

Fairhaven to Skenes Creek Coastal Trail Study

We are investigating the potential for a new coastal walking and/or cycling trail along the Great Ocean Road

About the study

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) is undertaking a study to assess the value, benefits and options for a coastal walking and/or cycling trail between Fairhaven and Skenes Creek.

The Great Ocean Road is one of Australia's most popular tourist destinations. It attracts millions of visitors each year, supporting local communities and the economy.

The study will focus on the 60 kilometres of coastline between Fairhaven and Skenes Creek. This area features spectacular scenery and a series of popular beachside towns, making it an ideal place to experience all the Great Ocean Road region has to offer.

The study will:

- consider potential opportunities and challenges associated with trail development
- identify a feasible route and develop concept designs
- assess social, economic and environmental benefits of a trail
- estimate construction costs.

It will investigate how new sections of trail could connect with existing and already planned trails to provide a network of coastal walks from Torquay to Apollo Bay.

This study is the result of community recommendations to encourage sustainable tourism, enhance the liveability of local communities and protect the unique environment and landscapes of the Great Ocean Road.

Study area



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A trail for communities and tourism

A key objective for the trail is to ensure local communities benefit from tourism, by attracting longer visits across different times of the year.

Trails can provide a 'bucket-list' visitor experience while also delivering social, environmental, cultural and economic benefits for surrounding communities.

A trail between Fairhaven and Skenes Creek could also connect two existing trails – the Surf Coast Walk and the Great Ocean Walk – to link adjoining coastal towns and improve safety on the Great Ocean Road.



The Great Ocean Walk (Source: Belinda Van Zanen, Parks Victoria)

Get involved

Involving communities, local groups and organisations with an interest in the future of the Great Ocean Road will ensure the study is well-informed and responds to local aspirations.

You can share your views, vision and local knowledge with the project team at community consultation sessions in June and July 2019 or online at www.engage.vic.gov.au/trail-study

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

Designing the trail

Specialist trail designers will identify a possible route and concept design for the trail.

There are many technical, environmental and community considerations that they will look at, including:

- route difficulty and length
- demand for use
- types of users
- safety
- access and connections
- land ownership
- local conditions
- community aspirations
- cost.

More information

Contact us to learn about the study and opportunities to be involved.

Phone: 136 186

Email: david.rourke@delwp.vic.gov.au

Website: www.engage.vic.gov.au/trail-study



The Surf Coast Walk (Source: World Trail)

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