

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Shire of Esperance**

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## **DEMOLITION DELAYED AT HERITAGE COUNCIL REQUEST**

Community access and enjoyment of a new Esperance jetty has been delayed by an eleventh hour request from the Heritage Council of WA.

Shire of Esperance Council last night resolved to delay demolition of the existing unsafe structure following the intervention of the Heritage Council of WA.

At the direction of the Minister, the Heritage Council of WA contacted Council requesting a delay on awarding contract for the demolition of the Tanker Jetty while they reviewed an application for a conservation order.

The eleventh hour intervention follows years of consultation and review by the Shire on the demolition and replacement of the Tanker Jetty which has become a drain on community finances.

In April the Shire Council considered the list of requirements, from the Heritage Council of WA, to enable the demolition to proceed and have since complied with all directives stipulated.

The current Tanker Jetty, which is a State Government asset, is unable to be accessed by the community because of the risk to public safety. The delay in awarding the demolition contract will consequently mean a longer timeframe before the community can access a recreational jetty.

Acting Shire President Cr Natalie Bowman said Council decided to delay its decision until November 8 to provide both the Heritage Council of WA sufficient time to make its recommendation to the Minister and for the Minister to consider the recommendations prior to making a decision.

Cr Bowman said the late interest in the jetty by the Heritage Council of WA, at the request of the Minister, and subsequent intervention had added to the challenges of delivering a project to benefit the community.

“The vast majority of the community, including Council, just want a jetty that will be safe and accessible to all and that won’t be a financial drain on future generations,” she said.

“If the State Government wants to get involved in the jetty project we would prefer that they do something positive for the community and commit to assist with funding to achieve a recreational jetty to satisfy community aspirations.”

Cr Bowman and Shire CEO, Matthew Scott will meet with the Minister for Heritage and Minister for Local Government tomorrow to secure genuine support to deliver the Esperance community a safe and sustainable asset.

**Ends**

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