



SGCS Beach Monitoring Report confirms need for further short-term protection works at Inverloch surf beach

South Gippsland Conservation Society (SGCS) has released a report that analyses the results of 21 months of beach profile monitoring undertaken by its volunteers at Inverloch surf beach and in Anderson Inlet. The report confirms that coastline recession is accelerating, with the most vulnerable, unprotected locations being at Wreck Creek and Flat Rocks.

At Wreck Creek, west of the Surf Club, the remaining dunes will likely be removed within the next 6-12 months if the current rate of recession continues. This will result in the loss of the ecological values of the Wreck Creek system and leave Surf Parade and adjoining residences exposed. Similarly, the remaining mature Coast Banksia trees at Flat Rocks will be lost within the next two years without protection, leaving the adjacent section of Cape Paterson Road at risk.

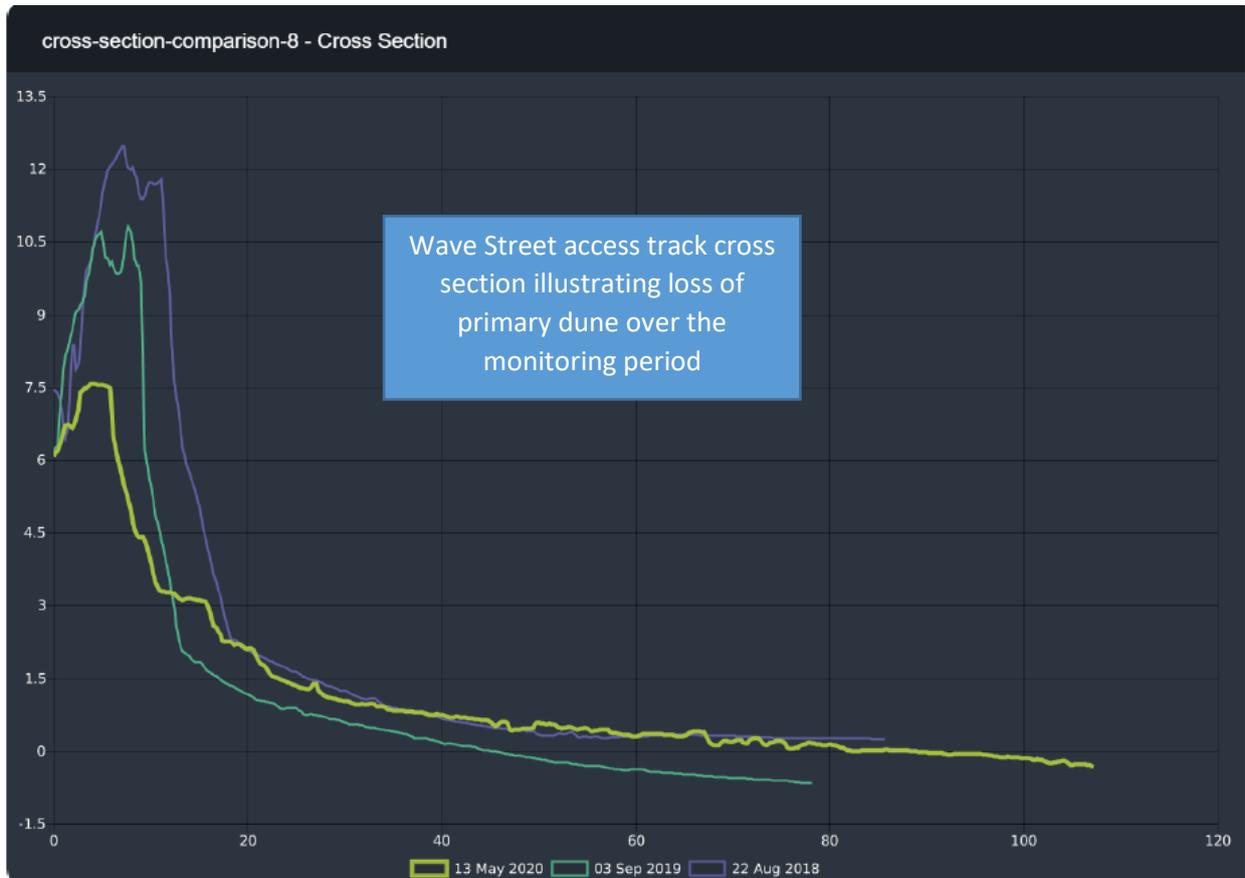
Since the monitoring commenced in August 2018, more than 115,000 cubic metres of sand has been lost from the surf beach. The vegetated dunes behind the beach have receded between 9 and 20 metres between the Surf Life Saving Club and the Ozone Street access track, and the level of the beach has dropped by up to one metre. These changes are in addition to the average 40 metres of coastline recession that occurred between 2013 and 2018. The graphs on the next page illustrate some of the changes that have been recorded since 2018, using both drone monitoring (Wave Street access track) and laser level beach profile monitoring (Amazon Shipwreck site).

Inverloch Coastal Resilience Project Leader Philip Heath said: 'The monitoring results confirm the findings we presented last year in SGCS's *'Inverloch Coastal Resilience Project Report'* and our *'Coastline in Crisis'* documentary earlier this year. As well as providing further input to the Government's long term planning for the Inverloch coastline, the analysis highlights the need for short term protection through regular dune renourishment to be undertaken beyond the Surf Club and Cape Paterson Road sites while the Coastal Hazard Assessment study process continues. We have submitted our report to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Bass Coast Shire and other members of the Inverloch Coastal Protection Working Group and RaSP, and look forward to their response.

Based on our analysis of weather conditions, August to December is a high risk period for the coastline. Further short-term protection is necessary to avoid irreversible changes to coastline values over the next 6 months.'

The full report is available at the SGCS website: www.sgcs.org.au, where the *'Inverloch Coastal Resilience Project Report'* and the *'Coastline in Crisis'* documentary can also be viewed.

Wave Street access track cross section graph



Source: Propeller Aero software

Laser level monitoring graph at Amazon Shipwreck site

