

Walkerville Foreshore Reserve Coastal Management Plan

April 2014



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Acknowledgements

The Walkerville Foreshore Reserve Committee of Management acknowledges the support and valuable comments and advice provided by community organisations and individuals, government agencies, and other people interested in the study area.

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Acronyms/abbreviations

CAP: Coastal Action Plan

CFA: Country Fire Authority

CMA: Catchment Management Authority

CMP: Coastal Management Plan

Committee: Walkerville Foreshore Reserve Committee of Management

EVC: Ecological Vegetation Class

DEPI: Department of Environment and Primary Industries

DSE: Department of Sustainability and Environment

GIS: Geographic Information System

North: Walkerville North

PV: Parks Victoria

SGSC: South Gippsland Shire Council

South: Walkerville South

VCS: Victorian Coastal Strategy

Summary

Background

The Walkerville Foreshore Reserve Committee of Management (the Committee) is responsible for managing 41.3 hectares of coastal Reserve along about 3.3 km of the coast at Walkerville on Waratah Bay in South Gippsland. The Committee is a voluntary local group appointed by the Minister for Environment and Climate Change.

The Reserve protects important natural, cultural, heritage and landscape values, and provides an attractive and peaceful setting for informal recreation and relaxation.



The Reserve includes striking coastal landscapes and diverse bushland along the coast and in creek gullies. The remains of the lime burning settlement at Walkerville South (partly in the Foreshore Reserve and partly in Cape Liptrap Coastal Park) provide strong links with the past use of the area. Popular visitor facilities include a developed camping area, picnic facilities, toilets, walking tracks and interpretive signs.

The original management plan for the Reserve was approved in 2001 and many of its proposed actions have been completed. The Committee decided to prepare this new plan to build on the 2001 plan, and deal with emerging issues and opportunities. These include coastal erosion, weed invasion and impacts on landscape values. The impact of climate change will influence management decisions about coastal infrastructure over coming years.

Community involvement was incorporated into the planning process. Input was invited with the release of a draft plan. Community input into the original plan, and subsequent forums regarding upgrading the Bayside Drive area were also considered in developing this plan.

Vision

Visitors and residents using the Walkerville Foreshore in 2020 find a peaceful retreat with well-protected natural, cultural and landscape values, and small-scale facilities, which provide opportunities for nature-based relaxation and quiet enjoyment.

The camping area has been enhanced and offers a range of low-key accommodation nestled in coastal vegetation. Coastal walks provide fine views and interpretive information helps visitors to appreciate Walkerville's rich heritage.

Vehicle access, parking and boat launching are regulated to provide a safe and pleasant experience for families, other visitors and residents and minimise intrusion on the foreshore. Day visitor areas have been enhanced with defined parking areas, sensitively designed structures and indigenous planting to blend with the coastal setting.

Foreshore protection works have been undertaken to mitigate erosion and climate change impacts are monitored.

Walkerville is a highly regarded destination for people who appreciate nature largely free from commercial development and enjoy the area's safe beaches, beautiful coastal landscapes and rich cultural heritage.

The Committee has worked with the community and government agencies to successfully implement management and maintenance programs, obtain external funding and complete improvement projects.



Guiding principles

The plan is guided largely by the four principles set out in the Victorian Coastal Strategy (VCS), 2008. In summary these are: protect natural and cultural values, provide integrated planning, and ensure sustainable use of resources. When these are addressed, consider development within nominated constraints. The Strategy provides context and specific policies and actions to address important coastal issues including climate change.

Future directions

The plan builds on the Committee's overall aim to conserve and enhance coastal values while providing community access. It identifies a vision and future directions for management, and sets out a series of goals and actions.

Four goals identified are:

1. Protect and enhance natural, cultural and landscape values.
2. Sustainably manage coastal access and a range of compatible recreational facilities.
3. Facilitate community involvement in coastal planning, management and appreciation.
4. Manage the coast effectively and sustainably.

Actions identified

An action program was developed to achieve the goals (see section 5.3). Some of the major actions are:

- **Landscape/facility enhancement:** With South Gippsland Shire Council (SGSC), develop and implement basic master plans for all visitor and parking areas.
- **Coastal erosion mitigation:** In cooperation with the Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI) and SGSC, implement works to reduce the impact of erosion on the foreshore (near Hall and camping area).
- **Weeds:** Implement and monitor a structured, ongoing weed control program.
- **Access, parking and facilities:** In conjunction with SGSC, manage vehicle access and parking at beach areas. Continue to provide for off the beach launching at North. At South, undertake a safety audit and, if appropriate, prohibit the launching of motorised craft in the summer and Easter holidays to minimise risk to other beachgoers.
- **Maintenance program:** Develop and implement a costed maintenance and replacement program.
- **Capital works program:** Develop and implement a rolling 5-year capital works program.

- **Roles and responsibilities: Review the time and skills needed to successfully manage the Reserve and implement this plan. Engage the additional expertise required.**

Implementation

The Committee, working collaboratively with the SGSC, DEPI and PV, will oversee implementation of the plan. The Committee has an annual budget of approximately \$250,000 to \$300,000, financial reserves to fund selected projects, and opportunities to obtain grant funding.

A broad Business Plan sets out the resources and timetable proposed to implement the plan.

1 Introduction

1.1 The study area

The Walkerville Foreshore Reserve is located on the western side of Waratah Bay, about 180 km southeast of Melbourne.

The plan applies to 41.3 hectares of the Crown land stretching approximately 3.3 km along the coast from a point just south of Bird Rock at Walkerville South, to the north end of the camping area at Walkerville North (fig 1). For the purposes of this plan the low water mark was adopted as the seaward boundary of the land managed by the Committee.

The Shire of South Gippsland is responsible for management of a gazetted road reserve along Bayside Drive at Walkerville North, and a reserve along the unsealed road into South.

The section of coast from the historic lime kilns at Walkerville South to a point north of the Bluff is part of Cape Liptrap Coastal Park. This park is managed by PV in accordance with an approved management plan.

1.2 Regional context

Much of the South Gippsland coast is protected in coastal reserves, and national, coastal and marine parks, managed to protect natural and cultural values. These areas are important tourist destinations, providing for a range of recreation activities. Small coastal hamlets, e.g. at Walkerville and Waratah Bay, provide accommodation and basic facilities.

Public land along the coast is a major strength of the area, attracting visitors who enjoy natural bushland, attractive beaches and outstanding scenery. The coastal landscapes from Cape Liptrap to Walkerville are regarded as some of the finest in Victoria and rated of State Significance (section 4.3).

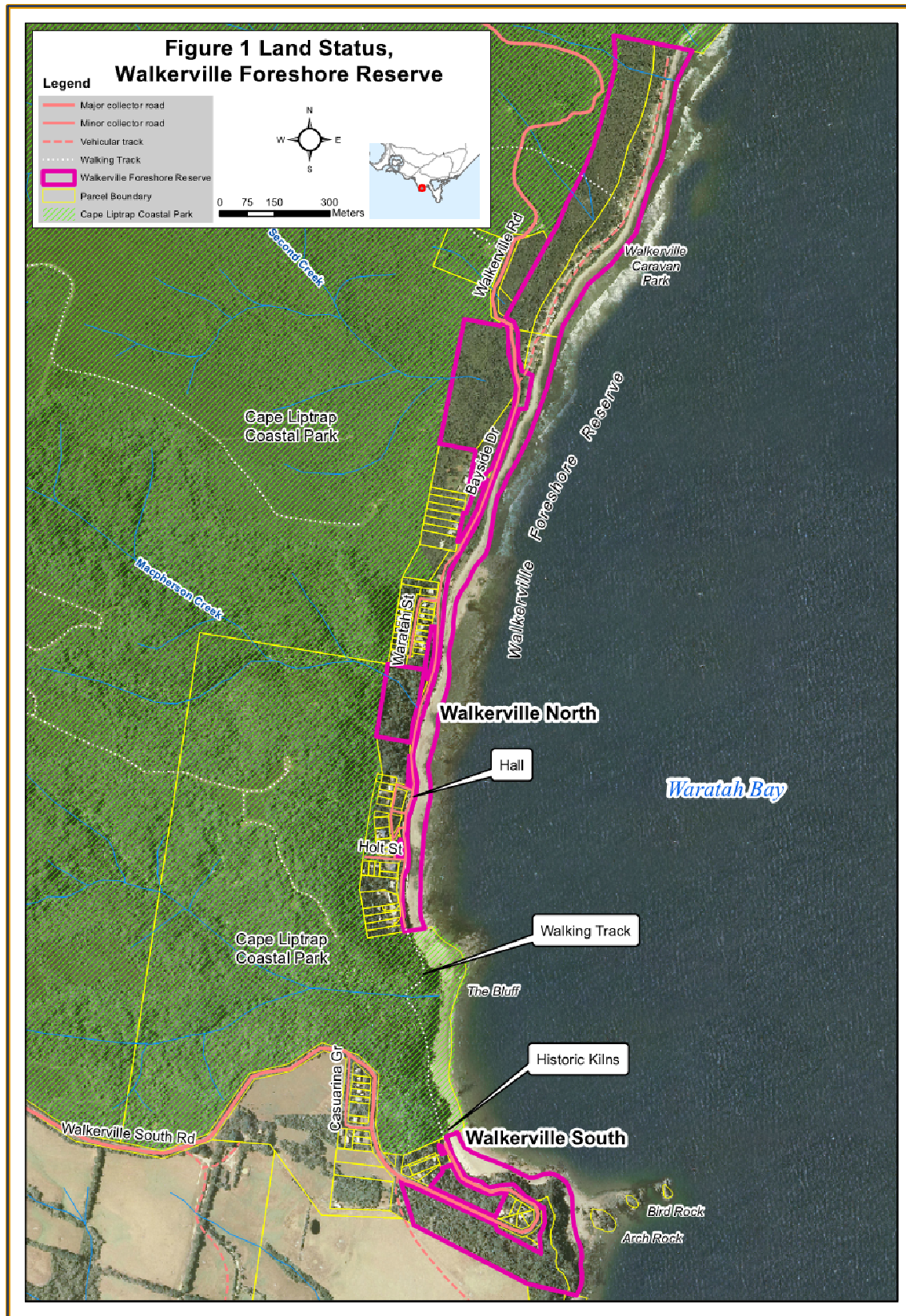
The Walkerville Foreshore Reserve provides good access to the coast for a range of recreation activities. The beach at South is probably one of the safest ocean beaches in Gippsland and popular with families.

1.3 Purpose of the plan

A Coastal Management Plan (CMP) is a strategic planning document prepared to identify the values of coastal Crown land, threats to these values, and opportunities and actions to protect and enhance values and provide for compatible use and enjoyment. Coastal Management Plans are prepared in accordance with the *Coastal Management Act 1995* and the Victorian Coastal Strategy (VCC 2008) and include consultation with local communities and relevant government agencies.

CMPs are endorsed by DEPI prior to approval by the Minister for Environment and Climate Change as directed by section 32 of the *Coastal Management Act 1995*.

This Coastal Management Plan documents an agreement between the Committee, DEPI and the community on the principles underlying coastal management, the main goals for management and actions to be implemented. The CMP is to be reviewed after 3 years as required under the Coastal Management Act.



