Foreshore makeover under way

Work is officially under way on revitalising the Koombana Bay foreshore as part of the Transforming Bunbury’s Waterfront project.

Bunbury mayor Gary Brennan, Bunbury MLA Don Punch and South West Development Commission assistant director infrastructure Ashley Clements were on site at the foreshore earlier this month to officially mark the beginning of the highly-anticipated makeover.

Since the sod-turning ceremony was held, rapid progress has been made on the project.

For example, construction of a sea wall can be seen taking place at the eastern end of the beach. This will provide coastal protection to the area near the Dolphin Discovery Centre, which is also undergoing a redevelopment.

Once complete, the new-look foreshore will form part of a world-class precinct that can be enjoyed by locals and visitors alike.

Key features will include an amphitheatre, revamped kiosk, accessible playground, pedestrian promenade along the beach, and new footbridge over The Plug.

Fast facts

> $10.8m construction tender awarded to contractor Ertech
> Sixteen South West contractors will be engaged, with the value of local work being $7.85m
> Managed by the City of Bunbury
> Along with the Dolphin Discovery Centre redevelopment, forms stage one of the Transforming Bunbury’s Waterfront project
Centre’s footprint evolves as works progress

As the forward works for the Dolphin Discovery Centre redevelopment near completion, we take a look back at the progress made so far.

As you can see from our photos, this initial stage of the project has taken place alongside the centre.

Key aspects have included construction of boat and pump sheds, building of water tanks, and the relocation of the research and volunteer building.

Local film Perkins Builders were awarded the contract for this component of the expansion and upgrade of the tourist attraction.

Local project, local opportunities

Local businesses are urged to take up the opportunity to showcase what they have to offer the multi-million dollar Transforming Bunbury’s Waterfront project.

The South West Development Commission has organised an information session to connect local businesses with the three short-listed tenderers for the Dolphin Discovery Centre redevelopment.

The upgrade and expansion of the popular Bunbury tourist attraction will transform the site into a landmark building that will offer a world-class experience for visitors, with the view to attracting even more tourists into the city.

SWDC assistant director infrastructure Ashley Clements said attending the meeting would not only provide a chance for businesses to link with opportunities regarding the DDC expansion and upgrade but also the waterfront project in general.

“This is an excellent opportunity for local businesses to put forward their capability and capacity to be involved as the Transforming Bunbury’s Waterfront project moves forward,” Mr Clements said.

“We want as many local businesses as possible to benefit from the State Government’s investment in a significant Bunbury project.”

The event will give participants the chance to discuss what they have to offer directly with Perkins Builders, Pindan and BGC.

It will also include presentations relevant to the project from SWDC, DDC, Department of Finance and Bunbury MLA Don Punch, as well as a question and answer session.

The information session forms part of efforts by the State Government and SWDC to maximise the number of local jobs created by Royalties for Regions-funded projects in the South West.

Bunbury MLA Don Punch urged local businesses with an interest in the project to attend.

“This is a great opportunity for local business to benefit from government spending money in the region,” Mr Punch said.

The information session will be held at 8.30am on Thursday June 1 on Level 10 of the Bunbury Tower. Registrations are essential. To register to attend, visit www.swdc.wa.gov.au and complete the online registration form by 2pm on Wednesday May 31.