

### **Upcoming sand renourishment at Mount Martha Beach**

Plans are underway for a beach renourishment using 25,000m<sup>3</sup> of dredged sand along Mount Martha north foreshore.

The additional sand will assist with erosion control for the cliff face and bathing boxes located along the northern section of the foreshore.

The works will be carried out in November 2021 and will take approximately five weeks to complete, subject to weather. Contractors will finish on site by 15 December. DELWP does not intend to close the entirety of Mount Martha Beach while works are carried out.

The sand will be pumped ashore in sections from 800 metres directly offshore.

Coastal sands contain fine particles and organic material, mostly seaweed, which can sometimes give it a dark colour and mild odour. While the freshly dredged sand may look unpleasant when it first comes out of the water, after several days' exposure to the air and sun, the sand will bleach to the golden colour you're familiar with. Suspended particles in the water may create some local turbidity, but this will also dissipate and settle quickly once dredging ends.

The dredge barges that are used have a very low tolerance to wind and waves, hence the late spring to summer timing of works.

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.

### **Background**

Sand relocation (trucking sand from southern to northern end of the beach) was attempted during the 2020-2021 summer but was stopped due to public safety concerns and storm impacts on operations.

DELWP officers concluded that sand relocation at this site posed too many risks and was unlikely to achieve the desired outcome safely and in a timely manner.

Land sourced sand (typically quarried) was also ruled out given similar risks around trucking along the beach, storm erosion and public safety. In addition, land sourced sand does not meet community expectations for grain size, colour and roundness/smoothness.

Given the success of beach renourishments through offshore dredging around Port Phillip Bay, this method has been selected as the preferred solution.

This beach renourishment is being delivered by the Victorian Government through the Commonwealth Government Environmental Restoration Fund.

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