1.4 Land status and management responsibility

DEPI has responsibilities on behalf of the State Government as the underlying manager of Crown land in Victoria. Under the *Crown land (Reserves) Act 1978* the Minister for Environment and Climate Change can delegate management responsibilities to committees of management – as is the case at Walkerville. The Walkerville Foreshore Reserve Committee of Management is a voluntary group appointed for a three-year term by the Minister on the recommendation of DEPI.

The Committee has the powers to manage, improve, maintain and control the land it is appointed over in accordance with the Act. Use, development and general land management must be consistent with the purposes for which the land was reserved as well as the *Coastal Management Act 1995*, the Victorian Coastal Strategy 2008 and Coastal Action Plans.

Detailed guidance on management is set out in Best Practice Management Guidelines for Committees of Management Managing Caravan and Camping Parks on Crown Land (DSE 2012). This sets out Requirements that committees must comply with, and Guidelines to help committees improve practices.

Reserve regulations set out the powers of committees to manage, improve, maintain and control the land.

The Committee funds its activities from revenue generated from camping and other fees, supplemented by a range of government funding programs. DEPI provides advice and guidance to the committee and may make grant funding available.

1.5 The planning process

This plan was developed for ministerial approval. Tasks included:

- Review of the 2001 Plan and other relevant existing information, site inspections and assessment of values, threats and opportunities. The 2001 plan includes details of earlier investigations and management recommendations made by the Land Conservation Council, and of consultation undertaken (WFRCOM 2001, p 2).
- Development of a draft plan.
- Discussion of issues and options with the Committee, DEPI, PV, the Country Fire Authority (CFA) and SGSC, and identification of future directions.
- Development of goals, actions and priorities for future management.
- Consideration of financial and management issues.
- Seeking and considering input from the local community. This included informal discussions with residents, a community meeting on January 13, 2013 to discuss the draft plan, uploading the plan onto the SGSC website, publicity, and inviting community comments. All responses were collated and considered by the Committee in revising the draft plan.

The plan builds on the 2001 management plan which dealt in detail with issues related to access for boating and protection of coastal values.

2 Basis for the plan

This plan is based on legislation, principles, policies and plans developed to ensure protection of coastal values in Victoria while providing for compatible access and recreational activities.

The plan builds on an understanding of the values of the study area, threats to these values and opportunities to enhance the coastal environment. The values and interests of visitors and local communities were also an important consideration in the developing plan. The Committee has a role of providing sensitively designed public access to the coast and appropriate facilities.

2.1 Relevant legislation and planning documents

The Minister makes regulations to govern care, protection and management of the Reserve. Regulations were gazetted on 14 March 1951 and amended in 1961, 1964 and 1966. These include the regulation of public use including parking, camping and boating and the collection of fees.

The Land Conservation Council (LCC) undertook a number of investigations and made recommendations relevant to the Foreshore Reserve and Cape Liptrap Coastal Park (LCC 1980, 1982, 1993, 1996). The Reserve, including the camping area, is described as unreserved Township land (LCC 1982). The Marine Coastal and Estuarine Investigation Final Report (ECC 2000) designates the Foreshore Reserve as Coastal Recreation Zone with a range of constraints to protect natural resources and safeguard natural processes.

The designation of Crown allotments managed by the Committee changed when the roads were gazetted and management given to SGSC in 2011. The allotments are all in the Parish of Waratah. Current Crown allotments are: Walkerville South: 1F, 9G, 2024, 2025, 2026; Walkerville North: 31, 33, 2008, 2009, 2014.

Relevant Acts, policies and other documents were reviewed for this plan. Key documents include the following.

- The *Coastal Management Act 1995* is the key Act guiding use and management of the coast. The Act aims to provide for co-ordinated strategic planning and management for the coast. To achieve this, the Act directs the Victorian Coastal Strategy to provide for long-term planning of the Victorian coast.
- The *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978* provides for the reservation of Crown land for a variety of public purposes, the appointment of committees of management to manage those reserves and for leasing and licensing of reserves.
- The Victorian Coastal Strategy (VCC 2008) is a key strategic document providing guidance on sound coastal planning, management and development. The Strategy includes a vision and government policy commitment for coastal environments and a framework for the development and implementation of Coastal Action Plans and management plans.
- Best Practice Management Guidelines for Committees of Management Managing Caravan and Camping Parks on Crown Land (DSE 2012) help Committees of Management manage their reserves in an environmentally, socially and economically sustainable way. The guidelines provide useful information on responsibilities, asset management, accommodation, capacity, marketing and planning.
- The Committee of Management Responsibilities and Good Practice Guidelines (DSE 2011) provide a practical framework for the operation of the Committee. It includes guidance on committee procedures and documentation, risk, finances, insurance, leasing and developments. The guidelines strongly recommend that committees of management prepare management plans. The guidelines should be read in conjunction with the governance information in State Services Authority publications such as Welcome to the Board.
- The SGSC Planning Scheme regulates development on private land, an important influence on landscape values along the foreshore. Within the Scheme, Overlays for Heritage, Significant Landscape, and Environmental Significance provide for protection of specific areas at/near Walkerville.
- Other SGSC documents with some relevance to the Walkerville Foreshore Reserve CMP include the Council Plan 2010-2014, Sustainability Strategy 2011, Rural Tourism Development Strategy 2010, Recreation

Plan/Strategy 2007, Open Space Strategy 2007 and Heritage Study 2004. These are all available on the SGSC website.

- The Gippsland Boating Coastal Action Plan 2012, (GCB 2012) provides a framework for recreational boating in Gippsland. No new development is proposed at Walkerville.

Additional policies, rules and regulations are listed in Best Practice Management Guidelines for Committees of Management (DSE 2012, appendix 1. See also appendix 7 re financial management planning).

2.2 Community and tourist use of the Reserve

The South Gippsland Shire Rural Tourism Development Strategy (SGSC 2010) found that:

- South Gippsland Shire is a strong holiday/leisure destination, attracting an estimated 1.1 million visitors annually. Holiday homes are a significant contributor to tourist visitation, accounting for approximately one quarter of all visitation.
- The top three activities undertaken by visitors to the Shire include General Sightseeing (76%), Visiting a National Park (72%) and Going to the Beach (56%).
- 73% of visitors to the South Gippsland Shire are from Melbourne (mostly from the eastern and south-eastern suburbs), 14% of visitors are from Country Victoria, 11% are from interstate and 3% are from overseas. Visitors from Country Victoria are mainly from regional centres including the Latrobe Valley, Ballarat, Bendigo and Geelong.
- Over half (52%) of all visitors to the Shire perceive it as “relaxing and peaceful” and a further 42% of visitors perceive the Shire as “beautiful and scenic”. Almost half of all visitors (43%) associate the South Gippsland Shire specifically with Wilsons Promontory, followed by 30% who associate it with rolling hills and 19% with the beach.

Walkerville Foreshore Reserve – with its largely undeveloped coastal landscape - plays an important role in the region, providing a “beautiful and scenic” setting, and “relaxing and peaceful” recreation opportunities.

The main user groups at Walkerville are permanent and part-time local residents, campers, tourists and travellers staying for short periods in the area, casual day visitors and water-based users.

The number of day visitors is not known. Many local residents (permanent and part-time) and other ratepayers also make regular use of the beaches and walking tracks.

Visitor numbers have increased in recent years with improvements in access roads and direction signs. The number of day visitors is likely to increase further as the area becomes better known and more is done to enhance visitor experiences.

2.3 Community needs

The community was invited to contribute ideas for the 2012 plan through newsletters and response sheets, and through invitations at community meetings. Responses received were considered in drafting this plan. Issues raised included dogs on beaches, water safety, parking, erosion, landscaping improvements and boating/fishing.

In summary, comments received prior to preparing this draft plan were as follows.



Figure 2: Community meeting at Hall

Issue	Comments
Dogs on beach	Exclude dogs from beach 9am – 6pm November-April
	Too many unleashed dogs in peak season. Increase fines? Consider restricted hours for dog walking.
Walkerville South Beach	Number of visitors unsustainable. Open other beaches [outside Reserve].
	Ban powerboats. Consider beach for swimmers only – consider no sailing craft.
Walkerville South Parking	Limit roadside parking / ban power boat launching summer holiday period.
Walkerville North Beach	Boating traffic intrusive. Exclude car and boat traffic south of ramp.
	Landscape foreshore.
	Educate fishermen to be more thoughtful in disposing of fish remains.

The outcomes of community forums held in 2008 to discuss options for the redesign of roadside areas along Bayside Drive North were also considered in the planning process.

3 Future directions

A 'SWOT' analysis was undertaken by the Committee to identify broad strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (constraints) related to the Foreshore Reserve. Additional factors identified during the planning process were subsequently added to the analysis. The SWOT analysis, and consideration of Reserve values, issues and opportunities, assisted in developing a vision for the area.

3.1 SWOT analysis

Strengths

- Attractive, largely natural foreshore and beach backed by extensive bushland reserve (Cape Liptrap Coastal Park).
- Includes outstanding landscapes and historic features of State significance, and geological formations of high educational value.
- Includes popular, peaceful camping/camping area in bush setting on the coast.
- Popular area for informal recreation including walking, beach activities, boating and fishing.
- Sheltered beach at South very popular and safe for families.
- Boat launching issue resolved previously with agreement to retain off the beach launching.
- Community Hall provides popular venue for community activities.
- Stable management arrangements and sound financial position.
- Good relationships with DEPI, Shire and PV.
- Strong community support for protection of foreshore values.

Weaknesses

- Volunteer committee with limited time and capability to implement this plan for the whole Reserve. Contract manager position focuses largely on camping area.
- Lack of formal asset management and works programs.
- Day visitor and roadside areas and facilities of poor-moderate quality. Parking poorly defined, landscaping treatments inadequate.
- Electricity poles are intrusive and some are positioned insecurely along the shoreline.
- Parking causes congestion at South and requires intensive management on busy days. Vehicles sometimes parked on beach.
- Dogs on beaches regulations (at North) not supported by some residents; regulations not enforced.
- Limited water supply to camping area. Use unregulated.
- Few community based volunteers involved with Committee-managed land.

Opportunities

- Improve experiences for day visitors and local residents using the foreshore.
- Improve facilities for new-style camping vehicles, e.g. effluent disposal.
- Diversify accommodation facilities in camping areas, e.g. providing more cabins.
- Increased focus on protecting/enhancing landscape and natural values.
- Build on good relationships with DEPI, PV and the SGSC.
- Development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with SGSC re road reserve management.

- Obtain additional grants to help fund priority projects.

Threats/constraints

- Narrow coastal strip susceptible to increased recreational use, and future climate change impacts: fire, erosion, storm surge, and rising sea levels etc.
- Risk of decline in camping use and revenue if Reserve does not meet changing needs of users.
- Weeds (including weeds invading from private land and road reserves) and pest animals adversely affect native flora and fauna.
- Foreshore landscape values threatened by large-scale private development and vegetation removal.
- Potential impacts of powerboats and jet skis on other users of the coast, including safety issues at South, and to a lesser extent at North.

Overall, the key strengths of the Reserve are the largely natural beach and foreshore, and the bushy, low-key camping area. These features, and the lack of commercial development in the area, provide visitors with opportunities to relax and enjoy nature in a peaceful setting.

3.2 Vision

The 2001 vision for the Reserve has been updated as reflect changes in the last 10 years. See Summary section.

