



FISHERMANS BEACH CARPARK UPGRADE

Frequently asked questions

We'd like to thank the local community for their patience as we complete the upgrades to the Fishermans Beach car park.

Fishermans Beach, known to many as Fishos, is a much-loved area for a range of activities.

Home to the Torquay Angling Club, Torquay Marine Rescue Service and Salty Dog Café, the precinct provides boating and beach access.

We're upgrading the car park and surrounds to make it safer, easier to access, and more enjoyable.

WHEN WILL THE FISHOS CARPARK RE-OPEN?

The upgrade to the Fishermans Beach car park in Torquay is progressing as scheduled, with parking and boat launching expected to re-open in late October 2024.

The car park will be ready for summer, offering safer and more accessible beach access for everyone to enjoy.

Additional works, including ramps, seating, and other associated improvements, are set for completion later this year.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE FEATURES OF THE UPGRADE?

We have two main objectives at the car park:

- Upgrade the car park. We want to make it easier and safer for everyone to use. We plan to keep the same number of parking spots for cars and boat trailers. We will seal the surface so it's cleaner, nicer, and drains better.
- Reduce risk and make it safer for everyone who works at or visits Fishos. For example, we want to make crossings safer for people who launch and retrieve boats, use the beach access ramp, go to the cafe, walk their dogs or use the Surf Coast Walk.



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The upgrade will also:

- Make it better for the environment by using water wisely, improving the drainage, and installing pollutant traps.
- Increase accessibility by building an access ramp that people of all abilities can use. This will encourage people to use the new access ramp rather than the boat ramp to get to the beach.
- Improve the Surf Coast Walk by sealing this high use area.
- Conduct revegetation works.
- Make the space at Fishos more enjoyable by:
 - Sealing the car park
 - Making more paved areas
 - Adding a ramp to get to the beach
 - Adding two outdoor showers and additional seats
 - Adding bike parking.
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HOW ARE THE WORKS FUNDED?

The first stage works have been funded by the Victorian Fisheries Authority's Better Boating division and the Department of Energy, Environment & Climate Action.



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DO YOU NEED MORE FUNDING?

We're actively pursuing grant opportunities to fund additional features outlined in the precinct plan. These include beach access steps, relocation of the historic winch, and path works on the steep gravel section of the Surf Coast Walk in front of the Salty Dog Café.

We're also seeking funding for additional toilets near the Salty Dog Café, which would replace indoor showers which have now been provided at two outdoor locations.

HAS ANYTHING CHANGED TO THE PROJECT SCOPE SINCE WORK BEGAN?

We're committed to delivering a project that aligns with community needs. While a few elements have been refined, such as using polished concrete paths instead of exposed aggregate, the core features of the project remain unchanged.

To keep with the coastal feel, we have chosen an asphalt mix that appears black at first but will lighten over time with use and weathering.

Environmental sustainability remains a priority, with a large rain garden and advanced water treatment system to help filter storm water runoff.

HOW MUCH PARKING WILL BE AVAILABLE AND FOR HOW LONG?

The upgrade will deliver accessible car and boat trailer parking marked clearly with a combination of static and electronic smart signs.

This includes:

- 25 car and boat trailer parks
- 14 car-only parks
- 1 accessible car and boat trailer park
- 3 accessible car parks
- 4 permit only parks (near Torquay Marine Rescue).



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WHY ARE YOU USING STATIC AND ELECTRONIC SMART SIGNS FOR PARKING?

A key theme in community feedback was the need for more flexible parking arrangements at Fishermans Beach.

In response to this feedback, we are installing static and electronic smart signs to outline parking restrictions at Fishermans Beach.

Parking will be restricted to boat trailers only from October to April each year along the inland retaining wall.

Along the ocean side of the carpark from October to April each year parking will be restricted to car and boat trailer parks, however when the weather is unsuitable for boating the electronic parking signs will revert to a green P (parking symbol) and these bays will be available for general vehicle parking.

The 14 car-only parks will remain unrestricted throughout the precinct.

WHERE WILL CANOES AND KAYAKS BE STORED?

The Torquay Outrigger Canoe Club will now store its outriggers adjacent to the Torquay Sailing Club yacht storage area.

What's happening with the mixed-use site above the Torquay Angling Club at Fishermans Beach?

Separate to the carpark upgrade, the Authority is seeking community feedback on the future of the mixed-use above the Angling Club.

For the past seven years, a portion of this site has been licensed to a commercial food and beverage operator as part of a trial arrangement, while still allowing for community access to the beach viewing platform overlooking over the magnificent Fishermans beach.

In August, the Authority initiated the first round of public engagement, which drew significant interest.

This input has played a key role in shaping draft concepts for the site's future use. These include a rooftop food and beverage area as well as a designated community-use zone.

The Authority will seek further public feedback on these draft concepts from Tuesday, 15 October until midnight on Tuesday, 5 November 2024.

More information on the project can be found at:

www.haveyoursay.greatoceanroadauthority.vic.gov.au/fishos-platform



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