



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Shire of Esperance**

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## **JAMES STREET JETTY**

Council has resolved to authorise the CEO to engage a qualified marine engineer to prepare a design and specification document for the repair and maintenance of the James Street Swimming Jetty as recommended in a report presented to Council.

A budget variation was approved of \$12,000 to ensure the design and specifications of the work required to repair and subsequently reopen the jetty will incorporate elements of the existing structure and adhere to Australian Standards on the design of maritime structures.

BMT JFA Consultants undertook a condition assessment of the James Street Jetty and determined the pre-stressed concrete deck panels were assessed as being in a critical condition and at risk of sudden failure. This risk to public safety meant the immediate closure of the jetty the findings were received by the Shire in early February.

Shire President Victoria Brown said "It was disappointing to have to see the closure of another jetty in town and we are aware of the emotions that are being felt by everyone in the community. However this is a temporary closure and the reopening of the James Street Jetty is a priority for Council. It is imperative that the repairs undertaken provide a long term solution that will see a community asset used well into the future. The report received outlined a number of alternatives available that now need to be narrowed down with the best possible solution determined."

"We understand some sections of the community will say 'why fix this jetty?'. The repairs required here are not to the same extent as the Tanker Jetty and Council is constantly dealing with multiple and diverse needs for funding. This is one of the core duties of your elected members, to determine the best spend of community funds across all services and community demands."

**Ends**

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