

Wednesday, 15 July, 2009

## **NEW CHAIRS APPOINTED TO REGIONAL COASTAL BOARDS**

New chairpersons have been appointed to Victoria's three Regional Coastal Boards to help manage the state's much-loved coastline and deliver key actions in the Victorian Coastal Strategy.

Environment and Climate Change Minister Gavin Jennings said the new board members for the Gippsland Lakes, Central and Western regional coastal boards, were appointed following a state-wide expression of interest process.

"The regional coastal boards are key players in the Brumby Labor Government taking action to maintain Victoria's magnificent coastal assets for the benefit of all Victorians," Mr Jennings said.

"These boards play a key role in the strategic planning and management of our coastal and marine environments and it is great to see so many skilled people willing to put their hands up to work for our coasts."

The new chairs of the three regional coastal boards, Helen Martin (Gippsland), Lynette Skilbeck (Western) and Elizabeth Johnstone (Central) have also been appointed to the state's key coastal planning body, the Victorian Coastal Council.

The Boards are statutory bodies established under the *Coastal Management Act* 1995 and provide advice to the Minister for Environment and Climate Change on regional coastal matters.

Mr Jennings said the boards will play an integral role in the delivery of key actions in the 2008 Victorian Coastal Strategy.

Successful applicants were selected on the basis of their skills, experience and knowledge in one or more of the following areas: conservation, tourism, business, recreation, commerce, issues relating to Indigenous peoples, community affairs, town planning, local government, and/or coastal engineering.

For information about the regional coastal boards and the Victorian Coastal Council go to [www.vcc.vic.gov.au](http://www.vcc.vic.gov.au) (Victorian Coastal Council); [www.gcb.vic.gov.au](http://www.gcb.vic.gov.au) (Gippsland Coastal Board); [www.ccb.vic.gov.au](http://www.ccb.vic.gov.au) (Central Coastal Board); and [www.wcb.vic.gov.au](http://www.wcb.vic.gov.au) (Western Coastal Board).

For information on coastal management issues go to the "Coast and Marine" section at [www.dse.vic.gov.au](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au) or call the DSE Customer Service centre on 136 186.