



Whilst the overall structure and layout of the Plan is easy to follow and understand throughout the plan there is little detail to indicate how the outcomes are to be delivered, and ICZM must include Marine agencies (VCS). The vision statement of the Plan and the overarching aspirations of the Victorian Coastal Strategy are strongly supported by OCC.

The major challenge for the plan is to truly engender Integrated Coastal Zone Management.

Currently much of the Victorian Central South West Coast is managed by financially autonomous Committees of Management who derive the majority of their income from campers staying at the camp grounds they manage.

In the case of the Colac Otway Shire (COS) coastline, Otway Coast Committee (OCC) manages well over 90% of the public open space across the 6 coastal towns of Marengo, Apollo Bay, Skenes Creek, Kennett River Wye River & Separation Creek. The OCC is responsible for maintaining and improving the entire associated public infrastructure such as public toilets, playgrounds, BBQ / Picnic facilities and beach accesses.

By comparison COS contribute, on a recurrent basis, less than \$2 per resident per annum towards maintaining the public open space that in large part underpins property values and the return on rates.

On 16.3.15 COS met with the COS Mayor, Senior COS managers, VicRoads Regional Director W Tieppo, Barwon Water and Apollo Bay Chamber of Commerce president J Riches to discuss this limitation on the funding of the coastal public open space.

The firm consensus of that meeting was that a new funding model was required that more accurately resembled the stakeholders and the beneficiaries.

A funding model supported by Federal, State and local agencies.

Put simply;

How do we capture enough dollars at the Federal, State and local level to collaboratively deliver an outstanding visitor experience whilst protecting and improving our environmental values?

2015-2015 has seen our coastal communities swamped by the number of visitors passing thru and visitor numbers are predicted to increase significantly in the very near future.

1. Visiting the Beach is the second most popular attraction for international tourists, according to new research by the Australian Council for the Arts.
2. Minister Neville said that spending of the Environmental Contributions Levy, and the Land fill Levy, would be part of this year's budget considerations. Whilst the Auditor-General John Doyle " found that there was a lack of transparency around the funding"

This funding opportunity coupled with a Federal levy on visas or another means could easily release millions of dollars to maintain our coastlines.

3. By 2020 200million Chinese will take an international holiday, up from 100m last year, and within 20-30 years the Asian middle class is set to rise from 600 million to 3 billion Speech by Hon A Robb to the federal parliament.

Proposal reflecting ICZM principals.

As detailed in the Colac Otway Shire submission;

"the State Government to establish (and fund) a pilot project to enable targeted implementation of the actions in the Plan for the Apollo Bay, Skenes Creek and Marengo section of the coast. There is significant potential for this pilot to provide a valuable set of learnings to help improve implementation of regional coastal plan actions along all of the Victorian coast in the longer term.

For a pilot project to be successful, it would require the funding of a dedicated project manager and the formation of a multi-agency steering committee. The project manager could report to the Western Coastal Board or a range of other State agencies (eg DELWP). The representation from the key government and community agencies would need to be of senior level and the cost of their time provided as an in-kind contribution by each agency. The first action for such a Committee and the Project Manager would be to develop a targeted implementation plan for this section of coast that provides more detail on what exactly needs to be done, what the costs are, and who will take responsibility for implementation."

We believe that a significant budget should be allocated by the State Government for implementation of the priority actions emerging from the implementation plan. It is envisioned that this approach could lead to more effective implementation of the broader actions in the Plan at the local level in an efficient and integrated manner, and provide a forum for cross organisational integration of approach which does not occur currently.

Other points:

- Inequity across the State of the financial capability of individual managers;
 - Port Philip Bay is the prime example; many parochial CoM's managing small patches with limited ability to employ knowledgeable and experienced staff; Lack of real ICZM;
- Further: while the 4 cat 1 CoM's have greater capacity there is inequity across their management capabilities;
 - OCC managing 28.5km of coastline for 6 coastal communities with a turnover of \$1.2 to \$1.5 mill compared to \$5 mill+ plus for Bell Bayside, Barwon Coast & GORCC;
 - OCC manages about 95+% of the public open space across all its communities; Visitor infrastructure,;
- Funding opportunities such as access to Environmental Levies collected by State Government and user pays levies need to be investigated;
- Interagency cooperation & funding is required to address the impacts of coastal erosion, because in many places it will have consequences for major infrastructure such as the Great Ocean Road and major services that are close to the coast like water & sewer;
- To develop a successful Level of Service or Visitor Demand Framework funding inequities need to be addressed by new funding models or at least a positive discrimination from funding bodies providing programs for coastal management;
- Lack of 'buy in' from LGA's is a major issue; in large part all the public facilities managed by CoM's are what is expected of Local Govt; however along the coast campers are paying a disproportionate amount of that cost and ratepayers contribute a very small amount.

High priority to fund coastal hazard assessment Apollo Bay region as indicated in the plan.

6.3 Previous VCS said that the CAP should address climate change effects. This has not been done.

Add Apollo Bay coastal hazard assessment here?

7.1 and 7.2 with the increased visitation and decreasing funding
Volunteers are flagging. Ongoing financial support is missing from this section.

P29 implementation ICZM pilot project in Apollo Bay region.

NOTE: Photo credit on Page 24 of Storm Surge event at Apollo Bay in May 2005 is Gary McPike not Rob Gell.