



MEELUP TRAILS CONSTRUCTION

This project involved the construction of 1700 metres of high-quality walk trail stretching each way along the coast from the popular Meelup Beach. Initial specifications called for the use of a clay-limestone mix, wet and rolled to refusal.

Following intensive discussions with representatives of Dustex, MBA decided to incorporate this 'new' product into the process, in part to produce a better final outcome for the client, and in part to trial the whole concept. It was felt that here at last was an opportunity to fill an oft-noted gap in our range of trail surface options.

Dustex is a lignin-based product produced by Borregaard LignoTech in Sweden. Marketed as an 'environmentally friendly dustbinder', it is supplied as a powder in 25 kg packs and must then be mixed with water, with the resulting liquid being worked into the surfacing material. In this case, all mixing was done with heavy machinery at base sites close to each trail section. The resultant moist surfacing material was then transported along the trail with a specialised 'tracked transporter', spread to 100-150 mm depth and compacted with a vibrating roller.

The logistical challenges were considerable and the experience gained led to a steep and valuable learning process. Despite the challenges, the final outcome was outstanding. The finished trail is hard, yet feels comfortable underfoot. It looks entirely natural within the surrounding environment and is smooth enough for beach-goers to walk in their thongs. The client - the Meelup Regional Park Management Committee - was delighted with the outcome, and this firm, Maher Brampton Associates, is happy to have pioneered a new process with considerable potential in the trails world.

Client:
Meelup Regional Park
Management Committee



The process for constructing the Dustex-stabilised trails at Meelup involved mixing the surfacing material off-site, transporting it onto the trail alignment, spreading it with a mini-excavator and then compacting it. The result was a very hard, smooth, long lasting trail surface suitable for a multitude of users.