

15 October 2014

Shipwreck Coast

McGregor Coxall

Melbourne

email to: shipwreckcoast@elton.com.au

Re: Shipwreck Coast Draft Master Plan

Bushwalking Victoria is providing comment on the Shipwreck Coast Draft Master Plan on behalf of the bushwalking community in Victoria. We recognise that considerable time and effort has been spent in the development of the plan and that the various proposals have potential benefits for tourism in the area.

We are, however, disappointed that the plan appears to have missed the opportunity to extend the existing Great Ocean Walk through to the Bay of Islands or even to consider an eventual link up with the Great South West Walk which commences in Portland. The Walk Victoria's Icons Program has already highlighted the economic benefits to be gained by establishing a series of iconic walks in Victoria. Local operators have established business opportunities in servicing to two existing walks in this region:-

<http://www.greatoceanwalk.info/>

<http://www.greatsouthwestwalk.com/intro/>

An enhanced iconic coastal walking trail should provide additional business opportunities.

The proposed 12 Apostles Trail in the Draft Master Plan from Princetown to Port Campbell and then inland to Timboon appears to be on or adjacent to the Great Ocean Road and subsequently the Port Campbell – Timboon Road. Apart from aesthetics, safety considerations would dictate adequate separation of pedestrians and cyclists from fast moving motor vehicle traffic on open highways. Walkers and cyclists are more likely to use purpose built trails linking scenic outlooks and which do not compromise their safety.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss our ideas with you before the master plan is finalised.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light pink background. The signature is cursive and appears to read 'Fred Bover'.

Fred Bover
Secretary