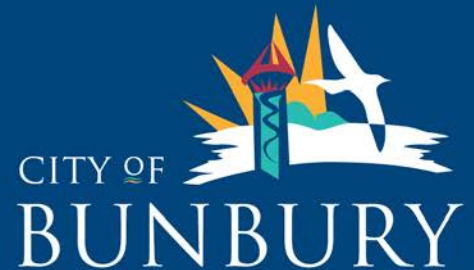


MEDIA STATEMENT



Wednesday, 21 December 2016

Koombana Drive upgrade officially unveiled

A much-needed upgrade to Bunbury's key entry into the central business district was officially unveiled today with work on Koombana Drive and new George Baxter Promenade coming to an end.

The upgrade, one of the biggest infrastructure projects carried out in the City in recent years, was completed on time and on budget and provides a safer and more appealing entry into Bunbury.

The road was in urgent need of repair with erosion from the Leschenault Inlet and stormwater runoff causing deterioration to the embankment and compromising the road surface, while also impacting on the timber piles supporting the George Baxter Boardwalk.

Work included 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, including the construction of cycle lanes; and lighting, including solar lighting for pedestrians.

The City has already received positive feedback about the new George Baxter Promenade, which provides for a smoother and more user-friendly journey around the Leschenault Inlet.

Bunbury Mayor Gary Brennan said it was important to continue to recognise George Baxter's contribution to the City with signage erected at the beginning of the promenade.

"It was fantastic that a member of the Baxter family was on hand to help unveil the completed works as the City saw it important that the name continue to be associated with the path," Mr Brennan said.

"And although the old boardwalk is no longer, it continues to live on with timber recycled and used as seating on the new promenade.

"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."

Mr Brennan said the Koombana Drive upgrade was the first stage in a significant redevelopment of the Koombana Bay area.

"This project is just the beginning of a significant transformation of this key tourist entry into Bunbury," he said.

Jamie Tatham, Communications Officer

T: 9792 7136 **T:** 0447 936 037 **E:** jtatham@bunbury.wa.gov.au

4 Stephen Street, Bunbury WA 6230 - PO Box 21 Bunbury WA 6231

TTY: 13 36 77 **F:** (08) 9792 7184 **W:** www.bunbury.wa.gov.au

MEDIA STATEMENT



“Next year will see work beginning on the new Department of Parks and Wildlife headquarters and stage one of the Transforming Bunbury Waterfront project, which includes redevelopment of the foreshore area and also the Dolphin Discovery Centre.”

ENDS

Jamie Tatham, Communications Officer
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