

Storm Recovery

Wilsons Promontory
Fact Sheet
2022



Wilsons Promontory National Park experienced widespread damage due to several flood and storm events in 2021. This significantly damaged many tracks including the Sealers Cove Boardwalk.

A detailed engineering assessment found that the entire two kilometres of the Sealers Cove Boardwalk will need to be replaced.

The boardwalk was over 40 years old; and although sections were repaired after the flooding in 2011, the damage caused in 2021 is beyond repair.

Planning is underway for this repair, including costing the work to secure funding. Some of the replacement will be paid for by insurance, with some remaining funding still to be secured.

The flood events in 2011 and 2021 changed how water flows in Black Fish Creek and how Sealers Swamp drains. This means the new boardwalk will need to be raised to prevent flooding damage in future.

Due to the extent of the damage, and complexity of the work required, **Sealers Cove Walking Track will be closed until at least Spring 2023**. Access to Sealers Cove is still achievable via Refuge Cove.



Frequently Asked Questions

Why did it take so long to realise how severe the damage was?

The Wilsons Prom Boardwalk has been impacted by three storm events, with the most recent in October/November 2021. Parks Victoria initially anticipated that the boardwalk could be repaired (as it was after storm events in 2011). Following detailed engineering assessments and studies to understand changes to water flows, the project scope has been adjusted to reflect the damage.

Can you realign the track to prevent future flooding?

Rerouting the track was explored. Due to the Remote and Natural Area zoning, hydrology and funding, an alternate alignment is not viable. There may be minor adjustments to the alignment to avoid trees damage and roots.

When is it going to be open?

The earliest possible opening for Sealers Cove Walking Track would be spring 2023. The extent of the damage and complexity of the work required in a remote area means that this replacement will take some time. Walkers can still access Sealers Cove via Refuge Cove.

What will the new boardwalk look like?

The new Sealers Cove Boardwalk will be Fibre Reinforced Plastic (FRP). This creates a sturdy walking experience, with fewer maintenance requirements. This material has been successfully used at both Lily Pilly Gully and Waterloo Bay.



Why is it taking so long?

Parks Victoria is working hard to have the track to Sealers Cove reopened. Due to the extent of the damage, and complexity of the work required, Sealers Cove Walking Track will be closed until at least Spring 2023. Undertaking construction works in remote areas is labour intensive and requires specialised machinery. Parks Victoria will continue to keep the community updated as this project progresses. The damage caused to Wilsons Prom Boardwalk has been impacted by three storm events, with the most recent in October/November 2021.

What is happening at Little Oberon Bay?

The Little Oberon Bay walking track also sustained erosion in the storm events. There has been a significant displacement of sand at the beach access, which has been eroded away creating a five-meter ledge. Engineering options are being designed to regain safe access from the track to the beach. Machinery works are also required to repair the track surface due to erosion. It is anticipated these works will be completed by late-2022.



Stay up to date

Parks Victoria will provide updates and information as the project progresses. To stay updated you can:

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