



MEDIA RELEASE

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CONSERVATION ORDER ON TANKER JETTY

The placing of the Conservation Order on the Esperance Tanker Jetty by the Minister for Heritage was not unexpected and Council will continue to work with the Heritage Council to achieve a positive outcome for the broadest community.

Shire President Victoria Brown said "It was not a surprise to have the conservation order put in place. Minister Jacob stated in the Stop Work Order that he had concerns over "no detailed plans for a replacement structure and no funding to pay for it" this was reiterated in his Conservation Order that he needed to see "certainty and a clear pathway forward."

Council understand the Minister's concerns and are also keen to have a detailed design for a jetty, allowing a business case to be developed and funding proposals completed. The Jetty Replacement Working Group (the Group) has been established to assist Council to meet the community's needs.

A formal meeting of the Group held on Monday this week included a teleconference with the Heritage Council, who are working with the group to assist in meeting Minister Jacob's conditions. The Group are discussing a number of different ideas and concepts with the Heritage Council, these will be further developed over the next few weeks. Detailed planning will not occur until Minister Jacob has had an opportunity to review the concepts and determine if they sufficiently meet his needs.

The Minister for Heritage has recognised this as positive step towards lifting his conservation order. "The group's representatives are well placed to explore funding programs in more detail and assist the Shire in developing appropriate designs for the jetty, and a funding proposal," he said

Minister Jacob has also stated "While the conservation order prohibits demolition, I recognise that restoration or reconstruction of the jetty to its original form and scale is unlikely and I appreciate there is an urgent need to address the future of the jetty due to its condition."

Cr Brown reiterated "No Councillor wants to demolish the jetty. We would all love the jetty to be fully restored, but not at all costs. This has been, and continues to be, an agonising decision for Council. However we also do not wish to end up in a similar situation to Bunbury, where actions were delayed for three years at a costly outcome to the community to end in Councils original decision of demolition. This is not a frivolous decision of Council, we are making sustainable decisions for the Esperance Community and it is very sad to see the antagonism that is occurring between some groups."

"We need to work together as a community to get detailed plans completed and out there for funding consideration. With a state election in the early part of next year and the Building Better Regions Fund taking submissions until the end of February time is of the essence. "Once I am satisfied that there is certainty and a clear pathway forward, I will consider lifting the conservation order to allow works to start." These are Minister Jacob's words and Council is committed to providing a way forward."

“Let the Jetty Replacement Working Group get on with the job they have been appointed to do; to work with the Heritage Council to deliver a detailed concept plan that addresses the points made by the Minister for Heritage so we can secure funding and get a recreational jetty for our community and region.” Cr Brown asked

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Ends

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