by tourism	149	1,277	120	582	6,849
% of total jobs (No.)	12.8%	11.8%	6.1%	5.2%	6.5%
Economic output generated from tourism (\$ million)	\$31.5	\$252.5	\$24.7	\$111.4	\$1,326
% total of all economic output	9.2%	8.0%	3.4%	2.9%	3.6%
Value added by tourism (\$ million)	\$13.9	\$111.7	\$10.9	\$50.7	\$599.3
% of total value added by all industries	8.3%	7.4%	3.2%	3.0%	3.6%

Note: Statistical areas for data in this table are different from those in Figure 6 and Figure 7.

Both Bass Coast Shire and South Gippsland Shire councils recognise that tourism is a key part of their economies, and that the natural environment is a key drawcard to these regions. The West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority also recognise that Anderson Inlet and the surrounding estuaries are valued for their recreational uses; fishing, boating, swimming, walking and kayaking as well as bird watching (WGCMA, 2015). In 2003, Parks Victoria recorded 250,000 day visits to the Cape Liptrap Coastal Park a year, of which 200,000 are visiting Venus Bay beaches (Parks Victoria, 2003).

The proximity to the coast and natural beauty of the region make it a desirable place to live, work and visit. The beaches in and around the region have recreational value and are popular destinations for walking, swimming, surfing, other water sports, fishing, and bird watching. A wide range services, amenities and facilities act to support and promote recreation and leisure activities, enabling the community and visitors to enjoy and access the coast and water.

Key recreational features, facilities include National Parks and nature reserves, viewpoints, car parks, surf lifesaving clubs, angling and yachting clubs, picnic areas, walking tracks, boat ramps and caravan parks (Figure 8).



Figure 8. Recreational features and assets.

Data sources: digitised from Open Street Map and Google Maps, <u>https://discover.data.vic.gov.au/dataset/public-land-management-plm25</u> and <u>https://discover.data.vic.gov.au/dataset/coastal-boat-access-points-boat-ramps-boat-launches-boat-slipways</u>

Industry and economy

Land use in the area is dominated by grazing, agriculture and nature reserves, with residential and service/utility areas around the towns of Inverloch, Cape Paterson, Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay (Figure 10). The coastal zone is largely classed as nature conservation, except around Inverloch Surf Beach.

Industries are quite diverse across the region with employment spread across health and social care; agriculture, forestry and fishing; retail trade; education and training; and construction. These five industries account for around 55% of employment in the region. For the Inverloch-Pound Creek region, the top employment industries are health care and social assistance (14%), education and training (13%), retail trade (11%), and construction (10%). This may reflect the aging population and growing tourism industry around Inverloch. In the South West Coastal District, which includes Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower, employment is dominated by agriculture, forestry and fishing (25%), with some health care and social assistance, retail trade, and construction (9% each).



Figure 9. Percentage of people employed in industries for the Inverloch - Pound Creek, South West Coastal District, Bass Coast Shire and South Gippsland Shire. Source: Profile.id, 2021



Figure 10. 2017 land use for the Cape to Cape region. Source: DELWP VLUIS, https://discover.data.vic.gov.au/dataset/victorian-land-use-information-system-2016-2017

Demographics

Note: For the purposes of gathering and assessing census data, the Cape to Cape region has been defined as the Inverloch – Pound Creek and South West Coastal Districts as defined via the Profile ID website (profile.id.com.au)

Demographic data including population numbers, age structure, ethnic diversity, housing tenure and other information help build the picture of who lives in the community. This can help provide insights into what the community might value, prioritise and their needs into the future. Demographic data has been gathered from the 2016 Census.

Population growth

The population of the Cape to Cape region is currently around 8850¹ and is projected to grow to over 10,000 people by 2036 (Figure 11). Inverloch's population began to grow significantly around the 1960s and accelerated from the 1990s, outpacing the Venus Bay region. Future population projections see Inverloch's population increasing by nearly 25% from 2021 to 2036, while this growth is only around 7% for Venus Bay.



Figure 11. Population data for the Cape to Cape region, with historic census data (solid line) and projected future growth (dotted line)



¹ Estimated 2020 population of the South West Coastal District (Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower) and Inverloch-Pound Creek statistical areas (forecast.id)

Age structure

The 60 to 69 years age group represents the highest proportion (18%) of the population in the Cape to Cape region (Figure 12). With over 50% of residents in the region over 50, the proportion of people aged over 50 has increased by around 11% since 2001. The median ages of the Inverloch – Pound Creek and South West Coastal districts are 52 and 51, respectively. Compared to the Gippsland region (45), regional Victoria (43) and Victoria as a whole (37), it is clear the region has an aging population (Figure 13).

A recent study on coastal demographics in Victoria (DELWP, 2020) suggests that the Bass Coast displays an older age structure as it is attractive to retirees (60-69 years). Older groups (70+) potentially preferring larger centres with more health and care services.

The study also notes that coastal settlements that attract high numbers of retirees may grow in population in the short term, but the older age structure dampens population growth, with fewer people of child-bearing age. Growth is therefore driven by in-migration from other regions, rather than births.

The highest median ages are centred around Venus Bay and parts of Inverloch, whereas areas outside of these townships generally have a lower median age.



Figure 13. Median age, comparing Cape to Cape with other regions (in years).



Figure 12. Age structure (service age groups) for the Cape to Cape region showing percentage of total in each group.



Housing tenure and occupancy

Across the Cape to Cape region, most people either fully own their property (44%) or have a mortgage (24%), while around 20% of people rent. Home ownership rates across the region (Figure 14), highlight that many people (50-65%) located around Inverloch surf beach fully own their property, while home ownership in Venus Bay is reduced (around 30-40%).



Figure 14. Home ownership across the Cape to Cape region.

The Cape to Cape region has a high number of unoccupied dwellings (48%), compared to Gippsland (22%) and Victoria (11%) (Figure 15, Table 4). Unoccupied dwellings are those that are not deemed to be occupied on census night. Dwellings may be unoccupied for a number of reasons - residents may be temporarily away, the dwelling is for sale and unoccupied, the dwelling may have just been built and is not yet occupied, or the dwelling is a holiday house which is unoccupied most of the time (particularly in winter when the Census is held). Large percentages of unoccupied dwellings can be an indication of holiday areas, areas with a high population turnover, or declining areas with abandoned dwellings.

