



FROM THE COAST

Tanker Jetty closed temporarily

Work is progressing on the Esperance foreshore and every day that goes by we get one step closer to being able to enjoy what will be a world class waterfront.

We were delighted that our waterfront contractors Sime Building and Construction provided pedestrian access across the headland in time for the community to enjoy the Tanker Jetty over the Christmas and New Year period. Both visitors and locals, myself included, made the most of the opportunity to enjoy a stroll along the jetty or to fish from it.

However, significant landscaping work is due to commence on the headland this week, which unfortunately means pedestrian access to the jetty needs to be interrupted. The access route we have used recently cuts across the headland which, we must remember, is a construction site. Sime now require access to this entire area in order to complete the necessary work as quickly and efficiently as possible, and need to temporarily close the pedestrian access route for safety reasons.

This temporary closure of access to the Tanker Jetty is a short-term inconvenience for a long-term gain. When the headland is complete it will have a state of the art adventure playground, a boardwalk to the jetty, space for vendor vans and grass and picnic areas. The playground has been designed as a discovery-based nature play experience. Features will include a crow's nest, a steel shipwreck, and sculptures of a starfish, sea urchin and a whale skeleton. Stepping stones, balancing beams, monkey bars and a balancing rope will be created out of recycled jetty timber and there will be some shade structures. The boardwalk will represent the original 80 metres of the Tanker Jetty that has been removed. The grass and picnic areas will provide a wonderful location for people to enjoy their surroundings. Once complete, the headland will be a key area of the waterfront project, which will be transformational for Esperance.

Council understands the significance of the Tanker Jetty to the local community. The amount of interest in the community jetty workshops held in October was a strong indication of its importance and the results of the 2013 Shire of Esperance Community Perception Survey confirmed this. It is for this reason that while access to the Tanker Jetty needs to be closed temporarily from tomorrow, January 28, we will do everything we can, while working closely with contractors, to ensure access to the Tanker Jetty is restored as quickly as is safely possible.