

# SEAWALLS, SHARED TRAIL REALIGNMENT AND WEBB STREET PEDESTRIAN ACCESS RAMP

## WHAT WE HEARD

Thank you to everyone who participated in the initial consultation phase for Weaver Reserve. Whether you submitted feedback via the online conversation, emailed us, had a conversation with the project team online at one of the online drop in sessions or left a comment on one of the social media posts all this feedback has been collated and a summary of what we heard is presented below.

Where possible, your feedback has been used to help shape the final concept plan for this project.

### About the project

The Altona community is protected from the sea by a 3.5km seawall, commencing at the Cresser Reserve Jetty, and concluding at the newly constructed seawall at Apex Park. Seawalls are an important part of Council's toolkit to protecting public and private assets in our community. They clearly delineate the meeting point of the foreshore and the beginning of built coastal infrastructure, they prevent further erosion of the coastline as well as minimise the effects of storm surge, high tides and the ongoing effects of climate change.

Over the past 10 years our seawalls have increasingly suffered from the impacts from storm and wave surges, king tides and strong winds. With this increasing storm frequency and intensity comes flooding and damage. We have seen our foreshore areas and the Esplanade inundated with sea water, sections of the coastal trail damaged by water and we have closed some pedestrian beach access points due to structural damage.

Historically, Council had 22 beach access points (or gaps) in the Altona Seawall. These gaps compromise the function of the seawall and resulted in localised flooding during storm events. Council has been systematically closing these gaps and constructing beach access points protected by higher seawalls. Once completed, the 22 access points will be amalgamated into nine including seven new and improved pedestrian access points. Pedestrian beach access points already constructed include Cresser Reserve, Correa Street and Millers Road with Mount Street, Altona Beach Entry, Webb Street and Apex Park still to be constructed. Two vehicle access points (one either side of the Pier at McBain Street and Bent Street) have already been constructed.

### Raising of the Altona Seawalls

To protect our community from the effects of storm surge, king tides and strong winds, we need to raise our seawalls. The Victorian Government requires that we increase the height of our seawalls to accommodate the predicted sea level rise in 2100. This reflects a rise of 0.8m AHD (Australia Height Datum, an altitude measurement whereby the mean sea level is the value of zero), which is approximately 20cms higher than our existing seawall, or the height of one bluestone brick.

### Moving the Shared Trail behind the seawall

In Altona, the Hobsons Bay Coastal Trail runs alongside the existing seawall. The trail runs predominantly behind the seawall, however from Webb Street to Sargood Street the trail moves to the beach side of the seawall. As part of Council's program to protect

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community infrastructure we will be moving the seawall in front of the shared trail in this location. Council is proposing to widen this section of the shared trail from 2.5m to 6m where possible to accommodate the increased community use that this section of the shared trail receives.

### Webb Street pedestrian beach access

As part of the program to reduce the number of gaps in the Altona Seawall, Council will construct a new pedestrian beach access point at Webb Street. This access point will be similar to the one at Correa Street; it will consist of a seating platform off the shared trail, an accessible ramp to the sand, and tiered steps down to the sand that will also act as wave deflector.

This consultation process was undertaken alongside 5 other projects including:

- Pier Street Stage 4 Streetscape project,
- Weaver Reserve Upgrade
- A proposed Esplanade Closure between Bent Street and Pier Street,
- The raising of the seawalls, shared trail realignment and upgrade of the Webb Street Pedestrian Beach Access,
- The Altona Pier Redevelopment, this project is being undertaken by Parks Victoria.

Council made the decision to undertake the design and consultation process for these projects collectively as these projects interact with each other and by integrating the design processes we can achieve a seamless design, providing a better outcome for the Altona community.

### Who got involved

The consultation process for the Altona Beach Precinct ran from 26 July 2020 through to 24 August 2020. Across the five Council projects included in the Altona Beach Precinct consultation it had a reach of over 69,000 people via social media, with over 5,500 people visiting the online engagement component of the project which generated 579 responses to the consultation from 415 individual contributors. Three online community drop-in sessions were held attended by 5 people. There were also meetings with key stakeholders including the Emergency Services, AVTA, Louis Joel and the Altona Lifesaving Club.

### What we heard

While there was support for increasing the width of the shared trail and the relocation of the seawall to in front of the shared trail, there was also a wish for more detailed plans to fully understand the impacts of these works on the surrounding beach and roadscape.

Queries were also made about the location of the Webb Street Pedestrian Beach Access point and whether it was required.

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### Next Steps

Council will be developing new plans including rendered images to show the alignment of the seawall, heights of the seawall and the alignment of the shared trail along the beach and continue the conversation with the community.