



Emergency works complete

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) completed emergency cliff protection works at Mount Martha North in October, making the cliff safe and protecting the toe from further erosion from high tides and storm surge.

Storms eroded most of the sand on the beach over June and July 2018, forcing DELWP to amend the design of the emergency works. The geotextile sand-tube component was removed as it would have been difficult to construct it within the short, low-tide periods with so little sand on the beach. Instead, the revetment was constructed entirely of rock, with geotextile underneath to prevent tides from eroding the sand out from behind it. About 150m³ of sand was placed in front of the revetment at the southern end where the Balcome clay layer had become exposed.

The beach was closed while the works were underway, and upon completion in mid-October, management reverted to Mornington Peninsula Shire Council (MPSC) as Committee of Management. MPSC is assessing the stability of the beach boxes to determine when the beach is safe to reopen to the public. MPSC will contact beach box owners once they have decided upon any action that needs to be taken before the beach is opened for Summer.

Options analysis and detailed coastal modelling

DELWP has engaged coastal engineering consultants Water Technology to carry out a multi-criteria analysis to assess the four engineering options that were recommended in the 2017 coastal processes study. The following criteria will be applied: environmental, social, technical, up front cost and long term cost. Each engineering option identified will be assessed against these components. Rather than purely financial or

technical benefits, the analysis includes additional factors, and weightings can be applied based on stakeholder concerns and preferences so that the balance between the various areas is representative of stakeholder and community preference. Consideration may also be given to safety and future adaptability of the solutions for climate change.

The analysis will score and rank each option, and two options will proceed to the next stage to be modelled in detail. The modelling will develop and test the options to determine what scale, design and positioning would be required for the preferred engineering works to stabilise Mount Martha North beach. This modelling will inform the short and long-term management of Mount Martha North beach and cliff.

Community Engagement – survey about Mount Martha North Beach opens 2 January 2019

DELWP invites users of Mount Martha North Beach to participate in a survey so we can understand what you value most about the beach. By sharing your thoughts and feelings about Mount Martha North beach, we can take into account what matters to you when assessing the management options. Please visit Engage Victoria to participate (www.engage.vic.gov.au). Hard copies will be sent to bathing box owners and others on the stakeholder list who have not provided email addresses. The survey will open on 2 January 2019 and close on 31 January 2019.

Monitoring movement of cliff and revetment

DELWP will be installing monitoring devices in the cliff at Mount Martha North to measure any lateral movement (slipping) of the cliff and determine the effectiveness of the emergency revetment. The revetment will be regularly surveyed to check for movement. This monitoring will initially be undertaken over 12 months to assess whether the more permanent revetment is needed to replace the temporary one.

Permanent revetment detailed design

The detailed design of a permanent revetment is being developed jointly by geotechnical and coastal engineers. It is expected to be completed by the end of November.

Cultural Heritage Management Plan

The Cultural Heritage Management Plan is expected to be submitted for assessment by the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation at the end of November 2018.

Further Information

To receive project updates, please call DELWP on (03) 9210 9401 or email cass.philippou@delwp.vic.gov.au.