As a known holiday destination, the large proportion of unoccupied dwellings are assumed to be holiday homes. A greater percentage (>60%) of unoccupied dwellings are located along the coast near Inverloch surf beach and Venus Bay (Figure Figure 15). During the summer months, South Gippsland Shire Council report that the Venus Bay township swells with tourists, both seasonal and day visitors. This is estimated to provide an additional 6,000 people to the area who are typically accommodated within existing houses (SGSC, 2020).

The Venus Bay Tourism Precinct Plan (SGSC, 2020) reports that while Venus Bay is considered to be primarily a coastal holiday location, the number of people moving to the town has increased in recent years. From 2006 to 2016, the population of Venus Bay increased by around 85% from around 500 people to around 950 people. The resident population of Inverloch has increased by around 30% during this time from 4,140 to 5,540 people.

Table 4. Unoccupied dwellings across the Cape to Cape and broader regions.

	Unoccupied	Total	% unoccupied
Cape to Cape region	3,358	7,003	48%
South West Coastal District	1,423	2,696	53%
Inverloch - Pound Creek	1,935	4,307	45%
South Gippsland Shire	4,155	15,867	26%
Bass Coast Shire	11,423	25,794	44%
Gippsland region	31365	143,009	22%
Regional VIC	111,130	688,869	16%
Victoria	278,629	2,520,901	11%
Australia	1,039,872	9,901,496	11%



Figure 15. Unoccupancy rates across the Cape to Cape region.

Engaging on values

Hearing perspectives directly from the community is essential to this values study. This section provides an outline of engagement activities undertaken to learn more from the communities of the Cape to Cape region and their values.

Approach to engagement

To understand the interests, values and aspirations that the Cape to Cape the community hold for their region and its coastal areas, a tailored engagement program was designed, in line with the engagement plan.

Cape to Cape Resilience Project engagement plan

A tailored engagement plan is guiding the engagement approach throughout the Cape to Cape Resilience Project. This enables insights and perspectives of the community and stakeholders to be considered and included in shaping adaptation and resilience planning for the region.

The engagement plan identifies key project stages and highlights various opportunities for stakeholders and community to be involved throughout project. To ensure consistency and clarity, it outlines the context, purpose, objectives and key messages for engagement. It also identifies key stakeholders and their interests and needs for engaging in the project. An action plan is used in preparing and delivering engagement activities and communications materials, helping to achieve desired and necessary outcomes for each stage of the project.

The engagement program has been run over the early stages of the project and has included events and activities and with both targeted stakeholders and the broader community (Table 5).

Table 5. Community values engagement program

Activity	Timing
Stakeholder Reference Group (SRG) initial meet and greet	March 2021
Project launch with SRG and RaSP partners	May 2021
Community webinars	August 2021
Online community engagement activities	August-September 2021
Online community content	Ongoing
Targeted stakeholder discussions	Ongoing



Project launch in Inverloch, May 2021

Using a variety of a formats, activities were conducted across a range of audiences. This included in-person events, online content and activities and interactive online workshops.



Activities prompted participants to contribute their personal views, perspectives and experiences, to help build this understanding.

Questions revolved around the following themes:

- How people use and enjoy the beaches, foreshore areas, estuaries, bays, inlets and waterways of the Cape to Cape area
- What the community specifically value about the coastal zone from Cape Paterson to Cape Liptrap
- Individual experiences of coastal hazards (erosion, inundation)
- Memories and knowledge of coastal change, and key drivers of that change
- Aspirations for the Cape to Cape region into future, for the next generations.

Establishing values was the core focus, combined with an intent to be able to use this knowledge to inform adaptation planning decision making and the development of potential management options.

Important community values insights have also been obtained from other complementary engagement activities, including the Inverloch Coastal Resilience Project (Text box 1) and the state-wide coastal attitudes Wave 5 (Text box 2), and other regional studies. Where relevant, elements of these have also been incorporated in this assessment and the synthesis.

Engagement outcomes

A range of perspectives were expressed through the engagement process, with the key outcomes and themes outlined below. Full details of the survey results are provided in Attachment A and the Cape to Cape coastal timeline in Attachment B.

Who did we hear from



Most survey respondents were from the Cape to Cape area, including 38% from Inverloch and 14% from Venus Bay, with many (53%) living within 1 km of the coast. More than half of respondents were aged over 55, with only 8% of respondents in the under 35 age range.

Knowing the region has a slightly older population, having a majority of respondents from older generations is understandable. However, it also identifies the opportunity to increase age diversity in future engagement.

What attracts people to the coast?

It is clear that people regularly visit the foreshore or other coastal areas. **Two thirds** of survey respondents visit the Cape to Cape coast **at least every week**.

The region is a popular coastal destination for Victorians, ranking 14th for coastal visitation, with 4% of overall respondents in state-wide survey reporting it as their most recent coastal location they visited.

When asked what they thought attracts people to living in and visiting the Cape to Cape region, respondents overwhelmingly felt it was the:



Landscape and natural setting



Opportunity to live close to the coast



Recreational opportunities and assets

What do people know about coastal hazards?

The community have good awareness of coastal hazards. **Two thirds** of survey respondents felt they have a **good or very good understanding of coastal hazards**.



Three quarters of survey respondents thought it was very likely the Cape to Cape area would be affected by coastal hazards in the future.