3.3 Guiding Principles

The plan is guided largely by the principles set out in the Victorian Coastal Strategy, 2008. In summary these are:

1. **Provide for the protection of significant environmental and cultural values.**
2. **Undertake integrated planning and provide clear direction for the future.**
3. **Ensure the sustainable use of natural coastal resources.**

When the above principles have been considered and addressed:

4. **Ensure development on the coast is located within existing modified and resilient environments where the demand for development is evident and the impact can be managed.**

3.4 Management goals

Four goals were developed from preliminary public consultation and committee discussion. These provide a focus for management actions for the Committee's reserves:

Goal 1: Protect and enhance natural, cultural and landscape values.

Goal 2: Sustainably manage coastal access and a range of compatible recreational facilities.

Goal 3: Facilitate community involvement in coastal planning, management and appreciation.

Goal 4: Manage the coast effectively and sustainably.

Actions to achieve these goals are set out in sections 4 and 5.

4 Values, issues and management actions

This section:

- Discusses the current situation in the Reserve, including values, threats, issues and opportunities
- Lists management actions developed in response to these issues and opportunities. Many of these actions complement or enhance existing management activities.

A program to implement these actions is set out in section 6.

A summary of the Reserve's values and threats is provided in the Walkerville Environmental Kit (Walkerville Ratepayers and Residents Association 2008). Further detail is provided below.

4.1 Natural values

The natural values of the Reserve are affected by human impacts and 'edge' effects, e.g. the spread of weeds from adjacent land. The linear nature of the Committee's Reserve and its close proximity to roads and residential areas results in ongoing pressure on natural (and cultural and landscape) values.

Parts of the Reserve act as a buffer for the Cape Liptrap Coastal Park, providing an opportunity for coordinated management.

4.1.1 Geology, landforms and coastal processes

Geology

The Walkerville area has complex geology and landforms (Douglas 1975). The oldest rocks along the Victorian coast, 570 million year old Cambrian greenstones, are exposed south of Bird Rock. Three types of early limestone have also been identified in the area including Waratah Limestone, which was extensively quarried for lime from 1878. The striking rock-stacks at Bird Rock were formed when softer limestone was gradually eroded by wave action.

The sandstone and mudstone shore platforms at North are part of the 400 million year old Liptrap Formation and show strong bedding and folding.

The Waratah Fault visible at the Bluff (in Cape Liptrap Coastal Park) is considered to be the best exposure of a fault in Victoria (Wallis, pers. comm.). The Walkerville area provides outstanding opportunities for interpretation and education and there are opportunities to increase use by educational groups.

Potential threats to geological values include management works and recreational activities, e.g. fossil collecting.

Erosion and coastal processes

Foreshore erosion is a largely natural process and remedial works are generally only considered if public assets are under threat. A detailed study was commissioned by the Committee in 2004 to provide information on coastal processes and erosion, and boat launching options (Coastal Engineering Solutions 2007). The study found that:

- Parts of the shoreline, e.g. south of the camping area, have accreted (built up) since 1950 while some other parts have eroded.
- The coastline at North is protected from the direct action of waves by Cape Liptrap, Wilsons Promontory and the relative shallow waters of Bass Strait. The foreshore is further protected by reefs that are exposed for much of the area at low tide. Some erosion has resulted from man-made factors such as the construction of the south end of Bayside Drive on a low dune (c. 1960).



Figure 3: Geologist's delight

- The sand on the beach to the west of Cape Liptrap is quite different to the sand on Waratah Bay beaches. The implication is that there is little sand transport by longshore drift along the coast around Cape Liptrap. The sand along Waratah Bay beaches is generally finer grained and much whiter in colour. This suggests that most of it is derived from the Bass Strait and Waratah Bay seabed and moved onshore by large swells.
- Once sand has moved onshore it is moved around Waratah Bay in a clockwise direction, eventually accumulating in the sand dunes of Waratah Bay.
- At North there appears to have been a long-term balance between the volume of sand coming onshore to that moving northward. Climate change impacts are unknown. The system is fragile because of the lack of a store of sand (dune).

The Committee recognises the need for action to improve the protection of assets from erosion, particularly near the Hall, near Waratah Street and at the camping area, in ways that complement the area's natural and landscape values. This work needs to be undertaken in close cooperation with the SGSC which is responsible for Bayside Drive and the adjacent road reserve.



Figure 4: Existing erosion control works and parking near Hall



Figure 5: Clay fill at camping area

Near the Hall, proposals have been made to dump fill to extend the parking area over part of the beach and to construct a substantial rock wall (Coastal Engineering Solutions 2007). The Committee has undertaken investigations and discussions on the most appropriate treatment for this area. External funding assistance will be sought. Detailed discussion and input with SGSC and DEPI is ongoing.

At the camping area, sand and, more recently, clay/rubble fill have been used to combat erosion but regular 'topping up' has been required after storms. Alternative treatments have been investigated including installation of rock 'walling' and/or special erosion-control sand bags. The Committee proposes to continue to maintain the clay/rubble fill at the back of the beach in the short term, and move to alternative protective measures once designs and approvals have been finalised.

Actions to mitigate coastal erosion are included in section 5.

The potential for medium to long-term impacts of climate change on the foreshore are discussed in section 5.3.2.

4.1.2 Flora

Indigenous vegetation is a key value. It provides habitat for wildlife, stabilises fragile soils, and is a key component of the coastal setting, which draws people to the area. The Foreshore Reserve is an important buffer for the Cape Liptrap Coastal Park and should be managed to support the Park's conservation objectives.

Early photographs and anecdotal evidence indicate that much of the Reserve and adjoining bushland was cleared to provide fuel for the lime kilns, and subsequently burnt regularly to provide feed for stock. Strong regrowth in the last 50+ years provides evidence of the ability of the indigenous vegetation to regenerate.

A study commissioned by the Committee provides valuable information and mapping of vegetation in the Reserve (Ellis 2009).

The Reserve includes dune vegetation, coastal woodlands and damp forests with sheltered gullies with tree-ferns. The vegetation can be separated into seven Ecological Vegetation Classes (appendix 2).

More information on the EVCs (and threatened species) can be found in Davies 2002 and at www.depi.vic.gov.au.

Useful information on weeds and indigenous plants in the region is provided in Shire publications (SGSC, 2004)

Two trees are listed on the Significant Trees of South Gippsland (Ellis 2002) - a Fig (*Ficus carica*) on the foreshore at South and Shining Peppermint, (*Eucalyptus willisii*) opposite the top car park at South. Whilst the Fig may have historical/heritage significance, it is not listed under Heritage Victoria or National Trust databases and is thus not protected (Hawker 2013).

Threats to flora

There are continuing threats from weed invasion, fire, climate change and human activity including development, damage caused by people walking off tracks, dumping of garden waste, the growing of invasive exotic species on adjacent land, and unauthorised pruning or removal of plants by adjacent property owners. There are opportunities to reduce these threats through community education programs and support for the reinstatement and protection of native vegetation (see Native Vegetation Plan, West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, 2000).

Weeds are one of the greatest threats to native vegetation (Ellis 2009). The most serious weeds and their most prominent locations are detailed in appendix 1. Priority weeds for control include Cape Ivy, Blackberry, English Ivy, Sweet Pittosporum, Blue Periwinkle, Arum Lily, Mirror Bush, Agapanthus, Boxthorn and Sweet Pea. Extensive herbicide application has been undertaken to eradicate a garden escape - *Plectranthus* - which spread rapidly in the camping area in 2011.

Some native species such as Sweet Pittosporum, which did not occur naturally in the area, have spread along the coast and become a significant problem, competing strongly with locally indigenous species.

Guidelines and procedures for managing the environmental impacts of weeds can be found on the DEPI web site.

A systematic ongoing weed control program is desirable to minimise the impact of weeds on natural values.



Figure 6: Largely intact indigenous vegetation in the Foreshore Reserve and Cape Liptrap Coastal Park (Google photo)

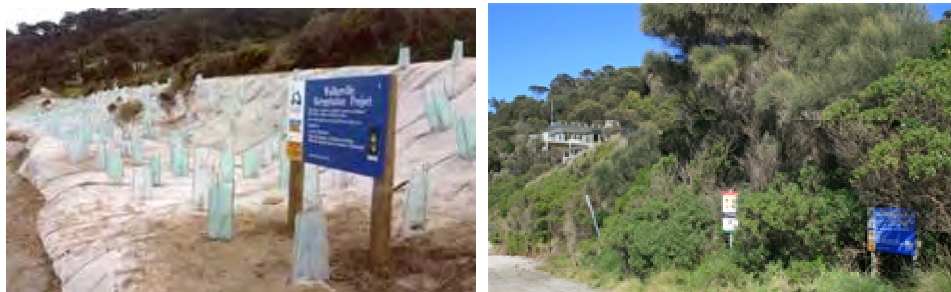


Figure 8: Successful revegetation project at end of Bayside Drive: 2002 and 2012

4.1.3 Fauna

Viewing native birds and other fauna in their natural habitat is an important aspect of the coastal experience of visitors and residents.

Bushland areas support diverse bird life and other indigenous fauna including koalas, wallabies, echidnas and wombats. Seabirds are also common along the foreshore including the Silver Gull, Pacific Gull, White-faced Heron, and Sooty Oystercatcher.



Figure 9: Kookaburras, White-faced Heron, Echidna

Pest animals include foxes, rabbits, cats, house mice, blackbirds and starlings. The impact of these pest species is not known in the Reserve and control is desirable in conjunction with any programs undertaken in the Coastal Park.

Oil spills and pollution along the coast are potential threats to shorebirds and other wildlife. The Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure has the lead role in responding to marine pollution. DEPI has the lead role in responding to wildlife threats and local 'wildlife volunteers' provide a valuable first response.

4.1.4 Intertidal areas

Intertidal areas provide important habitat for a range of organisms including seaweeds, sponges, fish and invertebrates. A high diversity of invertebrates occurs on the rocky reefs.

These are threatened by human activities, e.g. disturbance of rock pools, illegal harvesting of shellfish, and climate change impacts, e.g. storm surges. Education programs are important to minimise these threats.

4.1.5 Streams and water supply

The Reserve includes the mouths of McPhersons and Second Creeks which flow through catchments in the Coastal Park. The creeks are relatively unspoilt and protection of their habitat values is important.

The water supply for the camping area is drawn from Champagne Creek, also located in the Coastal Park. Parks Victoria understands that there are limited options to access other water supplies, but has advised that there is no provision under the *National Parks Act 1975* to allow for a non-public authority to extract, transport and use water from the Coastal Park.

Parks Victoria and DEPI will investigate options of transferring this section of land to the Committee. This process may also look at other areas of Committee managed land that may be more suitable to be managed by Parks Victoria.

Protection of the creek's catchment is important to safeguard water quality.

Management actions: Goal 1a: Protect and enhance natural and cultural values (natural)

- 1. Native vegetation: Protect and enhance indigenous vegetation. Use fencing and signs to regulate access, encourage natural regeneration, minimise adverse management impacts, and, where planting is appropriate - including the camping area - use plant stock of local provenance and relevant Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC) of the area.**
- 2. Weeds: Implement and monitor a structured, ongoing weed control program, targeting invasive species**

including environmental weeds such as Sweet Pittosporum. Include cooperative works with PV in Cape Liptrap Coastal Park, and with the SGSC and residents along road reserves and on private land. Retain trees of historical significance associated with the original village at South.

