



JETTY ISLAND DEMOLITION

Work to demolish the Jetty Island is expected to start at the end of May 2015.

The Jetty Island, which is managed by the Port of Esperance, was separated in the 1980s from the main tanker jetty which is managed by the Shire of Esperance.

Southern Ports Authority CEO, Nicolas Fertin said that the jetty island was in poor condition and had become a marine hazard.

Mr Fertin said the demolition had the support of Federal and State environmental authorities, the Heritage Office, the Shire of Esperance and the Port of Esperance Consultative Committee whose membership represents Esperance environmental, tourism and other business groups.

He said the deck timbers would be removed and the remaining supporting pylons, cut three metres below the low water mark, would then be braced to ensure they did not collapse at a later date and would remain part of the existing artificial dive trail that extends from the end of the main jetty. Timber recovered would be donated to local community groups.

Mr Fertin said the Southern Ports Authority had also taken into account community wishes to accommodate the colony of Black-faced Cormorants that nest on the structure.

An artificial nesting platform will be installed at the end of the port breakwater before the demolition work begins, and existing nests on the structure will be relocated to the breakwater. The new structure should accommodate up to 30 breeding pairs.

While there were no guarantees about the birds using the new nesting structure, it was known that a number of breeding pairs of Black-faced Cormorants are already nesting in the breakwater nooks. Mr Fertin indicated that the Port of Albany, also part of Southern Ports Authority, will share their experience in bird relocation with the Port of Esperance.

The work was planned for this time of the year as last season's nestlings have fledged and it precedes the new breeding season. Subject to weather conditions, the demolition will take 3 to 4 weeks.

Mr Fertin said this project fitted perfectly into SPA's commitment to provide a safe Port for our community, while at the same time respecting the natural, social and marine environment.

ENDS

Should you have any queries regarding this media statement please contact media@southernports.com.au.