

Preliminary work starts on Coastal Walkway bridges

Preliminary works have started on the two suspension bridges along the Coastal Walkway at Hallett Cove.

A construction compound has been installed in Fryer Street Reserve, vegetation is being cleared and pathway work is underway.

Test drilling for the bridge foundations is scheduled for the end of March.

The two 40m bridges at Grey Road Gully and Kurnabinna Gully are expected to be finished by the end of the year.

Work has also started on upgrading Fryer Street Reserve with the City of Marion on track to install a public toilet, drinking fountain, picnic bench, shelter, new path and landscaping.

Residents and visitors are being reminded to be careful when traversing the locality. The boardwalk is not accessible and walkers are asked to follow the detour signage in place.

The Coastal Walkway is located in the Marion Coast Park which extends 7.2 km from Marino in the north, to the Hallett Headland Reserve at Hallett Cove in the south.

Upgrading the Walkway is a multimillion-dollar commitment for the City of Marion with the State Government providing \$2.44 million towards the project.

A structural audit on the popular tourist attraction was conducted by engineers in 2019 leading to some sections of the boardwalk being closed for safety reasons until they could be rebuilt.

Installing suspension bridges across Grey Road Gully and Kurnabinna Gully are the last sections to be addressed.

The \$1.126 million Field River section extension was officially opened in April. 2022.

For environmental, accessibility and long-term financial reasons, the City of Marion resolved to proceed with suspension bridge designs rather than rebuilding the stairs.

Global material shortages, increased labour costs and recent CPI increases have significantly increased the cost of installing the bridges from initial quotes a year ago.

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