

Facilities ready for summer campers at Sorrento foreshore

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For Immediate Release

South East Water has been working in collaboration with the Mornington Peninsula Shire and local indigenous groups to ensure that community facilities are ready for summer campers.

The Sorrento foreshore, a year-round campsite for visitors to the holiday area, is an Aboriginal cultural heritage site of significance, which contains several indigenous archaeological areas.

South East Water and the Mornington Peninsula Shire jointly funded the project, which involved upgrading public amenities at a cost of nearly \$300,000.

South East Water Acting Chief Executive Officer, Kate Vinot, said the project is a great example of a partnership with the local Shire and indigenous groups that has achieved a positive outcome for the community.

"We are particularly conscious of the fact that South East Water's service area contains many precious cultural heritage sites.

"We value the importance of working closely with the local community and organisations to ensure that all heritage requirements are fulfilled before any work takes place," said Ms Vinot.

Before the project commenced, a survey of the site was carried out with the Bunurong and Boonerwung people, the traditional owners of the land, to assess its archaeological value.

The Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation and the Boonerwung Foundation oversaw the project through each stage to ensure conservation of the land and significant areas.

"We are very glad that visitors to Sorrento will once again be able to camp knowing that all the basic public amenities, such as toilets are within reach.

"The upgrading of the Sorrento foreshore amenities exemplifies the significance South East Water places on sustainability when contributing to our triple bottom line," added Ms Vinot.

The Sorrento foreshore is the site of Port Phillip Bay's first European settlement in 1803.

Significant indigenous flora species such as the Moonah tree, some of which date back to before European settlement are also found on the site.

Strict guidelines were adhered to so that loss of native vegetation and impact on the Aboriginal cultural heritage site would be minimised.

Media Enquiries

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Until the upgrade, the Sorrento foreshore toilets blocks were connected to septic tanks which are an environmental and health risk to the local community.

The toilet blocks are now connected to the sewage system and comply with EPA requirements.

Throughout summer flows from the camping ground toilet blocks increase to approximately 30,000 litres per day.

Unique pump stations were designed and constructed so flows could be pumped to the existing sewerage system in Sorrento.

Mornington Peninsula Point Nepean Ward Councillor, Tim Rodgers, said the Shire is committed to a sustainable peninsula, and the upgrade from septic tanks to the sewage system is welcomed.

“It’s important that we find a sustainable balance between the demand on our amenities during the busy holiday periods, as well as offering amenities that are more environmentally sustainable and suitable.

“We look forward to welcoming tourists and local residents alike this summer, to enjoy everything the Mornington Peninsula has to offer,” he said.

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