

COMMUNITY UPDATE

May 2021

Flinders Jetty sustainable improvements

Removal of a duplicated and unsafe section of Flinders Jetty is proposed as part of the Victorian Government's commitment to building a sustainable local ports network across Western Port.

Key information

Having reached the end of its functional and structural life, a 180 metre timber section of the Flinders Jetty from the foreshore to first landing is being considered for removal. Part of this section is already closed to the public due to safety risks, and removal will not affect continued public access to the popular 327 metre jetty experience currently available.

Parks Victoria is undertaking a Heritage Impact Assessment and a Marine Ecology Survey to inform the project methodology and assist in the application for relevant approvals required for the removal. The community will be advised in the near future as to how it can review the assessment key findings, demolition methodology and provide comment.

A long-term sustainable approach to the future management of the jetty that delivers the best outcome now and for many years to come is the primary goal of the project.

Background

Flinders Jetty has undergone significant improvements in recent years including the construction of a new 3.2 metre-wide concrete deck alongside the old between the central vehicle turnaround and the shore. At the time of redevelopment, the duplicated timber inner section was retained as it still had some service life, with the added benefit of reducing the environmental impact of construction on marine plants and animals while marine growth recolonised on the new jetty steel piles.

Recent engineering inspections have revealed extensive deterioration of this section of jetty resulting from ageing infrastructure and sustained exposure to weather conditions now rendering it structurally unsound and at risk of complete failure or collapse in the future. This section was subsequently closed for public safety in April 2020.

Funding to remove the duplicated inner timber section of Flinders Jetty was committed by the Victoria Government in July 2020 under the \$11.6 million Better Jetties and Waterside Facilities package. Removal would complete the last stage of the pier precinct redevelopment project.

Project stages and timing

Stage	Deliverables	Timing *
1	Construction of new concrete section (parallel to timber section)	2011 (complete)
2	Closure of old inner timber section due to structural failure	Apr 2020 (complete)
3	Planning for removal	Mar-Dec 2021
	Impact assessments	Mar – Jun 2021
	Community engagement	Jul – Aug 2021
	Statutory approvals	Sep 2021 – Jan 2022
	Approved approach announced (subject to approvals)	Jan - Feb 2022
	Work commences	Feb 2022
	Work completed	Jun 2022

* timelines are estimates only and may be subject to change pending approvals and weather

Frequently Asked Questions

Why does the closed section of jetty need to be removed?

The inner timber section of jetty is at the end of its structural life and needs to be safely removed prior to complete failure or collapse. As the condition of the decking and piles continues to deteriorate due to age and weather exposure, it will become an ongoing risk to public safety and a financial burden. Removal of this section would allow resources to be focused on continual improvement of the concrete deck, berthing facilities and outer timber section extending from the northern landing to the jetty head, rather than maintaining a defunct and unsafe asset. Any effort to repair this failing section of jetty would be costly and only provide a short-term solution. This section of jetty no longer serves a purpose for port operations. As the port manager, Parks Victoria has determined this asset is no longer required for its port operations following the construction of the concrete jetty section.

What impact will removing the section of jetty have on the marine life in the area?

Parks Victoria is committed to protecting the significant marine ecosystem that exists below Flinders Jetty. We know many incredible marine species live below the jetty, including the State's Marine Emblem, the Weedy Seadragon (*Phyllopteryx taeniolatus*). Parks Victoria has commissioned a Flinders Jetty Marine Ecology Survey and Jetty Removal Impact Assessment. These reports will describe the marine life under the jetty and identify any potential impacts of jetty removal to the marine life at that location, along with mitigation strategies. They will also inform the methodology and applications for approvals such as the planning permit from the Mornington Peninsula Shire and Marine and Coastal consent from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

What impact will removing this section of jetty have on the area's heritage values?

Parks Victoria recognises the heritage value the jetty contributes to the precinct character and is committed to ensuring these values are preserved through appropriate management. While the Flinders Jetty (old and new section), is not listed on the Victorian Heritage

Register, a portion of the jetty is covered under the Mornington Peninsula Heritage Overlay. Any proposed changes are subject to Statutory Planning Approval from the Mornington Peninsula Shire. Parks Victoria has commissioned a Heritage Impact Assessment to provide input on the significance of this asset when considering the removal of the old jetty. It will inform the methodology and applications for relevant approvals such as the planning permit.

Why not use the funds to repair the jetty rather than demolish it?

The old section of jetty was rebuilt in the 1970s. Due to sustained exposure to harsh marine conditions, the life of a timber jetty is traditionally 30 – 50 years. The old section of jetty has reached the end of its life and is failing, having been in place for just over 50 years. Any effort to repair this failing section of jetty would be costly and only provide a short-term solution. The government has allocated funds for the project to complete the plans, demolish the old timber structure and make the area safe. The cost to demolish and reconstruct a 180 metre timber jetty is estimated between \$3 million - \$5.5 million.

Will the removal affect access to the jetty?

No. The current closure of the timber inner section does not impact access or use of Flinders Jetty. Pedestrians and vehicles can use the adjacent concrete deck to access the first landing, then cross over to the structurally sound timber section extending to the jetty head. Removal of the duplicated section will not change access for commercial or recreational users to the full 327 metre jetty experience currently available.

How can I have my say?

The community will have the opportunity to participate in community engagement as part of the preliminary planning and statutory referral stages of the project. Details on how to participate will be announced in the coming weeks as the project progresses.

Stay up to date

For further information, visit parks.vic.gov.au/projects, scan the QR code, call 13 1963 or send an email to info@parks.vic.gov.au to subscribe to regular updates about this project.

