## **Councillor Question Time**

## **Question from Councillor Nyaguy:**

West St Kilda Beach is frequently used by sports including wind surfers. Recently a sign was installed along the rocky groyne at the end of Langridge Street which impacts kite surfers. In terms of alterations like this and other changes, do Councils usually consult with dins sport businesses and other beach users before making changes?

## Response:

Council has replaced aquatic risk warning signage on the Langridge Street Rock Groyne as well as McGregor and Harold Street stormwater outlets to reduce drowning deaths and public injury.

The warning signage was originally installed by DEECA in 2008 when the rock groyne and extended stormwater outlets were constructed to reduce the severe erosion of Middle Park Beach.

These bay structures are a known risk for drowning deaths and other injuries. Risk warning signage are a proven way to reduce deaths and injuries of both residents and visitors. The location, design and content are subject to meeting Australian Standards and the specific aquatic Risk Audits and Treatment Plans for each location. Similar to the Standards and specific site risks with the placement and content of road warning signs Council obligations for aquatic risk warning signage must also meet the requirement of the Australian Standards and documented site risks, treatment plans and reviews.

The aquatic risk warning signage with Emergency Marker codes also integrate other information. This includes the shared swimming zones, dog off lead zones and Council's Local Laws that are specific to each site that would otherwise create significant signage clutter.

Kite operators should safely steer their kites to avoid the Langridge Street Rock Groyne Warning Sign in the same way other landside fixed objects such as the stormwater outlet handrails, dune fencing, beach showers and trees are avoided, as well as people, dogs, and swimmers in the shared public space.



Council officers will contact the kite boarding schools directly to make sure they are aware of the need for the signs.

We are also happy to discuss with other beach users if you'd like to put them in touch with our Foreshore Coordinator via 9209 6635 or <a href="mailto:ospace@portphillip.vic.gov.au">ospace@portphillip.vic.gov.au</a>

\*Please note: answers to any questions in Public Question Time and Councillor Question Time which were answered at the meeting are included in the minutes of that meeting.