3. Pest animals: Work with PV to implement control programs for foxes, rabbits and other pest animals. Meet annually in July/August to plan program.

4. Creeks/water supply: Parks Victoria and DEPI investigate options to transfer the land required for the water supply to the Committee. The Committee to work cooperatively with PV on water supply from Champagne Creek. Ensure that any works undertaken in stream catchments conform to regulations and protect soils, vegetation and water quality.

4.2 Cultural heritage values

4.2.1 Indigenous heritage

The Reserve lies within the western-most lands of the Gunai – Kurnai Nation, which extended into East Gippsland. The Tarwin Aboriginals, a clan of the Boonerwung, were the makers of high quality stone implements for their tribes (PV 2003).

Little evidence has been found of Aboriginal use of the Foreshore Reserve area, possibly because of disturbance during the limeburning era. The sheltered cove at South, and rock pools and reefs are likely to have provided rich food sources for Aboriginal people before European settlement. Middens occur in the Coastal Park indicating that seafood was harvested along the coast.

Land managers need to recognise and respect these cultural connections, and work with Traditional Owners to protect and interpret Aboriginal cultural heritage. This would involve close cooperation with Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) applicants and Aboriginal Affairs Victoria. The Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation is currently an applicant (July 2012). The area is also part of country claimed by the Boonwurrung traditional owners represented by Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation and Boon Wurrung Foundation Ltd.

Any works associated with Indigenous cultural heritage sites need to comply with the *Native Title Act 1993*, the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* and Regulations 2007 and the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register.

4.2.2 European history and heritage

The major early impacts of European settlement were stock grazing and the operation of six lime kilns at South and one near Digger Island. The remains of the kilns and associated village at South are of State significance. The activities associated with lime burning have been well documented (Fleming 1975, Sharrock 1987, Harington 2000, Ward 2001/2003) and many photographs remain dating back to about 1900.

At Waratah (Walkerville South), lime burning was associated with the formation of an isolated settlement which ultimately declined with the industry it served. Whilst the majority of buildings remained at least until the Second World War, they were progressively removed thereafter. Today, the kilns survive as the principal relics. (Ward 2003)

Other relics in the Foreshore Reserve include stone walls and remains of several buildings. Ongoing protection and conservation of these relics is important. Many plants also remain from the 1920s including figs, nasturtiums, mint, Abizzia and various bulbs, providing a link with the past.

Following closure of the lime operations in 1927, the population dwindled and the area was largely forgotten.

The importance of the kilns and associated township, cemetery and quarry have been recognised in more recent times. Conservation works were commenced in 1993-4 and a conservation plan prepared (Ward 2003). Interpretation signs have also been installed since the 2001 management plan was prepared to enhance appreciation of the lime-burning era. There are opportunities for the Committee to provide additional on-site interpretation of relics at South, and to encourage further research on local history.



Figure 10: Walkerville village at South c. 1915

The kilns and associated historic features (including many in the Foreshore Reserve) are of State significance and included on the Victorian heritage Register (H2043).

The Committee is obligated to protect heritage values at South and permission is required to undertake works, which may affect these values.

The South Gippsland Shire Heritage Study (SGSC 2004) provides additional recognition of the kilns area (HO 129), and mentions Walkerville North Public Hall as of local significance (HO 128) (vol 3).

Heritage sites are adversely affected by natural processes, e.g. fire, floods and erosion, and may be damaged by management works, recreational activities and vandalism.

Management actions: Goal 1b: Protect and enhance natural and cultural values (cultural)

- 5. Heritage: In cooperation with Heritage Victoria and PV, protect heritage at South: remove invading vegetation, keep vehicles away from stone walls and arrange for conservation works where appropriate, e.g. stone wall stabilisation. Ensure that appropriate approvals are obtained from Heritage Victoria for any works associated with the area listed on the Victorian Heritage Register. Retain historical trees associated with the early settlement at South. Support reopening of Kiln 5 to the public by PV.**
Work cooperatively with appropriate Aboriginal organisations to protect and interpret indigenous heritage.

4.3 Landscape values

The Walkerville to Cape Liptrap area has very high scenic values with sandy beaches, rocky reefs and headlands, forested gullies and a backdrop of wooded hills. These important landscape values were documented over 20 years ago (Scenic Spectrums 1990), and in the recent Coastal Spaces study of the Victorian coast, where they were categorized as of State significance (Planisphere/DSE 2006).

At Walkerville, the community has expressed concern about impacts on landscape values, particularly along parts of Bayside Drive.

Opportunities exist - through sensitive design and planning controls - to enhance landscape values and make Walkerville one of the most attractive coastal hamlets in Victoria.



Figure 11: Landscapes of State significance

This plan supports principles for enhancing landscape values, building on recent guidelines and plans. Relevant Statewide documents include:

- Siting and Design Guidelines for Structures on the Victorian Coast; and Landscape Setting Types for the Victorian Coast, VCC, 1998
- Coastal Spaces – Recommendations, DSE, 2006
- Design Guidelines for Nature-Based Tourism, Inspiring Place, (draft) 2009



Figure 12: Opportunities for enhancement



Figure 13: Intrusive elements in a coastal landscape

Community studies, e.g. those undertaken by Green at Torquay/Jan Juc, Aireys Inlet/Eastern View and Lorne (e.g. see Surf Coast Shire 2006), have shown clearly that local communities value natural landscapes and vegetation. They also strongly prefer any buildings to be of small scale set in well-vegetated settings, to maintain local character. Green found

that there is a high correlation between the aesthetic landscape value of indigenous vegetation, and the environmental value of that vegetation, i.e. indigenous vegetation rated very highly for aesthetic value.

Landscape values are one of the most important attributes of land managed by the Committee and landscape protection and enhancement is a key role of the Committee.

All development is within the Township Zone and the trigger for a Planning Permit is related to the Environmental Significance Overlay 3 Coastal Settlements applications and are not advertised to nearby residences. This is a common approach across the Shire. As a result, applications will not be advertised to the Committee under the present planning provisions.

Venus Bay, Waratah Bay, Tarwin Lower and Sandy Point were part of a project that resulted in the placement of a Significant Landscape Overlay in three locations (not including Walkerville) and a Design and Development Overlay as well as a new Environmental Significance Overlay over the towns.

This would be the most appropriate way of controlling the development on the land in Walkerville and Walkerville South adjacent to the land managed by the Committee. South Gippsland Shire Council does not have this project on its current work list but would be interested in working with the Committee to explore funding for a project to achieve this aim.

Management actions: Goal 1c: Protect and enhance natural and cultural values (landscape)

6. **Planning protection: Work with SGSC to strengthen planning scheme protection of foreshore landscapes.**
7. **Power poles: Liaise with SP AusNet to identify options to reduce the visual impact of power poles and wires.**
8. **Landscape/facility enhancement (Capital works task): In close cooperation with SGSC, enhance foreshore landscape values by developing and progressively implementing basic master plans for all visitor/parking areas along Bayside Drive at North, and at South, in accordance with Victorian Coastal Council (VCC) and Planisphere guidelines (VCC 1999, Planisphere 2006). Give highest priority to the area near the Hall at North. See box.**

Master plan principles

How can roadside and visitor areas be improved? These notes outline principles to be followed in developing basic master plans.

- **Locate parking spaces on the inland side of the road wherever possible.**
- **Provide effective drainage and defined parking on surfaces compatible with natural surroundings.**
- **Provide for safe pedestrian access.**
- **Undertake planting of locally indigenous species to improve amenity, provide screening and shelter and improve habitat values.**
- **Use materials, colours and built forms that complement coastal environments and help provide attractive recreation settings.**
- **Provide robust, consistently designed park furniture including seats, tables and shelters.**
- **Continue to rationalise signs and minimise intrusions in the Reserve.**

4.4 Recreational, social and economic values

4.4.1 Recreational values

The Reserve is a popular destination for informal recreation and relaxation.

Providing for visitors

The Reserve provides for a range of informal recreation activities generally compatible with the coastal setting:

- For day visitors, residents and campers: swimming and beach activities, fishing and boating, camping, picnicking and heritage appreciation. A small kiosk and community hall are also provided.
- For walkers: beach walks, short bush walks and access to walks in the Cape Liptrap Coastal Park.
- For educational groups: Access to areas demonstrating geological and coastal processes, and the management of natural and heritage values.

Opportunities exist to improve the day visitor areas, camping area and walking tracks, and minimise conflicts between users. Over use at South is a potential problem, with demand for access and parking sometimes exceeding capacity, leading to traffic congestion and potential risk to users.

The plan addresses the 'tension' at Walkerville between conservation and increased recreational use.

Access and parking

Good road access is provided to North and South via Inverloch or Fish Creek.

Parking is provided at several informal carparks along Bayside Drive at North, and beside the entrance road and near the beach at South.

Parking is an issue at South on busy days when vehicles create congestion and adversely affect the ambience of the area. The upper carpark next to the entrance road (with walking access down to the beach) is under-utilised. In busy holiday periods, some parking could be redirected to this area to reduce congestion at the beach, possibly in conjunction with a drop-off zone (e.g. 5 minutes parking), reduced parking along the entrance road, parking fees, and a time limit for other spaces near the beach, e.g. 1 or 2 hours (Venus Bay beach carpark is a successful example).

Visitor pressure at South may be reduced by making swimming areas at North more popular. This could be achieved by selective removal of rocks to increase safety.

Parking at North, particularly south of the Hall, is unregulated and roadside areas are degraded (section 4.3).

The SGSC is now responsible for the roads and road reserves through the Foreshore Reserve at North and South. The road reserves include some of the facilities traditionally managed by the Committee and a formal agreement between the Shire and the Committee is needed. A Memorandum of Understanding is also needed to formalise traffic management by the Committee at South (use Vicroads template).

Vehicle access to beaches is restricted under the Land Conservation (Vehicle Control) Act 1972. At Walkerville, access is provided for people with disabilities, management purposes and the launching and retrieval of boats. Some vehicles are being driven illegally along the beach between North and South. Education and/or enforcement are needed to minimise this activity.

The vehicle access 'ramp' at South and the beach steps need to be repaired to minimise risk to visitors.

There are opportunities to improve access to facilities for people with disabilities, including improved access to the toilet at South.



Figure 14: Parking pressures at South (top) and North

Picnic facilities and walking tracks

Basic facilities including picnic tables, a toilet and electric barbecues are provided along Bayside Drive at North. At South, a toilet/change room and open-air shower are provided. There are opportunities to improve facilities and the appearance of these areas (section 4.3). Shelters for a number of open-air barbecues in the Reserve have been proposed and a toilet (and enhanced facilities) has been suggested at Waratah Street, to supplement existing toilets near the Kiosk and at the Hall (see Goal 1c).

The Committee will continue to manage these facilities and a management agreement needs facilities located on the Road Reserve.

The 'no bins' policy outside the camping area has been successful and should be continued.

Walking tracks are provided:

- From the camping area to a track through Cape Liptrap Coastal Park which provides access to Prom Views estate and a lookout.
- From South to the upper carpark on the entry road to South.
- From South to sets of steps down to Second Beach, Bird Rock and the coast about 200 m south of Bird Rock.

