



Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action

PO Box 500, East Melbourne,
Victoria 8002 Australia

SEC-240700313

Monique Balassone
Coroner's Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria

team9@courts.vic.gov.au

Dear Monique Balassone

Thank you for your letter of 22 July 2024 about Coroner Fitzgerald's Finding without inquest into the death of Ryleigh Pallot (COR 2021 007031).

Coroner Fitzgerald's Finding includes a recommendation made under section 72(2) of the Coroners Act 2008 (the Act), that:

"The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), Parks Victoria and GORCPA consider developing and implementing a state-wide rockfall and landslide assessment and management policy, which includes consideration of implementing risk mitigation commensurate with the level of risk".

Pursuant to section 72(3) of the Act, this letter provides DEECA's written response to this recommendation.

Pursuant to section 72(4) of the Act, I confirm that an alternative intervention to the Coroner's recommendation will be implemented, and implementation has already commenced.

DEECA considers that the alternative intervention delivers on the intent of the Coroner's recommendation, through a combination of actions that are underway.

Intervention commenced following the cliff collapse on 31 December 2021 at Jarosite Headland on Addiscott Beach, and prior to Coroner Fitzgerald's finding. The intervention is comprised of actions 1 to 3 as follows:

1. Undertaking a new state-wide Victorian Coastal Cliffs Assessment (2023) [VicCoastalCliffAssessmentFinalReport15Sept2023.pdf \(marineandcoasts.vic.gov.au\)](#). The assessment provides a state-wide assessment of areas susceptible to coastal cliff instability and/or erosion (inclusive of rockfall and landslide mechanisms for collapse), from present day to 2100, and state-wide cliff collapse risk assessment. This assessment is now complete.
2. Implementing recommendations from the Victorian Coastal Cliffs Assessment (2023). This includes recommendations to improve the quality of the data and tools/methods including:
 - a. updating the shoreline classification data
 - b. updating the locations and extent of coastal structures
 - c. refining the assessment method for site-specific high-risk areas
 - d. ongoing monitoring of cliffs.



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Ongoing monitoring of cliffs is continuing through the work of the Victorian Coastal Monitoring Program with active drone monitoring of high-risk cliff sites in partnership with the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority (GORCAPA) and Parks Victoria. Implementation of point 2a will commence this financial year (FY 2024-25) with expected completion by December 2025. Points 2b and 2c will follow and are expected to commence in FY 2025-26 and be completed by December 2026, noting timelines may be subject to resourcing constraints.

3. Continuing to support land managers with risk mitigation commensurate to the level of risk. This includes:
 - a. Continuing support in the management of coastal hazard risk under the Victorian *Marine and Coastal Act 2018*, Policy (2020) and *Marine and Coastal Strategy (2022)*, and Victoria's Resilient Coast framework and guidelines (2023).
 - b. Continuing to monitor high risk sites through the [Victorian Coastal Monitoring Program](#) and support strategic planning for coastal hazard risk through [Victoria's Resilient Coast – Adapting for 2100+](#).
 - c. Following completion of the Victorian Coastal Cliffs Assessment (2023), DEECA has made the findings and data available to land managers and the public via the website [Coastal erosion \(marineandcoasts.vic.gov.au\)](http://Coastal.erosion(marineandcoasts.vic.gov.au)) and mapping portal [CoastKit](#).
 - d. When recommendations from the Victorian Coastal Cliffs Assessment (2023) are completed, DEECA will make the new data available and continue to support land managers to apply the available information to inform risk mitigation actions.

If you would like more information about this matter, please contact Ruth Caldwell, Regional Director Barwon South West DEECA [REDACTED]

Thank you again for writing.

Yours sincerely



John Bradley
Secretary

17 / 10 / 2024