

Yilki Coastal Sea Defence Wall

Rising tides and storm surges have caused significant erosion and damage along the Franklin Parade coastline at Encounter Bay (also known as Yilki). The City of Victor Harbor is taking steps to address the increasing risks to both the natural environment and vital infrastructure. This involves building a new Coastal Sea Defence Wall.

Key Details

Council has engaged CATCON to undertake Stage 1 of the Yilki Coastal Sea Defence Wall project.

Location: Franklin Parade (between Fell Street and Charles Street, Encounter Bay)

Timeline: May 2025 – late 2025, subject to weather and material availability

Working Hours: Monday to Friday, 7am – 5pm (with occasional Saturday work if required)

Traffic Changes

- Franklin Parade will be reduced to one-way traffic between Fell Street and Charles Street
- Local access will be maintained at all times
- Detours will be in place, with signage to guide road users, cyclists, and pedestrians

Footpath and Beach Access

- The coastal footpath will be closed for the duration of the works
- Cyclists and pedestrians will need to use alternative paths
- A beach closure will be in place adjacent to the construction zone
- Do not enter fenced or restricted areas during construction for your safety

What to Expect

While every effort will be made to minimise disruption, residents and visitors may notice:

- Increased vehicle movements along Franklin Parade and surrounding streets
- Construction-related noise during work hours

Purpose

The purpose of this project is to provide immediate protection for community assets such as the Encounter Bikeway and nearby roads. It will also offer long-term resilience for low-lying urban areas against storm surges and sea level rise.

Design

The Coastal Sea Defence Wall is made of two elements – a rock revetment and a concrete wave wall.

Rock revetments are a common coastal protection structure, designed to protect against erosion and wave action. They act as a barrier by dissipating wave energy, preventing further recession of the shoreline, and protecting valuable assets like buildings or infrastructure. The rock revetment will extend the entire length of the project.

Concrete wave walls are also a common coastal protection structure, designed with the primary objectives of absorbing wave action, preventing coastline erosion, and alleviating flooding. The concrete wave wall will vary in height above the shared use path from 0mm to 650mm. It will extend from Ridgeway Street to Charles Street.

To view detailed designs of the Yilki Coastal Sea Defence Wall, please visit Council at 1 Bay Road, Victor Harbor.

Impact on coastal views

This design has been selected as it is minimally invasive to the coastal views as possible. However, wave walls can disrupt natural coastal views as their purpose is to protect areas of human habitation, conservation, and leisure activities from the action of tides, waves and storm events.

What works are involved?

We are using an integrated approach to upgrade the Yilki Coastal Sea Defence Wall.

- Re-armouring the rock revetment using existing and new rocks to widen the wall and add height to be more consistent along the coastline, and to protect dunes and dry beach areas.
- Construction of a concrete wave wall to protect coastal area and infrastructure from erosion and flooding caused by waves and storms.
- Landscaping of the shared area: a new shared use path, three new entry and exit points to the beach, restore seating, benches and native planting.

Sea Bed Excavation/ Dredging

Excavation of the beach or dredging will occur between Ridgeway Street and Tabernacle Road. Sand will not be removed – it will be dug out and then used for backfill in the same area.

Odour

Initially the excavated sand may have slight odour and be darker in colour. However, after 48 hours it will dry out and become lighter in colour.

Beach access

Three new sets of stairs (made from fibreglass reinforced plastic) will be spread across the project. There will also be a ramp to the beach located close to Charles Street.

Footpath and landscaping

The new shared use path will be 3.5 metres wide. Some native plants will be planted around the newly upgraded verge and path area. Seating with memorial plaques will be retained and re-installed at the completion of the project.

Environment

Will sand and seaweed be carted away?

No, sand and seaweed will be moved back from the area we are working in and then returned once digging and rock placement in sections are completed. We will endeavour to not pile too high to mitigate odour.

Will similar rocks be used for the rock wall?

Yes, new rocks will be similarly shaped and sized and will match current rocks as close as possible. Larger rocks will be buried at the bottom of the revetment to prevent undermining.

Will you consider our local flora and fauna?

We will be constructing these works in a safe manner with considerations to our construction methodology to accommodate the local flora and fauna where practical. We will also be consulting with local experts in relation to the bird and animal life in the area.

Project funding

Coastal protection has been identified as a key priority in Council's 2023/24 Annual Business Plan and Budget, with the construction of a coastal seawall at Yilki marked as a major capital project. To support this important work, Council has secured funding from the Federal Government's Coastal and Estuarine Risk Mitigation Program and the National Disaster Ready Fund.

More Information

For more information about this project, please contact (08) 8551 0500.