

Paddy's Path closure update

Landslide hazard management

Update- 16 August 2016

Paddy's Path remains closed due to the public safety risks posed by recent significant rainfall and small landslide activity between the path and the Great Ocean Road. The path will remain closed until all public safety concerns relating to rainfall and land instability have been addressed. Reports from the Bureau of Meteorology indicates there is a high likelihood of above average rainfall from August to October.

Since the closure of the path on the 23 July regular geotechnical inspections have been carried out to monitor the conditions across the reserve from above Iluka Ave to the Great Ocean Road. The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, along with the Otway Coast Committee, Colac Otway Shire and VicRoads are working together to reduce the potential impacts of hazards on Iluka Ave, Paddy's Path and the Great Ocean Road.

Changes to the landscape and high rainfall over the last few months have resulted in significant overland and subsurface water flow across Paddy's Path and into existing and newly active landslides. Debris flow from small landslides (approximately 20-200m³ of rock and soil) onto the Great Ocean Road have been regularly observed in the last few weeks, with clean up required for a number of days following significant rain events.

Drainage works

Immediate drainage works are being planned, with works to begin in the next fortnight. A contractor has been appointed to install subsurface drainage and stormwater pits along Paddy's Path. As a part of these works overland pipes will connect from Paddy's Path to the existing storm water pits on the Great Ocean Road. It is a priority that works do not destabilise land and create new hazards, and for this reason excavation is being avoided where possible.

VicRoads and Colac Otway Shire continue to monitor hazards and are investigating further options to address water, and subsequently debris flow, through the landscape and onto the Great Ocean Road. VicRoads are preparing designs for the installation of gabion walls to capture debris.

Additional path works- handrails and weed spraying

A handrail will be installed to support the use of the new ramped steps at the Separation Creek end and mid-point of Paddy's Path. The works, to be completed by the Otway Coast Committee, will be finished before the path is re-opened and will include closure gates at each end of the path to improve public safety.

Southern Otway Landcare Network contractors will continue to spray priority weeds, subject to weather, conditions monitoring and safe working procedures.