

Saddle Lookout project

Port Campbell National Park

Parks Victoria is delivering a new lookout at the Twelve Apostles visitor precinct in the Port Campbell National Park to improve the visitor experience and protect the fragile landscape at this iconic location.

Background

The Shipwreck Coast Master Plan is a comprehensive and visionary program to protect the fragile coastline between Princetown and the Bay of Islands, improve opportunities for visitors, and strengthen the local economy and employment opportunities through sustainable tourism

A key project in Stage One of the master plan is development of the Saddle Lookout at the Twelve Apostles. The \$9.2 million project will replace viewing areas no longer cater for visitor numbers, providing a superior, safer and more accessible experience that will support the regional economy and help future-proof this iconic destination.

Project benefits

Environment

The coastal environment of the Port Campbell National Park is spectacular but fragile. The new Saddle Lookout will ensure the landscape is protected while allowing visitors to enjoy the incredible coastal views.

Community

Nature-based tourism is an important contributor to local businesses and the regional economy. This project is part of Stage One of the Shipwreck Coast Master Plan which will create jobs and bring millions of dollars to the region.

Visitors

The Twelve Apostles is one of Victoria's most popular destinations. This project will provide a better, safer and more accessible experience for millions of visitors that will come to this iconic location into the future.

The project

The new lookout is situated on Kirrae Wurrung Country and expresses the resilience of the broader Eastern Maar Nation. The two "clapsticks" of the structure are the colours of Ngayook (Sulphur Crested Cockatoo) and Ponponpoorramook (Red Tailed Black Cockatoo), which are primary totemic species to the Eastern Maar peoples.

Parks Victoria partnered with Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation on the design, which was also discussed during community consultation in 2018.

Comprised of two long rectangular sections, one resting on the terrain's 'saddle' and the other cantilevered towards the horizon, the design will momentarily conceal the coastline as visitors enter, before it is revealed further along.

The lookout will be complemented by a one-way walking track connecting back to the existing path. The track will be shrouded in vegetation, providing some protection from the weather and an intimate experience within the landscape.



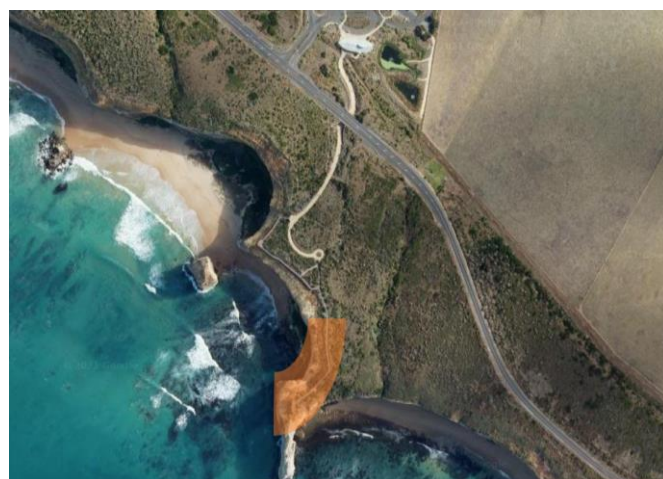
Above: Artist's impression of the new lookout.

Project timeline

Subject to on-ground conditions and any public health directions that may be in place, works are expected to start in September 2021 and complete in 2023.

Temporary access changes

Once works begin there will be no public access to the Castle Rock and Saddle viewing areas, however visitors will continue to enjoy the other lookouts, boardwalks and visitor areas at the Twelve Apostles and in the rest of the national park.



Above: The shaded area represents the expected area of restriction during construction.

Further information

For the most up-to-date information about this project visit: parks.vic.gov.au/projects