



MEDIA RELEASE

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8 April 2016

ESPERANCE TANKER JETTY

A response to the Shire's proposal to demolish the Esperance Tanker Jetty has been received from the Heritage Council of Western Australia. The Heritage Council stated its preference to preserve the Tanker Jetty unless no feasible or prudent alternative was available. They outlined some conditions to ensure the continued recognition of this historical jetty if demolition was required.

Council considered this response in a Special Council Meeting today and previous analysis has already determined that there is no feasible or prudent alternative except to demolish the jetty.

Shire President Victoria Brown stated "Council had to make the very difficult decision to call for the dismantling of the Tanker Jetty due to the extremely high costs to refurbish the failing sections. As a Council being charged with the responsibility of ensuring our community receive vital, essential and sustainable services we cannot justify spending the sum of money required to repair critical sections of the jetty that may give us another five years when a replacement can be built for a similar cost and give the community an asset that will last a minimum of 50 years."

"The conditions outlined by the Heritage Council will be accommodated in both the way the Tanker Jetty will be demolished and in the design and placement of the replacement. The recognition of the historical value and role of the jetty in Esperance will continue to be recognised in an interpretation plan, similar to that already in place on the headland. The retention of a structural footprint is a concept Council had previously discussed and we are keen to see how this can be incorporated in a new design."

Shire officers submitted a report to the Heritage Council in February as part of the process to demolish a heritage listed structure. The conditions outlined in the response are:

- 1) Prior to demolition a detailed archival record to the Jetty shall be provided to the State Heritage Office.
- 2) Removal of the Jetty shall allow for retention of the structural footprint of the Jetty at a level that allows safe navigational water above. The Heritage Council's advice of May 2014 requiring meaningful interpretation demonstrating the original alignment and extent is reiterated.
- 3) The Interpretation Plan for the Jetty shall be updated to include the demolition of the structure and opportunity to provide for:
 - a) Interpretation of the structural footprint of Jetty as an archaeological site; and
 - b) Inclusion of interpretation of the former town jetties into the proposed new jetty.
- 4) The Shire of Esperance shall enter into a Heritage Agreement with the Heritage Council to ensure the ongoing interpretation of Jetty and maintenance of interpretive installations relating to the jetty structure.

Cr Brown wrapped up by stating “Being Shire President has some wonderful positive moments and unfortunately it has a few more difficult moments too. The decision to vote to dismantle the jetty was definitely one of the most difficult I have had to make, however I believe it is the right thing to do for future of Esperance. Councillors and Shire staff are all Esperance community members and will all feel the loss of this great lady. We must make sure we recognise the value she has brought to our community and our history. We must also look forward and make sure her replacement satisfies the needs of the community now and into the future.”

Council resolved to advise the Heritage Council that there is no feasible alternative to demolition of the jetty and that the Shire will meet the conditions set for demolition. In addition the letter from the Heritage Council would be released as an attachment to the minutes of the meeting. A modification was made to the officer’s recommendation to ensure potential tenderers can put forward innovative ideas. Usable Tanker Jetty timbers will be recovered and stored at the Shire Depot and investigation will be undertaken for their public use.

Ends

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Enclosed: Heritage Council Western Australia Response letter to Council