# MEDIA RELEASE
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## MT MARTHA NORTH BEACH WORKS ABANDONED

The long awaited coastal protection works for Mount Martha North Beach have been abandoned by the Department of Sustainability and Environment.

On 4th July the Department of Sustainability and Environment announced that Mount Martha North had been included in the 'Enhancing Our Beaches' program with $250,000 made available for works. According to the DSE Web-site (updated on 3 February 2009) "Works at Mt Martha North will commence this financial year."

The funding was announced following release of the Departments 'Review of Beach Nourishment Priorities for Port Phillip Bay' in April 2008.

The report considered a number of alternative treatments proposed in 2007 by Coastal Engineering Solutions that included beach re-shaping and sand re-location, construction of a groyne at the north end of the beach or the construction of an off-shore breakwater opposite Alice Street.

The review recommended that "*at the very least 5,000m3 of material be removed from the south end of Mt Martha South using an excavator and trucked to Mt Martha North. In addition, it is recommended that a groyne approximately 25m long with a crest level of about 1 to 1.5m be constructed at the northern end of Mt Martha North Beach."*

In response to questions as to why the work had yet to commence the Minister for Environment and Climate Change admitted that DSE has now prioritised other projects above the Mount Martha North restoration works.

Despite promising almost 18 months ago that restoration works would begin by mid 2009 there was no guarantee from the Minister that he intends to proceed with the works at all.