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Balloons raise awareness

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All the right notes

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Reaction: An online campaign has started to save the Esperance Tanker Jetty.

Campaign to save jetty

By REX DRABIK

WITH the future of the Esperance Tanker Jetty uncertain, a campaign to save the iconic jetty has been launched on the social media site Facebook, with more than 2600 people liking the page since it was created last week.

The Facebook site, Save the Esperance Tanker Jetty, asks for Esperance locals and visitors alike to voice their concerns over what the page's creators call the "questionable future" of the structure.

Earlier this month, Shire of Esperance president Malcolm Heasman said the shire would need to consider the future of the jetty given its condition and age.

Esperance Shire Council is

expected to make a decision on the future of the jetty following the completion of a report by coastal engineers on the jetty's structural condition.

Shire of Esperance chief executive Matthew Scott said council would be fully briefed on the coastal engineers' findings once the report was complete.

Mr Scott said the public would be given an opportunity to have their say about the jetty's future.

With the future of the Tanker Jetty generating much discussion on the Save the Esperance Tanker Jetty Facebook page, the issue moved into the arena of federal politics this week, with Nationals WA candidate and former Esperance resident Chub Witham

declaring he would fight if elected to ensure that Esperance had a jetty.

"The Tanker Jetty is iconic for Esperance and should be fixed," Mr Witham said.

"If it's not possible to fix it, then a new jetty should be constructed to replace it."

Friends of the Esperance Tanker Jetty chairman Barrie Stearne agreed that Esperance, as a popular coastal town, needed a jetty.

"If it's going to cost too much to restore, the Shire of Esperance will need to bite the bullet and build a replacement," he said.

"I don't know of any seaside town that doesn't have a jetty."

Teenage gossip concern

LOCAL parent Val Scannell Harris says she is concerned about the proliferation of gossip pages on social media sites like Facebook and the harmful impact of such pages on teenagers.

Ms Scannell Harris said a friend alerted her to comments about her own teenage daughter being posted on one particular Facebook page.

"I investigated further as any normal caring parent would," she said.

After examining a number of gossip pages on Facebook, Ms Scannell Harris said she was shocked by some of the comments being posted about local teenagers.

"Some of the things being posted were pretty disgusting," she said.

"They were using very graphic language and naming local people."

"There were sexually explicit comments about local high school students being posted."

Ms Scannell Harris said she sought to have the comments removed and the pages shut down.

"When I first found it, I sat at the computer for nearly two hours reporting every post on there," she said.

"I eventually received a message from Facebook saying that the content was not in breach of their policies."

"They shut one of the gossip sites down to review it but they said the page did not violate their community policy as there was no pornographic material on the page."

Ms Scannell Harris



Alarmed: Local parent Val Scannell Harris says she is worried about the "disgusting" and "defamatory" comments about local teenagers being posted on Facebook pages.

said the "defamatory" and "slandorous" material posted on such Facebook pages highlighted the need for an overhaul of Facebook's guidelines.

"Facebook policy is American-based," she said.

"I believe their standards and policies should vary depending on the country of the user."

"There should be standards and policies set for Australia."

Ms Scannell Harris said she was concerned about the mental wellbeing on those teenagers who had been the subject

of gossip posts on Facebook.

"My concern is for the mental welfare and psychological stability of the students affected by the things posted on these pages," she said.

"It's bullying, it's intimidating, it's harassment and it's humiliating."

She also urged parents to be more vigilant and more aware of what their children were accessing on social media sites such as Facebook.

"People should always be aware of what their children are doing on Facebook," she said.



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