

FROM THE COAST

Have Your Say on the Jetty

The turnout to the Special Council Meeting about the future of the jetty and all the discussions on Facebook have shown just how passionate our community is about Esperance's iconic tanker jetty. There is no doubt the jetty needs to be demolished due to its condition, but where do we go from here?

If you talk to your friends from your local sporting club, you might think the majority of the town would rather see a new Sports Stadium than a replacement for a jetty. If you are a member of the Ratepayers Association you may think everyone wants a replacement jetty at a cost that will not mean any increase in rates. If you speak to visitors of the town you may think everyone wants a great place to catch fish. The fact is opinions vary throughout the community, and it is Council's responsibility to make sure we have an accurate and fair view of what the whole community wants.

In 2013 we held workshops about the jetty's future and 136 community members attended. While the engagement itself was successful, the number of attendees were not enough to be considered a fair representation of the community.

The Tanker Jetty Replacement Survey has been released to allow everyone to have their say on whether a replacement should be a jetty or something else, the location of a replacement structure and design style. It also allows us to gauge how much ratepayers are prepared to increase their rates, if at all, in order to have a jetty.

So far we've received 703 completed and valid surveys. Unfortunately we've also had 110 returned with no valid name or address. In order to have a fair representation, we are only able to accept one survey per person and that means surveys will only be considered complete if name and details have been provided. This will also assist Council in building a case for external funding applications. You can help us by completing the survey and making sure they are completed in and returned in their entirety.

Council Corners being held through February and March to provide an opportunity to discuss ideas face to face with Councillors and complete the survey. They will be held at the Grass Patch Yabby Classic today, Esperance Museum Village Sunday Markets on 13th March and the Condingup Fair on 19th March. The survey and fact sheets about the jetty and potential replacement are available on the Shire website www.esperance.wa.gov.au and we'd really like to hear from everyone with an interest in Esperance, whether you are a ratepayer, live here or visit occasionally. The survey closes Monday 21st March 2016, so please get yours in and make your voice count!