



**INSIDE P10**  
Sun comes out for ocean-goers

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# ESPERANCE



The future of the tanker jetty is yet to be decided by the Shire of Esperance, but it says a decision is not far off.

## Jetty's future is still unclear

■ **Tim Slater**

The Shire of Esperance is yet to make a decision on the future of the ageing tanker jetty.

But Shire president Malcolm Heasman said the council was "not too far away from deciding" the jetty's fate.

He said the council "could not tolerate" the jetty becoming unsafe.

"We have to be paramount about the safety aspects and some of the pieces on the tanker jetty are not very safe at all," he said.

"They have been repaired for the moment and we really don't know how long that will last."

Cr Heasman said the jetty was 79 years old and the council was trying to keep it in a safe condition for as long as possible at a cost that it

could afford. At last week's council community forum, long-time resident Len Hanks asked why the jetty had not received funding priority in the 2014-15 budget when it was one of the town's most important icons.

Mr Hanks said there had been numerous studies and reports by outside consultants on what should become of the jetty but no action had yet been taken.

An extensive community consultation project was carried out for the Shire by consultants Tuna Blue last year, which recommended that the Shire consider introducing a levy to help fund the construction of a replacement jetty.

The consultant's report said participants in the study were prepared to pay a levy of \$100 per rate-

able property and believed that community members would be prepared to contribute between \$40 and \$60 to help raise \$5 million over a 10-year period.

But no levy was introduced as part of the 2014-15 budget.

Cr Heasman said further public consultations would be held to determine the future of the jetty.

He urged more people to attend and have their say.

Meanwhile, the council also came under criticism by Meredith Clark for its staffing levels.

Ms Clark called on the Shire to audit staff levels to ascertain "who does what, what they get paid for and what they actually do, and if you need that many staff".

Cr Heasman said the Shire was going through a reorganisation process.

"We are dealing with many people and we don't want to create uncertainties," he said.

"But we have tactfully been reorganising into what we believe is a more streamlined model than the one this council inherited."

He said the council was also looking at commercialising some aspects of its services, but would not reveal specific departments.

"We are trying to get to a point where there can be some more commercialisation of some of those loss-making activities," he said.

"We may not necessarily ever make a profit out of them, but what we are attempting to do is try and limit our losses."

"That is as good as not raising an extra dollar in rates if you can stop a dollar of leakage somewhere."

## ESPERANCE DIARY

### September 7

Markets will be held at Museum Village, including arts and craft stalls, jams, honeys, fresh fruit, vegetables and ice cream. Lots of family fun from 8.30am to 1pm.

### September 9-13

Esperance Anglican Wildflower Festival, 9am-4.30pm at the Esperance Anglican Parish Centre, also includes agriculture and farming land, conservation, community and lifestyle gardening. Lots of food, tea, coffee, market stalls and entertainment.

### September 10-21

Ravensthorpe Wildflower Show at the Ravensthorpe Senior Citizens Centre, 9am-4pm, admission adults \$4, children free.

### September 10-21

Quilt and craft exhibition, Ravensthorpe Community Centre, 9am-4pm, local hand-made quilts by Judy Harp and Kerry Dickinson.

### September 12

Condungup Primary School will be celebrating its 50th anniversary, including celebratory assembly, time capsule burial at 3pm, afternoon tea, school tours and memorabilia displays. Community dinner 6pm at Condungup Community Centre.

### September 12, 13, 19 and 20

Two one-act plays by Bob Charteris, You Can't Hurry Love and At Home with the Herringbones, will be performed at the Bijou Theatre, directed by Sally Ashbil and Janine Button. From 7.30pm, tickets available at the civic centre, library and visitor's centre.



Come enjoy some family fun on Sunday at Museum Village.

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