

Jetty closes as project starts



THE Tanker Jetty will be closed to the public from next month through until the end of May, as the Esperance waterfront project begins.

By Lisa Morrison

SHIRE of Esperance president Malcolm Heasman sees the Esperance waterfront project as “the start of a new era of infrastructure development” that will “be a milestone to the community”, and “create a public recreated space second-to-none in the region”.

Construction is scheduled to begin next month, with the creation of a rock armour wall stretching from just north of the Tanker Jetty to just north of the James Street Jetty.

As a result parts of the coastline, including the Tanker Jetty, will be closed to the public until the end of May.

“The first 80 metres of the Tanker Jetty will be carefully dismantled and a headland of reclaimed coastline will be constructed,” Mr Heasman said.

“Following construction of the headland, the Tanker Jetty will be reconnected to the coast with a purpose-built bridge.

“While I recognise that closing Tanker Jetty will be an inconvenience to many residents, it is important for us to ensure the safety of our community members throughout the construction process,” he said.

Changes to affect rescue vessels

By Lisa Morrison

THE Australian Maritime Safety Authority has announced that new legislation will affect all domestic commercial vessels, including local volunteer search and rescue vessels.

The Marine Safety Domestic Commercial Vessel National Law Act 2012 establishes a national system that replaces previous state governed laws.

Esperance Ports, Sea and Land Assistant Harbourmaster David Teague said that a community information meeting held at the Esperance Bay Yacht Club on December 11 attracted a large gathering.

“The meeting from 10am until 2pm was attended by approximately 40 people, including representatives from the Department of Transport, Captain David Harrod and Maggie Brennan,” Mr Teague said.

State Emergency Service Esperance Sea Search and Rescue Group president Russell Palmer said he was in discussions with the Department of Transport regarding how the new law would affect the Sea Search and Rescue Group.

“We have a few concerns regarding the crewing of rescue vessels and the final decision as to how it will affect volunteers, such as the marine rescue units, has not yet been made,” Mr Palmer said.

Fishing for solutions by state government

RECREATIONAL fishing group Recfishwest has welcomed the announcement of a State Government funded research program to improve stock levels of prized fish species in the south coast region, which includes Esperance.

Aimed at improving stock management of prized fish such as pink snapper, blue groper, blue morwong and bight redfish, the three-year strategic priority program is being administered by the state Natural Resource Management (NRM) office, with funding for the research project coming from the Department of Fisheries.

When completed, the research project will provide crucial information about the health of demersal scalefish stocks in the Esperance and broader south coast region and help guide future stock management policies.

Recfishwest chief executive officer Dr Andrew Rowland said the research would allow for sustainable fishing into the future.

He said the recreational fishing community had campaigned for the research to be undertaken.

“It is a great example of the community identifying an issue that may effect recreational fishing now and in the future,” he said.



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Great all rounder

Whether you're a live music fan or a theatre buff, the Esperance Civic Centre has something that will appeal. Support for the **Shire of Esperance** will help keep continue this great mix of popular shows and artistic fare in this year's program, so everyone can enjoy a night at the theatre.

Art on wheels

The **Ravensthorpe Regional Arts Council's** been helping their community enjoy arts and cultural events. A bus taking residents to enjoy performances in Ravensthorpe, Hopetoun and Jerdacuttup keeps locals entertained. Support towards the bus hire is helping to get this tight-knit town out and about – and connected to a broader arts community – over summer.

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