

IMPROVING THE EXPERIENCE

2011-2014 WORKS AND STRATEGIES

February 2012 Update

Parks Victoria is undertaking works and developing strategies that aim to improve the visitor experience on the Great Ocean Walk. The proposed improvements are reflective of the recommended actions contained in the “**Great Ocean Walk Strategic Directions Plan 2009-2014**”, particularly those of *Strategic Goal 2: Focussing on experience – developing authentic, memorable and engaging GOW experiences.*

The improvements comprise many individual “projects”, from the simple upgrade of a short section of track to significant realignments requiring feasibility studies and major planning. The improvements also include directional signage, thematic interpretation, vehicle access track upgrades and some new infrastructure.

While a list of 43 “projects” has been initially identified for implementation, the list is dynamic with some outcomes likely to be refined. Achieving some of the outcomes is contingent on addressing many different elements (e.g. protection of cultural and environmental values, visitor safety, fire protection, land tenure etc.). Additional “projects” may be added (e.g. further improvements to sections of track). Ultimately, some of the works may require additional funding to fully implement.

The following table summarises the list of 43 “projects” detailing some of the more significant outcomes.

Project	Description	Status
Great Ocean Road underpass	Construct an underpass on the Great Ocean Road to link the GOW to the Twelve Apostles visitor centre	Works are expected to commence during 2012.
Signage	Development and implementation of a sign plan that addresses regulatory, directional, informational and interpretive signage.	Sign plan will be produced during 2012, with implementation incremental and ongoing. Immediate sign requirements will be addressed as necessary.

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Project	Description	Status
Track Upgrade	Approximately 15 kms of existing track upgrade works including surfacing and steps.	<p>Some upgrades already complete including Rivernook Beach access. Scope of works are currently being developed for some of the more significant upgrades including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three Creeks section • Parker Hill to Point Franklin • Rainbow Falls section • Station Beach west and cliff top section
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aire River east escarpment lookout track • Aire River to Castle Cove • Submarine Rock beach access • The Gables to Wreck Beach <p>Other sections of track subject to improvement works are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brown Creek to Johanna Beach (new benched track) • Melanesia west section • sections of Cape Volney to Submarine Rock • sections of Submarine Rock to Moonlight Head <p>These upgrades will be progressively implemented over the next two years.</p>

Project	Description	Status
Track upgrade and/or realignment	Elliott Ridge GOW camp to Blanket Bay GOW camp. The major improvement works required on this section will most likely involve a combination of existing track upgrades and new realignments, with the intent to remove the walk off vehicle tracks as much as possible.	Preliminary investigations underway prior to a full options analysis and recommendations.
Track realignment	Realignment of several sections of the walk predominantly aimed at removing the walk from vehicle tracks and roads. The realignments entail construction of new track.	<p>Significant realignments will be completed mid 2012:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wreck Beach car park to Devils Kitchen GOW camp (2.9 km) • Bowker's beach section (1.8 km) • area to Johanna Beach GOW camp <p>Other sections being planned for realignment include: Johanna Beach day visitor</p> <p>Investigations have commenced into the feasibility of major track realignments from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Point Franklin to Cape Otway car park • Johanna Beach GOW camp to Melanesia Track
Vehicle access track improvements.	Strategic vehicle access tracks are to be improved to permit year round access to the trail for maintenance purposes.	Up to two key access tracks will be improved.
New toilets	Additional toilets will be constructed at key locations.	<p>Toilets are planned for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cape Otway car park <p>Other locations to be determined.</p>

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Project	Description	Status
Other track improvement works	Several short sections of track are subject to improvement works including some new 'high tide' sections.	<p>These improvements are considered lower priority and are therefore delivery is planned further into the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swell point bypass (a new 'high tide' track) • Storm point bypass (a new 'high tide' track) • Elliot Cascades (new track to provide views) • Parker Cascades (new track and formalise viewing area) <p>A new bypass around Morrison Beach has been completed.</p>
Apollo Bay to Marengo	Improve the visitors' introductory experience to the walk. In addition to information provision at the trail head, the alignment through Apollo Bay and Marengo area is to be improved where possible.	Investigation has commenced into the most appropriate alignment.
Interpretation	Development and implementation of an Interpretation Plan. The plan will address thematic interpretation of the walk. It will also incorporate both onsite interpretation and the 'virtual visitor'. Trail head redevelopments will be incorporated.	Interpretation plan will be produced during 2012, with implementation incremental and ongoing.