

## Coastal park well underway



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Work to create a new 225 hectare coastal park that will surround the desalination plant is well underway.

The coastal park is one of the largest ecological restoration projects of its kind ever undertaken in Victoria. The park will incorporate 8km of walking, cycling and horse riding trails, a bird hide, boardwalks and a picnic shelter for visitors to enjoy.

This element of the project is being delivered by a partnership between Australian Ecosystems and the Bass Coast Landcare Network. Work crews have begun planting millions of new trees, plants and shrubs spanning 127 different indigenous species, seeds

for which were all collected within a 40km radius of the plant site.

Other key construction components, like structural steel and some concrete works, are reaching completion and Thiess Degremont recently commenced a program of redundancy for those employees whose work is finished and trade no longer required on the project.

The total number of people on the plant site is expected to remain relatively constant for a few months yet and will then begin to decrease as the project moves towards completion of construction.

### Property and website news

Approximately 41 properties were leased during the July/August 2011 period. This was a decrease from May/June and brings the total number of properties let to 605. In contrast, there was an increase in the number of new listings with approximately 13 additional properties made available during the two months.

The average asking price for properties let during the period was app. 422 per week – a slight decrease on the May/June average of \$430 per week. At the end of August, 76 Housing Accord properties were vacant. Of those, 45 per cent were priced at less than \$400 per week; 39 per cent priced between \$400 and \$500 per week; while 16 per cent were asking more than \$500 per week.

Website traffic decreased during July with approximately 571 page visits. This decreased further to approximately 562 in August, resulting in an average of 566 over the two month period and an overall decrease from the May/June period. The majority of interest continued to originate from Melbourne, Brisbane and Sydney, with fewer visits from other cities including Adelaide, Geelong and Traralgon.

## Feedback ...

The 'Accord News' is a bi-monthly e-bulletin. The Community Strengthening department welcomes contributions from Accord members. Contributions for the November edition are due 7 November 2011. Contact Community Strengthening on 1300 BCOAST (226 278) or [housing@basscoast.vic.gov.au](mailto:housing@basscoast.vic.gov.au) for more information.