



Steve Dimopoulos MP

Minister for Environment
Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events
Minister for Outdoor Recreation

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Robert McDonald
Clerk of the Legislative Council
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Dear Robert McDonald

Thank you for your letter of 5 February 2025 regarding the petition presented to the Legislative Council on 5 February 2025 from Melina Bath, Member for the Eastern Victoria Region.

I acknowledge the community's concerns regarding coastal erosion issues at Silverleaves. The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) has been working proactively with Bass Coast Shire Council (BCSC) since concerns were raised in mid-2023.

To understand the hazards and risks at Silverleaves, DEECA appointed consultant FSC Range to undertake a Coastal Processes Study for the Cowes East and Silverleaves areas. DEECA released the results of that study to the community in August 2024. The report illustrates the complexity of the situation at Silverleaves and is an essential input towards the development of a sustainable adaptation pathway for this coastline. FSC Range continue to work with DEECA on the Silverleaves adaptation pathway planning project.

On Monday 2 September 2024, DEECA representatives met with FSC Range to discuss options for interim works to protect the terminal scour area at the end of the rock revetment. This meeting reviewed several potential options with key consideration given to effectiveness in protecting the dune, coastal processes in the area, previous sand renourishment efforts, potential impacts on other areas further down the coast and cost.

FSC Range have developed concept designs and costings for these works while continuing with the coastal adaptation planning. Together with FSC Range, DEECA and BCSC considered these options and are working together to identify funding. A community update was sent on 28 October 2024, together with links to FSC Range's video outlining the interim designs.

The Silverleaves Coastal Adaptation Pathway assessment is nearing completion and is expected to be released in early 2025.

The Gippsland Coastal Projects team sent a community update to the Silverleaves stakeholder list on 6 December 2024, to inform the community of the establishment of the Silverleaves Coastal Adaptation Community Reference Group. This group is expected to be established by the end of February 2025 and will support the adaptation planning process currently underway.



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DEECA along with BCSC continues to monitor the Silverleaves foreshore area both on ground and through drone monitoring. DEECA meets regularly with council representatives and is working collaboratively with BCSC as the land manager for the Silverleaves foreshore.

I met with the Chief Executive Officer and Mayor of Bass Coast Shire Council on 29 January 2025 to discuss the coastal hazards prominent along the Silverleaves coastline and the government is actively considering funding options for the interim works.

Thank you for writing to me. I trust this information will be of assistance.

Yours sincerely



Steve Dimopoulos MP
Member for Oakleigh
Minister for Environment

25/2/25