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Stage one foreshore works unveiled

Gold Coasters today got a glimpse of the rejuvenated Surfers Paradise foreshore, with stage one officially opened to the public.

Economic Development and Tourism Committee Chair Cr Susie Douglas said the first stage of works had come in on time and on budget.

“The completed stage one area, which is the section from Elkhorn Avenue to the northern boundary of the Soul development, is a major milestone for the project,” said Cr Douglas.

“The new section looks great and includes toilet blocks and beach showers, lookout points, a 4.5 metre-wide Oceanway and pedestrian promenade with barbecues, picnic areas, disability access ramps, and new turfed areas.

“With all these fantastic new facilities, stage one is just the start of a completely revitalised Surfers Paradise foreshore and we can now look forward to stage two – the section between Hanlan and Laycock Streets – which is due for completion in early 2011.”

Cr Douglas also said that with all project works expected to wrap up by mid 2011, Council had been working hard with organisers of local events, such as Schoolies and New Years Eve celebrations.

“We have been communicating regularly with the Queensland Department of Communities, who are coordinating the Schoolies response, and Surfers Paradise Alliance on the progress of the foreshore redevelopment.

“It was always an 18 month project, and event organisers have been well aware that this would need to be factored into preparations for any events to be held here this year.”

Montmartre Café proprietor Richard Bonello welcomed the completion of stage one works, saying his customers would enjoy the new and improved outlook.

“We are really pleased that these works have been completed and the new foreshore is actually better than expected,” he said.

“The beach out the front of the café has to be one of the best in the world and it is great to get our new and improved view back within the specified timeframe.”