

Media Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Trail experts commence on walk

Surf Coast Walk construction underway following appointment of trail design firm

The construction phase of the highly-anticipated Surf Coast Walk project is underway with leading trail design and construction firm *World Trail* announced as the major contractor.

The Great Ocean Road Coast Committee is managing the works which will see the redevelopment, design and repair of trails all the way from Torquay to Fairhaven.

“The Surf Coast Walk is planned to be a continuous walking track of 40km between Torquay and Urqhart's Bluff serving both local communities along the coast and visitors to the region,” said Committee Chairman John Carlile.

Great Ocean Road Coast Committee Coastal Reserves Manager and Surf Coast Walk Project Manager Mike Bodsworth said *World Trail* had already commenced work in the Anglesea area.

“The tracks either side of Anglesea will provide great views and connections to Point Roadknight and the Great Otway National Park,” he said.

Current work on the Surf Coast Walk includes:

- Repair of degraded sections between the Eumeralla Camp and the Anglesea River.
- Track repair and drainage improvement between Anglesea and Point Roadknight.
- Reconstruction of the Sandy Gully section of the Aireys Inlet cliff top track.

The Surf Coast Walk's official logo has also been announced. Design of the logo was inspired by the distinctive leaf of *Eucalyptus oblique* (Messmate).

“Walkers can look out for this distinct logo which will mark the trails as the new track-side signs are installed,” said Mr. Bodsworth.

The project is a joint effort between Regional Development Victoria, the Great Ocean Road Coast Committee, and the Surf Coast Shire, and is supported by a project working group.

Mr Bodsworth said the working group, comprising of local residents and representatives of agencies, businesses and environmental and recreational groups, will continue to help GORCC manage the project.

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“The project offers opportunities for community involvement in the track construction and rehabilitation. There are also opportunities for volunteer involvement in the track’s ongoing upkeep and management,” he said.

Track works will be on hold for most of January to minimise public risk and inconvenience, will recommence in February and continue through 2011.

To learn more about scheduled works and closures or to register your interest in volunteering, please contact Project Manager Mike Bodsworth at the Great Ocean Road Coast Committee by calling 03 5220 5028 or emailing mike.b@gorcc.com.au .

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