SNOW IN ESPERANCE

Rationalising the attachment to the Jetty

IAM aware this is a contentious topic so I plan to tread carefully, but I think it’s worth mentioning how emotive the potential demolition of the Tanker Jetty has been for this community.

Comming from Perth there are only a handful of things I can think of that evoked a reaction this strong from my community over the years, but never to this depth. I attended a meeting with the Jetty Group and I was overwhelmed by the level of emotion in that room.

While I was there I was trying to understand how people could feel so strongly about an inanimate object that they would reach into their own pockets if it meant there was a small chance it could be saved.

You could assume the reasons were logical, it’s a tourist attraction, it’s part of the town’s history and people have memories attached to it. Realistically those reasons probably aren’t enough for people to feel so deeply.

As I looked around the room I saw people who were anchored here, who had probably spent most of their lives here and probably planned to live out the rest of their days here. That’s when I understood that for many people the jetty was likely a symbol of significance.

Without consciously realising it, this entire debate has likely confronted them with their own fragility.

Raising the question, if an icon that had stood strong for 80 years could be torn down in a decision made by others, then what does that say about the importance of my existence? For many people, walking down that jetty would allow them to reconnect with parts of their lives that had passed.

Tearing it down would be similar to throwing old photos on a fire.

Thousands of people love and adore that jetty and most people could probably count on two hands those who would be genuinely devastated by own their own passing.

I’m not from here, you may think that my opinion means very little and for the most part it probably does, but at the end of the day inalienable truth is that the world will continue to change with or without your consent.

The connections you have with this place and with each other is something people will never have the pleasure of experiencing or understanding. The jetty does not define Esperance nor does it define the people in it. It’s crucial to remember that what makes this town so special will continue to stand strong even if the jetty doesn’t.

WEB WORDS

CUBBY DONATED TO PLAYGROUP

Well done to all of you for your great efforts in fundraising for the little ones! Janelle Spurr

Great cubby, I could just about live in there.

Kaye Butler

Men in Sheds are awesome!! wonderful, generous, dedicated.

Sally Ashby

GROUP SEeks LAWYER

That jetty is Esperance heritage, any person saying it needs to be demolished clearly doesn’t care about Esperance’s history.

If we can spend thousands on a skate park or a basketball court we can fix our jetty.

Kym Western

It’s not thousands and millions we are better off just building a new one. And trust me I would love to keep the jetty we have but it’s 30+ years over its use by date what does it take someone getting hurt after it’s “bandaided” open your eyes people. I’m an Esperance local I’d rather a jetty I can bring my kids to in the future that won’t fall apart.

Sarah Eliza Campbell

I know you want to save it, but it’s dangerous, otherwise it was just kept off limits to just keep off limits and they built a new one.

Alex Middletten

Ridiculous! seriously it makes no sense. I back the shire why hang on by a thread (for 30 years). That $25, 000 already contributed could have been kick the start to an awesome fundraising campaign toward a NEW jetty. And then add the $5000 to that, that you are willing to spend on Lawyer fees.

Sara Bonnet

How wonderful. Why didn’t she maintain the jetty? Surely they must have known about the deterioration of the jetty.

Suzanne Martin