

MEDIA STATEMENT



Friday, 12 May 2017

Big changes already as Koombana Bay foreshore revitalisation surges ahead

The Koombana Bay foreshore has already undergone a significant transformation as work to revitalise the precinct as part of Transforming Bunbury's Waterfront Stage 1 project continues to progress.

Bunbury Mayor Gary Brennan, Bunbury MLA Don Punch and South West Development Commission Assistant Director Infrastructure Ashley Clements were on site today (Friday) to officially mark the beginning of one of the most significant infrastructure projects to be carried out in Bunbury in recent years.

The work carried out to date is obvious to passers-by with preparation works and demolition, creating a blank canvas for contractor Ertech to push ahead with the extensive upgrade.

Public access to the beach via the car park is now closed, with the asphalt about to be removed to make way for landscaping works. The beach can still be enjoyed via the Dolphin Discovery Centre while Koombana Bay Sailing Club is also accessible.

The footbridge over The Plug is closed with construction of a new iconic walkway about to begin. Members of the public can still enjoy a walk, ride or run by using the pedestrian path on the traffic bridge.

Bridge work is expected to be completed by the end of July with the final result to be a unique connection between the foreshore, Koombana North and the CBD.

Another important aspect of the redevelopment is the construction of a sea wall at the eastern end of the beach that will provide coastal protection to the area near the Dolphin Discovery Centre, with work scheduled to begin in the coming days.

Bunbury Mayor Gary Brennan said it was exciting to see the transformation that had already taken place.

"This is a significant project that will reinvigorate a much-loved part of Bunbury that has been popular with locals and visitors alike for generations," Mr Brennan said.

"To see the scale of work already undertaken is encouraging and I look forward to following the progress as the area is transformed into a world-class foreshore."

The work is being carried out as Stage 1 of the Transforming Bunbury's Waterfront project, a joint effort between the City and South West Development Commission and funded through the State Government's Royalties For Regions Growing Our South Initiative.

Work is expected to be completed by early December.

Key facts about the Koombana Bay revitalisation include:

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- Construction of 100 extra parking bays, taking the total to almost 400;
- Improved traffic access, including left turn only from Anchorage Cove to Koombana Drive;
- A pedestrian promenade along the beach;
- Revamped kiosk and public amenities;
- Improved beach access, including disabled access;
- Amphitheatre and shaded areas;
- Extensive landscaped areas overlooking the beach, including the relocation of car parks closer to Koombana Drive;
- Removal of the old train line;
- Construction of an accessible playground;
- \$10.8m construction tender awarded to contractor Ertech;
- Sixteen South West contractors will be engaged, with the value of local work being \$7.85m, or 72 per cent of the total funds to be spent on the project;
- Dolphin Discovery Centre redevelopment also under way as part of Stage 1 of the Transforming Bunbury's Waterfront project.

ENDS

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