

## Councillor Column

### The Jetty

Recent letters to the editor of various newspapers, and lobbying, have left our community confused about what is happening with the jetty. I urge you to ignore the rhetoric around restoration options for the jetty. The Heritage Council has given clear direction and endorsement for the Esperance Council to provide a **replacement** jetty. Any talk of restoration is muddying the waters and confusing the community because restoration is off the table. More than enough time, money, community engagement and research has been spent to determine that restoration is not a viable or long term solution. We have moved on past that option. Council, under the Heritage Council's advice, will now work with a heritage architect to deliver a plan for a replacement jetty that is as long as possible, fishing friendly and reflects the history of the 82 year old Esperance Tanker Jetty.

Friends of the Jetty's suggestion has been to apply to the Federal Government 'Building Better Regions Fund' for a restoration project. This suggestion, to apply for funds with an open ended proposal, no design plans, costings or matching funding, demonstrates a lack of understanding of the funding criteria required for large scale projects today. Both State and Federal government politicians have made it very clear to us that they will consider Council's funding application once we have a costed design and business case.

At that point, when the Shire has a jetty design and funding secured, the Heritage Minister may consider lifting the conservation order on the Tanker Jetty. This will allow a controlled demolition to save as much timber as possible for reuse in heritage elements in the new construction.

Council's working relationship with the Heritage Council, the heritage architect and the Jetty Replacement Working Group is an exciting opportunity to deliver a great jetty outcome for our community and visitors. The next step will be to issue a tender to engage the services of a qualified heritage architect to lead the Replacement design. We have approached the Heritage Council to be involved in the tender process to ensure we achieve a great heritage outcome for this project. We can't wait to start on the design phase and will keep you updated as we progress.