

## MEDIA RELEASE

10 November 2021

### Barwon Heads Caravan Park to reopen after long weekend storm

Wild weather wreaked havoc across Geelong, the Bellarine Peninsula and the Surf Coast on Friday, October 29. Thunderstorms and severe winds with gusts of more than 100km/h brought down trees and branches onto powerlines and other infrastructure. This resulted in building damage, fallen trees and power outages across caravan parks and coastal reserves managed by Barwon Coast in Ocean Grove, Barwon Heads and along 13th Beach.

Paul Gangell, Manager of Barwon Coast Coastal Operations, reported that over 200 trees were impacted across the coastal reserves. 60 trees were also significantly impacted within the Barwon Heads Caravan Park, the Riverview Family Caravan Park in Ocean Grove and the Riverside Campground along the Ocean Grove Spit.

"Barwon Coast staff worked incredibly hard under extremely difficult conditions to communicate with campers while at the same time safely respond to the storm damage." Mr Gangell said.

"As a result of the quick response to the damage, there were no resulting injuries and Barwon Coast were able to reopen our coastal trails and access ways on the day of the storm."

"Riverview Family Caravan Park was quickly made safe and was able to open to visitors from Saturday for the long awaited Melbourne Cup Weekend."

"Unfortunately, the Barwon Heads Caravan Park was too heavily impacted by the storms to open for Cup Weekend and was forced to close for the majority of the week to ensure the safety of visitors."

"An independent arborist has now provided detailed reports and assessments on trees in all caravan park areas, and we are excited to announce we expect to reopen Barwon Heads Caravan Park on Friday 12 Nov. "

"We will continue updating customers through our official channels."

Gary McPike, Barwon Coast CEO noted the impact these storms had on caravan park customers. "With Melbournians finally allowed to visit regional Victoria for the first time in months, we understand the closure was disappointing for many of our customers. We thank all those affected for their patience as we work to repair the damage and restore safety to the caravan park ."

"Barwon Coast Staff and Contractors have been working non-stop to ensure our public areas and camping sites are safe once opened."



“While the major works have been done to make our Coastal Reserves safe the clean-up continues to be a big job. We will be working over the coming weeks to continue removing fallen trees and debris. We thank the public for their patience during this time.” said Mr McPike.

**Links to relevant images of storm damage:**

[Barwon Heads Caravan Park Entrance](#)

[Barwon Head Caravan Park Facilities](#)

[Riverview Caravan Park Sites](#)

[Riverview Caravan Park](#)

**For further information, please contact:**

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**Notes for Editors:**

Barwon Coast Committee of Management Inc. (Barwon Coast) is appointed by the Victorian State Government to manage 15km of coastal Crown land through the Ocean Grove and Barwon Heads townships, along the Bass Strait coast of the Bellarine Peninsula, Victoria, Australia. Our vision is that the natural environment of our coastline will flourish whilst meeting the needs of our engaged communities. A major local employer in Barwon Heads and Ocean Grove, we have more than 50 skilled employees from a diverse range of backgrounds working across the coastal reserve.

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