Beach walking is also popular, both to the north towards Waratah Bay beach, and south towards Bird Rock and beyond.

A roadside path along Bayside Drive at North has been suggested and should be considered further. Vegetation removal and proximity to the road are issues to be addressed.

Ongoing walking access between North and South through Cape Liptrap Coastal Park is highly desirable as sections of the beach are impassable at high and medium tides. This area is subject to landslips and the Committee should work with PV to keep this track open whenever practicable. Temporary closures in wet periods and after landslips may be necessary.

Camping and caravans

The camping area at Walkerville North provides 129 sites - 3 cabins, 82 powered sites and 44 un-powered sites - in bush and coastal settings. The area attracts many return users as well as casuals. The number of camper nights in 2011-12 was about 44,000. Long-term camping is not permitted. Sites can be booked for up to 6 months, with sites cleared after Queen's Birthday weekend.

Equitable access to sites is an important State Government principle and the Committee is obligated to conform to requirements for site availability (DSE 2012).

Opportunities exist to improve amenities and services, reduce the visual impact of the camping area from the beach, and undertake further weed control and conservation works. An audit of the electrical and other services in the camping area has been identified as a priority.

Cabins have been found to be popular with a significant number of users of coastal camping areas in Victoria, and an excellent means of raising revenue to help fund management activities. DEPI provides guidelines for cabin siting in camping areas on Crown land (DSE 2010 p 29). Additional cabins are not regarded as a priority at Walkerville at least in the short term.

Caravans with internal toilets are becoming more common, and the installation of a portable toilet hopper should be considered in liaison with the SGSC. Internal showers may also have implications for site drainage. Wastewater from washing dishes etc on campsites is a potential threat to ground water and possible impacts should be monitored.

Mitigation of risks and maintenance of emergency procedures, particularly in the camping area, are important aspects of the Committee's role (section 6.2.2). An Emergency Plan registered with the Shire is in place.



Figure 15: Pleasant camping in a bush setting

Unauthorised camping occurs from time to time, particularly beside Bayside Drive at North, and requires ongoing management attention.

Kiosk

A small kiosk, operated by a Lessee, provides basic services in busy periods. The kiosk is the only commercial outlet in Walkerville and is patronised by local residents as well as campers and casual visitors. Ongoing operation of the kiosk is desirable. The building is in need of upgrading or replacement and there are opportunities to landscape the adjacent outdoor area. These initiatives were supported during community consultation. Linkages to the park office should be considered together with the eventual replacement or refurbishment of the adjacent toilet block. An initial concept plan is desirable to identify future directions. (See capital works program.)

Swimming and beachgoing

South provides excellent, safe swimming opportunities with the gently sloping beach protected from large swells and from prevailing south-westerly to south-easterly winds.

North provides swimming opportunities at the camping area and near Waratah Street, although rocks limit the areas available (see section 4.4.1). Surfboard riding is popular when large swells are running.

Walking, sightseeing and children's play are all popular pastimes along the foreshore.

Boating and fishing

Boat launching was an important issue when the 2001 Management Plan was prepared. Since then an erosion study (Coastal Engineering Solutions 2007), community engagement, and recognition that launching and associated parking is constrained by the narrow reservation of Crown land at Walkerville, resulted in the Committee making a decision to retain off the beach launching with some improvements in associated facilities.

The Gippsland Boating Coastal Action Plan 2012 (GCB 2012) reinforces the Committee's decision: "Significant conflicts between boat users and other foreshore users at Walkerville North and Walkerville South arise from extremely limited space to improve car parking, turnaround areas or other onshore facilities at both these locations. The confined space restricts any further development of boating facilities in the area."

Repairs to boat (beach access) 'ramps' are suggested but no additional development is proposed in the Plan.

Launching is permitted beyond the south end of Bayside Drive at North (from beaches managed by the Committee and PV), and from the beach at South. 'Ramps' onto each beach provide access for vehicles and trailers.

Vehicles and trailers on the beach present some hazard to other beach users and parking of trailers and vehicles can contribute to congestion at South and North. Importantly, there are safety issues at South where boats are in close proximity to people in the water including children. Action needs to be taken to assess risks and manage boating activities to minimise risks, particularly on busy days. Prohibiting boats from the beach at South in the Christmas holidays and busy holiday weekends has been considered to minimise risks to beachgoers, particularly children, and to reduce traffic congestion. Retrieval of boats at South would be permitted in cases of emergency.

Personalised Water Craft ('Jet skis') are used at Walkerville, and can adversely affect the experience of some visitors (and residents). Liaison with Transport Safety Victoria may assist in responding to the issue.

The use of kayaks, small yachts and sailboards does not conflict significantly with other users and fits well with Walkerville's peaceful setting.

Dogs

Regulations related to dogs in the Reserve were updated in 2011:

1. Dogs are not permitted in the Caravan Park at any time.
2. Dogs are not permitted on the beach between 9 am and 6 pm from December 1 to March 31.
3. Dogs are permitted on leads on the beach before 9 am and after 6 pm from December 1 to March 31.
4. Dogs are permitted on lead other times (except in the Caravan Park).

Unrestrained dogs on beaches and tracks are an ongoing issue, with some owners not complying with regulations. Some residents requested strengthened enforcement during community consultation. Other residents expressed concern at the limited dog walking opportunities on the beach at North during summer and have requested regulations allowing dogs on leads, as at Waratah Bay beach.

Responsibility for enforcing dog regulations is somewhat contentious and a cooperative approach is needed.

Research indicates that dogs have adverse impacts on wildlife in bush settings (Holderness-Roddam 2012) and education, regulations and enforcement are needed to minimise these impacts. It is also important that dogs are not allowed on the beach north of the camping area, to protect wildlife.

4.4.2 Social and economic values

The foreshore and nearby bushland are one of the main reasons people live in or visit the area. When combined with recreation and accommodation facilities and interesting local history, these natural features provide significant social benefits: a backdrop for community and visitor activities and social interaction, a respite from city life, healthy lifestyles and a sense of place (things that make a place special).

These features and recreational facilities such as walking tracks, car parks and toilets also provide services desired by visitors and encourage people to stay in the area. They make a significant contribution to the local and regional economy through use of accommodation and tourism services.

Retention of Walkerville's natural values and peaceful setting will help to maintain the area's appeal to people seeking a relaxing experience, and help continue its economic contribution to the region.

There are opportunities to engage more visitors and residents in an understanding and appreciation of the values of the local environment and foster a commitment to their protection.

4.4.3 Information, interpretation and education

There are opportunities to expand and update information and interpretation services for visitors and local residents. The area's geology and natural and cultural features provide excellent opportunities to increase awareness and appreciation of the Walkerville area.

Coastcare activities are undertaken in the summer holidays, information is provided in the Hall, and a series of interpretive signs are provided along Limeburner's Track and at the kilns (in Cape Liptrap Coastal Park). The Walkerville's enviro kit, first produced in 2007, provides useful information and could be updated and re-released. Walking maps and notes would also be useful.



Figure 16: Interpretive panel in the Hall

The Committee produces an annual newsletter which has been well accepted and should continue to be produced and distributed to residents, campers and other visitors.

Proposed information boards and interpretive signs in the Reserve would assist in enhancing appreciation of the area. The community hall at North could function as a small information centre for residents and visitors.

The Committee has opportunities to provide improved information on the Internet, preferably through its own website. There is limited coverage of Walkerville, with little information on the Reserve and its values (July 2012). Some useful information is provided on the SGSC website.

Tourism and promotion

Walkerville plays an important role in tourism in the region (section 2.2). While not on a major tourist route, the area has significant values attracting visitors with an interest in coastal scenery and natural and cultural heritage. The area's undeveloped character is an important strength. Tourism is likely to increase as interest in Cape Liptrap Coastal Park and other attractions grows - Walkerville is readily accessible, and provides a major access point to the Park.

The Committee's camping area is popular and promotion has not been necessary to maintain high occupancy rates. Levels of use should continue to be monitored and a marketing plan developed and implemented if demand declines.

Management actions: Goal 2: Sustainably manage coastal access and a diverse range of compatible recreational facilities.

- 9. Access, parking and facilities:** In conjunction with SGSC, continue to manage vehicle access to beaches, and parking, and permit access for disabled visitors, boat launching/retrieval and management purposes only. Arrange an MOU with the Council regarding traffic management. In busy holiday periods, limit parking near the beach at South e.g. by improving parking above the beach, and providing a drop-off zone and a time limit for other spaces. Repair the beach access 'ramp' and steps at South. Investigate appointment of the Committee as COM for facilities on the Shire road reserve. Prohibiting vehicle access between Walkerville North and South should be considered.
- 10. Walking tracks:** Maintain tracks and stairways to a safe and useable standard. Use fencing and brushing to minimise off-track walking. Cooperate with PV regarding walking access to tracks in Cape Liptrap Coastal Park, and support retention of the track between North and South (Limeburner's Track). Consider further the proposal for a walking path along Bayside Drive.
- 11. Swimming, beachgoing, boating and fishing:** Provide for swimming and beachgoing as the primary uses of the swimming beaches at South and North. Continue to provide for off the beach launching at North. Consider selective rock removal to improve swimming safety at North. At South, undertake a safety audit – including incident reporting - and, if appropriate, prohibit launching of motorised craft in the summer and Easter holidays to minimise risk to other beachgoers. Liaise with Fisheries Victoria to discourage fishers leaving fish heads and the like on beaches.
- 12. Dogs:** Review dog regulations on the beach at North. Liaise with the Shire and PV to improve enforcement of dog regulations, particularly in the summer holidays. Promote responsible pet ownership.
- 13. Information and interpretation:** Provide and keep up to date information boards at the Hall and near the Kiosk, install interpretive signs and site markers at South, continue to produce an annual newsletter, provide a walks leaflet and update the Walkerville enviro kit. Improve coverage of Walkerville Foreshore on the Internet by providing a Committee website.

4.5 Community involvement in Reserve management

The local community has often been involved in foreshore planning and management, contributing to discussions and assisting with tasks ranging from weed control and heritage interpretation to the preparation of grant applications. Local organisations include:

- The Walkerville Ratepayers and Residents Association represents the interests of local ratepayers and is active in issues such as environmental and landscape protection, roads and access, fire, safety, recreation facilities and dog regulations. The former Friends of Walkerville amalgamated with the Association several years ago. The Foreshore Committee regularly provides information on Committee activities at Association meetings.
- The Blue Water Boating and Angling Club, formed in 2005, represents the interests of members in the provision of boating access and facilities.
- The Walkerville Progress Association, formed in 2006, represents visitors and others. The group supports separating pedestrian and vehicle traffic on the beach, improving picnic and beach facilities, undergrounding power lines and a range of other activities. <http://walkervilleprogress.org/about-wpa/>
- The Friends of Cape Liptrap Peninsula was formed recently to support environmental protection, restoration of flora and fauna, control of pest animals and weeds and local education awareness programs in the area.



Figure 17: Coastcare weed control group

A range of funding programs, including DEPI's Coast Action and PV's Community Grants Program – which have assisted with community-based projects - are available to assist community group projects.

Opportunities exist to link the activities of the various groups to achieve some of the strategies set out in this plan. The management plan can also be used to provide a focus for other interested ratepayers and individuals to participate in volunteer activities.

