



Media release

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Record No: REL042/MR 1488467

Date Issued: May 2 2014

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Emu Point sand renourishment – beach open this weekend



Regular users of Middleton Beach may have noticed some unusual traffic on the sand this week, but it is nothing to be alarmed about.

As part of the City of Albany's development of a long-term Emu Point to Middleton Beach Coastal Adaptation and Protection Strategy, about 10,000 cubic metres of sand is being trucked from Ellen Cove to renourish sand at Emu Point.

The work started this week and is on track to finish next week. The beach will be open this weekend; however closures will be in place between Ellen Cove and Emu Beach from 7am to 5pm weekdays until May 9 2014.

Please observe signage regarding access. The City apologises for the inconvenience and will endeavour to keep restrictions to a minimum.

City Works and Services Executive Director Matthew Thomson said coastal erosion had been an issue at Emu Point for many years, dating back as far as development in the area.

"This is a very complex issue with no easy solution," he said.

"The aim of the Emu Point to Middleton Beach Coastal Adaptation and Protection Strategy is to develop a 25 year preferred coastal management option for this stretch of coast.

"This sand renourishment should not be viewed as an attempt at a 'quick fix'. It's an important part of the overall strategy, and we will be closely monitoring how the sand moves away from Emu Point in order to gather valuable data."

Last month two Geotextile Sand Container trial groynes were constructed west of the current sand bag wall at Emu Beach.

The groynes are approximately 3.6m wide and 50m long, extending into the water line.

The groynes will be used to monitor how the sand from Emu Point moves and is trapped. This will assist in gathering data to inform the long term solution for this area of coast.

END

Please see background information on following page

Other monitoring initiatives as part of this strategy include:

- Upcoming: A UWA Centre of Excellence in Natural Resource Management study to determine the speed and direction of currents through and around the Emu Point channel.
- Upcoming: The installation of a tide gauge at Emu Point Boat Pens.
- December 2013: The installation of an Acoustic Water and Current Device off Emu Beach, which measures wave height, period and direction, current speed and direction, water temperature and water levels.
- January 2014: The installation of an anemometer at Emu Beach, which measures wind speed, direction and gusts and will provide localised data. Live wind data will be available for viewing on a public website.
- Structure surveys: A Structure Condition Survey was conducted of all of the rock structures at Emu Point by coastal engineers in April 2012 and October 2013. Photos with GPS coordinates have been recorded to allow for accurate comparison. Annual monitoring of these structures will allow early identification of changes and timely maintenance to be carried out.
- Autumn 2014: Seagrass Monitoring - an assessment of the quantity and quality of seagrass from Middleton Beach to Emu Point.
- Ongoing: Sediment sampling and analysis
- Ongoing: Beach profile surveys
- Ongoing: photo monitoring

The City of Albany acknowledges the financial support of the Department of Transport, Western Australian Planning Commission, Albany Port Authority and the invaluable support of the Friends of Emu Point, Middleton Beach Group and other key stakeholders.