

# Media Release

**The Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP**

Minister for Energy, the Environment and Climate Change  
Minister for Solar Homes



Wednesday, 2 September 2020

## COMMUNITY GROUPS SHARE COASTCARE GRANT FUNDS

Volunteers and community groups that help protect and rehabilitate the state's precious coastline have received almost half a million dollars in funding from the Victorian Government to continue their important work.

Grants of up to \$30,000 have been allocated to 24 non-profit and volunteer-based organisations from Mallacoota to Portland through this year's *Coastcare Victoria Community Grants Program*.

More funding and larger grants were made available this year to help realise projects that conserve, restore and rehabilitate Victoria's coastal and marine environments.

The *Coastcare Victoria Community Grants Program* funds community projects in coastal areas to support community adaptation and improve ecosystem resilience to climate change. The grant recipients include:

Barwon South West region:

- Birdlife Australia – raising local awareness of shorebirds and their habitat, and engaging community participation in conservation across Victoria
- Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation – restoring the health of a Convincing Ground near Portland, including weed management, revegetation and cultural heritage investigations.

Port Phillip region:

- Port Phillip EcoCentre – engaging culturally and linguistically diverse communities to join marine and coastal volunteering activities
- Jawbone Marine Sanctuary Care – blue carbon program to raise awareness and conservation of blue carbon systems including mangroves, seagrass and saltmarsh

Gippsland region:

- Rhyll Coast Action – controlling a large infestation of Blue Periwinkle on the Rhyll coastline
- The Sanctuary Mallacoota Youth Group and Friends of Mallacoota – on-ground land management activities and mentorship programs to increase young people's connection to the coast

The Andrews Labor Government has allocated almost \$1.4 million to 250 organisations through the grants program since 2014.

For more information on the *2020 Coastcare Victoria Community Grants Program* and a full list of grant recipients, visit: [marineandcoasts.vic.gov.au/coastcare](https://marineandcoasts.vic.gov.au/coastcare).

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change Lily D'Ambrosio

*"We're very lucky to have so many dedicated non-profit organisations and volunteers passionate about looking after Victoria's magnificent marine and coastal environments."*

*"It's great to be able to support even more community groups this year with the extra funding so we can help them to continue making lasting improvements to our precious coastline."*

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