**Wreck Creek renourishment**

*Wreck Creek is a small intermittently closing and opening estuary lagoon located on the western edge of Inverloch.*

*Estuaries naturally close to the ocean when a sand ridge forms across their entrance.*

*When an estuary closes, it provides calm waters ideal for fish spawning and coastal vegetation.*

*However, where estuaries in close proximity to infrastructure, the build up of water brings with it an elevated risk of flooding and/or inundation.*

***Why is renourishment required at Wreck Creek?***

*When an estuary is closed, water levels become elevated and pose flooding and inundation risks to built infrastructure such as roads and houses.*

*An artificial opening is approved when the risks of flooding during an estuary closure are elevated. An estuary closure procedure is in place to ensure any artificial openings are performed safely and effectively.*

**Who is the management body?**

*Coastal Catchment Management Authorities across Victoria are responsible for the regulation of estuary closures and the approval of artificial estuary openings, which can only be done with a valid Works on Waterways permit.*

*To minimise the risks of flooding during an estuary closure, West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (WGCMA), Parks Victoria (PV) and Bass Coast Shire Council (BCSC) work together to monitor conditions and manage estuary closures at Wreck Creek Eastern Branch that flows under Surf Parade.*

***What actions are being taken?***

*Monitoring includes estuary water level, forecasted weather, swells and tides, sand berm/ridge height and water quality.*

*WGCMA is working with DEECA, PV, BCSC and Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) to formalise arrangements for the Western Branch which flows under Inverloch-Cape Paterson Road.*

*DTP is working with the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) to support dune renourishment efforts across the Inverloch foreshore.*

*Since the severe storm events of September 2024, weekly inspections of Wreck Creek, the foreshore at Inverloch, Wreck Creek, culverts and rock revetment have been undertaken, with increased monitoring and inspections completed during adverse weather and king tides.*

*Future protection of Wreck Creek and the road will align with DEECA’s broader coastal erosion strategy. DTP continues to work closely with DEECA, the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, Bass Coast Shire Council, and Parks Victoria to develop coordinated, long-term solutions that support the community, infrastructure, and the environment.*

*There are no plans to block the culvert.*

*Future plans to protect the culvert and Wreck Creek intersection will be guided by DEECAs broader strategy for managing coastal erosion along the Inverloch foreshore.*

**What is expected to happen after the renourishment?**

It is expected that following the planned dune renourishment that both the East and West branches will close with a larger berm across their entrances. The design of the nourishment is taking the estuary openings into consideration and the nourishment height will be reduced in these locations.

Regardless of what happens with sand movement following the dune renourishment, WGCMA, PV, DTP and BCSC will continue to work together to minimise risks of flooding during estuary closures at Wreck Creek East and West Branches by regularly monitoring conditions and being ready to act if needed.

**More information**

For more information on Wreck Creek in regards to the Cape to Cape Resilience Project, refer to the following FAQ <https://www.marineandcoasts.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0032/606749/FAQs-Wreck-Creek_Nov22.pdf>.

To view the most recent observed estuary entrance conditions for Wreck Creek, please visit the Estuary Watch Website [https://ew-data.waterwatch.org.au/estuary/wgcma/304](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https%3A/ew-data.waterwatch.org.au/estuary/wgcma/304__;!!C5rN6bSF!CfC5i36vzCUxiuYKXjA8n-9l1RLvcmZ54oZpTKm30zqFcajT3gea9qclsJeleJLE6q13Uo5dOpL-3Kh8s31n8UgMbO9QXFDBXGLnpw$)

For more information on each organisation's specific responsibilities in regards to waterway management please refer to [Who-Does-What-in-Water-Gippsland-March-2021.pdf](https://wgcma.vic.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Who-Does-What-in-Water-Gippsland-March-2021.pdf).