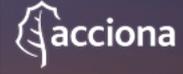


WOULD YOUR COMMUNITY ORGANISATION
BENEFIT FROM SPONSORSHIP FUNDING?
ACCIONA IS TAKING APPLICATIONS NOW!



NEWS **VOSS CENTRE APOLLO**

01 FEBRUARY 2021 | 04:21PM

\$22.9M BOOST AND YOUTH JOBS FROM PLANNED SURF CENTRE

A push for a Victorian Blue Ocean Safety Skills Centre in Apollo Bay is gaining traction.

The centre will train students from across Victoria and Australia, as well as volunteers and emergency services personal, in vital blue water safety skills.

Article continues below

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VBOSS spokesman David Gorrie says the modeling by Colac Otway Shire highlights the need for government to fund the \$10.5 million development.

“The Colac Otway Shire analysis shows VBOSS represents a significant economic shot in the arm to the region which has been hard hit by the COVID19 downturn,” he said.

“Importantly, planning on the project is already well advanced and shovel ready, it could be delivered and operational by early 2022.”

“The COS analysis focused on the economic benefit during the construction and development phase but there is also significant upside benefits once VBOSS is up and running with the centre projected to employ up to 15 young managers/trainers and pull visitors from across Victoria and Australia who will stay in the area for multiple nights.”

Analysis by Colac Otway Shire is forecasting a \$22.9 million boost to the region from the construction the centre.

Importantly, more than 48 jobs will be created if the project is green-lighted, many of them in the crucial youth sector.

Last year Apollo Bay Surf Life Saving Club secured a \$1 million Federal Government grant to kickstart the redevelopment of its crumbling and outdated facilities.

The community is now seeking the additional \$9.5 million required to complete the rebuild and realise the student/group accommodation at the College.

Mr Gorrie said VBOSS was an investment that would lead to the creation of a significant number of ongoing jobs in a regional Victorian area.

Vitally, the new facilities would save lives, train the next generation of young leaders from right across the country and diversify the region's economic offering.

“Colac Otway Shire has confirmed this project is ‘high’ on their priority list for coastal initiatives and comes on the back of strong support from local politicians, business groups, health organisations and Life Saving Victoria.

