

Project News

Maroochydore Beach Nourishment Project Status Report – April 2015

Project summary

In late 2013, the Sunshine Coast Council undertook stage 1 nourishment works of Maroochydore Beach using sand extracted from the lower Maroochy River. The objective of this work was to widen the beach in order to protect the adjacent assets from storm erosion, allow the shoreline to respond to natural erosion events and ensure the economic and social values of Maroochydore Beach are maintained.

Council is now looking to undertake stage 2 nourishment works in late 2015 to again provide an erosion buffer at the site and, in addition, also prepare this stretch of beach for the upcoming Australian Surf Life Saving Championships to be held in April 2016. These titles represent a significant economic opportunity to the local businesses in the region.

Maroochydore Beach Coastal Processes

Historically the sandy beach between the Alexandra Headland and Maroochydore Surf Clubs has been observed to naturally erode and recover in response to tide, current and wave action.

This pattern of shoreline erosion and recovery is typical of most sandy beaches on the South East Queensland coast, whereby:

- Major beach erosion is typically associated with summer storms that generate higher than normal tides and waves.
- Most of the sand eroded from the beach during a storm is temporarily stored offshore and slowly moves back onshore during calmer conditions.
- Beach recovery from minor erosion typically occurs during the winter months.
- Recovery from severe erosion can take many years and sometimes relies on extended periods of relatively calm conditions.

Since the summer of 2011 Maroochydore Beach had been in a severely eroded state with vast areas of exposed coffee rock.



A note from your local councillor

The second stage of these works is important to ensure ongoing protection from storm erosion, and enable the shoreline to respond to natural erosion events.

The works will also enable a significant economic boost to our local small businesses, through the upcoming Australian Surf Life Saving Championships (April 2016), and all of our peak holiday periods.

Cr Jason O'Pray

Beach Nourishment Requirements

A number of significant assets with high economic and social value are located immediately adjacent to Maroochydore Beach, including:

- Aerodrome Road/ Alexandra Parade (State controlled road)
- Alex Heads Surf Club and foreshore including skate park
- Maroochydore Beach Holiday Park
- Maroochydore Surf Club
- Public space including pedestrian and cycle pathways
- Beach access locations

These assets rely on the beach and dune system to act as a buffer for protection from storm erosion. This buffer needs to be approximately 50m wide to provide certainty of protection to assets during an extreme storm.

Project Update

Initial works for this project saw the relocation of 100,000m³ of sand from the Maroochy Estuary to Maroochydore Beach. Following the initial works an extensive monitoring program was undertaken to measure the success of the works and the response of the estuary habitat. Subsequently a second stage of sand relocation works is being proposed to again allow the shoreline to respond to natural erosion events and ensure the values of Maroochydore Beach are protected.

Sand extraction and delivery will be as per previous arrangements through the use of a small Cutter Suction Dredge (CSD), to extract 75,000m³ of the loose sand material from the lower Maroochy River and pump it directly by pipeline to Maroochydore Beach. The pipeline has been in place since stage 1 works. Access to the beach will only be restricted to a small area where machinery is being used to profile the sand. This location will vary depending on the stage of the works.

Given the community undertook some great work planting out the dune area post the last nourishment works the intent will be to reduce the disturbance to these areas as much as possible and only place sand in areas where sand profile enhancement is required.

Once work is completed revegetation of the affected areas will occur again.

It should be noted that as per the previous works Council will ensure that it abides by all permit approvals and conditions, such as: fish habitat restrictions, shore bird disturbance controls and site rehabilitation requirements.



Further information

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