

Media Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Beachgoers warned to take care

The Great Ocean Road Coast Committee is warning that areas of coastal shoreline erosion have created unstable 'sand cliffs' which can collapse.

The Committee advised that that many areas of the coastline had been affected and that examples of unstable cliffs could be found at Fishermans and Whites Beach, Point Roadknight, Fairhaven and opposite Aquila Avenue in Torquay.

Parents are advised that children in particular should be prevented from playing or digging in the cliffs, which could be attractive places to play for children.

Coastal Projects Manager Mike Bodsworth said vertical sand cliffs were inherently unstable, and while they currently posed a risk they would naturally settle to more stable slopes.

"Due to their natural instability, these dune cliffs soon crumble away to form less dangerous slopes, but in the meantime please avoid these areas," he said.

Mr. Bodsworth said erosion was a natural process that had been intensified following recent high tides and waves, which had affected large areas of the coast.

"Because of the extent of this issue it is impossible for us to install enough barriers or take other physical action to mitigate the risk, however we regularly monitor the effects of shoreline erosion and keep the community informed," he said.

The Great Ocean Road Coast Committee is also undertaking a study into coastal processes and the likely affects of climate change on the local coast.

"The study will inform us about what erosion mitigation options might be available and the final draft of the report has been received for review," said Mr Bodsworth.

For media enquiries please contact:

Jane Rowlands
Community Liaison Manager
Great Ocean Road Coast Committee
Ph: 5220 5055
Email: jane.r@gorcc.com.au
Website: www.gorcc.com.au