

OCEAN GROVE FOOTPATH NETWORK FAQs



Are we still committed to delivering the footpath network?

Yes. We remain fully committed to delivering the Ocean Grove footpath network. The necessary budget has been allocated, and the project is progressing.

Why has the project been delayed?

Council declared a Special Charge scheme to build a footpath network on 22 February 2022 stated that construction would not begin before July 2023. Construction commenced in October 2023.

During the detailed design phase, we encountered several challenges, including:

- steep driveways and uneven nature strips
- native vegetation and cultural heritage overlays
- utility infrastructure constraints.

These factors have required some design adjustments, such as changing the side of the street where a footpath is placed. As a result, some sections have not been delivered in the originally planned order.

Will all planned footpaths be built?

We are currently in the process of delivering a further 7km of footpaths. While we aim to complete the full network, some sections may need to be adjusted or removed to ensure the network remains:

- safe and accessible
- environmentally responsible
- financially sustainable.

If a section cannot proceed, we will explore alternative routes to maintain connectivity. Affected property owners will be contacted directly before any changes are made.

Why were all property owners invoiced at once?

The declaration proposed invoicing property owners at the start of each stage. However, since all stages began within the first year of construction, invoices were issued to all benefitting property owners at the same time.

We acknowledge that this could have been communicated more clearly and apologise for the confusion and timing of the invoices.

Will there be any additional charges?

Under the *Local Government Act 1989 and amendment LGA 2020*, there is a provision for a 10% increase if final project costs exceed initial estimates. For this project, that would mean a potential increase of \$33.39 on the base rate of \$333.87.

This is a standard legislative clause and not an indication of a funding shortfall. Any decision to vary the charge is at Council's discretion.

Have more questions?

We welcome your feedback and questions.

Please contact us at:

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For more information about the project, scan the QR code or visit geelong.link/OGPPN

