

## Beach renourishments at Dromana and McCrae to begin in November 2020



The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) is set to undertake beach renourishment at Dromana and McCrae beaches between November 2020 and March 2021.

### Renourishment sites:

- 1. Dromana:** The beach east of Anthony's Nose boat ramp for approximately 800m. The width of this beach is very narrow and inaccessible at high tide, exacerbated by the presence of a seawall. Approximately 30,000m<sup>3</sup> of sand will be placed on this section of beach.
- 2. McCrae:** The 700m stretch of beach between Coburn Creek and Anthony's Nose seawall. The groynes installed in 2019 will help retain the approximately 20,000m<sup>3</sup> of sand to be placed in this section of beach and reduce the impact of wave action on the foreshore vegetation behind.

DELWP has procured an experienced contractor to dredge sand from approximately 400m offshore (Borrow Area 1 in Fig. 1) and pump it ashore. This will assist in protecting the coastal Crown land and public assets, as well as providing a wide and safe beach for community use.

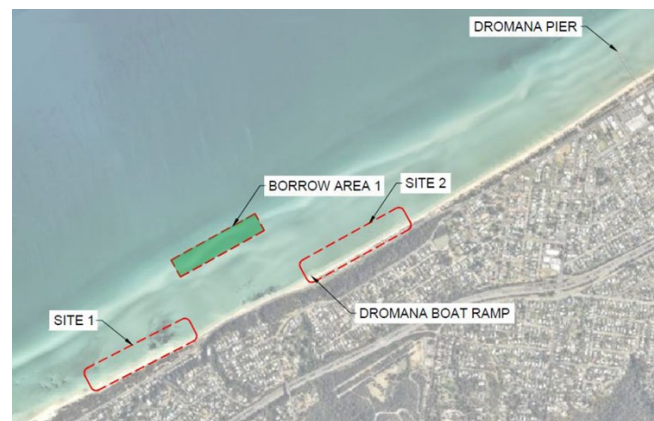


Figure 1: Site location map.

The sand source has been tested to be free of contaminants and to have a similar grain size to that onshore. It has also been depth-tested to show that a significant quantity of sand is available, with a total volume of approximately 50,000m<sup>3</sup> to be dredged from the site as part of this project.

Construction works at Dromana will begin in November 2020, with a pause planned from mid-December to mid-January 2021. The remainder of Dromana and the full McCrae section will be completed prior to March 2021. Completing the works during summer, a time of calm weather conditions, will allow the sand to consolidate and remain on the beach for longer.

During the works, the parking area at Anthony's Nose boat ramp will be partially closed to enable access for the contractor. Access to the boat ramp will be maintained. There will be temporary limitations to beach access while the dredging takes place.

The dredged sand will initially be darker in colour and may have an odour due to naturally occurring organics in the sand being exposed to the air. However, sand sampling of the offshore source showed this organic content to be very minimal (<0.04%). The sand will naturally lighten in colour as it bleaches in the sun and any odour will fade within days. Swimmers should also be aware that the depth of water offshore will change during this time.

It should also be noted that a net transport of sand from west to east takes place in this section of the Mornington Peninsula coastline, so this renourishment is expected to have minimal impact on the McCrae beach further west.



**Figure 2: Erosion escarpment in front of vegetation and the McCrae Beach carpark.**

DELWP has been working closely with Mornington Peninsula Shire Council (MPSC) and the Dromana Foreshore Committee of Management to deliver these two projects.

The two renourishments are funded through the Port Phillip Bay Beaches Renourishment Program 2019–2023, which assigned \$8 million funding for up to 16 beaches based on a comprehensive priorities study completed by Cardno in 2019.

### Further information

Should you require further information on this project, please contact the DELWP Customer Contact Centre at 136 186 or email the DELWP Coastal Projects team at [enviropjects.portphillip@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:enviropjects.portphillip@delwp.vic.gov.au)