Over three quarters of survey respondents felt more planning and preparation was needed to prepare for these hazards

What do people value about their coastal areas	Knowledge, experiences and concern for coastal hazards	Future aspirations
When community members were asked what was important and meaningful to them, natural features and opportunities to explore the natural setting and the environment were consistently identified.	Change and loss were common themes raised for this topic. The majority of people understood what coastal hazards were, that they would affect the region into the future and that a lot more planning and preparation is needed to better prepare for hazards. The changes seen on Inverloch foreshore, especially the Surf Beach, were highlighted by many as a concern.	Management decisions can have long-term implications that leave a legacy for next generations. When asked to think about their visions for the coast and its management, community responses reflected optimism for the future and a collaborative and adaptive approach to tackling the challenges faced. The link between values and management was also evident.
Themes for responses on personal values included:	Themes for responses on hazard experience and concerns included:	Themes looking at aspirations for the future were:
Landscape	Dynamic	Preservation of the natural amenity
Coastal views, sandy beaches and seascapes, peaceful setting and character	People have seen that coastal zones are dynamic and change with every tide	Healthy dunes and sandy beaches
Healthy accesustems	Erosion	Retention of character in coastal communities
Functioning coastal and marine ecosystems, with biolinks and connectivity	People were more aware of / familar with coastal erosion rather than other hazards such as flooding or groundwater impacts	Connection to culture, community and place
Recreation	sandy beaches	Ability to continue living by the coast
Opportunities for walking, cycling, surfing, boating, waterports, swimming, relaxing	Many people said that the loss of the sandy beach and their access to the coast as the main impact from coastal hazards	Safe and accessible beaches, water and facilities
Native flora and fauna	Rate of change	Climate change adaptation
Including preservation of habitat for key species and managing threats	Some people were surprised at the rate of change they had seen and felt that this rate might continue or increase	Increased awareness and understanding of natural processes
Safe access	Habitat and vegetation	Suitable hazard management and protection
All abilities and safe access for everyone to enjoy the beaches and foreshore	People were concerned about habitat / vegetation loss, including dunes and nesting habitat for important species.	Clear, balanced and coordinated management
Heritage and unique history	Assets and infrastructure	Planning and management to ensure coastal development and use is sustainable and controlled
Aboriginal and European history, including stories, special sites and specific assets. Concerns about the loss of road access, residential properties and recreational and open space assets are a apparent.		Shared responsibility/community stewardship opportunities
Including preservation of habitat for key species and managing threats Safe access All abilities and safe access for everyone to enjoy the beaches and foreshore Heritage and unique history Aboriginal and European history, including stories, special sites and specific assets.	Some people were surprised at the rate of change they had seen and felt that this rate might continue or increase Habitat and vegetation People were concerned about habitat / vegetation loss, including dunes and nesting habitat for important species. Assets and infrastructure Concerns about the loss of road access, residential properties and recreational and open space assets are also apparent.	Increased awareness and understanding of natural processes Suitable hazard management and protection Clear, balanced and coordinated management Planning and management to ensure coastal development and use is sustainable and controlled Shared responsibility/community stewardship opportunities

Values synthesis

Guided by the outcomes of engagement activities, this section outlines the analysis and interpretation undertaken to synthesise community feedback and values to enable them to be used to inform strategic decision making and adaptation planning in the Cape to Cape marine and coastal areas.

Exploring community values

Common themes have emerged across the community engagement and document review. These themes have been distilled into high level values, with detailed cultural, social, economic and environmental subvalues that sit within them.

There are some perceived threats associated with these values, potentially linked to coastal hazard exposure. Scientific evidence can help to support the actuality of these threats through studies prior to and as part of this this project – such as exposure, risk, vulnerability and economic analyses. Looking ahead, there is also a range of future aspirations associated with these coastal values, linked to what we want to see for these coastal areas. Understanding threats and future aspirations can help guide potential management options.



Shaped by community feedback, the literature and stakeholder discussions, ten high level coastal and marine-related value areas have been identified. These values are highly interlinked and not mutually exclusive. Coastal hazards, climate change impacts and arising threats may have flow on effects to other values. Each value is presented below, detailing local context and community feedback and sentiment.





Conceptual image adapted from WGCMA, 2014



Cultural, historic and spiritual connections to the coast

This coastline has a rich and diverse history and is home to various sites of significance including cultural sites and artefacts, dinosaur fossils, Eagles Nest, The Caves, and shipwrecks.

The Bunurong and Gunaikurnai Peoples each have strong cultural connections and interests in the greater Cape to Cape area and continue to have an important role as the original custodians of these coasts and catchments.

More recent European history saw new communities grow along this coastline, and various European historic sites remain.

"Be proud of, and share, our history and cultural life" Bass Coast Council Plan 2017-21 Strategic Outcome			
"Magical, peaceful environment" "It feels like a special place which must have had great meaning for the Traditional Owners. That should be celebrated. It adds meaning to this wild, magical and special place."			
"I'd love to see a full cultural survey of the area known as Evergreen. These floodplains have plenty of history before grazing."			
Cultural sub-values	Social sub-values		
 Ceremonial and spiritual places for cultural activities, rituals and ceremonies Promotion of mental wellbeing and health through connection to Country, social cohesion and sense of belonging Aboriginal Cultural Heritage protected under the <i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006</i> and protection of places of importance <i>Further information to be confirmed through Aboriginal Cultural Values Assessment</i> 	 Improved quality of life and positive living experience (liveability) through living close to the coast Personal experience and interaction with heritage and coastal ecosystems, providing a sense of belonging and positive psychological and spiritual wellbeing Connection to places, stories, and sight lines, significant sites and artefacts Intergenerational story-telling and oral history that relies on landscape features Learning, education and research opportunities linked to exploring history – including Aboriginal history, archaeology, landscapes, fossils (incl. dinosaur fossils) Archaeologically significant European sites – including shipwrecks (<i>Amazon</i> (1863) at Flat Rocks and <i>Magnat</i> (1900) at Venus Bay) 		
Economic sub-values	Environmental sub-values		
 Economic benefit and independence, derived from cultural connection sharing of this knowledge and experience, such as employment Tourism and visitation driven by heritage and cultural experiences (e.g. The Caves and Eagles Nest, <i>Amazon</i> shipwreck, dinosaur fossils) 	 Custodianship and care for land and sea Country, through cultural practices and knowledge Connection with the local landscape Culturally significant and iconic flora and fauna species 		

Perceived threats

- · Change/loss of coastline due to coastal hazards, impacting culturally and historically significant sites and places:
 - landscape/environment features leading to loss of connection to stories (e.g. Eagles Nest)
 - loss/damage to Aboriginal artefacts, midden, to fossils, European heritage artefacts (Amazon)
- -<u>@</u>-

- Future aspirations
- · Preservation of significant and sensitive sites and places
- · Continuation and capture of stories and experiences
- Intergenerational knowledge sharing
- On-Country employment (works crews, employment)



Coastal landscapes, seascapes, character and views

This coastal landscape provides a striking aesthetic beauty considered special by this community. The area's unique geology and geomorphology brings spectacular cliff views and rock formations, with sandy beaches, vegetated dunes, reefs, breaking waves, and views of the open water contributing to the sense of wilderness.

