

Community Bulletin 3

26 October 2010

Riviera Outlet Reconstruction

Reconstruction of the Riviera drain outlet on Seaford beach has now finished.

Construction began in mid-January and involved replacing the 60 metre section of the outlet between the sand dunes and the bay. It has concluded a couple of months ahead of schedule, although the replanting of some grass and vegetation will take place when seasonal conditions are most suitable.

The project presented a number of design and construction challenges, particularly because of the structure's constant exposure to the tide and weather. Despite these harsh effects, the new outlet has a design life of 100 years.

The project was undertaken by the Pipelines Alliance on behalf of Melbourne Water.

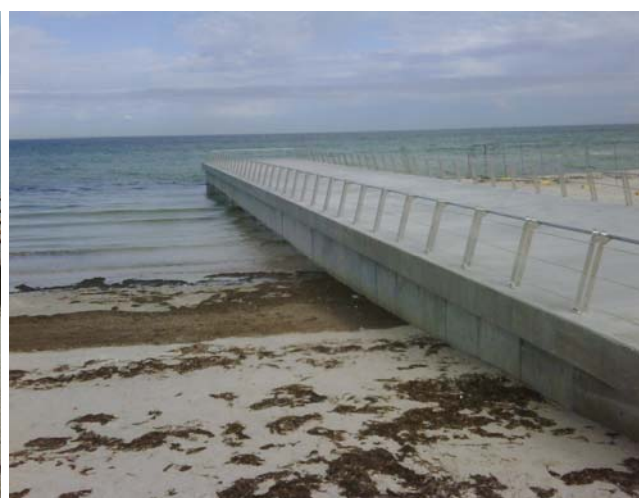
Why was the project necessary?

The Riviera Outlet is an essential piece of infrastructure that helps provide flood protection to properties downstream and Frankston's CBD.

The original structure was built 50 years ago to allow excess flows in Kananook Creek to discharge into the bay. Over the last few years most of the drain was repaired internally, but the final 60 metre section between the sand dunes and the bay had reached the end of its useful life and was beyond restoration.



Original structure prior to demolition



New structure with handrail fitted

The new structure

The new outlet structure will operate in exactly the same manner as the original. It will only discharge water when the water in Kananook Creek reaches a certain level and the flood gates are opened.

Large gates at the end of the outlet prevent people entering the drain and placing themselves in a potentially dangerous situation.

A number of community representatives were involved in discussions about the replacement structure and provided input to its design. It features a contemporary handrail, consistent with similar handrails in the municipality and less prone to corrosion.

The top of the structure remains clear to allow access for maintenance inspections and equipment.

Caring for the environment

Considerable effort was made to protect foreshore vegetation and reduce impacts on the environment. We were pleased that we were able to avoid disturbing any of the coastal Banksias during our works.

Prior to construction, the beach access track opposite the Riviera Hotel was widened to allow machinery and materials to be moved to and from the worksite. This required removing and trimming some trees, bushes and other vegetation. It was also necessary to clear some dune grass to create a safe and suitable work space near the structure.

Now that the project has finished, the beach access path has been reinstated on a modified alignment, as requested by council, and fencing has been replaced. The wooden sleepers used to line the track have been retained after several requests from the community.

In addition to replacing what we removed, we will be planting additional trees and shrubs to 'offset' the loss of established ones. These plantings will occur when seasonal conditions are best suited.

Thank you for your understanding and patience during these essential works.

For further information about this project email pipelinesalliance@melbournewater.com.au or call **1800 792 466**.

You can also visit www.melbournewater.com.au or call Melbourne Water on 131 722 for general information about other projects to secure a sustainable water future.