Possible volunteer activities include:

- Researching local history.
- Preparation of information and interpretation materials.
- Assistance with weed control programs.
- Monitoring of flora, fauna and coastal processes.
- Preparing funding submissions to Coast Action, PV and other sources.
- Participation in recording and protecting historic sites.
- Provision of an information service and guided walks and talks.

Ongoing feedback and communication is important to continue engagement with the community. A database of residents email addresses would assist in communicating with the community

Management actions: Goal 3: Facilitate community involvement in coastal planning, management and appreciation

- 14. Community feedback: Review implementation of the Plan annually (section 6.5) and facilitate an annual community meeting (with the WR&RA) where the Committee outlines current issues progress in implementing this plan proposed actions for next 1-2 years and opportunities for the community to be involved.**

5 Management overview and actions

This section:

- Provides an overview of the Committee's assets, finances, responsibilities and other management issues and opportunities.
- Lists overall management actions developed in response to these issues and opportunities.

5.1 Asset and resource management

5.1.1 Committee assets

The Committee has responsibility for a range of physical assets including:

- A camping and camping area with four amenity blocks, a kiosk, 3 cabins and 130 camping/van sites and associated services.
- A house/office (used by the caravan park manager).
- A kiosk.
- Two public toilets, barbecue facilities, picnic tables, seats, signs and shelters.
- A constructed playground.
- Walking tracks, stairways and fencing.
- Parking areas.
- Workshop, plant and equipment.

Some of these assets, e.g. the community hall and toilet at North, are located on road reserves now the responsibility of the SGSC but it is expected that the assets will continue to be managed by the Committee.

Proposed asset improvements include construction of a porch on the Hall, upgrading or replacement of the kiosk, and consideration of an extension to the house used by the Manager.

An up to date asset register and a formal maintenance and replacement program are desirable to help the Committee plan for cyclical maintenance and asset replacement.

5.1.2 Infrastructure/services

Utilities in the Reserve include electricity supply, telephone, bottled gas, drains, water supply (untreated), and a fire fighting system. An audit of existing services – including electrical services - is desirable to document existing provision and determine future works.

Roads through the Reserve are the responsibility of the SGSC (gazetted in 2011).

5.1.3 Income / expenditure / project management

Information on Committee revenue and expenditure is provided in section 6.

Most work undertaken involves maintenance and improvements to facilities and infrastructure. Land management, planning and risk management projects are also undertaken.

There are opportunities to introduce a structured approach to project planning and management, and to develop an ongoing capital works program.

Account keeping by the Committee needs to continue to meet the Australian Audit Standards.

5.1.4 Human resource management – roles and skills

Roles and responsibilities

Committee members have a range of skills related to foreshore management but limited time and capacity to oversee day-to-day operations and manage complex projects.

A contractor is engaged by the Committee to manage the camping area, and to undertake some specific tasks for the remainder of the Foreshore Reserve.

There is increasing recognition of the need to improve the management of the foreshore areas outside the camping area and to provide direction and supervision of major projects, often requiring technical and project management skills.

It is timely to:

- a) review the time and skills needed to successfully manage the Reserve as a whole and to implement the actions in this plan; and
- b) engage the additional expertise required.

Skill development

Skill development is desirable to help ensure that Committee members and contracted staff maintain up to date knowledge and skills in coastal management, and that the Committee complies with government policies and governance requirements e.g. by participating in seminars and workshops.

5.1.5 Leases and contracts

The committee has an agreement with a management/maintenance contractor, and a lease agreement for the Kiosk in accordance with DEPI guidelines.

The Services Agreement provides for a contractor to manage and maintain the Reserve and undertake other duties. The agreement includes information on services required, enforcement of regulations, training, fees etc. The current agreement period is 2007-2010, extended to 2013.

The Kiosk Crown Land Lease covers lease conditions, uses, opening hours, fees etc. The current lease period is 2010-2012, extended to 2015.

Review of the services and lease agreements is desirable prior to the end of the lease periods.

A range of contractors is engaged to undertake specific works, e.g. repairs to services, equipment maintenance, herbicide application and tree lopping.

5.2 Management of the Reserve

5.2.1 Management responsibility

The Committee's responsibilities are outlined in section 1. A series of agencies are also involved in the planning and management of coastal public land in the region, particularly DEPI, PV, the SGSC and the Gippsland Coastal Board. Close cooperation between these organisations is essential if the coast is to be well-managed and significant values protected.

Similarly, sharing of experiences with other coastal Crown land managers, and skills training, will help achieve continuous improvement. Ongoing involvement with Coastal Camping Victoria, a peak body representing coastal Crown land managers, will also assist.

There are several other small coastal reserves in South Gippsland (at Waratah Bay, Sandy Point, Shallow Inlet, and Yanakie) managed by individual committees of management. Ongoing liaison and sharing of information between committees is desirable. There may also be opportunities for these committees to share the cost of external expertise, e.g. to seek funding, manage projects and monitor performance. Annual meetings of relevant agencies and local coastal Reserve committees would provide a valuable forum to exchange ideas and information.

5.2.2 Risk

Coastal environments have inherently high risks requiring systematic assessment and management to minimise significant risks. Hazards to visitors include falling tree limbs, moving vehicles, fire (see below), uneven surfaces and potentially contaminated water. There are also inherent dangers and risks associated with water-based activities.

The Committee provides information on emergency procedures and on water treatment, arranges annual audits of tree hazards in the camping area, and works with the SGSC to comply with council guidelines. A series of marine safety signs were installed in 2011 in accordance with Life Saving Victoria guidelines.

Regular monitoring and timely response to any risks is an essential role of the camping area manager.

Impacts resulting from climate change are likely to require adaption as a major component of risk management (see also sections 4.1.1 and 5.3.2 regarding coastal erosion and climate change).

Useful information on risks is provided in the Victorian Coastal Strategy (VCC 2008) and Victorian Government Risk Management Framework March 2011 (see Appendix 1 of this document for the categories of risk).

Fire

Walkerville is in a remote location with extensive stands of native vegetation in the Foreshore Reserve and adjacent Cape Liptrap Coastal Park. Wildfire in the Reserve or adjacent public land could threaten campers, residents and private property in the area.

Few wildfires have been recorded in the area but Walkerville has been named one of Victoria's 52 bushfire hotspots by the Victorian Government (2009). The most recent large fire reportedly occurred in 1928, with the township at South narrowly escaping (Gair, pers. comm.).

Land managed by the Committee forms a narrow coastal strip with generally moderate fuel loads and limited opportunity for fuel reduction burning (with the exception of an area inland from the camping area). The CFA and DEPI have primary responsibility for fire suppression on private and Crown land respectively. Fire prevention is the responsibility of the Committee. The primary objective is to minimise risk to life and property in and adjacent to the Foreshore Reserve.

The Committee plays a support response role including use of a trailer-mounted pump unit and needs to maintain up to date emergency procedures in the camping area.

Fire management issues on Crown and private land are addressed in the State Government's Code of Practice for Bushfire Management (2012), DEPI's regional fire operations plans, and the Shire's South Gippsland Municipal Fire Management Plan (draft 2012).

Open fires are prohibited throughout the Foreshore Reserve except in approved containers, outside the declared fire restriction period. High-risk days are publicised.

Enforcement

Enforcement of regulations is an important component of foreshore management. The Committee needs to clarify the role and responsibilities of the Contractor, and Committee members, regarding enforcement authorities. Coordination of activities with PV and SGSC is desirable.

5.3 Sustainability and climate change

5.3.1 Sustainable management

Sustainable management is an important priority for all managers of land and other resources (<http://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au>).

The need for more sustainable management of coastal areas has been widely recognised in recent years (VCC 2008). A broad statewide overview of sustainable management (DSE 2008) identified key directions including: responding to the challenge of climate change, maintaining and restoring our natural asset, and using our resources more efficiently.

The Committee has an important role to play in demonstrating a commitment to reduced use of energy, potable water and non-recyclable materials. Recycle waste bins introduced in 2011 have successfully reduced waste going to landfill,

and there are opportunities for further reductions in water use, e.g. in showers, toilets and laundries, and increased collection and use of rainwater.

Other issues include resources used in activities such as mining and cartage of gravel used in track construction, and the use of sustainable timber or recycled plastic in park furniture, fencing etc.

An environmental audit would help to identify opportunities to enhance sustainable practices.

5.3.2 Climate change

Recognition of the cause and likely impacts of climate change is increasing. Probable impacts over time include increased storm events, tidal surges, rising sea levels, increasing temperatures and reduced rainfall. Useful information is available at <http://www.climatechange.vic.gov.au>.

The VCS, released in 2008, states that future planning should account for sea level rise of not less than 0.8 metres by 2100 [based on Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) November 2007].

For existing development along the coast, there are three recognized adaptation options:

- protect - protection of beaches, dunes and infrastructure, land use and development
- accommodate – planning and building policies and provisions, redesign and rebuild
- retreat – relocation of infrastructure, land use and development.

For new developments, sea level rise of not less than 0.8m by 2100 must be planned for and must take into account the combined effects of storm tides, river flooding, coastal erosion and sand drift. Development in areas vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and sea level rise and susceptible to flooding, landslip and erosion should be avoided.

In July 2012 changes to the Victoria Planning Provisions and all planning schemes were gazetted which included the requirement to plan for an increase of 0.2 metres sea level rise over the current 1 in 100 year flood levels by 2040 for new developments that are urban infill. Greenfield sites must plan for 0.8 metres sea level rise by 2100.

The full impact of climate change will not take effect immediately and as most coastal dependent facilities have a short asset replacement life (20-30 years) investment in coastal and foreshore facilities (e.g. jetties, boat ramps) can still take place even if they are located in long term vulnerable sites.

The State Government is also providing detailed data and mapping that show where flooding is likely to occur in future and as the basis for coastal vulnerability assessments of the impacts of a sea level rise and extreme storm events.

Ongoing liaison with DEPI and compliance with State Government guidelines will help deal with the effects of climate change.

Management actions: Goal 4: Manage the coast effectively and sustainably
15. Assets and services: a) Prepare an inventory of Committee assets. b) Prepare an inventory of public authority infrastructure on Committee-managed land. c) Arrange an audit of electrical services.
16. Maintenance program: Develop and implement a costed maintenance and replacement program.
17. Capital works programs: Develop and implement a rolling 5-year capital works program, based on actions and priorities set out in this plan. Include construction of a porch at the Hall, upgrading or replacement of the kiosk and surrounds, installation of barbeque shelters, consideration of provision of a toilet near Waratah Street, and an extension to the house used by the Contractor.
17a Procedures Manual: Develop and implement a policy and procedure manual documenting components of actions 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 23a.
18. Project planning and management: Introduce a structured process to review and approve projects costing over \$10,000: a proposal and Committee approval are particularly important for any projects not given a high priority in this plan. Include: a) preparation of a written proposal outlining need, options, scope and estimated cost;

- b) review and approval/or non-approval by the Committee to proceed.
- c) development of a brief or specification and seeking of quotes.
- d) review and approval by the Committee (or non-approval) to proceed.
- e) project implementation by an appointed project manager to plan the project, supervise works and report progress to the Committee.

19. Roles and responsibilities:

- a) Review the time and skills needed to successfully manage the Reserve as a whole.
- b) Review the time and skills needed to manage implementation of high priority actions in this plan.
- c) Engage the additional expertise required.

