

Inverloch Coastal Protection

Community Update - March 2019

Works are due to commence at two major areas of concern along the Inverloch foreshore to provide a buffer against further coastal erosion and protect the beach for continued public use.

Areas of concern

The foreshore adjacent to the Inverloch Surf Life Saving Club has seen 33.5 metres of coastline retreat since 2012. The building is currently located 16 metres from the face of the dune, with this distance remaining relatively stable since the end of winter in 2018.

The foreshore adjacent to Cape Paterson-Inverloch Road (locally known as Bunurong Road), particularly near the Surf Parade intersection, has experienced 35.6 metres of coastline retreat since 2012. The road is currently within six metres of the eroding edge.

Works being undertaken

Installation of two rows of 1.2 metre-high wet-sand fencing will be installed at the two locations at Inverloch.

The area at Cape Paterson-Inverloch Road will be 60 metres in length, while the area at the Surf Life Saving Club will be 50 metres in length. Both areas will also be renourished with sand, reconstructing the foredunes to 1.5 metres above current level. The renourished sand will then be planted with indigenous plant species.

Timeframes

Works on the installation of the wet-sand fencing are anticipated to commence the week of 11 March and should be completed by end of March 2019.

Sand renourishment works are planned to be undertaken in May 2019.

Revegetation works will be undertaken between June and September 2019.

It is essential that these works occur within these timeframes to take advantage of the low tide levels, weather conditions and other coastal processes.

Beach access during works

To ensure the safety of visitors and residents, access to the beach adjacent to Cape Paterson-Inverloch Road near the Surf Parade intersection and the foreshore adjacent to the Inverloch Surf Life Saving Club will have restricted access while works to construct the wet-sand fencing and dune reconstruction takes place.

Beach goers can still access the beach in these areas but are advised to comply with any restrictions while the works are ongoing.



Traffic Management

There will be no road closures as a result of the works.

Disruption to traffic will be kept to a minimum however, people are advised to watch out for machinery and any speed restrictions that may be in place.

Car Parking

There may be disruption to a section of the car park near the Surf Life Saving Club which may be used to store materials during the works.



Wet-sand fencing

Wet-sand fencing is an erosion control structure installed below the high-water mark on a beach. Constructed using thin slats of timber connected by wire, it helps to accumulate and maintain sand, working to rebuild a beach for improved public use.

The structure allows waves to pass through carrying sand while limiting the amount that returns offshore. This is due to its design decreasing the wave energy, allowing sand to settle more easily behind the fence.

Why was wet-sand fencing chosen?

- Cost-effective and quick to install
- Minimal impact on the environment
- When combined with renourishment, retains considerably more sand than renourishment alone
- Encourages vegetation to advance and help rebuild a beach.



Multi-agency approach

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), together with Bass Coast Shire Council, Parks Victoria, Regional Roads Victoria and the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, have formed a working group to address coastal erosion along areas of the Inverloch foreshore.

The wet-sand fencing works have been funded by the Victorian Government's Protection of Victoria's Iconic Beaches and Coastline project, Bass Coast Shire Council, Parks Victoria and Regional Roads Victoria.

Next Steps

The working group is working with other stakeholders and community groups on short, medium and long-term measures to address the coastal erosion problems along areas of the Inverloch foreshore.

Community engagement will be central to future planning, and the community will be kept informed as the project progresses.

Further Information

For further information regarding coastal protection works at Inverloch, please contact DELWP Traralgon on 03 5172 2111.

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