



Steve Dimopoulos MP

Minister for Environment  
Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events  
Minister for Outdoor Recreation

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Robert McDonald  
Clerk of the Legislative Council  
Legislative Council  
[council@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:council@parliament.vic.gov.au)

Dear Robert McDonald

Thank you for your letter and email of 12 November 2024, regarding petition 581 - Save the Inverloch Surf Life Saving Club and Surf Beach from coastal erosion. I apologise for the delay in responding.

The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) is preparing to undertake nature-based engineering works to address the coastal erosion at Inverloch Surf Beach delivering actions, in accordance with the adaptation pathways in the draft Cape to Cape Resilience Plan. These works will provide a protective buffer for the coastal reserve and public infrastructure therein, including the Inverloch Surf Life Saving Club, whilst longer term land use planning and transition is underway.

This important engineering project aligns with the values shared by the community and stakeholders during the Cape to Cape Resilience Project's engagement activities in 2021-23.

The Inverloch Regional and Strategic Partnership (RaSP) has led development of the draft Cape to Cape Resilience Plan (the draft Plan) which was open for public consultation from 23 August 2024 to 13 October 2024. Feedback is presently being reviewed and updates to the draft Plan are under consideration.

Whilst the petition calls for construction of a seawall, feedback during engagement on the draft Plan indicated that the broader community was strongly in favour of maintaining the natural beach and not undertaking hard (rock/sandbag) engineering interventions which would negatively impact beach amenity and use into the future.

Impacts from recent storm tides on the dunes adjacent to the existing geotextile seawall include terminal erosion at the sides and around the back of the wall. Expert coastal engineering consultants advise that construction of a longer and larger wall will cause the beach to lower, lead to loss of the high tide beach in front of it, and the erosion problem will move further along the beach and dunes. Construction of a hard engineered structure such as a rock seawall will therefore adversely affect the important community, social, recreational and tourism values of the area.

DEECA has held several briefings with key stakeholder groups including the Inverloch Surf Life Saving Club, South Gippsland Conservation Society and Inverloch Tourism Association since the erosion event in August 2024 and September 2024. This has enabled more detailed sharing of coastal engineering advice and modelling to enhance the knowledge of the key stakeholders and facilitate more fulsome discussions and feedback directly to DEECA and the project team. As a long-term strategic plan, regular reviews are built into the Cape to Cape Resilience Plan, and this may involve updating or amending adaptation pathways to accommodate changing environmental conditions and community values.

A coastal engineering consultant was engaged in November 2024 to design the reconstruction of the dunes. DEECA intends the construction work to take place in late 2025, subject to due diligence



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assessments, planning and environmental approvals and availability of suitable construction contractors.

DEECA is collaborating with a working group of land and asset managers including Bass Coast Shire Council, Department of Transport and Planning, Parks Victoria and the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, to undertake emergency response and maintenance works on Inverloch Surf Beach whilst the larger project is in the design and approvals phase. This will ensure safe beach access and replace some of the sand lost following the August and September storms and subsequent high tide events.

Thank you for writing to me. I trust this information will be of assistance.

Yours sincerely



**Steve Dimopoulos MP**  
**Member for Oakleigh**  
**Minister for Environment**

25 / 2 / 25