

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

August 2021

Rhyll Jetty safety measures

We are implementing further safety measures at Rhyll Jetty by closing it to vehicle access as part of Parks Victoria's commitment to ensuring safety for all visitors.

Why is Rhyll Jetty closed to vehicles?

As part of Parks Victoria's ongoing pier and jetty maintenance program, it regularly assesses the condition of maritime structures both visually and through technical inspections using professional engineers and divers. A recent independent engineering inspection at Rhyll Jetty has resulted in recommendations being made that Parks Victoria must restrict vehicle loading on the jetty due to concerns with the structural integrity of the beams that support the deck, as well as the safety railings.

Is closing the jetty to vehicles necessary?

Yes. The results of the technical inspections are used to calculate safe load ratings for vehicle, vessel and pedestrian access and guide decisions on management of the jetty. By closing the jetty to vehicle access it will help slow the rate of degradation to the jetty caused by heavy loads, and ensure the jetty remains suitable for community use into the future while future options are considered.

Who does the closure affect?

The jetty is closed to all 'authorised' vehicles that may need to access the jetty for loading and unloading or equipment / supplies, operational management or emergency response. This affects Parks Victoria, licensed tour operators, commercial fishers and emergency responders (eg Ambulance, Police). The jetty is **open** for **pedestrian** access and for use as a pick up/drop off berthing by commercial operators. Public vehicles have never been permitted to drive on the jetty.

How do emergency services access the jetty?

As is the case at many other public areas where access is limited for a variety of reasons, emergency responders will need to access the jetty on foot from the foreshore. Where heavy equipment or supplies need to be transported to and from the jetty, trolleys or similar can be used.

Will the jetty be repaired to reinstate vehicle access?

Further investigations are underway to determine the residual structural life of the jetty, that was built more than 30 years ago. This will include considering the cost and viability of short and medium remediation works to potentially restore vehicle access while the long term future of the jetty is considered as part of a broader planning exercise. Until further investigations are complete, public safety is our highest priority and the jetty will remain closed to vehicle access.

What impact will the closure have on the cruise ship industry?

Prior to COVID-19, Rhyll Jetty was a disembarking point for cruise ship passengers accessing Phillip Island. The jetty's ability to service cruise ship tender operations will need to be evaluated and considered as this sector reactivates.

Further information

To find out more call Parks Victoria on 13 1963 or email info@parks.vic.gov.au.