Community experience and emotion is intrinsically linked to this natural setting, which offers a sense of openness and tranquillity. The identities of these coastal communities, and their village character is closely connected to the environment. Unique features promote an emotional response and provide educational opportunities, while sandy beaches, beach culture and cliff walking tracks provide improved wellbeing and foster the relaxed coastal lifestyle.

"beautiful beaches and interesting rock pools to explore" "The coast is wild and magnificent"				
"peace & solitude, views & open space, fresh air" "the waves and the sound of the sea"				
"natural beauty of the changing landscape"	enic views and enjoying the beach/rocky coastline"			
"ever-cha	anging natural wonder influenced by seasons, tides, weather"			
Cultural sub-values	Social sub-values			
 Cultural connection and significance of natural features and places of the land and seascape, including Eagles Nest Links to the dreaming, ceremony, stories, and cultural experiences, including teaching <i>Further information to be confirmed through Aboriginal Cultural Values Assessment</i> 	 The beach culture and vibe connected with natural coastal landscape and seascapes- including sand, surf and coastal community attitudes Intrinsic value and emotional response linked to being close to water and coastal views. Sense of experiencing nature, fresh air, improving health and well-being Environmental learning, education and research opportunities linked to exploring natural processes and the origin and dynamics of the physical landscape Inspiration for elements of culture, art and design 			
Economic sub-values	Environmental sub-values			
 Spectacular/unique landscapes as tourism attractions (Flat Rocks, Eagles Nest, Cape Paterson, Cape Liptrap), including coastal walks, trails and drives. Geomorphology providing recreational/tourism opportunities (e.g. surfing, caving, etc.) Natural, undeveloped coastal setting driving regional migration, bringing people to the region, population growth stimulating the economy 	 Natural features and processes providing important habitat for key species, such as Inverloch and Venus Bay dune system for nesting shorebird species, including the Hooded Plover; cliff systems for bird nesting; and seascapes for diverse marine life Recognised significance of the region's geomorphological origins and processes (Sites of Geological and Geomorphological Significance) 			
Perceived threats				
 Coastal processes causing: landscape changes reduced access as a resultant health and safety risk (e.g. cliff slumping) loss of valued landscape features, beaches, habitat areas 				
-@: Future aspirations				

- · Preservation of amenity and views
- Natural aesthetic
- Celebration and promotion of landscapes as tourism attractions



Healthy coastal and marine ecosystems

From rocky caves and headlands around Cape Paterson, the sandy beaches and dunes near and around Inverloch, Anderson Inlet's shallow marshes and the barrier dune system along Venus Bay, the Cape to Cape region's marine and coastal areas offer a diversity of environments and ecosystems. The health and function of these coastal and marine ecosystems and associated habitat, including reefs, dunes, mudflats and wetlands, are important for species abundance and diversity. They also provide many and varied benefits to residents and visitors (ecosystem services).

Bunurong Marine National Park, and sections of the Yallock-Bulluk Marine and Coastal Park are located between Cape Paterson and Inverloch, with Cape Liptrap Coastal Park extending from Point Smythe to Cape Liptrap. These designations protect the natural and cultural heritage, including valuable sensitive ecosystems and habitat areas within the coastal waters and reserves.

"The natural environment remaining healthy and a successful habitat for wildlife."	"The unspoilt natural environment."	"retain and protect the habitat and environment for the plants and animals"
<i>"the fact that we can experience so man types of natural environments within the</i>	ny different small area"	protection of the environment is paramount to the future."
Cultural sub-values	Social	sub-values
 Healthy Country, moral obligations to care for Country (custodial values) and well-being Natural resources for culturally important pra (e.g. resource harvests) Further information to be confirmed throug Aboriginal Cultural Values Assessment 	er • Emotional • Water qua • Provision • Environme • Moralistic, t	l connection to natural settings ality for safe water use, recreational activities of ecosystem services ental education and research opportunities. /ethical concern for nature
Economic sub-values	💋 Enviro	nmental sub-values
 Healthy environments, animals and plants du local tourism (incl. eco-tourism) Economic stimulus through population growt changers, retirees, increased remote learning/working and desire for coastal lifest; Sustainable recreational and commercial fish (incl. tour-guiding) driving local tourism and stimulating economy 	riving th – sea yle hing · Habitat fo · Blue carbo seagrasse · Nesting al · Four enda vulnerable · Functionir · Important rocky reef	r terrestrial and aquatic flora and fauna on ecosystems (saltmarsh, mangroves and es) capture and store atmospheric carbon and feeding areas for threatened bird species angered, and more than ten depleted or e Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs) and ecosystems, biodiversity biolinks/corridors habitats - such as intertidal and subtidal is, algal gardens and seagrass beds
Perceived threats		

- · Changing coastal processes, development/growth pressures, pollution and human disturbance impacting on sensitive environments and ecosystems
- Development and physical barriers restricting dune movement and habitat migration in response to sea level rise.
- · Coastal hazards and sea level rise impacting upon ecosystems, including:
 - Important habitat areas, including nesting, feeding and breeding habitat of shore and sea birds
 - Changes to productivity and migration opportunity for seagrass, mangroves and saltmarsh
 - Increasing nutrient loads, algal growth and sedimentation, impacting aquatic flora and fauna
 - Changes in waves and currents behaviour leading to increased adverse erosion and flooding impacts
- · Hazard and climate driven changes to hydrology (freshwater flows, creek and entrance morphology, lagoon formation), impacting water quality and ecosystem health

Future aspirations -@-

- · Protection and enhancement of marine and coastal ecosystems
- · Improved education, shared care and stewardship to enhance environmental protection
- · Opportunities for land use transition in response to sea level rise to enhance ecosystems, allow migration of habitats and provide coastal hazard buffers



Abundant and diverse native coastal and marine flora and fauna

Unique and important flora and fauna communities are sustained by the coastal and marine areas of the Cape to Cape region. This includes native and remnant vegetation, shorebirds, mangroves, saltmarsh and rare and threatened species. Local species include threatened birds such as the large wading eastern curlew, beach-dwelling hooded plover and soaring white-bellied sea eagle; iconic mammals such as echidnas, koalas and quolls and marine species like whales and seals.

