

Melissa Lancuba  
Media and Communications Adviser  
E: [REDACTED]

29<sup>th</sup> March 2021

65 Kavanagh St,  
Southbank 3006  
DX 212560

Dear Melissa,

**Re: Findings into Inquest Mr. L**

With respect to the recommendations made by the Coroner, the following needs to be noted: -

Please note that the OCC ceased on 01<sup>st</sup> December 2020 when a new committee come into force, being the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority (Authority).

In relation to the recommendations, I provide the following response.

**Recommendation 1.** – That the OCC ensure adequate risk measures (including but not limited to signage and public awareness messaging for tourists) are undertaken in relation to the coastline it manages to address the potential for drowning in public spaces.

The Authority are currently working closely with Life Saving Victoria (LSV) to undertake an audit of beach access points with the aim to provide up to date signage with clear and legible advice of the relevant beach and their conditions.

The Authority is also unable to determine what adequate would mean in a coastal context as people park on the Great Ocean Road, not under its management, and then may access the foreshore at any point along its extent of management. Currently the Authority does not manage land beyond the low water mark.

**Recommendation 2.** – That the OCC ensure that these measures should be re-assessed at appropriate intervals to ensure that they remain best practice and in line with relevant standards.

Authority would like to note that the foreshore, in many places is managed for the natural environment, not for ad-hoc swimming or recreation, and does not get signposted to reflect activities that may pose a risk. It would be unclear to what standards may be relevant.

However, Authority note as stated above that we are working with Life Saving Victoria (LSV) to comply with beach signage and audit requirements.

**Recommendation 3.** – That water safety measures be undertaken in consultation with industry experts/stakeholders, such as Life Saving Victoria (LSV) (the recognised peak water safety agency in Victoria), and form part of the Coastal and Marine Management Plans required to be prepared under the Coastal and Marine Policy 2020.

The OCC Coastal & Marine Plans note this action. However, the Authority is not a water manager so cannot police water-based activities.



If you have any further queries or wish to discuss any of the above, please do not hesitate in contacting the undersigned at any time.

Yours sincerely

Daniel Aitken  
Interim Chief Executive Officer  
**Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority**