

## MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2020

### Iconic Coastal Restaurant Lease Opens for Public Tender

A 21-year lease is now open for tender for the 'At The Heads' restaurant facility in Barwon Heads. This is an exciting opportunity to secure exclusive tenure of an iconic site that offers the rare experience of dining over the waters of the Barwon River Estuary.

The 'At The Heads' building boasts wide sweeping ocean views towards Port Phillip Heads and is an integral part of the dining and tourism offering in the Geelong and Bellarine region. The existing facility provides a highly popular café, restaurant and function space. It has a long and interesting history, and became famous in the 1990s featuring in the much loved ABC TV series 'Seachange'.

'At The Heads' is managed by Barwon Coast, a coastal Committee of Management appointed by the Victorian Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change. Barwon Coast expects the tender process will deliver the best amenity and value for money outcomes with direct benefits for all Victorians who use and enjoy the coast.

The tender period will remain open for a 6-week period from the 7<sup>th</sup> February until the 20<sup>th</sup> of March.

All tender documentation will be available through the Barwon Coast portal on Tenderlink at [www.tenderlink.com/barwoncoast/](http://www.tenderlink.com/barwoncoast/). A Tender Evaluation Panel will follow State Government procedures to provide fairness and equity to all tenderers, and assess tenders according to a clear and agreed methodology. The preferred tenderer will then be recommended to Barwon Coast for approval.

Once approved, the successful lessee will enter into 21-year lease under the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978*, Section 17D lease agreement with Barwon Coast.

Quotes to be attributed to Gary McPike, CEO Barwon Coast

*"At The Heads' has become synonymous with Barwon Heads, so much so that a visit doesn't seem complete without a picture of it posted to your Instagram account. We see this as a really exciting opportunity to refresh this iconic site, protect its cultural and historic value and ensure it continues to be a valuable asset for visitors to the region and the local community."*

*"We want to maintain the site's current use and explore opportunities to maximise access to and enjoyment of the facility that are in line with community values and the site's heritage value. Redevelopment of the site is not being considered."*

*"The preferred tenderer will be determined through a clear, transparent and robust evaluation process consistent with Victorian Government guidance."*

-ENDS-





**Barwon  
Coast**

**Images:**

[https://barwoncoast-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/kate\\_barwoncoast\\_com\\_au/Ev9M-ai0fUpMohEdtbrJMtMBqE-eRwsCfxUf6XnbTsvBqA?e=YTIbvM](https://barwoncoast-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/kate_barwoncoast_com_au/Ev9M-ai0fUpMohEdtbrJMtMBqE-eRwsCfxUf6XnbTsvBqA?e=YTIbvM)

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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.

[www.barwoncoast.com.au](http://www.barwoncoast.com.au)

