

Portsea beach seawall

Project Update – 17 November 2020

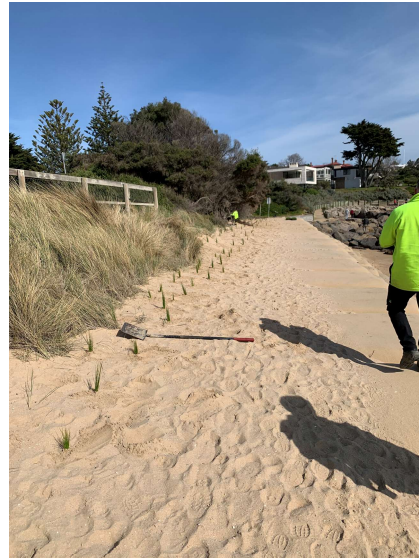
The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) completed major repairs to the sandbag seawall at Portsea front beach in July.

In early September, around 1,000 native grasses were planted behind the repaired sandbag seawall, including Tussock grass (*Poa labillardieri*), Knobby Club Rush (*Ficinia nodosa*) and Basket grass (*Lomandra longifolia*). This vegetation plays an important role in stabilising the dune system, by supporting the sandbag seawall to protect the foreshore.

During regular monitoring of the sandbag seawall, a large tear in one of the sandbags was discovered. This occurred after the wall was completed and DELWP and the sandbag manufacturer are analysing the compromised bag to determine the cause. Sand loss from the bag has resulted in some slumping of the sandbags above. This is very disappointing to DELWP, the contractor and the community.

DELWP has worked with the contractor, designer, superintendent and sandbag manufacturer to find a practical solution to the split sandbag and slumping.

The contractor will begin repairing the split sandbag this week. Safely moving the slumped 5-8 tonne sandbags and replacing lost sand is a challenge at this location, so repairs are expected to take 2-4 weeks, depending on weather and wave conditions. However, we are working hard to ensure they are completed before Christmas.



This work will involve moving the toe rock aside to provide access to the torn sandbag, dismantling a section of the sandbag seawall, and using these sandbags to protect the workers.



Please expect very minor disruption to beach access whilst equipment and new sandbags are delivered. Traffic management will be in place for the safety of our contractors and the community.

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