20. Skills development: Organise participation in appropriate skills training to ensure good governance and effective on-ground management.

21. Leases and contracts: Prior to renewal, review/revise the contract requirements for Reserve management/maintenance (section 5.1.4), and the lease for the Kiosk, and ensure alignment with the objectives and actions in this plan. Include provision for supervision and performance monitoring.

22. Management forum: With DEPI, establish and participate in an annual 2-3 hour stakeholder group forum with relevant regional government agencies and foreshore committees to review issues and actions for the past year and proposed actions for next 1-2 years (venue rotated between participants). Proposed participants: DEPI, PV, SGSC, Gippsland Coastal Board and committees of management for Walkerville, Waratah Bay, Sandy Point and Yanakie. Encourage DEPI to take the lead role.

23. Risk: a) Arrange a risk audit and implement recommendations. b) Clarify enforcement roles in the Reserve.

24. Coastal erosion: In cooperation with DEPI and the SGSC, plan and implement sensitively designed works to reduce the impact of erosion on the foreshore, particularly near the Hall and at the south end of the camping area. Include upgrading of the rock 'wall' near the Hall.

25. Fire: Work cooperatively with DEPI and the CFA to minimise the risk of fire to people and property. Maintain fire equipment to agreed standards. Publicise fire regulations and restrictions on the use of fire in the Reserve and ensure emergency response plans are in place and updated.

26. Sustainable management: Arrange an environmental audit of the camping area and other Committee assets and implement actions to reduce energy and water use and the use of non-renewable resources, and to maximise recycling.

27. Climate change: Comply with relevant guidelines provided by DEPI (see also action 4 re erosion).

6 Business plan

6.1 Financial position

The Committee operates with annual income of about \$310,000 to \$350,000. Annual expenditure varies, depending on grants received, capital works undertaken and maintenance requirements.

Income has risen at a modest rate over the last 5 years. Camping fees are the main source of income.

6.2 Implementing actions

Successful implementation of this plan will require a clear focus on the priorities and actions identified, and on a cooperative approach to management with the Committee working closely with DEPI, SGSC, PV, other agencies and the local community.

Actions to be undertaken in the plan may require specific approval or consent where relevant. These may include:

- *Coastal Management Act 1995* consent (required for significant development works)
- SGSC planning permit
- Aboriginal cultural heritage approval under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*
- *Native Title Act 1993* (Commonwealth) referral
- EES referral (*Environment Effects Act 1978*)
- *Planning and Environment Act 1987*

6.3 Priority action plan

The following tables include actions, priorities, proposed timing and responsibilities for implementation. Table 1 shows operational tasks. Table 2 shows capital works tasks.

Table 1: Priority action plan a: Operational tasks

Note:

- Action statements are abbreviated. See the detailed actions listed in sections 4 and 5.
- Most actions in this table will be funded from annual operational (recurrent) budgets, with some support from grants.
- Priorities: H: High, M: Medium, L: Low

The highest priority tasks are in bold and marked in yellow.

Action	Priority	Year (1 = 2013/14)	Funds *	Respon'y **
Goal 1a: Protect and enhance natural and cultural values (natural)				
1. Native vegetation: Use fencing and signs to regulate access, encourage natural regeneration, minimise adverse management impacts; use plant stock of local provenance.	M	Ongoing	OpB	COM
2. Weeds: Implement and monitor a structured, ongoing weed control program.	H	Ongoing	OpB/ grants	COM
3. Pest animals: Work with PV to implement control programs for foxes, rabbits and other pest animals	M	Ongoing	OpB	COM (PV)
4. Creeks/water supply: Work cooperatively with PV on water supply from Champagne Creek.	M	2	OpB	COM, (PV)
Goal 1b: Protect and enhance natural and cultural values (cultural)				
5. Heritage: In cooperation with Heritage Victoria and PV, protect heritage at South including vegetation removal and stone wall stabilisation. Work cooperatively with appropriate Aboriginal organisations to protect and interpret indigenous heritage.	H	Ongoing	OpB/ grants	COM
Goal 1c: Protect and enhance natural and cultural values (landscape)				
6. Planning protection: Work with SGSC to strengthen planning scheme protection of foreshore landscapes.	H	1,2	OpB	COM (SGSC)
7. Power poles: Liaise with SP AusNet to identify options to reduce the visual impact of power poles and wires.	M	2	OpB	COM
Goal 2: Sustainably manage coastal access and a diverse range of compatible recreational facilities				
8. Landscape/facility enhancement (see Capital works table)				
9. Access, parking and facilities: In conjunction with SGSC, manage vehicle access and parking at beach areas. Upgrade facilities as part of master plans (see capital works). Arrange an MOU with the Council regarding traffic	H	1,2,3	OpB	COM, SGSC

management.					
Investigate appointment of the Committee as COM for facilities on the Shire road reserve.					
10. Walking tracks: Maintain tracks and stairways to a safe and useable standard.	M	Ongoing	OpB	COM	
11. Swimming, boating: Continue to provide for off the beach launching at North. At South, undertake a safety audit and, if appropriate, prohibit the launching of motorised craft in the summer and Easter holidays to minimise risk.	H	1,2	OpB	COM	
12. Dogs: a) Review dog regulations on the beach at North. b) Liaise with the Shire and PV to improve enforcement of dog regulations on beaches.	M	Ongoing	OpB	COM SGSC	
13. Information and interpretation services: - provide information boards at Hall and Kiosk. - continue annual newsletter . - provide interpretive signs and plaques at south. - support an oral history of Walkerville - provide a walks leaflet and update enviro kit. - establish a website.	H-M	1,2,3	\$25,000	COM	
[Funding sources to be resolved: grants, CoM]					
Goal 3: Facilitate community involvement in coastal planning, management and appreciation					
14. Community feedback: Review implementation of the Plan annually and report to the local community.	M	Ongoing	OpB	COM	
Goal 4: Manage the coast effectively and sustainably					
15. Assets and services: a) Prepare an inventory of Committee assets. b) Prepare an inventory of public authority infrastructure. c) Arrange an audit of electrical services.	H	1	OpB	COM	
16. Maintenance program: Develop and implement a costed maintenance and replacement program (whole Reserve).	H	1 and ongoing	OpB	COM	
17. Capital works program: Develop and implement a rolling 5-year capital works program, based on actions and priorities set out in this plan (see following table).	H	1 and ongoing	See table 2	COM	
17a. Procedures Manual: Develop and implement a CoM policy and procedure manual documenting components of actions 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 23a.					
18. Project planning and management: Introduce a	M	2	OpB	COM	

structured process to review and approve projects costing over \$10,000.				
19. Roles and responsibilities:	H	1	See table 2	COM
a) Review the time and skills needed to successfully manage the Reserve as a whole.				
b) Review the time and skills needed to manage implementation of high priority actions in this plan.				
c) Engage the additional expertise required to manage the Reserve and implement this plan.				
20. Skills development: Organise participation in appropriate skills training to ensure good governance and effective operational management.	M	Ongoing	OpB	COM
21. Leases and contracts: Prior to renewal, review/revise the contract requirements for Reserve management/maintenance, and the lease for the Kiosk, ensuring alignment with the objectives and actions in this plan.	H	1	OpB	COM
22. Management forum: With DEPI, establish and participate in an annual stakeholder forum with agencies and foreshore committees.	L	Ongoing	OpB	COM, DEPI
23. Risk: a) Arrange a risk audit and implement recommendations. b) Clarify enforcement roles in the Reserve.	H	1,2	OpB	COM
24. Coastal erosion: (see Capital works table)				
25. Fire: Work cooperatively with DEPI and the CFA to minimise the risk of fire to people and property.	H	Ongoing	OpB	COM, DEPI, CFA
26. Sustainable management: Arrange an environmental audit of the camping area and foreshore and implement sustainability actions.	L	3	OpB	COM
27. Climate change: Comply with relevant guidelines provided by DEPI..	M	Ongoing	OpB	COM, DEPI

* OpB: Operational Budget, CapW: Capital Works, TBA: To be advised.

** COM responsibility includes Contractor where relevant.

Table 2: Priority action plan b: Capital works and project management

The highest priority tasks are in bold and marked in yellow

Action	Priority	Year (1 = 2013/14)	Cost (est.)	Respon'y
<p>8. Landscape/facility enhancement: With SGSC, develop and implement basic master plans for all visitor/parking areas:</p> <p>a) Bayside Drive: Hall to south end of road</p> <p>b) Bayside Drive: other visitor areas</p> <p>c) South: visitor areas</p> <p>[Funding sources to be resolved – Shire and State government grants, CoM]</p>	H-M	1,2,3	\$350,000*(includes landscape design)	COM, SGSC
<p>24. Coastal erosion mitigation: In cooperation with DEPI and SGSC, implement works to reduce the impact of erosion on the foreshore:</p> <p>a) Along Bayside Drive: Hall to south end of road</p> <p>b) At south end of camping area</p> <p>[Funding sources to be resolved: DEPI, grants, CoM, SGSC]</p>	H-M	1,2	\$125,000*	COM, DEPI, SGSC
<p>Construction projects: (details, costs and priorities to be determined)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construct porch at the Hall • Install shelters over selected barbecues • Upgrade or replace kiosk and surrounds (start with concept plan) • Consider provision of a toilet near Waratah St • Consider extension to house used by Contractor • Consider pump-out facility <p>[Funding sources to be resolved: grants, CoM, SGSC]</p>	H-L	1 and later	Porch: \$20,000 BBQ shelters \$30,000 Others TBA	COM
<p>Project management of priority tasks (action 19c) Task list to be agreed by Committee</p>	H	1	\$50,000 *	COM

* Broad estimates only. Detailed costings to be developed.

TBA: To be advised.

6.4 Resources for implementation

As discussed above, implementation will need to be staged to match actions with available resources.

Financial resources

The Committee raises ongoing revenue from camping and other fees and holds some reserves. However, additional funding, e.g. government grants, will be needed for major works. There are extensive opportunities to seek and gain external grants to help fund activities. These include Coastal Environments Program, Coastcare Grants; Public Safety on Public Land Grants, and Communities for Nature Grants.

Websites listing potential funding sources include:

<http://www.grantslink.gov.au/>

<http://www.grants.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>

http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/funding/grant_main.jsp

<http://www.depi.vic.gov.au>

Labour resources

The Committee has limited capacity to undertake large projects, and external contractors will need to be engaged in some cases. Close cooperation with the SGSC will be essential to manage improvement works along road reserves.

Volunteers could make an increased contribution to Reserve management and assist with tasks such as weed removal and interpretation (section 4.5). Groups and programs could include Coastcare, WRRRA, and Coastal Volunteers Australia.

6.5 Monitoring performance

Monitoring is important to review progress in implementing this plan. The following indicators will be used to monitor progress.

Efficiency

- Level of implementation of actions in this Plan.

Target: 75% of high, medium and ongoing actions implemented by June 2016. This will be largely dependent on the Committee's capacity to fund, plan and manage priority tasks and projects.

Effectiveness

- Reductions in extent of priority weed species (section 4.1.2).

Target: 90% reduction in extent of priority weed species by 2017.

- Satisfaction of stakeholders with the Committee's coastal management

Target: 80% satisfied or very satisfied by 2017.

Reporting

Progress will be reported to DEPI and local communities annually, and the plan reviewed in 3 years time.

