

FROM THE COAST

Next Steps for the Jetty

The collapse of a portion of the Esperance Tanker Jetty is a blow for our community; however we have overcome bigger hurdles in the past. This is not what Council wanted to happen and it is a timely reminder that we need to move forward.

Our top priority is safety and I would like to thank the team involved in acting swiftly and professionally to secure the area and retrieve debris to make the waters as safe as possible. The area of collapse is being monitored, but please don't be tempted to get a closer look from the water.

We now have an even bigger reason to do something and we are pushing forward. We have spoken to the State Heritage Office and are waiting to discuss the outcome of their meeting. We have forwarded reports on the Jetty to the State Heritage Office, Department of Transport, and various other state government departments and relevant agencies.

I have been listening to members of the community who have contacted me and I have met with members of the Friends of the Jetty. Ultimately this community wants a jetty and Council is working with all the groups involved to find a solution that meets the needs of everyone involved as best we can.

The Minister for Regional Development, Hon Alannah MacTiernan, called me to ask how she could help and if Council might consider reallocating some of the funding from the Indoor Sports Stadium to the Jetty Project. The status quo remains the same as per previous Council resolutions to progress with the Indoor Sports Stadium. Whilst both projects are important to our community and are identified in the Shire's Corporate Business Plan, the stadium is ready to go and we don't want to jeopardise funding for this project. Council is committed to delivering both these projects.

We are working on a variety of funding options from State and Federal Government as well as other agencies for the jetty. This is a difficult position for Council to be in and we are conscious of the diverse and passionate opinions in our community. If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact myself or one of your Councillors.

We would rather be in a different boat, but the fact is the jetty has far exceeded her life expectancy, and with the uncontrolled collapse we need to build a jetty sooner rather than later that our community and visitors can enjoy fishing, diving and walking on.