

# Progress Report on Reopening of Beleura Cliff path.



*Each month we will put out a brief run-down of progress towards the reopening. For years the Friends of the Beleura Cliff Path has put out a monthly report on our work bees, focussed on ecology. A wider group has now been formed to include anyone and everyone who loves or supports the Beleura Cliff Path. This group is named "Reopen Beleura Cliff Path".*

## Summary of progress and key points for action



**1. Progress** has been very disappointing. The Shire has not started implementing any definite plans. We have met with the Shire CEO, John Baker, a meeting organised for us by Councillor Despi O'Connor. Sadly, little has come of this, although three of us are now on a committee to help advocate to the State Government for money. It is bogged down at the minute.

On April 16th the Shire Councillors unanimously passed a motion calling for the Infrastructure Department to provide clarity and get moving on the reopening. To the best of our knowledge the Council motion has not been actioned.

### The upper landslip

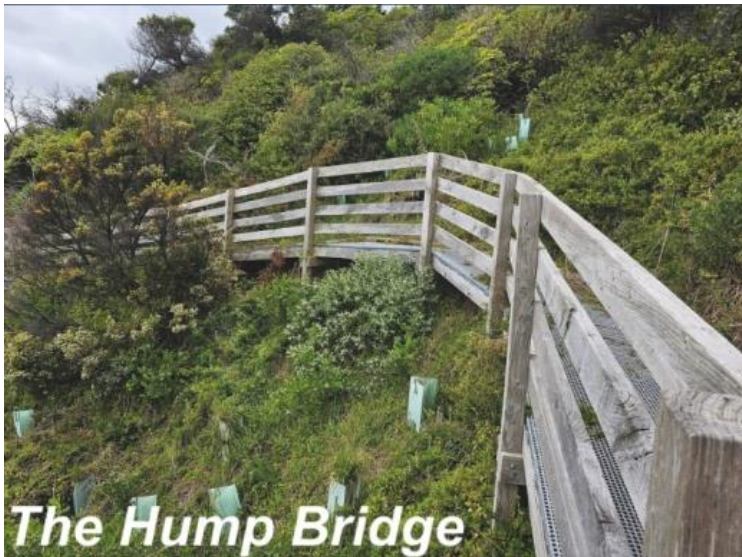


**2. Finding the causes of the Slips:** It's eighteen months since the two landslips. Sadly, the Shire has done no serious research into the direct causes of the two slips. The Stantec Report was an excellent document within its own terms of reference, but study of the direct causes of the two landslips were specifically excluded. The Stantec study was confined to geo-tech issues and generalities.

Researching the actual cause of each of the two slips that cut the path should be the highest priority and should have been done by now. It is obvious that the same amount of rain fell on all sections of the path. So what was special about the sections that cut the path. Our own research tells us the two landslips were caused by man-made drainage fails and irrigation faults.



**3. The Shire says it has no money** to work on the path now. This misses the point. The things that need to be done now, urgently, would not cost anything. For example, it would cost nothing for Infrastructure Department engineer to make a site-visit and visually inspect the Kalimna Drive east-side drain which is the legal point of discharge there. The Reopen Beleura Cliff Path group has already found strong evidence that this is linked to the lower landslip. Once the source of the problem is uncovered, the whole costing process changes. The present \$10 million estimate used by the Shire for just the lower-slip repairs is misleading. *Photo left: the lower landslip. There is strong evidence this was caused by ground-water from inadequate Kalimna Drive drains*



**3. The Hump Bridge example.** After the 2003 landslip at the spot where the Hump Bridge now stands, the Shire engineer showed how to do it. **Step One.** Find out where the water is coming from. **Step Two:** Build a suitable drain to catch that water and pipe it to the beach or a suitable Legal Point of Discharge. **Step Three:** Having got rid of the water risk, the Shire engineer built an excellent, economical timber walkway on straight-forward concrete, steel and timber foundations, rather like a domestic house verandah. The cost was reasonable. We believe the cost was less than a 30th of the \$10m the Shire says the lower slip will cost to repair. *Photo left: the Hump Bridge*



**4. Kalimna Drive:** There is strong evidence from water testing by our Group that the ground water coming from the inadequate drainage system on Kalimna Drive is the principle cause of the lower landslip (the landslip near the beach end of the path). *Photo left: The inadequate Kalimna Drive east-side permeable spoon drain is directly above the lower landslip.* Check this on your Google Maps. It carries a huge volume of water in heavy rains, which soaks into the ground or floods across the road. When the drain blocks the water forms pools, and soon becomes ground water. There is very clear evidence that the ground-water moves under Kalimna Drive and all the way to the cliff face, in addition to surface water.



**5. Open the Upper Path:** We are urging the Shire to open the path from Caraar Creek Lane to the Lookout. This section is just the same as it has been for 25 years. It would enable people to have a short, but still enjoyable walk to the Lookout and back. This is a practical measure which would ease the tension over the path closure. The Shire has responded negatively to this.