

Moffat Beach reconstruction project

July 2024 update

Dear Moffat Beach Community,

We are committed to ensuring the safety and beauty of our beloved Moffat Beach.

As part of this commitment, we are exploring all options for reconstructing a seawall that will protect our community, their values and the beach environment.

Our goal is to make well-informed decisions and avoid repeating past approaches that have not lasted. The existing seawall, expected to last 50 years, unfortunately only endured for 17 years.

To ensure the longevity and effectiveness of the new structure – and the safety of our community – we will seek the advice of experienced, independent expert engineers who specialise in coastal engineering projects and will utilise localised data and modelling in assessing what is most appropriate for this specific location.

Once we have their recommendations, we will update our community.

We are committed to providing updates and information to the community as planning for the reconstruction progresses.

About the project

The Moffat Beach seawall reconstruction project is a crucial initiative to protect our community parklands, paths, roads and facilities from the impacts of future climate change, while also keeping our coastline healthy and maintaining access to the beautiful beach.

The seawall has faced significant challenges, with the western section being damaged by severe weather and rainfall in 2022 and the middle section being damaged again in early 2024.

We are scheduled to begin rebuilding the western and middle sections in mid-2025 subject to design and approvals being completed. We want to assure you that we are exploring all options to construct a new seawall that will stand the test of time.

Expert coastal engineering advice

Expert engineers will soon be engaged to conduct a full geotechnical investigation and coastal modelling process. They will then use this information to design the final seawall type and alignment. This process will be peer reviewed by another expert in the field.

This advice will guide us in choosing the best course of action that prioritises community safety and the health of our coastline.

We want to create a seawall design robust enough to withstand future climate events. The final design will also need to meet the Queensland Government's criteria for seawall design and be approved by Council and the State.

Once the Seawall Reconstruction Project team receives approval, construction can begin.

We expect this investigation, design and approval stage to be completed by the end of 2024 to make way for construction mid-2025 during winter when there are less storms and swell. This is an important timeframe and is driving our efforts towards investigations and designs through 2024, as seawall works through the summer months should be avoided due to significantly increased risks for safety, time and costs.

We know many of you are very interested in the outcomes. Once we have this expert advice, we will share our plans with you.

We encourage you to subscribe for updates. You can do this by visiting sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au and searching "Moffat Beach seawall repair project" or scan the QR code in this project update.

How is this funded?

A total of \$4.55 million has been allocated for the project, with \$1.7 million from the Queensland Government for the western section and \$2.85 million through Council's 2024-25 capital works program budget for the middle section. This also includes landscaping elements to reinstate any areas impacted by construction of the seawall. The funding from Council was approved on June 20, 2024, and will enable us to rebuild both sections simultaneously, minimising impacts on our community.

Seawall approval process

The application process

The steps that must be followed to submit an application are:

1. seek pre-lodgement advice from the Queensland Government before the application is lodged
2. obtain the landowner's consent (Queensland Government)
3. lodge the application with Council as the assessment manager
4. refer the application to the Queensland Government's State Assessment and Referral Agency
5. answer any information requests from either Council (the assessment manager) or the State
6. wait for the State's review response
7. Council (the assessment manager) makes the final decision on the application and, if approved, issues the decision notice inclusive of any conditions from the State's referral agencies.

Submitting an application

The reconstruction of the seawall is considered **assessable development** under the Queensland Government's *Planning Regulation 2017*. Assessable development requires an approval before any work can begin.

This involves the Seawall Reconstruction Project Team submitting a development application for assessment and decision by an assessment manager.

The seawall application will be for **Operational Work (Prescribed Tidal Works)** because it involves activities in the tidal zone (as defined by the Queensland Government's *Coastal Management and Protection Act 1995*).

There are two categories of assessment for assessable development: code and impact. The seawall is a code assessable application.

Assessment manager

As per schedule 8, table 2, item 1 (c) of the [Planning Regulation 2017](#), the local government is the assessment manager for development applications for prescribed tidal works within the tidal area for a local government area.

This means Sunshine Coast Council is the assessment manager.

Assessing the application – Sunshine Coast Council

Council (the assessment manager) will assess the application against the Queensland Government's [prescribed tidal works code](#) in [Schedule 3 of the Coastal Management and Protection Regulation 2017](#).

The Seawall Reconstruction Project team will also refer the application to the Queensland Government's State Assessment and Referral Agency for assessment as the project will impact on Matters of State Environmental Significance.

Matters of State Environmental Significance – Queensland Government

The Seawall Reconstruction Project Team understands that as part of this process the project will require assessment of:

- maritime safety – assessed by Maritime Safety Queensland
- tidal work – assessed by the Department of Environment, Science and Innovation
- removal, destruction or damage of marine plants – assessed by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry.

The Queensland Government has a list of requirements for each aspect listed above and the seawall project must make sure that the application adheres to these requirements.

The requirements are in the following [State Development Assessment Provisions](#):

- State Code 7 – [Maritime safety](#)
- State Code 8 – [Coastal development and tidal works](#)
- State Code 11 – [Removal, destruction or damage of marine plants](#).

Moffat Beach place plan project

Additionally, later this year, we will embark on the Moffat Beach Place Plan project, which will help shape the future of this much-loved local place.

We encourage everyone with an interest in the Moffat Beach to subscribe for updates.

By doing so, you will stay informed about our plans and have the opportunity to share your ideas regarding future landscaping and recreation areas, traffic safety and streetscape elements across Moffat Beach's commercial and surrounding areas.

Together, we can ensure a safe and thriving Moffat Beach for generations to come.

What happens next?

Work to stabilise the seawall

You may notice Council machinery working at the seawall. This is to reposition rocks that have become unstable to prevent the rocks falling onto the beach. It won't fix the wall or lessen the risk of more rocks falling. The fencing will still be required after that work has been completed.

Traffic and parking issues

While the Place Plan will holistically assess traffic and parking issues and recommend solutions across the Moffat Beach suburb, we are currently reviewing traffic and parking issues around the commercial area, and Eleanor Shipley and Moffat Beach parks with the view to making safety improvements in the short term.

Ramp access

We are exploring options to improve access to the beach for all users.

Your safety

Beach access, chairs and tables remain open however we strongly urge you to stay off the seawall completely and avoid the beach area at the base of the rock wall.

Rocks can fall onto the beach at any time, and quickly – within about 10-20 seconds. Anyone standing at the base of the rock wall may be injured.

The safety signage and fencing will remain in place for the time being.

Subscribe for updates

We encourage you to subscribe for updates on both the Moffat Beach Plan and the Moffat Beach Seawall reconstruction project.

You can do this by visiting sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au and searching "Moffat Beach seawall repair project" or scan the QR code.



Seawall reconstruction: A section of the seawall collapsed due to soil failure, necessitating reconstruction which meets engineering standards.



Protecting community assets: The project aims to safeguard parklands, paths, roads, and facilities from climate change impacts and keep our coastline healthy while maintaining beach access.



Safety measures: Access to the seawall is restricted for public safety, with fencing and signage in place to prevent injuries from potential rock falls.

Funding and timeline: A budget of \$4.55 million has been allocated for rebuilding efforts for the western and middle sections, with construction scheduled for mid-2025, pending approvals.

Contact information

Sunshine Coast Council

Web: sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

Email: MoffatBeachSeawallProject@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

Subscribe:



A note from your Division 2 councillor

I'm committed to ensuring the Moffat Beach community is updated and informed throughout the reconstruction process. I strongly encourage you to subscribe to receive updates via email and I will also keep you informed of any progress via my Facebook page.

Cr Terry Landsberg