

Media Release



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Date xxx

Fairhaven Ramp to be demolished

The Great Ocean Road Coast Committee is demolishing a section of the Fairhaven Beach Access Ramp after it was damaged by recent high tides.

Coastal Project Manager Mike Bodsworth said the affected portion of the ramp would be demolished in the interests of public safety.

“The damage to this section of the ramp posed too high a risk to beachgoers for it to be left in place, or salvaged,” he said.

The Committee has erected permanent barriers around the area to restrict public access but the beach is still accessible via another nearby ramp.

Mr Bodsworth said particularly high tides occurred a few times a year and generally in winter, resulting in shoreline erosion right along the coastline.

“Due to the variable nature of the weather at this time of year, this site is likely to see further impacts so we will not be immediately constructing a replacement access ramp which may be at risk of damage itself,” he said.

Mr Bodsworth said the Committee was working with the Department of Sustainability and Environment and the Fairhaven Surf Life Saving Club and considering options to reinstate beach access at the site.

“Future access infrastructure must be carefully planned to minimise the possibility of similar damage,” he said.

Mr Bodsworth said erosion of sandy shores by high tides and seas is a natural process that affected the entire coastline.

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

The Committee regularly monitors coastal infrastructure to ensure it is safe for public use, and 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” said Mr. Bodsworth.

Caring for the coast and community

PO Box 53, Torquay, Vic 3228
Phone: 03 5220 5055 Fax: 03 5264 7763

Email: info@gorcc.com.au Web: www.gorcc.com.au

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