



# YOUR SAY

## PROJECT INFORMATION

WITTON BLUFF BASE TRAIL

### PROJECT INFORMATION

Initial work is commencing on the Witton Bluff Base Trail after council was recently successful in obtaining a grant from the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure towards the design and construction of the project.

The Witton Bluff Base Trail project involves the construction of a shared use pathway around Witton Bluff, between the foreshore at Christies Beach and Port Noarlunga. The project is to seal the existing gravel path from the Christies Beach foreshore to the Bluff and continue with a new boardwalk pathway around the base of the cliffs and above the limestone shelf to the Port Noarlunga foreshore.

Some initial design work for this project commenced in 2008 with initial investigations and early concepts. In June 2020 Council was successful in obtaining a grant from the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure to match Council's contribution towards the construction of the Witton Bluff Base Trail. The total project cost is estimated at \$5.3M, with funding split 50/50 between Council and the state government.

The Witton Bluff Base Trail will provide a considerable tourist drawcard, creating a unique experience with the shared use path close to the water's edge.

The Witton Bluff Base Trail forms part of the State Government's Coast Park vision for Greater Adelaide to develop a coastal linear park including a 70km shared use path from North Haven to Sellicks Beach. Within our council area we have 31km of the Coast park trail we have divided into three sections; Northern, Central and Southern. Seventeen kilometres (17km) has already completed.

This project also contributes to the City of Onkaparinga Tourism Strategic Plan 2019 – 2023, which identifies Port Noarlunga and Christies Beach as two key coastal villages; with the Port Noarlunga reef named as one of the most dived spots in South Australia and Port Noarlunga and Christies Beaches promoted by South Australian Tourism as part of the 5 best beaches in Adelaide

### PROPOSED WORK

- Upgrade the existing unsealed pathway from Christies Beach to the wave-cut shelf to a 3-metre-wide shared-use path
- A new boardwalk above the wave-cut shelf designed to accommodate both pedestrians and cyclists
- A coastal path link in the embayment area between the wave-cut shelves, which could consist of:
  - construction of an elevated platform
  - a bridge type structure
  - modification of the existing revetment wall
- New and formalised viewing areas and pedestrian and cyclist access connections to adjoining shared path and cycle networks
- New landscaping and revegetation with local indigenous species suitable to the coastal environment
- Interpretive signage
- Appropriate trail lighting and furniture
- Sea wall repairs (subject to design and available budget)
- Public art to reflect the coastal setting and recognise Kurna heritage, including the important Tjilbruke Dreaming, at the site and surrounds.

### DESIGN STATUS

The concept design prepared in 2008 (see document library) will be reviewed and further developed now that project funding has been secured. We don't envisage the alignment of the trail or boardwalk changing significantly, however the style of the infrastructure and construction materials will be further investigated.

### PROJECT DELIVERY

The project is anticipated to be delivered in packages tailored to meet the construction market and appropriate risk sharing. The planned delivery approach will seek to provide opportunities for local contractor and sub-contractor involvement.

In July 2021, an application for authorisation under section 23 of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988 was submitted to the Department of Premier and Cabinet – Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation (AAR) for the Witton Bluff base trail project following a report to Council on 29 June 2020.

Whether the Witton Bluff Base Trail impacts on Aboriginal heritage is a matter that the Premier, as the Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, will need to determine within the Section 23 application.

AAR have advised that the Section 23 process is expected to take a minimum of six months.

Council remains committed to working with local Kurna representatives throughout the delivery of the project.

Once the Section 23 is complete, we will notify the community of project delivery timeframes.