



FROM THE COAST

Tanker Jetty Community Barbecue

The Shire was glad to see so many local residents at the information session we held about the Tanker Jetty. Around 300 people came to further their knowledge of the current condition of the jetty. The event was an opportunity for people to see for themselves the poor state of the retrieved jetty parts and the photographs of structural damage. Councillors and Shire Officers were also available to answer questions.

Councillors then held an information stall at the Museum Village Markets, and there will be a further opportunity to see the display at the Shire stand at the Esperance Agricultural Show.

The aim of these sessions is to share with the community the Shire's knowledge of the current condition of the jetty. The structural report completed in August gave us a long list of compromised jetty parts and highlighted six piles that are in urgent need of remedial repairs. The report underlined the fact that the jetty is at the end of its useful life. Last month Council determined to complete remedial work to allow us to safely restore temporary public access to the jetty.

The reality is that the predicted lifespan of timber jetties is 25-40 years. The Tanker Jetty, built in 1935, is now 78 years old. Repair works over the years have allowed this lifespan to be extended such that it has already significantly outlived the expectations of its builders, but sadly, even if we had the money to keep patching it up, old age has finally got the better of it. In the same way that wealth cannot endlessly remedy the effects of ageing in humans, the Tanker Jetty cannot be restored.

What we can do is ensure Esperance has a jetty the community can enjoy. Council is committed to this action, having resolved to replace the Tanker Jetty in 2011. If you have strong feelings about having a jetty in Esperance's future, I urge you to attend one of the community feedback workshops the Shire will hold on October 30. Community input will be collated and will guide Council in future decision making. Council needs your input so that we can be sure we are acting in the best interest of the community. The workshops will be held at Esperance Bay Yacht Club at 1pm and 6pm.

Please come along and let us know your priorities with regards to replacing the Tanker Jetty. We look forward to hearing your ideas.