

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Witton Bluff Base Trail Boardwalk

Is the path suitable for wheelchairs?

Yes, the path is designed to be inclusive and wheelchair friendly.

When will the rest of the path be opened?

Work has now commenced on the sea wall repair to the North of the new boardwalk – which will help protect Christies Beach's cliffs from erosion and sea level rise.

Once the sea wall repairs are completed, work will shift to upgrading the Christies Beach path to the north of the new boardwalk, aiming for a full trail opening by mid-2025. This work will involve raising the level of the path, the installation of lighting and fencing and installing a new asphalt surface.

Can I ride my bike on the boardwalk?

Yes, the boardwalk is designed as a shared use path for use by pedestrians and cyclists.

Cyclists traveling on shared use paths in South Australia must follow specific rules to ensure safety and harmony with pedestrians and other path users. These rules are set out under South Australian Road Rules and include the following:

- **Keep Left:** Cyclists should stay as far to the left as is safe, unless overtaking or avoiding hazards.
- **Give Way to Pedestrians:** Cyclists must always give way to pedestrians on shared paths. This means slowing down and stopping if necessary.

- **Use a Bell or Voice:** Cyclists should use their bell, horn, or a verbal warning ("passing on your right") to alert pedestrians when approaching from behind.
- **Speed Limits:** Cyclists should travel at a safe speed appropriate for the conditions, considering the presence of other path users, visibility, and weather.
- **Control Your Bike:** Always maintain control of your bicycle and avoid reckless or dangerous riding.
- **Lighting and Visibility:** If cycling at night or in low-light conditions, bicycles must have a white front light and a red rear light, both visible from at least 200 metres. Reflectors must also be used.
- **Wear a Helmet:** Cyclists are legally required to wear an approved helmet that is properly fastened and fits securely.
- **No Obstruction:** Do not block or obstruct the path when stopping or resting.

Can I take my dog on the path?

Dogs are permitted on leash on a shared path which includes the base trail.

Can I fish from the boardwalk?

No, the boardwalk is designed as a path for pedestrians and bicycles. It will be an offence to fish from the boardwalk.

Can I use the path at night?

Yes, the path will be open 24/7. The boardwalk section features integrated lighting along the cycle rail, while the rest of the trail is planned to have solar-powered bollard lights.

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Can I ride an e-scooter on the path?

It is currently not permitted to ride an e-scooter on a footpath or road (including the base trail). The State Government has recently passed the *Statutes Amendment (Personal Mobility Devices) Bill 2024* which will allow e-scooters to be used on the footpaths including the boardwalk. This bill is yet to be assented, but it is expected to come into place in early 2025.

The State Government is currently working through the rules that will apply for e-scooters including any speed restrictions.

Are there any bins being installed?

There are existing bins at either end of the base trail at Port Noarlunga and Christies Beach.

The path does not allow council waste vehicles so bins along the path could not be serviced. At any stage path users will be less than 600m from a bin.

Are there any seats planned?

Yes, there will be seats along the path. The first of the seats will be installed during January at the southern viewing platform on the boardwalk, and at the asphalt area adjacent the northern end of the boardwalk.

Is there going to be any public art?

Yes! Public art is an exciting part of the project. Planned installations include pieces along the boardwalk, particularly at the northern viewing platform, and atop the hill overlooking the site.

The artwork is being developed by a team that includes a Kaurna artist, to ensure it

reflects and celebrates the cultural heritage of the area.

What is the boardwalk made of?

Most of the boardwalk's sub-structure is made from Fibre Reinforced Plastic (FRP) because it is durable and requires little maintenance, which is perfect for coastal conditions. The decking material is also FRP and has been selected based on the high slip resistance making it suitable for cyclists.

Steelwork supports the structure over the beach area where it is more exposed to waves. This steel is painted with marine grade paint.

Are the balustrades rusting?

The posts and balustrades are made from marine-grade stainless steel to reduce maintenance needs. However, due to the exposed coastal location, surface corrosion (known as "tea staining") is still likely to occur. This is a cosmetic issue that affects only the surface and does not compromise the structural integrity of the components.

Will the path need to close during storm events?

The path may need to close during specific weather conditions to ensure public safety. This would be similar to how coastal jetties are managed and is expected to happen infrequently, typically less than once a year. Coastal conditions were carefully considered during the design, ensuring the path remains usable throughout most of the year, except during these rare events.

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What work is still to happen on the boardwalk?

There are still a small number of works to be carried out early next year which should not impact on the use of the trail. This includes:

- **Boat ramp:** fencing is to be placed along the upgraded boat ramp at the Port Noarlunga end of the boardwalk. There is currently temporary fencing in place until the new fencing is installed.
- **Concrete blocks removal:** some concrete blocks used for fall protection during construction have been temporarily left on the limestone shelf. Unfortunately, the changing sand levels have meant we have not been able to get access to these which will now be removed **early in 2025**.
- **Painting:** some further painting works are to be undertaken on the steelwork. This work will be done from the beach.
- **Seating & Public Art:** installation of seating and public art will occur early in 2025.

How can I stay informed?

We have a dedicated Your Say page that we will update regularly to show the progress of the project including images and drone footage. Please visit:

<https://yoursay.onkaparinga.sa.gov.au/witton-bluff-base-trail>

To receive project updates, simply click on the **+Follow button** on the page.

Need more information?

If you have a question or would like further information, please contact us:

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