

FROM THE COAST

The Jetty Discussions

Facebook discussions on the jetty have been sparked again. There have been some good points raised, and some valid questions asked, but it's also clear not everyone has the facts.

Council takes the fate of the Tanker Jetty very seriously. The most economically responsible decision we can make is to demolish and replace it. Council doesn't want to financially cripple Esperance residents and ratepayers. At no stage has this been an easy decision. There is no secret agenda. Council has heard from the community and the majority want a jetty that we can afford

Council is awaiting responses from the State Heritage office and the Department of Transport on how we move forward on this.

Facebook comments asked: What is Council doing about the jetty? Council is conducting ongoing inspections to check the condition of the jetty and to keep the community safe. We have met with Hon. Alannah MacTiernan MLC and Hon. Darren West MLC to discuss the jetty and other issues affecting our community. We have written to Peter Rundle MLA, asking to meet with him as a matter of urgency.

Why did Council decline funding? We haven't declined any funding. In the lead up to the election promises were made for funding by some candidates. We had two election promises not funding commitments and the incoming Labor Government made no election promise in this regard at all.

Busselton did it, why can't we? Busselton received \$24 million from the WA State Government. Their jetty receives far more visitors than us. The City of Busselton has more than double our population, and commercialised sections of the waterfront supports ongoing maintenance.

What is the future plan for the jetty? Council is committed to providing our community with a jetty and has included costs in the Long Term Financial Plan. This ensures that whatever we build, we will be able to afford so the community is not in this position again. Our focus now is on finding the funding as quickly as possible.

Council has put out a huge amount of information about the jetty, yet we are still hearing incorrect 'facts' which are often taken as gospel truth. Next time you read something on Facebook, before you comment, ask yourself "are these the facts or someone's opinion?" There are ways to make sure you have the correct information. Look it up, speak to staff or call a councillor.