

Kalgoorlie Miner

Established 1895

\$1.60* (inc. GST) Saturday, August 17, 2013

kalminer.com.au

A West Australian Newspapers publication



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	\$AU1484.93	▲
NICKEL	\$US6.7043	▲
ASX	5113.9	▼
CURRENCY		
\$AU1 =		
US	0.91722	▼
EU	0.68758	▼
UK	0.58692	▼

FUTURE IN DOUBT



■ Tim Slater

The future of Esperance's 78-year-old tanker jetty is in the balance and is set to be determined by the outcome of a structural report being prepared for the Shire of Esperance.

Shire president Malcolm Heasman has asked the community to prepare for the possibility the jetty may have to close due to its deteriorating condition.

In a recent column in the *Kalgoorlie Miner*, Cr Heasman said: "it may not be possible to keep the tanker jetty operational for very much longer", from a safety and structural perspective.

"The Shire of Esperance spends a significant amount of money every year to keep the jetty safe for the community to use," he said.

Coastal engineers BMT JFA conducted a structural assessment of the tanker jetty last month.

Cr Heasman said the future of the jetty depended largely on the report's outcome.

"We hope to be able to reopen the jetty to the community soon, but we should all start to prepare ourselves," he said.

He said there came a time when infrastructure became too expensive to continue to repair and operate.

"Sometimes we need to let go of old facilities to concentrate our focus on the provision of new services that are in demand," he said.

"The shire is evaluating whether or not our much-loved tanker jetty has reached this point."

The poor condition of the jetty was revealed at the start of the foreshore redevelopment earlier this year when large bolts had almost rusted away.

A delegation from the Shire of Dandaragan visited the foreshore redevelopment last month while in town for the Coastal Conference.

They shared information with Esperance Shire staff and councillors about how they had addressed the issue of their ageing jetties at



Ageing icon: The Esperance community has been urged to prepare for the possible closure of the town's tanker jetty. Photo: TIM SLATER

Structural report could close ageing tanker jetty

Jurien Bay. That town's new 183m concrete jetty was opened in 2011, funded by ratepayers and contributions from the State Government.

Councillor Michael Sheppard said it cost about \$2.25 million to build the new jetty and demolish two old smaller timber jetties which were about 90m long.

Jurien Bay ratepayers held a referendum, with 80 per cent agreeing to a special area rate to fund a \$1 million loan for the project over 10 years and Royalties for Regions provided \$750,000.

The then-Department of Planning and Infrastructure provided \$250,000 for demolition costs and a local developer also contributed \$200,000 to the project.

Shire of Esperance chief executive Matthew Scott said the council would consider the report's findings when it was received and would communicate them to the community as necessary.

"The safety of people accessing the jetty is the Shire's number one priority," Mr Scott said.

"This assessment was commissioned to update the Shire on the current structural condition of the jetty."

Mr Scott said the jetty had been inspected on a regular basis, but the last detailed structural report was completed three years ago.

"With the amount of work done since the last report, council felt it was important to complete a detailed assessment of the jetty's

structure before reopening it," he said.

The July 2011 report commissioned by the Shire warned the jetty could face closure within three years unless a major reconstruction was carried out to ensure its long-term viability.

Engineering consultants BG & E carried out a comprehensive structural analysis of the jetty and found it was "not adequate to achieve compliance with the relevant Australian Standards for publicly accessible facilities which are subject to crowd loadings".

The Shire subsequently banned large gatherings of people congregating on the jetty, such as the annual Boss Toss, and closed it during storms.

The report said the works required to upgrade the existing structure to achieve appropriate capacity for pedestrian crowd loads, wave action and earthquake were extensive, requiring replacement of all half-caps, piles and ironwork to the retained superstructure.

"Given the large cost of such works and the limited working life of the retained superstructure elements, upgrade or refurbishment works are not considered cost-effective or practical," it said.

"The most appropriate long-term approach to provision of a recreational jetty facility would be for reconstruction of the jetty."

The jetty was built in 1935 and was originally 670m long.

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