

NEWS

Future of tanker jetty uncertain



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THE Esperance Tanker Jetty could face closure within three years unless a major reconstruction of the 78-year-old icon is carried out to ensure its long-term viability, a new report has revealed.

The report, commissioned by the Esperance Shire Council, recommended the reconstruction be done "in much the same manner as the works recently undertaken for the similarly historic Busselton Jetty" which cost \$27.1 million to complete.

"The jetty capacity is not adequate to achieve compliance with the relevant Australian Standards for publicly accessible facilities which are subject to crowd loadings," the report said.

"For this reason its suitability for

ongoing access can only be considered short-term (up to three years) subject to future re-assessment of structural condition and risk of over-loading."

Engineering consultants BG & E carried out the comprehensive structural analysis of the jetty and found it was "not adequate to achieve compliance with the relevant Australian Standards for publicly accessible facilities which are subject to crowd loadings".

"Structural analysis of the existing jetty structure indicates it is suitable for ongoing pedestrian usage in the short-term, subject to remedial works to specific elements identified as deficient and control of crowding," the report said.

But the capacity of the jetty to withstand lateral loads arising from storms (wind and wave action) and earthquake events was very low.

"To address the structural limitations of the jetty in the short-term it is recommended access management

strategies are implemented to control crowding during planned events such as annual jetty birthday celebrations and to prevent vehicular access onto the deck," the report said.

It is also recommended the jetty be closed to public access when storm warnings were present.

The report said the works required to upgrade the existing structure to achieve appropriate capacity for pedestrian crowd loads, wave action and earthquake were very extensive, requiring replacement of all halfcaps, piles and ironwork to the retained superstructure.

"Given the large cost of such works and the limited working life of the retained superstructure elements, upgrade or refurbishment works are not considered cost-effective or practical.

"The most appropriate long-term approach to provision of a recreational jetty facility would be for reconstruction of the jetty."

Esperance Shire chief executive Mal Osborne said while the safety issues associated with the jetty were considerable, the shire also acknowledged the importance of the jetty and its iconic status to the community.

"This report has highlighted significant safety concerns, particularly in relation to large crowds coming onto the jetty, its stability during storms and even its ability to withstand an earthquake," Mr Osborne said.

"The report also indicates any upgrades would be extensive and costly and possibly not even practical.

"However, council recognises this jetty is a part of our community, so it's important community input is part of any decision made on its future."

Mr Osborne said a plan for the future of the jetty was now a priority for the council.

Shire president Ian Mickel said the report would be discussed at a public meeting at the civic centre on Monday night.

"I would encourage as many people to come along as possible because they will get a good understanding of the issues," he said.

"Council will be listening to the report and may even have to make some decisions in regards to closing the jetty under certain bad conditions for safety reasons."

Cr Mickel said the shire knew the condition of the tanker jetty was not good.

"This report has quantified that and told us it is probably more serious than we were all hoping," he said.

He said there was a huge amount of work to be done to save the jetty, including securing finance and people with the relevant experience to do the job.

"We also have to hope there is not going to be a major storm or big seas event that could put it at risk in the shorter term," Cr Mickel said.

The public meeting will start at 6pm Monday.

15 per cent bid

THE WA police union will make a counter claim to the WA Government's pay rise offer after its board rejected proposed amendments to the original offer.

Wage negotiations between the Government and police have stalled since the union rejected the Government's offer of 12.5 per cent over three years.

The WA police union has called for a 15 per cent pay rise for officers over two years.

A union spokeswoman confirmed the board of directors had received a letter from the Government with amendments to the original proposal, which the board rejected last month, but had also rejected the letter.

She said if the union's counter claim was rejected by the Government, the union would send its members the findings from the original board of directors meeting on June 22.

Premier Colin Barnett said yesterday the Government would continue to talk with the union.

"It's going on too long for my liking and at some stage we will simply pay police officers an increase," he said.

"If they don't reach an agreement, we will make sure our policemen and woman do not suffer through the lack of a pay rise."

Cop heads back to city

THE Coolgardie community has bid farewell to one of its most popular cops with Senior Constable Munshi Mohaiyadeen heading back to Perth to train as a detective.

Sen Const Mohaiyadeen finished his last shift at Coolgardie yesterday, before making the drive to Perth this morning. After two years in the Goldfields, he said he would be taking plenty of happy memories back with him.

"I think the best thing about working in a community like Coolgardie is meeting and working with the locals - I'll definitely be putting my hand up for another country posting," he said.

"Good police work isn't about just arresting and charging people, it's about knowing the community as well."

He takes up a post as a probationary detective at the North West Metropolitan District later this month.



