

Council Seeks Additional Funding for Venus Bay Jetty

South Gippsland Shire Council will submit an application to the Victorian Fisheries Authority for the reconstruction of the Venus Bay Fishing Jetty. The grant will be applied for under the Better Fishing Facilities program which provides funding for projects that can help boost participation in recreational fishing. Council has committed \$100,000 to the project which is expected to cost \$200,000.

Anthony Seabrook, Council's Director Infrastructure is excited about the grant opportunity and a new boating facility for Venus Bay. "We feel hopeful that the grant application will be successful. Fishing is hugely popular in the Venus Bay area and we are conscious that we need to replace the facility quickly. Council's contribution to the project will help to ensure the jetty will be reinstated as soon as possible. This isn't an issue of will it happen, but rather when."

The existing jetty was recently closed to the public after an assessment by consulting engineers identified serious safety concerns. The report recommended closure due to extensive corrosion and deterioration and because the current load capacity could not be determined.

"Once the decision was made to close the facility we immediately began to seek external funding for a replacement structure" said Mr. Seabrook. "The Better Fishing Facilities grant program assists with the upgrade and development of boating facilities, so it is a good fit for our project. We will submit the application for \$100,000 immediately. Hopefully if we find out about the grant soon that would allow the project to commence prior to end of the 2018."

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