

What is the process from here?

Council has started the consultation process, and all affected property owners will have a number of opportunities to provide feedback. Council encourages you to provide your feedback each time you are asked, to ensure that everyone's views are represented throughout the entire process.

Indicates opportunities to have your say

| Formal consultation process, and opportunities to provide your input | | Proposed timeline |
|--|--|-------------------|
| Letter informing property owners | Council will review the project scope, design, cost estimate and cost apportionment based on feedback received, and provide an update to property owners. | March 2019 |
| Council Meeting to consider "Intention to Declare a Special Charge Scheme Report." | Council considers a report that takes into account initial feedback and makes recommendations on the merit of the scheme. Council can either resolve its "Intention to Declare the Special Charge Scheme" or decide against proceeding with the scheme. | May 2019 |
| Public Notice Letter updating property owners inviting Section 223 submissions | If Council resolves its "Intention to Declare a Special Charge Scheme", a public notice will be placed in the Surf Coast Times including details of the project and associated special charges. A letter will also be posted to all affected property owners which will include an invitation to make written submissions under Section 223 of the Local Government Act. Property owners have 28 days to make a submission to Council. | June 2019 |
| Hearing of Submissions | Property owners can request to be heard by Council at a Hearing of Submissions Meeting. | June - July 2019 |
| Council meeting to consider "Declaration of a Special Charge Scheme Report." | Council considers the formal Declaration of the Special Charge Scheme, and resolves to either formally "Declare the Scheme", or to abandon the scheme. | August 2019 |
| Letters updating property owners | If the scheme is formally declared, levy notices will be issued to affected property owners which show final project details and costs. Property owners will also be provided with advice on how to lodge an objection to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT). VCAT has the authority to confirm the scheme, quash it or amend certain aspects of the scheme. | August 2019 |
| Project construction process commences | If no applications are made to VCAT, the construction phase can commence. The project will be publically tendered and a construction contract awarded. | October 2019 |
| Letters sent to property owners advising of payment options | Invoices will only be sent once the path is complete. | January 2020 |

For information regarding Special Charge Schemes including a list of frequently asked questions, please visit Council's website www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/My_Property/Special_Charge_Schemes

If you would like to discuss this project in more detail please contact Richard Bain, Council's Special projects Engineer on **5261 0620** or email info@surfcoast.vic.gov.au

Proposed Baines Cres & Beach Road footpath construction

Information for property owners

Pathways improve access and safety for pedestrians.

In recent times Council has received pathway requests from community members for both Baines Cres and Beach Road in Torquay. Both streets are collector roads with 2,000 vehicle movements per day and are identified as priorities in Council's Pathway Strategy.

Council has included the project as a priority in its works program and now seeks feedback from the abutting Baines Cres and Beach Road property owners.

Beach Road residents/property owners may recall that Council undertook consultation on this matter in 2016 but the project did not proceed at that time. The scope of works has now been expanded to include Baines Cres.

Why construct a path?

Constructed footpaths improve safety and accessibility for all pedestrians (and other non-motorised traffic). Currently pedestrians walking along these streets face hazards including:

- Uneven and irregular unmade surfaces which contain a number of tripping hazards
- Limited pedestrian access because of indiscriminate parking and vehicle movement

The above issues can force pedestrians, including parents walking with prams and small children, to resort to walking on the road. This presents an elevated safety concern.

This proposed pathway will allow pedestrians to safely walk to local destinations such as children's centres, the skate park, Australian National Surfing Museum and recreation centre, the surf outlet shopping precinct, and more distant destinations like the beach, Taylor Park, Gilbert Street and Bell Street shopping precincts.

What will the path look like?

Council is proposing to construct 585 metres of 1.5 metre wide plain concrete footpath. On Beach Road we propose to construct the path on the north side of the street to provide a link between the existing sections of path between Koorunga Place and the Attunga Drive roundabout. The alignment may meander to minimise vegetation removal.

In Baines Cres we propose that the footpath be built on the west/south side of the street between Beach Rd and Letham Lane.



Current path conditions in Beach Road

Why is a Special Charge Scheme necessary?

Surf Coast Council is amongst the fastest-growing regional municipalities in Victoria, and in many communities, residents are seeking improvements to infrastructure and facilities.

Council has adopted a policy that acknowledges that it alone does not have the necessary financial resources or external funding to meet all the infrastructure demands of the community. Where it can be demonstrated that properties will receive a special benefit from constructing new infrastructure works, Council may implement a Special Rate or Charge Scheme. A Special Charge Scheme seeks financial assistance from the owners of a benefitting property to contribute to the cost of the scheme. Council policy also acknowledges that funding of necessary infrastructure improvement should be based on principles of fairness and equity to the whole Surf Coast community. A copy of this policy is available from Council's website (www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au) or via Customer Service on 5261 0600.

Council is committed to working with property owners to ensure that any infrastructure projects carried out through Special Charge Schemes achieve value for your investment. Your involvement in the process is encouraged and welcomed.

Special Charge Schemes use Victorian Government guidelines established under the Local Government Act 1989 to apportion a share of the cost of benefitting properties, based on the special benefit to a property is calculated to receive. The calculation will be undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Guidelines September 2004.

When proposing Special Charge Schemes, Council enters into a detailed consultation process on the scope of the project proposed, and seeks community input into how costs can be most equitably be apportioned amongst the benefitting properties.

What will it cost and who will pay?

Initial estimates indicate that the proposed project will cost approximately \$224,000.

The Transport Accident Commission (TAC) has provided a \$100,000 grant for pedestrian safety improvements within the Surfworld Precinct, and in recognition of the benefits a pathway would provide to the wider community Council has also allocated matching funds in its 2018/2019 budget. Owners of properties adjacent the proposed pathways are also considered beneficiaries and will be asked to contribute to the remaining cost via a "Special Charge Scheme."

Property owners on both sides of Baines Cres and Beach Road will be asked to pay between \$220 and \$440.

No contribution will be sought from the owners of properties that already have a path along their frontage. If this project proceeds, owners without concrete driveways may wish to take to opportunity to fully construct their vehicle access. This would be undertaken via private arrangement with the construction contractor at an additional charge.

Why are residents being asked to contribute the cost?

Council considers that the proposed pathway will provide a "special" benefit to the properties on both sides of Beach Road and Baines Cres. Council authority to seek financial assistance arises through the Special Charge Scheme provisions of the Local Government Act. We are committed to working with you to ensure that any infrastructure projects carried out through Special Charge Schemes achieve value for your investment. Your involvement in this process is encouraged and welcome.

Payment Options

If a Special Charge Scheme does proceed, Council will ask for payment of the special charge apportioned to your property once the pathway construction is complete. If the final cost comes in under budget, the Special Charge will be reduced accordingly.

If the final cost is above budget, property owners can be levied no more than an additional 10% than the declared estimate.

Payments can be made via lump sum payment upon receipt of invoice, or by sixteen instalments over four years. If you choose to pay via instalments, interest will be applied to the outstanding balance (the first instalment is interest free).

Should any property owner find themselves in financial difficulty, Council officers will be happy to discuss alternative payment arrangements on a case by case basis.

Proposed Beach Road and Baines Crescent Pathway

