

JUNE 2024

Twelve Apostles Precinct Redevelopment



Artist impression

Heritage Fact Sheet

The Twelve Apostles is one of the most visited natural attractions in Australia, welcoming over two million visitors annually.

The Twelve Apostles Precinct Redevelopment will deliver infrastructure projects in the Shipwreck Coast Region, including a new Visitor Experience Centre (VEC), expanded carpark and road infrastructure.

Once complete, the Twelve Apostles Precinct will change how visitors experience the region. It will provide safer and easier access to nature's greatest attractions, while protecting the environment and cultural history at this spectacular location.

Planning process

Given the importance of this project, Development Victoria has applied to have the Twelve Apostles Precinct Redevelopment considered as a State Project under the provisions of Clause 52.30 (State Projects) of the Victorian Planning Provisions. If granted State Project status, it will be subject to an integrated approvals pathway. Construction of the first stage of the Twelve Apostles Precinct Redevelopment is expected to start in late 2024.

This fact sheet

We have produced a series of fact sheets to help you understand the work being undertaken to deliver the Twelve Apostles Precinct Redevelopment.

This fact sheet provides information on how the heritage of the area will be protected and enhanced, whilst delivering the infrastructure needed to support Australia's most visited natural attraction.

For more information:

Sign up for updates and to have your say:

development.vic.gov.au/twelveapostles

Email: twelve.apostles@development.vic.gov.au



Australian Government



Delivering the infrastructure needed to support a heritage icon's growing popularity

The Great Ocean Road and its surrounding area was included on the National Heritage List in 2011, making it one of only 20 coastal areas to be heritage-listed and placing it under the protection of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act).

The National Heritage listing is well deserved, it's one of Australia's most iconic locations. In fact, the Twelve Apostles is one of the most visited natural attractions in the country – attracting 2.8 million visitors each year and forecast to grow in excess of 3 million before 2030 following a period of recovery since the pandemic.

To safely accommodate this demand and protect this cultural asset, the Twelve Apostles Precinct Redevelopment will deliver much needed upgrades. It will provide streamlined access to nature's greatest attractions, while protecting the environment and cultural history at this spectacular location.

At the heart of the Twelve Apostles Precinct Redevelopment is a world-class Visitor Experience Centre that will showcase cultural heritage.

The Great Ocean Road's contribution to our national heritage

History

Completed in 1932, the Great Ocean Road was built as a memorial to Victoria's First World War servicemen and women, and it serves as a lasting reminder of their war service and sacrifice. Between 1919 and its completion, more than 3,000 returned servicemen worked on the construction of the Great Ocean Road—an enormous undertaking often conducted under very difficult living and working conditions.

Architecture

Features distinctive architectural features including the Great Ocean Road Memorial Arch and the Lorne Swing Bridge.

Beauty

Famous for its stunning coastal scenery and iconic rock formations including the Twelve Apostles.

Research

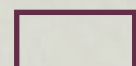
Port Campbell Limestone coast is the best place in Australia to observe and study limestone geomorphology and coastal erosion processes on rocky coasts. This is partly due to the rapid rate of erosion and spectacular, well-publicised stack collapses. The area is also home to popular dinosaur fossils sites, including Dinosaur Cove.

Recreation

Provides limitless recreational opportunities for visitors, including being Australia's most famous drive and home to iconic Bells Beach, which hosts the longest running international surfing carnival.

Environmental Value

Supports diverse ecosystems, including coastal heathlands, forest, and marine habitats.

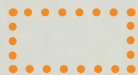


VEC
Precinct

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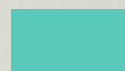
Email: twelve.apostles@development.vic.gov.au



Further extent of works
at Booringa Road



National heritage list



Victorian heritage
register

Preserving and enhancing cultural heritage

The Victorian Government's continuing partnership with the Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation (EMAC), the Traditional Owner group for the area, is at the centre of the project's codesign and delivery. The partnership recognises Eastern Maar's ongoing connection and intrinsic relationship with Country, in line with the Eastern Maar Country Plan. It will ensure that Eastern Maar culture is at the forefront of the redevelopment and that the traditional owners benefit from the project now and into the future.

All place names and descriptive names such as street names associated with the precinct will be dual named, with the original Eastern Maar naming in Maar language. This naming will be developed with Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation.

As part of the Cultural Heritage Management Plan areas of cultural significance have been identified. These areas are to be registered as Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Places on the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register and the Victorian Government will continue to consult with Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation across the life of the project.

Assessing the potential impacts on national heritage values

Given the precinct's National Heritage listing, Development Victoria has worked with independent Heritage advisors to undertake a detailed assessment of the potential impacts of the proposed Twelve Apostles Precinct Redevelopment on the National Heritage values of the Great Ocean Road and surrounding environment. This assessment is a requirement under the EPBC Act. Under the Act, any activity that may significantly impact the National Heritage values must be referred to the Australian Government environment minister who will decide if the activity can proceed or if it is subject to the assessment and approval process under the EPBC Act.

The heritage assessment found that the Twelve Apostles Precinct Redevelopment works would be unlikely to have a significant impact on the national heritage values of the Great Ocean Road and surrounding environment. The assessment highlighted that the works are respectful of the existing setting and the proposed redevelopment will significantly improve views of this world-renowned and spectacular location. As a result, referral to the Federal Environment Minister for an approval under the EPBC Act 1999 is not required.

Despite this, Development Victoria recognises the importance of safeguarding the heritage of the precinct. To support this, during construction, all relevant staff will undergo heritage briefings. This will highlight the potential for archaeological artefacts to be found and how to sensitively manage and handle if found. It will also implement an unexpected finds protocol, which will dictate that work stops immediately if finds are made. This is in line with recommendations made by the heritage assessment.

For more information:

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At Development Victoria, we create places for people.

We're a government agency partnering with industry leaders and local communities to transform ambitious ideas into reality.

We reimagine iconic places like the Melbourne Arts Precinct, Flinders Street Station, and Melbourne Park to transform them for future generations. We deliver regional projects like the Geelong Arts Centre, and Galkangu – Bendigo GovHub, utilising public land to create connected, sustainable places which will create lasting benefits for regional communities.

We build homes in places people genuinely want to live, close to jobs, services, and transport - and we deliver infrastructure to support these growing communities, including new and upgraded sporting facilities, and public open space.

Together, we deliver places that make a genuine difference to the people of Victoria.



If you require information in another language, please call us on **9280 0755**

In the spirit of reconciliation, Development Victoria respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Victoria. We recognise their continuing cultural heritage and connection to land, and pay our respects to their Elders, past and present.

