

Portland Coastal Cliffs: What We Heard

Community engagement was held in late 2019 following the release of technical reports into Portland's coastal cliffs and Dutton Way East Rock Revetment



Technical assessments have been completed to gain an understanding of the current and future risks along the Portland foreshore and the Dutton Way rock revetment.

To discuss the reports and gain feedback, DELWP and Glenelg Shire Council staff met with members of the community in November and December through doorknocking and online submissions.

What We Heard

Portland Coastal Cliffs

There were mixed views on the issue of public access between Clifton Beach and Nuns Beach. It was confirmed some members of the public are ignoring signage and barriers in one of the highest risk sections below the cliffs.

"First priority for residents is asset protection."

"First priority for the land manager has to be public safety"

For some, there was a preference to replace existing fencing on the beach with new and improved signage.

For others, there were concerns that children and visitors are unable to assess the level of risk and more effective fencing and signage is needed.

The public survey showed support for fencing improvement works, while keeping the visual impact of fencing to a minimum.

The preferred fencing option to achieve this along the cliff top was low, wooden barriers with native shrubbery.

"I prefer shrubbery like what is at the town end of the area... a short length post and rail would fit in with what is nearby."

Another key point raised by the community was cliff top drainage and the impact on stability of the cliffs.

"In wet years water sits on top of the grass - it needs drainage."

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Dutton Way Rock Revetment

The public were asked about their views on future works along the Dutton Way rock wall extending from Lowe Street to Fergusons Road.

A design report was published with recommendations for revetment upgrades, as well as options for beach access points, and groyne installations.

Improved and additional access points over the rock wall was the standout response.

Locals expressed the need to ensure safe and easy access to the beach by providing adequate stairways, landings and ramps.

Retention of sand along the beaches through construction of groynes and improved sand bypassing was seen an effective option to mitigate the erosion of the shoreline.

“The existing rock wall won't need a cent spent on it if the beach is fed”

Next Steps

Short-term

DELWP has allocated **\$50,000** in 2019-20 through the Public Safety on Public Land grants to the Portland Coastal Cliff Stabilisation Project for immediate works to reduce risks along the coastline.

This funding will deliver immediate public safety works, including:

- Improved signage and fencing
- A program to monitor any movement of the cliffs and related assets
- Assessment of options to improve cliff-top drainage

There remains an unacceptable risk now for fencing on the beach to be removed, but improved signage will be installed in line with public feedback.

Longer-term

Land managers aim to ensure the longevity of safe public use and enjoyment of the coastline.

This public consultation was designed to get a view of the issues from all user perspectives to better direct short-term and long-term works.

With the responses received from the public coupled with the information in the two reports, DELWP and Glenelg Shire Council will continue to apply for funding to address the current and future issues.

