

## FROM THE COAST

### Esperance Tanker Jetty Comparisons

In discussions about the Esperance Tanker Jetty, many comparisons have been made. Recently, comparison has been made to the Grange Jetty which received a \$1.8 million restoration in 2014 from the Government of South Australia.

Some defective structural timber elements were replaced on the Grange Jetty, as well as decking, kerbing and hand rails. They installed steel piles, a shelter and upgraded the lighting system.

Esperance residents need to keep in mind that the Grange Jetty is half the size of the Tanker Jetty and whilst it is older it did not need as much work as our jetty needs now. The Grange Jetty is about 130 years old, but it has had two major upgrades in that time as well as other minor upgrades and maintenance.

Another thing to consider is the Grange Jetty is within the Adelaide Metropolitan area. Additional costs for mobilization and transport to Esperance quickly adds up and greatly increases costs. The Grange Jetty is also maintained by the State Government, not the City of Charles Sturt, where it is located.

More than \$1 million has been spent on the Tanker Jetty since 1995. Replacing piles can end up costing around \$16500 each, to replace like for like, and the majority of piles need to be replaced.

Replacement of stringers and halfcaps, supports located under the decking, would cost around \$20,000 per stringer, \$5000 per crosshead pair and the majority of these components need to be replaced.

Additionally, once you start adding decking and handrails the total becomes around \$12 million and that does not include transporting equipment and materials to Esperance.

Another comparison that is often used is the Busselton Jetty which is again very different. The entire jetty structure was replaced; Busselton received \$24 million from the State Government. Busselton is different to our area, having more than twice the number of visitors to their region and are closer to the Perth Metropolitan area which significantly reduces transport costs.

Since 2011 the Shire has undertaken a lot of research into jetties, much of which is publicly available. There is not a simplistic answer to fix these issues and it is our experience that simpler resolutions tend to become very expensive options once you start delving into this detail.