Individual species have value through their contribution to the broader ecosystem and environmental balance. The community also gets a thrill from spotting a rare bird or take joy in seeing new and diverse species. Birdwatching, snorkelling and rock-pooling all rely on abundant and diverse flora and fauna and education about these species can help foster a sense of stewardship and shared care.

"marine mammals migrating around the coast with spectacular shows of whale sprays for a lot of tourists"

"It is wonderful for birdwatching. There's rarely many people about which is wonderful for observing wildlife."

"My wife and I just love the native birds and animals."

"One of the most important attributes of the Cape to Cape coast is providing habitat for beach nesting and migratory birds."

"we have seen wildlife such as koalas, kangaroos, wombats and echidnas, snakes and frogs.. ..fish in Wreck Creek, crabs and other marine life on the rocky platforms and fish and dolphins in the ocean."

Cultural sub-values	Social sub-values
 Totemic species Important species as food and resources Ceremony and customs centred around certain species <i>Further information to be confirmed through Aboriginal Cultural Values Assessment</i> 	 Aquatic and coastal species provide opportunities for recreational fishing, snorkelling, rock-pooling and birdwatching values Environmental education and research opportunities Moralistic/ethical concern for nature
Economic sub-values	Environmental sub-values
 Key species, e.g. birdwatching, whale watching driving local tourism Economic values from contributing to healthy ecosystems (as above) Commercial enterprises – fishing charters, commercial fishing etc. 	 Significant, unique or rare species, protected under Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, Flora and Fauna Guarantee Amendment Act 2019, and Wildlife Act 1975 Significant species that contribute to wider ecosystem health and services such as coastal saltmarsh, mangroves and seagrass

Perceived threats

- Changing coastal processes, development/growth pressures, invasive species, pollution and human disturbance impacting on sensitive environments
- · Coastal hazards and sea level rise impacting upon flora and fauna, including:
 - Nesting, feeding and breeding habitat of shore and sea birds
 - Changes to productivity and migration opportunity for seagrass, mangroves and saltmarsh
 - Increases in nutrient loads, algal growth, sedimentation, impacting aquatic flora and fauna
 - Changes in waves and currents behaviour leading to increased adverse erosion and flooding impacts
- Changes in freshwater flows changing entrance morphology (frequency of estuary opening and closure), impacting water quality and ecosystem health

- Protection of threatened species
- · Increased understanding of local species and ecosystems
- · Enhancement and protection of habitat



Water quality that is safe and reliable for human consumption, recreational use, healthy ecosystems and primary industry

Whether it's the Tarwin River, Anderson Inlet, or Bass Strait, the condition of the local waterways, estuaries, and ocean, as well as aquifers, is not only vital to local ecosystem health, drinking water supply, agriculture and industry, but ensures these natural areas remain desirable places to visit and enjoy.

Clean, potable water is a precious resource essential for communities, households and local industry who depend on safe and reliable water supply. While of much the community is connected to treated water supply, there are areas in the region, especially Venus Bay, that rely upon groundwater bores. The prosperous agriculture, forestry and fishing industries in the region also rely on reliable supply and quality of water.

"Water quality for swimming and habitat for animals and plants to flourish"	Anderson Inlet is an incredible waterway, perfect for kayaking amongst the lungs of the earth."
"clean air and clean sea and inlet water" ("The Agriculture, Fore. added contributor in the Fish Creek) accounting	stry & Fishing industry sector is the largest value e Foster region (including Foster, Venus Bay and g for 36.2% of all value added" REMPLAN, 2021
Cultural sub-values	Social sub-values
 Supporting healthy Country, including rivers and coasts Potential for future use (commercial enterprises) <i>Further information to be confirmed through Aboriginal Cultural Values Assessment</i> 	 Safe drinking water that meets supply standards Security/confidence in supply Safe and visually appealing water for recreational users, including recreational water standards Perception of clean, clear and pristine waters
Economic sub-values	Environmental sub-values
 Clean and sustainable water sources reduce treatment costs prior to use Fit-for-purpose and sustainable water sources for primary industries including agriculture, forestry and fishing Clean/pristine water to retain high visitation 	 Good water quality for ecosystems health and survival (aquatic and terrestrial) Natural nutrient cycling and flow regimes to support flora and fauna Low erosion rates and low turbidity levels

Perceived threats

- · Salt-water intrusion / rising water table / salinisation due to sea level rise
- Hazard and climate driven changes to hydrology (creek and entrance morphology, lagoon formation), impacting water quality and ecosystem health, including aesthetics and odour
- · Hazard exposure driving water asset and infrastructure damage
- · Hazard exposure exacerbating pollution or waste contamination

- Dependable, clean water supply
- · Safe and appealing recreational water quality, aesthetics and odour



Natural resilience to coastal hazards and sea-level rise impacts

The natural features of the region's coastline help to buffer and protect the coastal communities from impacts of coastal processes and hazards. Natural resilience can be seen in the sandy buffers provided by dunes and beaches; the rocky platforms and reefs that break waves, reduce their energy and limit beach erosion; armoured cliff areas; saltmarsh and wetlands that provide an area for flood waters; and the Venus Bay spit that provides for the sheltered environment of Anderson Inlet.

There are ways to preserve and enhance these natural features and the protection they offer to nearby assets and infrastructure along the coast. Vegetation acts to stabilise and hold the dune form and ample sand supply enables rebuilding of beaches and dunes, both important in retaining and increasing resilience along sandy coastlines of the region.

