



MEDIA RELEASE

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ESPERANCE TANKER JETTY

Recent comments made by Shire President Victoria Brown on ABC Radio indicated that Esperance's iconic Tanker Jetty needs to be demolished. No official council decision has been made but a special Council Meeting has been set for Tuesday 2nd February at 4pm in Council Chambers, and given the rate of deterioration of the jetty options are limited.

The jetty's closure and impending demolition has caused concerns about the iconic structure's future within the community.

The jetty was closed in December last year due to a structural assessment that discovered several vital structural components had either failed, or were about to fail, in at least four different locations along the length of the jetty. This degradation presents a real risk of progressive collapse to the jetty structure and Council was advised by Coastal Engineers that the Jetty should be closed immediately due to its unsafe condition. The structure has since significantly deteriorated further.

The Jetty has far outlived its 50 year design life. No amount of maintenance can realistically stop 80 year old timbers rotting and 80 year old bolts corroding.

The restoration of our tanker jetty has been compared to the restoration of the Busselton Jetty. In 2009 the Busselton jetty received \$27.1 million to complete refurbishment on the jetty structure. \$24 million was funded by the Western Australian State Government, \$3.1 million was funded by the Shire of Busselton and \$1.0 million was contributed by the Busselton Jetty Environment and Conservation Association (BJECA), a community fundraising group. The last 7 years have brought additional challenges to the Shire of Esperance including a different economic landscape, population, environmental restrictions and legal considerations.

Previous community engagement on the future of the jetty reflected a wide range of perspectives and opinions however the top four views identified were acceptance that the current Tanker Jetty is at the end of its useful life, that a replacement structure in the same location was wanted, and that the replacement should be iconic in nature retaining the same curvature as the existing jetty.

Shire President Victoria Brown said "It is a heartbreaking decision we have to make. We all have memories of the tanker jetty and many will not want to see it go. We are also aware of the diverse community opinion on what and where a replacement jetty should be. This is why significant community consultation is needed and will occur in the next few months."

Replacement of the Tanker Jetty is Stage 3 of the Waterfront Redevelopment and as such, funding has been sought. So far applications have been unsuccessful but Council is committed to continuing to seek funding to reduce the burden on ratepayers, and to engage with the community in regards to potential options.



Both the corbel and the half cap have split and been crushed. The longitudinal stringers, which are the main elements that support the deck are no longer supported by the half cap. This damage has accelerated since December 2015 and is causing the deck to sag.



The pile on the left hand side, which already has a splint applied from previous repairs has completely failed and is no longer supporting the deck. The half cap at the front of the photo has collapsed to the north and the next two half caps have collapsed to the south, making the deck twist.



The red wood exposed is indicative of recent failure in the half cap and corbel, highlighting that the jetty is twisting and creating new damage.



The corbel has split and fallen away and the stringer is no longer supported by the pile underneath.

Ends

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