

Surf Beach / Sunderland Bay Potential Road and Drainage Special Charge Scheme

Issue 3 – November 2022

This regular newsletter aims to keep all property owners and residents informed of this project as it progresses and highlight any specific issues you may need to be aware of from time to time.

We've noticed there is some misinformation about this project out in the community and we encourage you to stay informed and up to date by visiting

<https://engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/surfbeachroads>

Plus, it's easy to sign up to the page so that any time we update it, you are notified by email.

Check out the Frequently Asked Questions section to see if someone has already had the same query. If not, reach out to our contact details overleaf.

Did you know?

Cost estimates and cost proportioning of the potential road and drainage upgrade project has not yet been determined. Benefits to external users such as tourist traffic is accounted for in cost proportioning stages of the project and Council contributes towards these benefits.



Urban Swale drain example at Seagrove Estate, Cowes

Concept options

A survey requesting property owners to select their preferred concept design has been sent out this month. Three concept options have been developed based on previous feedback from property owners and the community reference group. Surveys are required to be submitted by 21 December 2022. The surveys also provide the opportunity to generally support or oppose options. It is recommended to still select a preferred option even if you are generally opposed to the scheme as this will be the option that is further developed for consideration at a Council meeting.

Urban swales drains

Open swale drains with landscape vegetation created in an urban environments allows the water cycle to function as it would more naturally, reducing the impact of urbanisation on the environment. It creates a more natural look to urban streets while also improving the water quality by filtering the stormwater through vegetation prior to entering down stream water ways. Vegetated swale drains will also provide an environmental improvement for wildlife habitat in the area. Council would fund these swales outside of the special charge scheme as these primarily benefit the wider community.

Studies

The flora and fauna and the cultural heritage due diligence reports have been provided by consultants and uploaded to the engagement page. Other investigations such as geotechnical ground conditions and drainage design are being progressed. These studies will review risks, avoid and minimise impacts to the environment and assist to determine the potential cost for the project.



Example of dust created by a vehicle along The Esplanade

Dust and roads

As we enter the summer months the unsealed roads across Bass Coast will dry out and result in increased levels of dust. The main generator of dust on unsealed roads is vehicles and the level of dust is dependent of vehicle speed. To assist in reducing levels of dust please drive slowly and be mindful of your neighbours. In October, once again we have deployed temporary signage across Surf Beach and Sunderland Bay designed to assist in slowing vehicles as they travel around the Estate. The intention of this signage is to reduce dust levels. The most effective and permanent way of eliminating dust in urban areas with unsealed roads is to construct sealed roads.



Reminder to slow down to reduce dust

Financial hardship concerns

If the special charge scheme was approved in the future and you believe that you may have difficulty paying, please contact Council's Revenue Services team on 5671 2211. Our officers are more than willing to confidentially discuss payment options with you, taking into account your current situation. Ratepayers who reside in the affected property and their only form of income is a Government pension may qualify for hardship assistance. A copy of Council's Hardship and Covid-19 Policies can be found on our website at:

<https://www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/about-council/strategies-and-policies/policies>

For more information on the project please visit the engagement website at:

<https://engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/surfbeachroads>

or email us at:

sunderlandbayandsurfbeachupgrade@basscoast.vic.gov.au

or phone the Customer Service Team on 1300 BCOAST (226 278) or (03) 5671 2211