"The vegetated dunes behind the beach provided a natural buffer to the adjoining urban development"

"healthy dunes provide a resilient buffer to Surf Parade and adjoining residences." oast wetlands are beautiful and underappreciated important for protection against climate change"

> "salt marsh wetlands provide storm / flood resilience"

• Buffer from impacts of coastal processes on social values (e.g. community infrastructure, property,

· Emotional response, feelings of resilience, protection

· Habitat corridor and biolinks for flora and fauna moving

along the coast and between the coast and hinterland

and stability with natural coastal buffers

Environmental sub-values

· Retention of natural setting and habitat

recreational assets)

· Vegetated, stable dunes

· Natural coastal processes

Natural aesthetic

Cultural sub-values	***	Social sub-values

- Retention of natural setting, respect for natural processes
- Ability to respond and adapt to natural processes and environmental pressures, while maintaining other values

Further information to be confirmed through Aboriginal Cultural Values Assessment

Economic sub-values

- Reduced cost of public asset / infrastructure relocation and/or renewal
- Reduced cost of impacts on private assets and access
- Minimised costs of other coastal interventions (e.g. sea walls, groynes, nourishment, etc.)

i i

Perceived threats

• Dune buffer narrowing through shifting coastline, rising sea levels and infrastructure barriers ("coastal squeeze")

- · Increasing asset exposure due to decreasing natural protection
- · Natural, dynamic, changing conditions and feelings of uncertainty
- · Safety concerns around steep dunes, cliffs and risk of collapse

- · Strategic planning to increase resilience and plan for coastal hazard impacts
- Appropriate solutions for level of risk, including non-intervention, avoidance, nature-based solutions, accommodation, transition or retreat and protection
- · Minimise impacts on other parts of the coast
- · Land use transition opportunities (such as Common Ground proposal at Venus Bay)



Safe, reliable and ecologically sensitive access to coastal areas

Residents and visitors like being able to readily access and enjoy the region's beaches, coast, waterways, cliffs and water, including its open waters and surf and more sheltered environments within Anderson Inlet. This access might be through beach paths, boat ramps, launching areas, cliff lookouts or coastal trails and also includes getting to and from coastal townships.

People value safety, access for all and strategic design that minimises impact on sensitive environments. Provision of formal, reliable and convenient access points at key locations helps to preserve sensitive environments, offering well-defined routes and access for all abilities and ages. Safe access in some areas includes provision of surf lifesaving facilities, patrols and safe swimming locations.

"Access is the key. Without suitable access, Cape to Cape is the best kept secret in Victoria."	Ocean based recreational activities largely accessed ia the Inverloch boat ramp" "Sensible access that respects all the stakeholders including the animals"
"Manage the balance between our natural environment, public access and use of our foreshores and waterways."	ming in "enjoying Inverloch Glade and path linking Inlet." Andersen Inlet Angling Club to Rainbow Park"
Cultural sub-values	Social sub-values
 On-Country ceremony and coastal access for place- based practices Access to undertake cultural obligations to care for Country Rights to access, resources and camping opportunities Protected sensitive and significant sites through considered access control <i>Further information to be confirmed through</i> <i>Aboriginal Cultural Values Assessment</i> 	 Continuous access to urban centres, including to townships, residential properties and services Reliable, region-wide access and escape routes for residents, management authorities and emergency services during emergencies such as storms, flood events or bushfires Beach and foreshore access for recreation and other purposes, including linear pathways, beach access, boating access and water access Swimming / water-based safety (i.e. surf lifesaving clubs, patrols, safe swimming conditions or relevant signage)
Economic sub-values	Environmental sub-values
 Reliable and continuous access to townships, the coast and water to maintain reputation as a holiday and tourism destination Appropriate infrastructure that supports residents and visitors, sustaining a strong local economy Safe water/coastal access for commercial ventures (fishing, tour-guiding, surf schools, etc.) 	 Protected flora and fauna through access controls and structures Maintenance of environmental values through reduced human impact (e.g. trampling, vegetation disturbance) Retention of conservation areas
Perceived threats	

- · Coastal hazards impacting on:
 - Access to townships (Venus Bay, Tarwin Lower), coastal thoroughfares (Surf Pde, Bunurong Rd)
 - Access to and availability of sandy beaches
 - Coastal infrastructure, access paths and car parks
- Loss of access amenities/facilities
- · Human impacts on dune vegetation and environment

- · Maintenance or improvement of access in an eco-sensitive manner, for all abilities and for a range of users
- Maintaining safety standards including beach, foreshore, and cliff access as well as water safety
- · Adequate and strategically planned access to townships and the coast to maintain liveability and visitation



Desirable places to live, work, visit and play, with reliable public services and amenities

People are drawn to this part of the world for the opportunities offered by its coastal setting. The coastal reserves hold an array of amenities and facilities that enable and encourage residents and visitors to enjoy these areas, supporting the wide range of activities they like to pursue. Be it walking, swimming, surfing, other water sports, fishing and boating, bird watching, enjoying the views or simply relaxing on the beach, the natural environment is recognised as a being key to community and drives the local economy.

Communities are supported by various services and infrastructure, situated around the regional centres of Inverloch, Venus Bay, and nearby Cape Paterson. These services and amenities have to meet the needs of all sections of the community. This includes older residents supported through aged care, health care and all abilities access; professionals and businesses supported through adequate internet access and technology; and support for younger residents through childcare centres and play areas. The region has a reputation as a vibrant family-friendly, welcoming community for all, whether long-term residents, new arrivals or holidaymakers.



