



MEDIA RELEASE

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Coastal walkway set to reopen

Marion Council will progressively reopen more than 2kms of the Coastal Walkway over the next three months as it continues repairs to the 20-year-old structure.

Additionally, Council will consider a \$4.8 million plan to upgrade further sections of the 8km walkway at a meeting in late November. And a long-term plan to completely rebuild the structure.

Engineers are now systematically repairing the walkway following five months of detailed structural investigation and assessment.

The work could extend the life of the walkway by 10 years and follows the re-opening of sections at Marino Rocks Boat Ramp and Marine Parade in October.

Mayor Kris Hanna said Council had been committed to fixing the walkway since 2.5kms of the 8km structure was temporarily closed as a safety precaution in June.

"The majority of the walkway is expected to be re-opened by February next year," Mayor Hanna said.

"This is good news for the thousands of people who use the walkway every year. It also underlines Council's ongoing commitment to this important asset."

Investigations and repairs will cost about \$238,000 and include installing new timber bracing and inserting metal rods into existing footings to improve stability.

"We know the walkway is important to our community. Council has re-opened sections when structural assessment, repairs, and specialist advice have told us it is safe to do so," he said.

Mayor Hanna said a long-term Coastal Walkway Plan will be considered by Council later this month.

The plan includes investigating and potentially rebuilding sections at Kurnabinna and Grey Road gullies, and connecting the walkway between Heron Way Reserve and the Field River.

"If *The Coastal Walkway Plan* is endorsed, Council will ask the State and Federal governments to join us in funding the necessary work," Mayor Hanna said.



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Kurnabinna and Grey Road gullies sections will remain closed until further investigations can be undertaken, with diversions continuing around these sites.

Eventually the whole of the walkway will need to be repaired.

The Coastal Walkway Plan includes long-term options for the total rebuild of the entire walkway.

The total estimated cost of the plan is \$14.5 million over 15 years.

"The coastal walkway is a popular attraction, which is why Council is in need of a long-term plan to renew it," Mayor Hanna said.

The 2.5km section of the walkway was temporarily closed following an engineering report.

The report concluded the coastal cliffs are a fragile environment for the walkway. Stormwater runoff combined with erosion have had an extreme impact on the structures' footings.

"Council shares the community's wishes to preserve the walkway so it can be enjoyed by present and future generations. We will continue to keep people informed every step of the way," Mayor Hanna said.

Background

- Marion Council temporarily closed a section of the 8km Coastal Walkway between Marino and Hallett Cove for repairs in June
- The section is about 2.5kms and runs from Murto Parade, Marino to Peera Street, Hallett Cove
- The problems were noted during a routine inspection by Council staff
- A specialist an engineering company recommended a section of the walkway be closed as a safety precaution while detailed investigations are repairs were undertaken
- The walkway was built in the late 1990s.

