

Media Release

29 February 2024



Port Broughton Beaches Rejuvenated

In a boost for coastal conservation, Barunga West Council's Port Broughton Sand Replenishment Program, funded by the Coastal Protection Board, has reached a pivotal 50 per cent completion milestone.

The program, which began in March 2023 following a successful pilot study in July 2022, targets four critical beach areas: adjacent to the Port Broughton Tourist Park, Dalling Street, West Terrace, and John Lewis Drive. Each location is set to receive annual sand replenishment until 2025, with Council staff monitoring sand levels quarterly to assess beach stabilisation efforts.

Recent achievements include the successful completion of the 2022-23 beach nourishment across all four targeted areas, underscoring Council's commitment to combating erosion. Last year 500 cubic metres of locally sourced sand was deposited along the seawall's toe at West Terrace and near the historic Port Broughton Jetty. This measure aims to protect the seawall from erosion.

Council is now gearing up for the next phase, with beach nourishment at West Terrace and other key sites scheduled for 2024. This stage aims to further stabilise the coastline, enhance beach amenity, and secure the shoreline against future erosion risks.

The project has efficiently utilised \$229,000 of its \$514,000 budget to date, reflecting Council's focused approach to financial management and project execution. Despite facing potential challenges such as contractor availability and inclement weather, Council remains dedicated to maintaining project momentum, supported by strategic planning and mitigation strategies.

The program aligns with nature-based infrastructure strategies recommended by Delta Environmental Consulting, emphasising minimal environmental impact and adaptability to future sea-level changes. This initiative not only addresses coastal erosion but also improves the recreational quality of our beaches.

Barunga West Council CEO Maree Wauchope thanked community and government partners, noting the project's role in safeguarding our coastline for future generations without imposing a significant financial burden on ratepayers.

"This vital work ensures the protection and enjoyment of Port Broughton's beautiful coastline for generations to come," Ms Wauchope said.