

Paddy's Path – Project Fact Sheet

Costal Management Fact Sheet

The Issue

The Paddy's Path walking track is an important pedestrian link between Wye River and Separation Creek. The path is currently closed due to rotational slope failures (landslips) that have occurred over a number of years and more recently in 2011 and 2013.

The current risk to the public who continue to use the path is considered significant, as expert Geotechnical Engineers have advised that the risk of further failures is almost certain. The landslip has been caused by the presence of a natural spring and will continue to retrogress up slope without stabilisation.

Public safety is paramount, it is therefore a priority that repairs are conducted by experienced contractors in consultation with a Geotechnical Engineer. Unauthorised digging at the path is making the slip worse.



Access to Paddy's Path is closed.

Why has the slip occurred?

Landslips, also known as failures, occur when the internal strength of the formation is reduced beyond a threshold where it can no longer support its own weight. This can occur when the cliff is exposed to:

- Erosion at the cliff toe
- Changes in cliff moisture content
- Extremes of heat and cold
- Large rainfall events and erosive runoff
- Seismic activity

What is being done to re-open Paddy's Path?

The Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI) and the Otway Coast Committee (OCC) have engaged a Geotechnical Engineer to conduct an assessment of the landslip site to propose long term solutions for Paddy's Path.

Any superficial solutions to temporarily open the path in the interim may exaggerate the geotechnical hazards, increasing public safety risk. Solutions will include stabilisation of the track to restore access and address drainage.

DEPI is working with stakeholder agencies to ensure the expedite restoration of the track to a safe and usable form by the end of 2014. This will be dependent upon securing all necessary permits and an experienced contractor.



Rotational Failure at Paddy's Path.

What can I do to help?

- Observe the public safety barriers in place, obey all signs and stay behind safety fences.
- Keep an eye out for further community updates from the Otway Coast Committee and Project Fact's Sheet from DEPI.
- For further information or to report a slip, topple or any other change to a cliff formation, contact the OCC on 0419 301 311 or DEPI at Anglesea on (03) 5220 2013.