

Frequently Asked Questions

Wreck Creek

Q. Where is Wreck Creek?

- A. Wreck Creek is a small intermittently closing and opening coastal lagoon located on the western edge of Inverloch. The lagoon is separated from the ocean by a sandy beach berm that forms and breaks down depending on the redistribution of sand and sediments by waves, tides, flood flows and winds.

The coastal lagoon opens and closes to the ocean naturally in a constant but irregular cycle - based on catchment flows which work to scour out the entrance, and coastal processes (tides, waves and winds) which work to close the entrance.

Q. What happens when Wreck Creek floods?

- A. When water levels rise in Wreck Creek following rainfall, this can lead to flooding of adjacent private and public properties and infrastructure adjacent to the lagoon foreshore. The land around the western end of Surf Parade is subject to an existing flood risk which is identified by the inundation overlay under the Bass Coast Planning Scheme.

To minimise this possible flooding, Bass Coast Shire Council, West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, and Parks Victoria work together to ensure that any manual (i.e. artificial) opening of the eastern branch of the creek that flows under Surf Parade is performed safely. The procedure for this involves monitoring the creek for water level, sand berm height and water quality.

Since the new entrance mouth has opened further west along the beach, these openings have not been required. This is because the creek has been able to open naturally following any significant rainfall event. However, if a manual opening is required, WGCMA is the authority that will inform when this can occur safely (e.g. prevent a fish kill) and Parks Victoria will perform the opening.

Manual openings are performed to reduce the risk of flooding to nearby houses, however opening the entrance does not eliminate the risk of flooding and adjoining private land may be flooded even if the entrance is open due to rainfall and coastal influences. In the event of potential flooding, Bass Coast Shire Council will enact its emergency management procedures as documented in the Municipal Emergency Management Plan.

Q. Who manages Wreck Creek?

- A. Several agencies have responsibility over Wreck Creek and the surrounding land, including the WGCMA, BCSC, Parks Victoria and the Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning (DELWP). These agencies work in partnership to manage the area including the risk associated with flooding.

The western branch of Wreck Creek is overseen by WGCMA and Parks Victoria. These agencies regularly monitor the risks of flooding around Surf Parade, and undertake investigative work relating to the creek mouth and catchment.

Q. Is Cape Paterson-Inverloch Road (Bunurong Road) at risk of flooding at Wreck Creek?

- A. Yes, Bunurong Road is at risk of flooding from rainfall within the catchment and from storm surges especially as sea levels rise.

These risks have not been fully analysed yet. The technical work completed as part of the local coastal hazard assessment for Inverloch looked at these risks and will provide the community and agencies with a much better understanding of the risks and what can be done to minimise these risks.



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Sand Re-nourishment has occurred either side of the rock revetment on Bunurong Road. The sand borrow site at Point Norman was utilised with 2500 cubic meters of sand moved from Point Norman to either side of the rock revetment, bolstering the narrow dune system alongside Bunurong Road and Wreck Creek. The aim of the re-nourishment is for the sand to be sacrificial in nature and provide protection for the dunes prior to the winter storm season.

Revegetation works on the crest of the Bunurong Road rock wall are now complete, with Parks Victoria staff and local community volunteers planting indigenous tube stock propagated by the local Wonthaggi Seed Bank and Nursery.

Q. I live on Surf Parade, and I'm worried about flooding are there plans to artificially open Wreck Creek?

A. Partner agencies constantly monitor water levels at Wreck Creek and the prevailing weather conditions. If conditions reach a point where an artificial opening is likely to reduce the risk of flooding, the agreed procedures will be enacted, and the entrance opened. However, the opening the entrance artificially will not eliminate the risk entirely, and flooding to adjoining private property could still occur.

Q. If you artificially open Wreck Creek, will you expose more remains of the Amazon Shipwreck?

A. There is potential to expose more remains of Amazon shipwreck if the mouth is artificially opened. Heritage Victoria are aware of this and Parks Victoria has notification arrangements and a permit to undertake necessary management work.

Q. How can I assist?

A. If you would like to assist with monitoring water levels at the creek, there is a Fluker post located nearby where you can send your photos directly to these agencies. A second Fluker post may be installed to allow members of the public to send photos of the Western branch of Wreck Creek, we will keep you informed.