Great achievement: Esther Roadnight and husband George with her Rotarian of the Year award.
Photo: KELLIE LEWIS

Hard working Rotarian honoured

WELL-KNOWN local resident Esther Roadnight was honoured with the Rotarian of the Year award at a ceremony in Perth last weekend.

Mrs Roadnight received the award from nearly 1500 district members for her "excellent leadership skill and capabilities".

The newly-elected president of Hannans Rotary joined the club in 1994 and has served in many positions including district assistant governor.

With personal initiatives, such as compiling a new members' booklet and leading work on Rotary Peace Park, the busy grandmother of five said she is back to "business as usual".

"You just do what you have to do. You don't expect it (awards). You don't do it for that, but

you have been recognised for the work and effort you have put in, that is nice," Mrs Roadnight said.

After coming to the Goldfields in 1974 with husband George, Mrs Roadnight said she joined the organisation for "the work that you can do that otherwise wouldn't get done".

"I like it when we are out in the community doing work that people can see," she said.

One of the most rewarding aspects of rotary for the local businesswoman is helping young people in the community through Youth Exchange and the Youth Leadership Award.

"You see such a change in them," she said.

"They are much more independent, so much more confident

and just ready to take on the world."

Maintaining all the regular events, looking for new members and continuing work on Rotary Peace Park are Mrs Roadnight's plans for the coming year.

"I get a lot of satisfaction out of seeing the end result. I mean the work is hard and the planning, you have to do all of that, but when you have done all of that, you get to see the change," she said.

Mrs Roadnight has previously received Citizen of the Year in 1990, an Order of Australia in 2008 and WA Citizen of the Year - Governor's Award for Regional Development in 2009.

Anyone interested in joining Hannans Rotary Club can phone Esther on 0407 218 700.

ELIZABETH KENNEDY

Family ask for honour

THE family of a man who died in the back of a prison van in Western Australia's Goldfields region want any fines given to the security company and WA Government to go towards establishing an environmental science centre.

Aboriginal elder and environmental advocate Mr Ward, 46, who cannot be fully named for cultural reasons, died in the back of an un-airconditioned van while being transferred from Laverton to Kalgoorlie-Boulder in January 2008 to face a drink-driving charge.

WA's Department of Corrective Services, which had control of the van, previously pleaded guilty in the Kalgoorlie Magistrates Court to failing to ensure non-employees were not exposed to hazards.

The department will be sentenced today and faces a maximum penalty of \$400,000.

Private security contractor G4S has also pleaded guilty to failing to ensure the health and safety of Mr Ward and faces a maximum \$400,000 fine.

Ward family spokeswoman Daisy Ward has written a letter to Attorney-General Christian Porter calling for any fines paid by the WA Government and G4S to be put towards the establishment of an Environmental Science Centre in Patjarr, in honour of Mr Ward.

Deaths in Custody Watch Committee WA spokesman Marc Newhouse said the committee backed the family's idea.

Tests under way

INVESTIGATIONS are continuing into a fire which gutted the Angel Hostel on Hamilton Street.

Arson Squad Detectives arrived late Tuesday afternoon to assist Kalgoorlie Detectives with the investigation.

However, Kalgoorlie Detective Senior Sergeant Rod Wilde said investigations were still ongoing yesterday.

"At this stage we're still investigating the cause of the fire - Arson Squad has a number of chemical and forensic tests they still need to do," Det Sen Sgt Wilde said.

The fire did more than \$1 million damage to the Hamilton Street hostel before it was contained by Kalgoorlie firefighters on Tuesday morning.

SAM TOMLIN

Tax announcement

THE Gillard Government is set to reveal the details of its Carbon Pricing scheme in a special announcement on Sunday.

While the final details are still being finalised by the Government's Multi Party Climate Change Committee, Prime Minister Julia Gillard will reveal the full detail of the scheme to the public in a budget-style press conference in Canberra.

The tax has sparked considerable debate within the Kalgoorlie-Boulder community, with most of the region's politicians opposing the Government's approach.

"I'm concerned the standard of living in towns like Kalgoorlie-Boulder will be severely compromised," O'Connor MP Tony Crook told the *Kalgoorlie Miner* last month.

Fields' cold start to winter

JUNE started with a cold snap. For five consecutive days, the maximum temperature recorded at the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Bureau of Meteorology office was below 15C.

The lowest daily maximum was 12.4C on June 6, the coldest day in Western Australia this year. The warmest day was June 1 when the mercury hit 23.9C.

The coldest minimum, 2.8C, was recorded on June 13. The month's coldest minimum

on record, minus-3C, was set on June 23, 1981.

Daily maximum temperatures for the month averaged 17.4C, with the minimum averaging 7.9C.

June rainfall of 30.2mm was six per cent above average, despite there being only eight days when rain fell.

The wettest day was June 8 with 11.4mm. Total rainfall for the year is 220.2mm, 40 per cent

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