

# Jetty could be re-opened on a temporary basis

Tim Slater

The Esperance tanker jetty could be re-opened on a temporary basis by the end of this month, according to Shire of Esperance chief executive officer Matthew Scott.

Mr Scott said he was hopeful a bridge could be connected after remedial repairs to six pylons, costing \$70,000, had been completed.

"We still need to monitor the jetty and there is going to be some more work that needs to be done to it," he said.

"The question before council at the moment is how much more money do we put in repairing and maintaining the jetty compared to should we actually be putting that money into a new structure altogether?"

But the headland would continue to be a construction site for the next eight months while landscaping works were carried out, he said.

Access would be restricted at times while work was being completed.

Further work needs to be carried out within 12 to 24 months of the jetty re-opening to repair 10 piles and jetty components, estimated to cost between \$300,000 and \$500,000.

"At this time the above elements will be monitored on an ongoing basis," a Shire update on the tanker jetty said.

"The decision has been made that these items will be dealt with if they fail and repair works or closure of areas on the jetty may be required."

About 120 people attended two community workshops on Wednesday to contribute their ideas about what kind of jetty



Brain storming: Matthew Scott, Bevan and Will Bessen write up ideas about the new jetty at the community workshop. Photos: TIM SLATER

would be built to replace the 77-year-old structure.

Participants revealed the local fishing fraternity was suffering withdrawal symptoms after not being able to fish from the jetty and was the key requirement for a replacement jetty.

There was frustration at the lack of alternative fishing spots in the bay, with access denied to the Taylor Street jetty.

Other uses included access for walking, cycling and possibly a tourist train to generate revenue, similar to the Busselton jetty, which also charged a daily or annual fee during daylight.

But there was free access for fishers at night and during the early morning hours.

The proposed location of the replacements of the jetty was also raised, with some participants keen for it to be built near its current location, while others suggested it be



Jetty ideas: Jeffrey and Beverley Hoey and Andrea Hills look at photos of different jetties during the community workshop.

moved closer to town to link with the central business area.

Other ideas raised included an underwater observatory at the end of the jetty, and making it user friendly for people of all ages and a commercial element.

The jetty was seen as an in-

tegral focal point for the town and a social meeting place.

The workshop participants were shown several case studies of other jetties that had been built in WA, including the Busselton jetty, and others at Jurien Bay, Wyndham and Rapid Bay in South Australia.

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