

# action 6: healthy marine and coastal areas

The creation of 13 marine national parks and 11 marine sanctuaries, covering about five per cent of Victoria's coastline, will protect Victoria's marine environment for future generations. However there is still much to learn about our intricate marine biodiversity. Through the Land Health and Biodiversity White Paper (see Action 7) we will give explicit consideration to marine, estuarine and freshwater biodiversity and ecosystems in our policies, regional strategies and investment in on-ground programs. We need to improve our knowledge of our unique marine biodiversity, fish stocks and development pressures on our coasts so that we can continue to enjoy our enviable marine and coastal areas.

## What we will do

### 6.1 Protecting our coastline

**We will help coastal councils deal with the development pressures from the 'Sea Change' phenomena with \$800,000 of planning support.**

The movement of people to the coastline is continuing at a rapid pace. We will help coastal councils guide appropriate development by implementing the Coastal Spaces Settlement Framework.

The Government will analyse appropriate coastal setbacks to respond to the risks of climate change and its effects on the coastal zone. In addition to the \$1 million which was invested as part of *Moving Forward*, Victorian's Provincial Statement, a further \$800,000 will be invested to work with councils to implement the *Coastal Spaces Landscape Assessment* and *Great Ocean Road Landscape Assessment* studies, develop policy and guidelines to address coastal acid sulfate soils, and assist work with Wellington Shire to deal with old, inappropriate subdivisions on Gippsland's coast.

#### Great Ocean Road Region Strategy

The *Great Ocean Road Strategy* provides a framework for managing change and development pressures across the region over the next 20 years.

This strategy aims to protect the landscape, manage the growth of towns, improve the management of access and transport, and encourage sustainable tourism and resource use.

The region covered by the *Great Ocean Road Strategy* extends from Torquay to Warrnambool, south of the Princes Highway.



*Victorians are the custodians of some of the most diverse ecosystems on the planet. Our biodiversity encompasses a huge range of living things and ecosystems, which are constantly evolving and adapting to environmental changes. The importance of sustaining our biodiversity for resource-based industries such as agriculture, fishing, forestry and tourism cannot be underestimated.*

## 6.2 Fisheries support

We will help the Victorian fisheries industry with their efforts to become more sustainable with a package of support to improve environmental work practices.

The fisheries industry, through Seafood Services Australia, has identified a shortage of skills and knowledge as a key challenge to becoming sustainable. National Guideline Standards for environmental sustainability training have recently become available and Seafood Services Australia will use these standards in the first Victorian project.

The objective of the project will be to increase the adoption of sustainable work practices in all sectors of the Victorian seafood industry. Workers in the commercial fishing, aquaculture and post-harvest sectors will be encouraged to up-skill through a new nationally-recognised course on sustainable fishing.

With the support of the Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development there will be a specific element for training indigenous workers in the fisheries industry. Other project partners include the Department of Sustainability and Environment, Sustainability Victoria, Seafood Services Australia and Swinburne National Centre for Sustainability and the Department of Primary Industries.