



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Shire of Esperance**

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## **PILE GROUP 66 HAS FAILED**

Pile Group 66 on the Tanker Jetty has failed and has been removed on Friday 23 March.

Previous sections were removed in the hope that the pile group would remain in situ without further remedial work required. Unfortunately this has not been the case, this pile group is no longer attached to the deck of the Tanker Jetty.

Chief Executive Officer Matthew Scott said "Pile 66 North had failed at the end of November 2016 – Its condition was getting worse and on Sunday 19 March we had approval to removal loose pieces that were destabilising the structure."

Since the removal of the loose components Pile 66 North has experienced another significant failure and while no section of this pile group is attached or supporting the super structure it can no longer be left in place.

The sea swell is making Pile 66 North rock side to side which is causing significant movement to Pile 66 South which is at risk of failing entirely. If Pile 66 South was allowed to fail in its own time it would mean a significant amount of substructure could break free in an uncontrolled manner and cause knock on damage to additional piles. This needs to be avoided at all costs.

Additionally there is a real risk of injury or death if a water craft came into contact with debris of this size and nature. Therefore we sought and were given approval to remove the entire Pile 66 group in a controlled manner.

Shire President Victoria Brown said "We understand that this will create angst in the community and we hope everyone understands that we are a group of people who are trying to look after the safety of our community. We are working with the State Heritage Office and are very conscious of the importance of every decision we have to make."

**Ends**

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### **MEDIA CONTACT:**

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