

Sand relocation at Mount Martha Beach

DELWP commenced an initial sand relocation in late November 2020 with the aim of delivering 10,000m³ of sand to Mount Martha North Beach (MMNB), as part of the agreement between the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments.

Beach renourishment at MMNB is aimed at protecting the shoreline and associated vegetation by increasing the beach width.

Work being done to relocate sand from the south of Mount Martha Beach has been stopped as of Thursday 3 December due to public safety concerns.

Public safety is our highest priority and, while there were plans in place to ensure this, the dynamic nature of moving large vehicles along a popular beach requires constant monitoring and assessment.

WorkSafe Victoria's recommendation was that for operations to safely continue the whole beach was required to be closed. DELWP does not intend to fully close Mount Martha Beach to complete works during summer nor at any other time of year.

Unfortunately plans to make use of the 2,000-3,000m³ sand that had been stockpiled at Balcombe Creek to widen the beach by up to 5 metres (without requiring beach closure) has been washed away following the weekend storm with flood flows from Balcombe Creek, high sea levels and large waves.

In addition to WorkSafe Victoria's assessment, recent storm damage coupled with adverse weather forecast to continue for most of this week (7 to 11 December), and contractor commitments in the following weeks, has meant that all renourishment works have ceased and will not be able to restart this summer.



What's next

Water Technology has been engaged to advise further on delivery of future beach renourishment works. The recommendations will focus on offshore dredging and placement on MMNB, to be delivered in 2021.

We will continue to keep the community updated on progress.

Background

In February 2020, the Victorian Government signed a funding agreement with the Commonwealth Government for a commitment of \$1.5 million to support beach renourishment at MMNB, aimed at protecting the shoreline and vegetation.

DELWP is aware that some in the community believe that construction of hard structures, particularly groynes, are the right solution at Mount Martha North Beach.

However, the advice from a series of expert studies is that such engineering solutions are not appropriate at this particular location because of significant adverse impacts they would cause along the adjacent coast, and because they would not be effective in keeping sand on the beach in the long-term.

The expert analysis and detailed modelling of engineering options at MMNB can be viewed at [Engage Victoria](#)

Please be aware there are many unpredictable and unforecastable natural hazards along this foreshore including landslides and rock falls. Beach and bathing box users should always remain vigilant.

