

Media Release

The Hon Melissa Horne MP

Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation

Minister for Ports and Freight

Minister for Fishing and Boating



Friday, 4 February 2022

FUNDING TO BACK BETTER BOATING ACCESS AT APOLLO BAY

One of Victoria's most iconic coastal locations will soon offer a better recreational boating experience with funding secured for an \$800,000 upgrade of boating facilities at Apollo Bay.

The project is part of the Andrews Labor Government's unprecedented \$47.2 million investment into Victorian boating and is being funded through Better Boating Victoria (BBV).

Apollo Bay is a key stop on the Great Ocean Road and is popular with boaters going sailing or those launching to fish or dive along the coast and further offshore.

The port at Apollo Bay is the only sheltered harbour for small boats along the stretch of coastline between Queenscliff and Portland and features an all-weather, dual-lane ramp.

The Colac Otway Shire Council will manage the project, which will replace the existing wooden jetty and floating pontoon with larger and more durable floating pontoons on each side of the boat ramp, creating provisions for all-abilities access carry out dredging.

The 50-metre-long floating pontoons will create significantly more space for boats to be temporarily tied up, freeing up capacity at the ramp and improving the efficiency of vessel launching and retrieval.

Access at all tides will be made easier through the pontoon replacement work and by dredging alongside construction.

Provisions for future all-abilities access will also be included as the Government makes boating more accessible for all. This follows funding for accessibility improvements at Lakes Entrance, Port Welshpool, and Mordialloc.

The Colac Otway Shire is tendering for a contractor to carry out the works, which are expected to begin in mid-2022 and be complete in time for the busy spring/summer boating period.

The Labor Government already made it free to park and launch at Victorian boat ramps – and has embarked on the most significant boat ramp construction program in the state's history.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Fishing and Boating Melissa Horne

"Boating and fishing are synonymous with Apollo Bay, and these facilities are a huge part of life for the many locals and tourists at this iconic Victorian location."

"This important upgrade will make launching easier and more accessible – that is why we are investing in works to ensure more Victorians can get out on the water."

Quote attributable to Member for Western Victoria Gayle Tierney

"The Apollo Bay port is a vital facility for many people along the Great Ocean Road – whether it's recreational anglers, sailors or one of the many businesses that benefit from locals and tourists getting out and spending time on the water."

Media contact: Isobel Loschiavo 0431 963 479 | isobel.loschiavo@minstaff.vic.gov.au