## Media Release

Steve Dimopoulos MP
Minister for Environment
Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events
Minister for Outdoor Recreation



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## **ACCOMMODATION OFFERING SHINES A LIGHT ON ISLAND'S CHARMS**

Gabo Island – an uninhabited island 500 metres off the coast of East Gippsland's Croajingolong National Park – has become one of the state's most unique holiday destinations, thanks to support from the Allan Labor Government.

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Steve Dimopoulos today announced completion of heritage and restoration works at the island's Assistant Lighthouse Keeper's cottage so members of the public can once again book stays in the unforgettable location.

This project, funded through the Regional Tourism Investment Fund delivered heritage and restoration work to several other Gabo Island buildings as well, including the Head Lighthouse Keeper buildings.

The cottage caters for up to eight people with a two-night minimum stay and features three bedrooms, a fully equipped kitchen, laundry and two bathrooms, allowing groups the opportunity to unwind and connect with the island's stunning nature.

Rich in cultural history, the island – which is only accessible by air or sea – features the only operating island lighthouse in Victoria. Constructed from 1858 to 1862 using the distinctive pink granite found on the island, the 47-metre-high Gabo Island Lighthouse is the second tallest lighthouse in Australia.

With lighthouse tours available to be arranged, a stay at Gabo Island will be an unforgettable getaway for maritime history enthusiasts, walkers and hikers, or groups who just want an opportunity to disconnect from the hustle and bustle of life to enjoy the island's warm summers, blooming springs, mild autumns or stormy, charming winters.

The project to restore the accommodation at Gabo Island's Assistant Lighthouse Keeper's cottage is one of the projects supported by the Labor Government to make rural and regional Victoria an even better place to live, work, stay and play.

For more information about Gabo Island Lighthouse, and how to book a stay, visit <u>parks.vic.gov.au/places-to-see/parks/gabo-island-lighthouse-reserve/where-to-stay/assistant-lightkeepers-cottage</u>.

## Quotes attributable to Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Steve Dimopoulos

"Gabo Island is one of the most serene, untouched corners of Victoria. Whether you're looking to learn more about its lighthouse, get amongst the abundance of native flora and fauna, or curl up on the couch with a good book, a stay on the island is sure to be equal parts restorative and unforgettable."

"We're proud to support this project which will undoubtedly help draw more visitors to an incredible part of our state."

## **Quote attributable to Member for Eastern Victoria Tom McIntosh**

"Gabo Island is one of Victoria's hidden gems, and this project ensures more visitors can experience its rich history, stunning landscapes, and unique wildlife while supporting regional tourism."

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