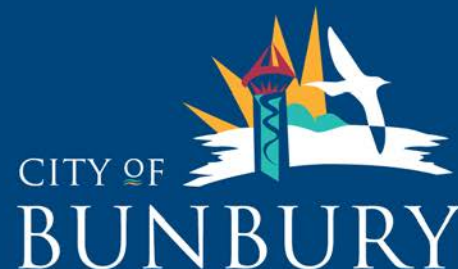


MEDIA STATEMENT



Thursday, 8 December 2016

Koombana Drive upgrade and new promenade to be unveiled

The upgrade to Koombana Drive and new George Baxter Promenade on the banks of the Leschenault Inlet will be officially unveiled on December 21.

Construction is entering the final stage with the last of the asphalt about to be laid on Koombana Drive and a range of minor works to be carried out.

Progress has been steady in recent weeks with a railing installed on the new 3.5m-wide dual use promenade, which has replaced the dilapidated George Baxter Boardwalk.

Parts of the boardwalk, however, live on with timber from the structure being recycled and used to create bench seating at strategic points so users can enjoy views of the Inlet.

Work already completed includes construction of a new roundabout to provide access to the Dolphin Discovery Centre and future Department of Parks and Wildlife headquarters; a new marine wall and bio garden to prevent erosion and runoff into the Inlet; extensive road upgrades; and lighting, including solar lighting for pedestrians.

The upgrade was required as erosion from the Leschenault Inlet and stormwater runoff has deteriorated the road embankment and compromised the road surface, while also impacting on the timber piles supporting the George Baxter Boardwalk.

Bunbury Mayor Gary Brennan said it was fantastic to see Koombana Drive evolve into a more attractive entry into the city.

“This upgrade will provide safe and convenient access into the CBD for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians,” Mr Brennan said.

“The George Baxter Promenade is a much wider path compared to the timber boardwalk, which will allow for smoother running, walking and cycling in this beautiful part of our City.

“We will also continue to recognise George Baxter’s contribution to Bunbury with a plaque to be erected at the beginning of the promenade.”

The public is being reminded the promenade will remain closed until the official unveiling.

Mr Brennan said delays in the project had been minimal with rain early in the construction causing some inconvenience.

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“I commend the contractor Ertech on their smooth managing of such a large project, which has resulted in minimal traffic disruptions,” Mr Brennan said.

A dolphin spotter was also on hand to ensure inquisitive animals were not impacted by any works, particularly during the construction of the marine wall.

“Only four hours of work time was lost because of the presence of dolphins, and this was mainly attributed to one particularly curious animal,” Mr Brennan said.

“A great effort has gone into protecting flora and fauna during the upgrade, which has also included working around a nest built by a pair of Oystercatchers during construction. The nesting area will remain untouched as these birds return to nest in the same location each year.”

Final works on the upgrade will be completed in the New Year, which will include planting of the bio garden and paving of the median strip.

ENDS

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