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# Media Release

## **\$3 million redevelopment of Steavenson Falls commences**

Major works to redevelop one of Marysville's iconic tourist attractions, Steavenson Falls, following the Black Saturday fires have commenced.

Stage one of the \$3 million bushfire recovery project will see the reinstatement of visitor facilities at the site, starting with road reconstruction and drainage works.

Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) Steavenson Falls Redevelopment Manager, Peter Cobb, said the falls was an important attraction for the Marysville community.

"The February 2009 fires hit the falls reserve with such ferocity, virtually everything there was damaged or destroyed," he said.

"The only salvageable piece of infrastructure is the hydro-electric generator that powered the lighting system that lit up the falls at night.

"The redevelopment project will see visitor facilities restored and enhanced to ensure the reserve remains a safe and valued asset for the community."

Prior to the fires, the reserve attracted up to 150,000 visitors each year and was a major regional tourism attraction.

The \$3 million project is funded by the Victorian and Commonwealth governments "Rebuilding Together" – Statewide Bushfire Recovery plan, announced last October.

Works will be undertaken in stages and completed by the end of 2011.

Mr Cobb said "Stage one includes the reinstatement of the main tourism facilities including the redeveloped car park, large viewing platform and main walking track.

"Road works will take place during the next 12 weeks, replacing the damaged drainage infrastructure and resurfacing the road."

"We will start work on reinstating the major tourism facilities once road works are complete."

At the same time nature is playing the key role in the recovery of the site, with the strong regeneration of shrubs and tree seedlings.

Since late last year there has been limited public access to the falls with over 1,000 people using the weekend bus service. The reserve has however now been closed while the works are undertaken.

For further information about the project contact DSE's Marysville office on (03) 5957 7111.

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