

Frequently Asked Questions

MARENGO BEACH ACCESS RAMP REPLACEMENT

WHY DOES THE MARENGO BEACH ACCESS RAMP NEED TO BE REPLACED?

While the current ramp remains functional, it is no longer meeting safety and accessibility needs. The timber structure is degraded, requiring frequent maintenance, and the footings are rusted, necessitating ongoing repairs. The signage around the ramp, which includes safety warnings about slippery rocks, is outdated, and safety concerns have been raised. The goal of this project is to ensure safe and continued access to the beach for both the local community and visitors.

HOW DOES THIS PROJECT RELATE TO OTHER PROJECTS IN THE AREA?

The Marengo Ramp Replacement project is part of a broader coastal hazard, resilience and adaptation project from Torquay to Warnambool.

In partnership with the community and key stakeholders, to help us strengthen resilience now and into the future, we're developing a Regional Coastal Adaptation Plan aimed at managing coastal hazard risks and strengthening adaptation measures across the region along the Great Ocean Road.

We're in the early stages of planning and eager for locals and visitors to have a say.

DO YOU HAVE THE FUNDING TO BUILD THE NEW RAMP?

Yes, funding for the Marengo Ramp project has been secured. The project is supported by a $150,000 grant from the Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action (DEECA) under the Coastal Environments Program Public Access and Risk Funding, with a co-contribution of $45,000 from Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority.

WHO WILL BUILD THE NEW RAMP?

The new ramp will be constructed by an external contractor through a design and construction contract. The procurement process will involve obtaining at least three quotes from experienced construction contractors. If the project value exceeds $150,000, an open public tender process will be used to ensure transparency and fairness.

HOW WILL TRADITIONAL OWNERS/EASTERN MAAR ABORIGINAL CORPORATION BE INVOLVED IN THE ENGAGEMENT PROCESS?

The Eastern Maar Traditional Owners will be consulted throughout the community engagement process to ensure their perspectives and cultural considerations are included. Measures will be implemented during the project to protect Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and avoid harm to significant sites.

HOW WILL THE DESIGN OF THE NEW RAMP BE DECIDED?

The final design will comply with relevant Australian Standards for safety and accessibility. While the ramp's location and general alignment are not proposed to change, community feedback on safety features and design elements will inform the decision-making process. The consultation process will help ensure the design meets the needs of the community while considering environmental and cultural factors.



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HOW LONG WILL CONSTRUCTION TAKE?

Construction, including demolition of the old ramp, is expected to take approximately one month. The construction is slated to begin in 2025.

HOW WILL THE PROJECT IMPACT THE ENVIRONMENT OR LOCAL WILDLIFE?

Environmental considerations will be a priority during both the design and construction phases. For example, measures will be taken to avoid contamination from fibre-reinforced plastic (FRP), which can release plastic particles when drilled or cut. All FRP work will be done off-site to mitigate environmental impact. Additionally, the project team will take steps to minimise disruption to local wildlife and coastal ecosystems during construction.

CAN I CONTINUE USING THE RAMP DURING CONSTRUCTION?

While construction is underway, the ramp will be closed for safety reasons. However, alternative access points will be available. A set of stairs, located approximately 70 metres north of the ramp, will provide continued access to the beach.

WILL AN ACCESS GATE BE INSTALLED?

The community will be consulted regarding the installation of an access gate, which will include clear warning signs about the hazards of slippery rocks. The gate will serve as a decision point, allowing users to assess the weather conditions and decide whether it's safe to proceed based on their personal capabilities.

WHY IS THE STAIRCASE BEING REMOVED?

The staircase leading directly to the rocks has been identified as a safety hazard. In certain conditions, the rocks in this area are known to become extremely slippery, and there have been reported incidents of people slipping. To reduce this risk, the staircase will be removed, and access will be focused on the ramp. Visitors to the rock shelf are still encouraged to assess weather conditions before entering the area.

WHY ISN'T THE NEW RAMP UNIVERSALLY ACCESSIBLE?

Universal accessibility ramps typically have a gradient of 1:14, meaning for every 1 metre of height, the ramp needs to be 14 metres long. At this location, creating such a long ramp would expose it to increased coastal hazards, making it an unsafe design. Instead, the new ramp will be accessible and safe within the constraints of the coastal environment.

Those requiring a universally accessible beach access point are encouraged to use the matting at the front of the Apollo Bay Surf Life Saving Club, where access to the coastline is safer.

HOW CAN I STAY UPDATED ON THE PROGRESS OF THE PROJECT?

To stay informed about the project, you can sign up for email updates by selecting the "follow" button on the project page HERE. You'll receive regular updates on the project's progress and upcoming engagement opportunities.