Perceived threats

- · Asset /service damage and loss due to:
 - storm events, sea level rise
 - saltwater intrusion / rising water table / salinisation due to sea level rise
- · Coastal processes and hazards driving change or loss of sandy beaches, dune habitat, and/or surf break

- Strong tourism economy and protecting the local tourism experience
- · Maintenance of recreational opportunities relying on the coast
- · Resilient infrastructure and assets
- · Sustainable population growth and tourism/visitor numbers



The ability to live in a coastal community

The Cape to Cape community is diverse. It brings together long-time locals, with more recent arrivals, and a mix of parttime residents, frequent visitors and holiday makers. Living by the coast provides a range of highly sought-after lifestyle and well-being opportunities and owning property in these areas is seen as a valuable investment. For some there is a sense of pride in having the opportunity to live in this coastal setting. With the coast and surf right on your doorstep, the sea breeze and sound of waves, unlimited access to ocean views, and well-travelled routes to the beach, being part of a vibrant coastal community village is somewhat of a privilege.

While proximity to the coast is a clear benefit of living in these areas, it may also mean possible exposure to coastal processes and the effects of climate change into the future.

Value added through ownership of dwellings in and around Inverloch represents 199? the total value added for all industries in the area" REMPLAN, 2021 "Our holiday home is a great joy"

"we want to be able to

continue living in the area"

"Dad built one of the first houses at the Cape, our little holiday house, buying the land when I was 3, 60yrs ago now"

Cultural sub-values	Social sub-values
 Opportunities to live on Country Protection of sensitive areas from damage and development Further information to be confirmed through Aboriginal Cultural Values Assessment 	 Coastal lifestyle Pride / self-satisfaction in coastal home/asset ownership Residential / holiday opportunities Family ties, history and legacy Escapism from the city
Economic sub-values	Environmental sub-values
 Financial security/investment Growing property prices, increasing values Commercial opportunities (vacation rental, business) Foreseeable and manageable maintenance, replacement/renewal costs Stable insurance premiums 	 Eco-sensitive / sympathetic design that protects environment and retains natural aesthetic Balanced growth and development Non-urban breaks Protected land and reserves for conservation and environmental management
Perceived threats	

• Potential hazard areas and hazards exposure linked to:

- Planning and development controls,
- Insurance premiums
- Asset damage / loss
- · Required building/asset improvements to increase resilience

- · Ability to continue living and holidaying in these areas
- · Protection of local visitor experience, liveability and community culture
- · Communication and transparency so property owners know what to expect in the long term
- · Readily available, appropriate and well-communicated planning information
- · Appropriate controls to ensure sustainable development and retention of character



Clarity, consistency and confidence in foreshore management and responsibilities

The community is passionate about this environment and have expressed deep concern for recent changes experienced on this coast, especially at Inverloch. They want confidence that management decisions and initiatives are sustainable, long-lasting and appropriate for the Cape to Cape community and region. The community value honesty, timeliness and genuine engagement in decision-making. With many shared, and sometimes complex, management and governance arrangements in place, a coordinated, region-wide management approach enables land and marine managers, stakeholders, and communities to collaboratively manage and adapt to coastal hazards and emerging risks of climate change.

The region's local community groups and individuals already play a valuable role in monitoring and management initiatives to improve the condition, health and understanding of the coastal environment. Harnessing this existing enthusiasm is important in broadening the sense of stewardship, ownership and shared care for the Cape to Cape coastal and marine environments.

"Residents want to know what to expect in the long term" be readily	rmation must available" "Community-led opportunities to participate in Landcare activities"
"We need a management plan to bring all stakeholders together"	ng the beach sponsibly" "Educated and 'switched on' community and managers"
Cultural sub-values	Social sub-values
 Self-determination and influencing decision-making Two-way transfer of knowledge as well as data and knowledge-custodianship Sovereignty and other recognised rights <i>Further information to be confirmed through Aboriginal Cultural Values Assessment</i>	 Reduced stress for concerned community members and management agency staff Collaborative relationships within and between management agencies and the community. Knowledge of a management process/pathway Community stewardship and enthusiasm for coastal management activities to promote shared care
Economic sub-values	Environmental sub-values
Wise use of public funds	 Scientific evidence that underpins decision-making

- Perceived threats
- · Multiple management agencies and responsibilities
- · Shared management and uncertainty in accountabilities
- · Poor communication, lack of urgency and transparency

- · Coordinated, cost-effective and proactive management
- · Community stewardship, including building on existing initiatives
- Timely, clear communication and readily available information for stakeholders
- Defined funding pathways (including shared funding and leveraging of funds)
- · Genuine engagement and consultation across the community

Next steps

Reflecting on the Community Values Study, this section considers opportunities to use values to shape resilience planning and how this increased values appreciation might be used to inform upcoming stages of this project.

Understanding what the community value about their coastal areas, the threats to these values and what they hope to see in the future, is the foundation for decisions regarding adaptation and resilience planning. While the Cape to Cape community is unique and has its own individual identities for each of its communities, some of the perspectives shared by individuals align with the experience of many others across Victoria and around Australia, who are encountering present day impacts of coastal hazards, seeing similar, rapid changes on their coasts, and the effects of changing climate.

It is essential that values remain a focus throughout the project – when undertaking the hazard assessment, examining risk, developing adaptation options and establishing the resilience plan. This is to ensure appropriate decision making doesn't compromise the key values of these areas in the long term. History shows us that management decisions can have long-lasting legacies, that can potentially impact on the very things we value about these areas. Current and future pressures, including management and adaptation options, have the potential to undermine the values key to drawing visitation and development in these areas in the first place. The Cape to Cape Resilience Project approach provides the necessary rigor and the expertise to ensure decisions are strategic, carefully considered, and well understood.

There are many ways in which this knowledge will be used in the technical and strategic work to develop proactive resilience planning and adaptation options (Table 6).

Project stages	Application opportunities
Coastal hazard assessment	 History, experiences and knowledge of coastal processes and change Location of key values and assets, and potential for exposure to hazards Understanding if identified perceived threats are apparent and backed by evidence
Risk and vulnerability assessment	 Understanding community expectations regarding level of risk tolerance Appreciating potential consequences from damage or loss
Economic assessment	 Guiding key elements to capture in the economic analysis, including base case. Focus points for economic case studies
Adaptation options development	 Type/style of management options suitable for these areas and community sentiment towards different options Flow on impacts associated with management options (i.e. impacts on surrounding areas, lowering of beach profile, changes to natural setting/aesthetic) Ideas and preferences for management options and opportunities
Resilience planning	 Long term vision and objectives for this coast Opportunities to involve community in management initiatives
Engagement and communications	 Development of key messaging and approach to communication Appropriate design and delivery of future engagement activities Needs and gaps for key audiences

Table 6. Opportunities to apply community values in next project stages

The ten high-level values identified in the Cape to Cape community values study will help shape upcoming steps in the project.

