



MEDIA RELEASE

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ESPERANCE TANKER JETTY

The Shire of Esperance Council made the difficult decision last night to authorise the demolition of the Esperance Tanker Jetty.

A Special Council Meeting was held at 4pm on the 2nd February in Council Chambers, however due to the number of community members in the gallery the meeting was adjourned and moved to the Civic Centre. The meeting was to deliberate over a recommendation that tenders for the dismantling of the Esperance Tanker Jetty be prepared and issued. An amendment was put forward changing the original recommendation of withdrawing all funds from the Tanker Jetty Repairs Reserve to withdrawing half the funds from the Tanker Jetty Repairs Reserve and the remaining half from the Priority Projects Reserve. This amended motion was passed with Council voting 9-0.

Shire President Victoria Brown acknowledged and thanked the community members who attended and allowed Council the opportunity to answer their questions and hear their concerns. "We are gutted to have to be making this decision tonight, we would love nothing more than to be able to save her, but it just is not possible. We have a responsibility to ratepayers to make decisions that are both socially and financially sustainable. I would like to assure you Council are committed to replacing the jetty and we need the community to be involved in building something for the next generation."

Community concern over the future use of jetty timber was raised by several attendees and Council have committed to ensuring usable timber will be repurposed. This may be in the form of interpretive artwork, recognising historical significance, being incorporated into the structure or even being offered to community members through fundraising opportunities.

Preparation of the specifications and tender documents will now be undertaken, with permits for approvals being submitted and tenders released once drafted.

Council will commence community engagement in the coming months to determine a design that will satisfy the broader community needs. Engineered drawings can then be completed and costed. This will greatly improve the possibility of success of applications made to state and federal funding bodies.

Ends

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Cc: The Esperance Tanker Jetty: Fact Sheet 2016