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Details of additional references are provided in appendix 1.

See also web references included in text.

Personal communications

Geoff Gair

John Hawker (2013 email communication), Heritage Officer (Horticulturalist), Heritage Victoria, Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure

Gary Wallis

Appendices

Appendix 1: Summary of existing legislation/policies/strategies

Relevant Acts and documents related to the plan are summarised here.

Legislation

Act	Key elements
Commonwealth	
<i>Native Title Act 1993</i>	Establishes a framework for the protection and recognition of native title. The Act sets up processes to determine where native title exists, how future activity impacting upon native title may be undertaken, and provide compensation where native title is impaired or extinguished.
State	
<i>Coastal Management Act 1995</i>	Key Act guiding use and management of the coast. The Act aims to provide for co-ordinated strategic planning and management for the coast. It directs the Victorian Coastal Strategy to provide for long-term planning of the Victorian coast.
<i>Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978</i>	This provides for the reservation of Crown land for a variety of public purposes, the appointment of committees of management to manage those reserves and for leasing and licensing of reserves.
<i>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988</i>	The Act provides the legal framework to conserve Victoria’s native plants and animals. Its broad aim is to prevent the extinction of any more plants and animals and to ensure that native flora and fauna flourish.
<i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 and Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2007</i>	<p>The Act provides legislative protection for all Aboriginal cultural heritage sites, places and objects, with the involvement of Aboriginal people. Where works include high impact activities, a Cultural Heritage Management plan is required to be prepared.</p> <p>The Act recognises Aboriginal people as the “primary guardians, keepers and knowledge holders of Aboriginal cultural heritage” and establishes the Aboriginal Heritage Council of 11 traditional owners and Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs). RAPs play a lead role in administering the Act. The study area does not currently have a RAP recognised under the Act.</p> <p>The Regulations specify certain types of areas as areas of cultural heritage sensitivity, identify what constitutes a high impact activity and sets out the types of activities that are exempt.</p>
<i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i>	Establishes State planning and land use processes including general principles for land use and development and specific policies dealing with settlement, environment, housing, economic development, infrastructure, and particular uses and development.
<i>Environment Protection Act 1970</i>	Provides the legal framework by which environmental objectives, regulations and goals are established throughout the State. The Act reflects the precautionary principle, the protection of intergenerational equity, the polluter pays principle, and the protection of biodiversity.

Reference documents (plans, strategies, policies etc)





Document	Key elements
State	
Victorian Coastal Strategy (VCS) 2008	<p>Key document providing a vision and government policy commitment for coastal environments, and a framework for the development and implementation of Coastal Action Plans and management plans.</p> <p>Includes hierarchy of principles: protect natural and cultural values, provide integrated planning, and ensure sustainable use of resources. When these are addressed, consider development within nominated constraints.</p> <p>Provides context and specific policies and actions to address important coastal issues including climate change.</p> <p><i>See page 71 for a list of relevant Acts and documents.</i></p>
Siting and Design Guidelines for Structures on the Victorian Coast; and Landscape Setting Types for the Victorian Coast, VCC, 1998	<p>Broad documents outlining landscape features of the coast, and principles for sensitive siting and design of structures and vegetation enhancement.</p> <p>The study area is described as highly significant, with the need to address linear and inappropriate development, concentrate development at existing nodes and apply planning controls.</p>
Design Guidelines for Nature-Based Tourism, Inspiring Place, 2010	<p>Applies primarily to facilities in natural areas, but has application to Reserve areas. Sets out methods to design facilities compatible with nature, which contribute to visitor enjoyment and nature appreciation.</p>
Caravan and Camping Parks on Coastal Crown Land – Reference Group Report: DSE May 2006	<p>Includes recommendations to government to provide for a mix of accommodation options, develop a permit system, develop best-practice guidelines, and improve planning, maintenance and facility standards.</p>
Committee of Management Responsibilities and Good Practice Guidelines, DSE, 2011	<p>Prepared to assist members of committees of management. Includes good practices, guidance on committee procedures and documentation, risk, finances, leasing, developments etc. The guidelines strongly recommend that committees of management prepare management plans.</p>
Best Practice Management Guidelines for Committees of Management Managing Caravan and Camping Grounds on Crown Land, DSE, 2012	<p>Responds to the 2006 report, and provides a comprehensive guide for CoMs covering management responsibilities, accommodation, marketing, planning etc.</p> <p>Includes a useful section on management planning (pp. 45-52). This includes identification of type of business, management structure, assets, customers, finances, marketing and risks. Suggests initial SWOT analysis, and development of maintenance strategy, environmental management plan, risk management plan, financial plan and implementation strategy. Appendices include useful park management template.</p>
Victoria's Native Vegetation Management – A Framework for Action 2002	<p>The primary goal for native vegetation management is to achieve "A reversal, across the entire landscape, of the long term decline in the extent and quality of native vegetation, leading to a Net Gain." The highest priority is avoiding adverse impacts, particularly native vegetation clearance.</p>
Policy Statement - Improving Equity of Access to Crown Land Caravan and Camping Parks, DSE, 2011.	<p>Response to 2010 CoM guidelines document.</p>
Coastal Spaces Landscape Assessment	<p>Major study of Victorian ocean coast. Rates Walkerville/Cape Liptrap</p>

Study, Planisphere, for DSE, 2006 [series of reports]	coast as of State Significance. Provides for protection through planning schemes including Significant Landscape Overlays, and policies and guidelines building on the 1998 Guidelines (pp. 88-91 State Overview Report). Also proposes community education on landscape values.
Coastal Spaces – Recommendations, DSE, 2006	Recommends confining development to existing settlements, establishing settlement boundaries etc. Integrated into revised VCS, 2008.
Future Coasts Program 2011	Includes assessment of physical vulnerability of Victorian coast to climate change, and development of hazard guidelines.
Coastcare Victoria Strategy 2011-2015, DSE, 2011	Sets out to enhance volunteer activities along coast. Includes three key roles: strengthen community groups, support participation in coastal management, and broaden community engagement in coastal issues. Includes rationale, directions and actions to achieve this. Actions include community education, Summer by the Sea program and support for community involvement.
Regional	
SGSC Planning Scheme	Includes information on zoning, overlays and other planning matters relevant to Walkerville.
Gippsland Boating CAP	Includes review of boating opportunities and issues at Walkerville. Does not recommend further development.

Appendix 2: Ecological vegetation classes

See section 4.1.2.

<p><i>EVC 1 Coastal Dune Scrub Mosaic</i> includes the vegetation succession from grasses and halophytes (salt-loving plants) of the foredune to the closed scrub of Coast Wattle and Coast Tea-tree on the secondary dunes behind ocean beaches of South Gippsland. This EVC occurs along the foreshore from the caravan park at the northern end along Bayside Road to the boat ramp at the end of the Reserve at Walkerville North. It is very narrow and has been identified as an area of great vulnerability to erosion.</p>	
<p><i>EVC 2 Coast Banksia Woodland</i> is dominated by Coast Banksia over tall shrubs of Coast Tea-tree. Scramblers such as Bower Spinach are common in the understorey with a ground cover of grasses, herbs and sedges. This is mostly at the northern end of the camping area, but there are small areas of Coast Banksias along Bayside Drive interspersed with Lowland Forest.</p>	

<p>EVC 16 Lowland Forest is dominated by Messmate and Narrow-leaf Peppermint with Hop Goodenia, Snowy Daisy-bush and Prickly Moses in the understorey. Common ground cover species include Ivy-leaf Violet, mat-rushes, Austral Bracken and grasses such as Weeping Grass and Common Tussock Grass. There is a pristine area of Lowland Forest above the toilet block at Walkerville South.</p>	
<p>EVC 29 Damp Forest is also dominated by Messmate and Narrow-leaf Peppermint, but may have Swamp Gum present in areas of poorer drainage and the understorey species include moisture dependent fern species and Rough Tree-fern sometimes forms a conspicuous component. This EVC is to be found surrounding all the streams where there is more moisture.</p>	
<p>EVC 53 Swamp Scrub occurs along streams or on poorly drained sites. It is typically dominated by shrubs of Swamp Paperbark with an herbaceous ground cover of mat-rushes, Ivy-leaf Violet, pennywort species, Kidneyweed, Bidgee-widgee and geranium species.</p> <p>EVC 191 Riparian Scrub also occurs along creeks. Mostly shrubs of Scented Paperbark, Prickly Tea-tree, Hop Goodenia and Prickly Moses with a herbaceous ground cover of Common Raspwort, purple flags, Creamy Candles, and Austral Bracken. These two EVCs can be distinguished from one another by the paperbark species.</p>	
<p>EVC 161 Coastal Headland Scrub is dominated by Drooping Sheoak with Coast Tea-tree, Prickly Moses, Dusty Miller and Common Heath in the understorey. Ground cover plants include Seaberry Saltbush and Sand-hill Sword-sedge. The vegetation on the headland facing Bird Rock is Coastal Headland Scrub.</p>	

Appendix 3: Weed species in the Walkerville Foreshore Reserve

Species	Status	Dispersal	Site
Agapanthus <i>Agapanthus praecox</i>	Environmental	Seeds	Garden escape N and S*
Angled Onion <i>Allium triquetrum</i>	Environmental	Bulbs	Roadside S
Arum Lily <i>Zantedeschia aethiopica</i>	Environmental	Underground rhizomes and seeds	Wet gullies N and S

Blackberry <i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	Noxious	Seeds, root suckers	Roadside N and S
Blue Periwinkle <i>Vinca major</i>	Environmental	Seeds, tip rooting	Camping area, widespread, roadsides N and S
Boxthorn <i>Lycium ferocissimum</i>	Noxious	Seeds	Near Toilet Block S
Cape Ivy <i>Delairea odorata</i>	Environmental	Seed and stolons	Garden escape, widespread, roadsides N and S
Cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i>	Environmental	Seeds stick to everything	Gardens and roadsides N and S
Dolichos Pea <i>Dipogon lignosus</i>	Environmental	Seeds	Roadsides and Riddlers Creek S
English Ivy <i>Hedera helix</i>	Environmental	Seeds, stems	Roadsides N and S
Forget-me-not <i>Myosotis alpestris</i>	Garden plant	Seeds stick to everything	Camping area N
Holly <i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Environmental	Seeds	Picnic area west of Bayside Drive N
Kikuyu Grass <i>Pennisetum clandestinu</i>	Environmental	Runners	Widespread N and S
Mirror Bush <i>Coprosma repens</i>	Environmental	Seeds	Roadsides N and S
Pampas Grass <i>Cortaderia selloana</i>	Environmental	Seeds	Top of Riddlers Creek South, Holt Street N
Pine <i>Pinus radiata</i>	Environmental	Seeds	Top of Riddlers Creek S
Plectranthus species	Environmental	Seeds	Garden escape, camping area N
Sea Spurge <i>Euphorbia paralias</i>	Environmental	Seeds	Sand dunes N
Sweet Pittosporum <i>Pittosporum undulatum</i>	Environmental	Seeds	
Thistles Several species	Noxious	Seeds	
Watsonia <i>Watsonia meriana var bulbilifera</i>	Noxious	Stem bulbils and corms	Garden escape, roadsides N

Source: Ellis 2008

* N, S indicate Walkerville North or South.

Some weed species occur in isolated sites elsewhere in the Reserve.

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