

Inverloch Coastal Protection

Community Update – August 2020



Emergency stabilisation works next to the Surf Life Saving Club along the Inverloch foreshore are complete.

Geotextile sand container wall.

Works on the installation of a 70-metre geotextile container wall along the Surf Life Saving Club (SLSC) area of the Inverloch foreshore were completed in May 2020.

The sand-filled geotextile container wall was selected as the most appropriate interim solution to protect the SLSC building area and will last approximately ten years.

The structure will be monitored and minor maintenance or repairs to the sandbags will be undertaken as required. Bass Coast Shire Council will periodically renourish sand dunes at the ends of the wall to manage any erosion.

Cape Paterson-Inverloch (Bunurong) Road

A significant storm surge event occurred over the Easter weekend affecting the Cape Paterson-Inverloch Road (Bunurong Road) area.

Waves overtopped the dune causing further erosion and splashed over onto the road. Regional Roads

Victoria (RRV) closed the road temporarily while emergency works were carried out.

500-tonne of rock was transported to the site to construct an 80-metre wall, as part of the emergency response to this extreme wave and tidal erosion event.

This rock has now been reworked into a revetment, which is a retaining wall that protects against erosion. This is a medium-term solution to help protect this important asset whilst a more permanent long-term solution is investigated through the local hazard assessment.

Wet-sand fencing trial

Trial wet-sand fencing was installed in March 2019 to reduce wave energy and collect sand, providing a buffer to assist in preventing further erosion at the Bunurong Road and SLSC areas.

There is some evidence that the wet-sand fencing, along with sand renourishment slow down erosion. However, the structures will need to be exposed to the elements for 12-18 months before we can gauge their overall effectiveness.

The wet-sand fencing was not intended as a long-term solution. It was installed as a short-term interim trial, while funding was sought to investigate coastal processes at Inverloch and surrounds for more permanent solutions. Monitoring of both sites continues.

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Regional and Strategic Partnership (RaSP)

The RaSP is a partnership of Traditional Owners with nine agencies that each have a role in managing coastal and foreshore values, assets and infrastructure around Inverloch. Together they have committed to working collaboratively on long term strategies to respond to erosion and inundation facing the Inverloch community now and into the future.

The RaSP will undertake several key pieces of work to investigate the erosion and inundation issues facing Inverloch. They are:

A **local coastal hazard assessment (CHA)** which will look at many of the influences on the coast such as wave height and direction, storm tides and surges, previous shorelines, groundwater, and sea level rise due to climate change. It will model these influences and help us understand what happened in the past, what is happening now, and what we can expect to happen in the future. This information will be used in detailed models of different options that could be used to mitigate erosion or adapt to future changes on the coastline.

Extensive community engagement to understand community values, how the community feels about the changes, and what the community thinks can and should be done to respond to erosion and inundation issues. Community engagement will help the partnership decide how the Inverloch coastline will be used and managed in the future.

A **coastal risk and vulnerability assessment** which will apply the work and recommendations from the CHA and engagement to determine what values and assets are at risk, when we expect them to be at risk, and how they may be at risk.

Coastal resilience planning – which will use the above work to guide partner agencies to develop their own strategic implementation plans for the use and management of the values and assets they are responsible for into the future. The RaSP project will be known as the *'Cape to Cape Resilience Project'*

capturing the geographic extent of the project, from Cape Paterson to Cape Liptrap.



The image shows installation of emergency rock to help protect the Bunurong Road site

Wreck Creek

Wreck Creek and associated waterways are regulated by the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (WGCMA). Parks Victoria manages the artificial opening of the creek mouths in collaboration with Bass Coast Shire Council. Together, these agencies are monitoring the risks of flooding around Surf Parade, and undertaking investigative work relating to the creek mouths and catchments.

The land around the western end of Surf Parade is subject to an existing inundation overlay under the Bass Coast Planning Scheme. In the event of flooding, Bass Coast Shire Council will enact its emergency management procedures.

Further Information

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

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