

Media Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fairhaven Ramp closed due to damage

The Fairhaven Beach Access Ramp has been damaged following localised shoreline erosion resulting from high tides and waves last week.

Particularly high tides such as this occur only a few times a year. Similar impacts can be seen in Torquay, Anglesea and Lorne and indeed right along the Victorian coastline following this recent event.

The Great Ocean Road Coast Committee has erected barriers to prevent public access to the ramp and it will remain closed until the site is safe, but at present the beach is still accessible via another nearby ramp.

The Committee will work with the Department of Sustainability and Environment and the Fairhaven Surf Life Saving Club to identify and implement strategies for restoring public access.

The affected portion of the ramp may possibly be demolished following a coastal engineering review to be completed shortly by the Committee and Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) staff.

Mike Bodsworth, GORCC Coastal Projects Manager, said erosion of sandy shores by high tides and seas is a natural process that may increase as a result of climate change and sea level rise.

“Trying to prevent damage of this kind is extremely difficult and erosion mitigation actions need to be carefully planned.

“It’s common for hard structures like ramps, walls, fences and stairways, to be affected by erosion along sandy shorelines.

“When sand is washed away from around hard structures, they lose their support and can collapse,” he said.

The Committee is currently 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.

“The Great Ocean Road Coast Committee takes care to monitor and maintain coastal structures to ensure all facilities are safe for public use,” said Mr. Bodsworth.

Caring for the coast and community

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