- Cultural, historic and spiritual connections to the coast
- Coastal landscapes, seascapes, character and views
- Healthy coastal and marine ecosystems
- Abundant and diverse native coastal and marine flora and fauna
- Water quality that is safe and reliable for human consumption, recreational use, healthy ecosystems and primary industry
- Natural resilience to coastal hazards and sea-level rise impacts
- Safe, reliable and ecologically sensitive access to coastal areas
- Desirable places to live, work, visit and play, with reliable public services and amenities
- The ability to live in a coastal community
- Clarity, consistency and confidence in foreshore management and responsibilities

We will continue to build on this knowledge of community values as the project progresses. These values will also be combined and considered with those of other key stakeholders including Traditional Owners, land, water and asset managers and governing bodies.

The next project stages allow some of these values, and the perceived threats and aspirations associated with each of these values, to be examined in further detail. Findings of the Coastal Hazard Assessment and upcoming risk assessment will help to confirm if they are a threat that could pose significant risks to these communities and if, what and when adaptation measures are needed.

Developing appropriate adaptation solutions for the Cape to Cape region will be challenging. It is recognised that incompatibilities will likely exist between the many varied community and stakeholder values, and the adaptation opportunities available. Some compromises may be required to balance managing coastal hazards and the threats they pose, with retaining the diverse range of important values. Upcoming stakeholder and community conversations will seek to understand more about potential consequences of these values being threatened and the levels of tolerance around these potential impacts. They will also try to determine where there may be some willingness from the community and stakeholders to compromise.

Importantly, this community values study provides valuable information to consider in upcoming analyses, discussions and decision making.

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Appendix 1: Survey results

Over 2,000 people visited the website during the engagement period, this included:



180 surveys completed



Nearly 180 pins on our interactive map

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80 people following the project

Who did we hear from?

Most respondents were residents of the Cape to Cape area, with 95 respondents living within 1 km of the coast. Most respondents came from Inverloch (38%), Venus Bay (14%) and Greater Melbourne (19%) (Figure 17).



Figure 17. Respondents' connection to the Cape to Cape region (left) and where they live (right)



Most respondents (55%) were aged over 55, with only 8% of respondents aged 35 or younger (Figure 18). This somewhat reflects the demographics of the region, discussed more in following sections.

Figure 18. Age range of survey respondents

What attracts people to the coast?

It is obvious that those who responded to the survey visit the foreshore or other coastal areas regularly. Two thirds of respondents (67%) visit the coast at least every week (Figure 19).



Figure 19. How often respondents visit the coast

When asked what they thought attracts people to living in and visiting the Cape to Cape region, respondents overwhelmingly felt it was the natural setting, opportunity to live close to the coast and recreational opportunities and assets (Figure 20).



Figure 20. What people thought attracted people to living in and visiting the Cape to Cape region

When asked what they felt was important and meaningful to them respondents again felt that the natural features and opportunities to explore the natural setting were important factors. These themes included:



Understanding and experiences of coastal hazards

Respondents felt that they were aware and had a reasonable understanding of coastal hazards with 60% of respondents saying they had a good or very good understanding of coastal hazards and 37% of respondents saying they had general awareness. Only 3% of people were either uncertain or not aware.



Figure 21. How people rated their current knowledge on the potential for coastal hazards in the future.

This understanding led to most respondents thinking that it was likely (18%) or very likely (74%) that the Cape to Cape region will be affected by coastal hazards in the future. Only 2% of respondents felt it was not very likely or very unlikely that the region will be affected by coastal hazards. Given this perceived likelihood, most respondents felt there was more work to be done in preparing for coastal hazards. 76% of respondents felt there was a lot more planning and preparation to do, with only 5% of people feeling that we are as prepared as can be.



Figure 22. How likely respondents think it is that the area will be affected by coastal erosion, storm tide inundation, or the impacts of sea level rise in the future (left) and how prepared respondents think our community and coast are to withstand and recover from potential coastal erosion or flooding impacts in the future (right)

When people were asked to reflect on their experience and observations of coastal hazards across the region, some broad themes were identified from their responses:



Appendix 2: Coastal timeline



Note - This coastal timeline reflects outcomes from the Project Launch workshop discussions held with members of the Stakeholder Reference Group (SRG), Project Control Board (PCB) and the Project Working Group (PWG). It is acknowledged that there are other drivers of change and events that may not be captured in this summary.

Recreation

Diverse recreational activities and experiences to drive economic value, including:

- · Cycling and walking trails
- Surfing, swimming, kite-surfing
- · Safe boating and access to the water
- Active sailing, watersports and other recreational clubs

Planning

Strategic planning and decision-making that:

- Is based on evidence / latest science and incorporates climate change / sea level rise Balances social, economic, cultural and environmental needs
- Retains small-town character and limited high-rise development
- Balances confidence for the community and adaptability to change / new data

Access and safety

- Safe and reliable access including:
- Beach access and safe areas for children and families to swim, play and relax
- Water access for multiple uses, boating, kayaking, watersports, etc.
- Access to other services and private properties
- Off-road access for walking, cycling and other recreation

Healthy environment and natural systems

Enhancement of the natural environment and coastal processes including:

- Good water quality and clean beaches
- Protection and enhancement of habitat, indigenous flora and fauna and key species

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- Ecosystem resilience through provision of room to retreat and dune enhancement
- Respect for natural processes including working with processes and promoting
- wilderness and natural beaches

Culture, community and place

- Enhanced sense of community, culture and place through:
- Protection of heritage, including European and Aboriginal sites, stories and places
- Retaining sense of escapism and enjoyment of the coast and waterways
- Increased knowledge and understanding of cultural heritage
- Enhanced engagement with the whole community, including youth engagement