Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks

# Environmental Economic Account

**3.9 million** annual tourism visits can be attributed to the existence of ecosystems of the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks (valued at $520 million per year based on travel cost).

The existence of **ecosystems in the region is highly valued by society** as shown by:

* **Over 1,300** people participating in community stewardship
* **40,000** hectares of national parks and nature and conservation reserves

In 2019, the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks region was largely covered by:

* **128,000 hectares** of marine habitats
* **36,000 hectares** of forests

Engagement with the **Wadawurrung Traditional Owners** identified a desire to recognise their objectives to protect tangible attributes of the region’s natural environment for their cultural value through referencing and reporting on metrics in their Country Plans.

**35m tonnes of CO2e** is stored in ecosystems across the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks, valued at:

* **$60m** per year (based on avoided cost of carbon offsets)

or

* **$180m** per year (based on the social cost of carbon)

Supporting the recreational experience of visitors to the region includes:

* **240km** of walking tracks
* **70km** of mountain bike tracks and bike paths

**Coastal and marine habitats provide coastal protection services** to varying degrees along 240km of the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks coastline (valued at between 3 to 10 million dollars per year based on the replacement cost of seawalls providing equivalent exposure reduction).

This environmental-economic account takes stock of current ecosystem assets in the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks – in terms of their extent, location, and condition – and quantifies and values the flow of ecosystem services that these assets generate for people, who enjoy benefits from them.

For more information go to: [environment.vic.gov.au/accounting-for-the-environment](http://environment.vic.gov.au/accounting-for-the-environment)

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