



Bayside Bay Trail – the Final Stage Cromer Road to Charman Road

The State Government and Councils adjoining Port Phillip bay are committed to providing a bicycle/pedestrian path from Melbourne to Mordiallic along the foreshore.

The so called Bay Trail currently runs most of the way except for a small stretch in the City of Bayside between Cromer Road and Charman Road, and parts of the City of Kingston in Mentone and Parkdale. Both Councils are progressing proposals to complete their sections of the Trail.

Various options for the Cromer Road to Charman Road stretch have been considered by Bayside City Council and in February 2009 the Council restated its preference for 'an edge of road or verge of road' solution.

Over the last two years investigations have been carried out to develop a solution which requires the least foreshore vegetation loss and meets land owners requirements. VicRoads offered to reduce traffic lane

widths between Cromer Road and Wells Road significantly reducing foreshore vegetation loss.

A design has been prepared by Bayside City Council which complies with VicRoads standards and the Department of Sustainability and the Environment (DSE) requirements. The path straddles the boundary between the road reserve (VicRoads) and the foreshore (DSE) and is 3m wide with a 1 metre shoulder on the road side and 0.5 metre shoulder on the foreshore. This complies with AustRoad guidelines and has been endorsed by a VicRoads safety auditor.

DSE, in its in-principle approval, requires the closure of the coastal inland track with the retention of lookouts at suitable locations. Parts of the coastal inland track

have already been realigned and some lookout points closed due to safety issues resulting from cliff erosion.

When complete, this Trail will provide Bayside residents and the wider community with a recreational facility which is safe, accessible to everyone, and enable people to travel from Bayside's northern border in Brighton to its boundary with Kingston, a total of 15 km.

Facts of Interest:

How long is this final section of the Trail?

Approximately 800 metres of the total 15 kms of Trail.

Why is the 'edge of road or verge of road', the preferred solution?

This solution was selected because:

- 1 It was consistent with the majority of the Bay Trail in Bayside.
- 2 It is more secure for families and cyclists next to the road.
- 3 It can be built from low maintenance materials, i.e. concrete rather than gravel.

What area of vegetation will be removed to allow for the construction of the path?

Approximately 0.16ha of vegetation will be required to be removed. This corresponds to a 2.0 metre width between Cromer Road and Wells Road and 3.0 metre width between Wells Road and Charman Road.

Why close the coastal inland track?

The closure of the inland track will:

- 1 Address public safety issues associated with cliff instability in sections of the existing track.
- 2 Provide protection of significant Aboriginal Cultural Heritage values.
- 3 Improve ecosystem function through increased habitat connectivity.

How many lookouts will there be when the Trail is complete?

4 lookouts have been proposed, each with an existing access off the Trail. It is proposed to fence each lookout and where possible install a bench seat. The features will be designed to have minimal impact on the foreshore vegetation.

When will construction occur?

The Bay Trail is proposed for construction in the first half of 2012. The closure of the coastal inland track and the development and construction of the lookouts will be completed after July 2012.

Is Aboriginal Cultural Heritage significant in this area?

Yes, middens (a mound consisting of shells of edible molluscs and other refuse, marking the site of early human habitation) are known to exist in the foreshore area. A Cultural Heritage Management Plan to address these issues is currently being prepared.

For further information about the plan for the completion of the Bayside Bay Trail, and the forthcoming Information Session, residents should contact Bayside City Council by phone on 95994444 or via the Council website on www.bayside.vic.gov.au/baytrail

