

COMMUNITY UPDATE

April 2021

Portarlington Pier Improvement Works

Portarlington Pier is being upgraded and improved as part of the Victorian Government's Building Works economic stimulus initiative.

Portarlington Harbour has undergone significant improvements to help realise the long-term vision set out in the Portarlington Safe Harbour Plan 2009.

The improvements will create a state-of-the-art facility that is safer and more accessible for commercial operators, recreational boaters, anglers, the local community and visitors for years to come.

Work to complete a \$9.6 million investment into on-water improvements at the pier is expected to be completed by September 2022.

Work to be undertaken

Staged work is subject to weather and some pending approvals.

Replacement of the pier head and low landing (Apr – Nov 2021): Sections of the northern pier head and the eastern low landing will be removed and replaced. The new pier head will be stronger, allowing for higher load capacities to better service the aquaculture industry and emergency access. An all-abilities low landing will improve access for boating.

Removal of old pier (May – Jun 2021): The remaining section of the old pier, closed in 2018 due to structural failings, will be demolished.

Construction of covered walkway (Jun 2021 – Jun 2022): A purpose-built cover over the walkway will provide safer access from the foreshore to the ferry terminal, separating commercial vehicles and pedestrians, and provide shelter from wind, rain and wave spray.

Landscape and other improvements (Jul – Sept 2022):

Improvement work on the pier, covered walkway entrance and northern breakwater will enhance pedestrian access.

Construction of rock groyne (To be confirmed):

Proposed construction of a new rock groyne on the western side of the harbour will reduce wave height, protect the ferry berth and reduce sand migration into the harbour. These works are subject to consent under the Marine and Coastal Act. Community engagement will be undertaken in the coming weeks.

Access to the harbour during works

Maintaining safe access for commercial operators, as well as fishers, boaters and pedestrians is a priority during construction. Access may be varied (but not fully restricted) to sections of the pier and groyne at times to enable safe construction, and will be communicated through onsite signage. The low landing will be closed to public access once work begins in this area. There may be some visual amenity and noise impacts.

Other works - dredging

Maintenance dredging will be conducted in the harbour during April and May 2021 to ensure safer access for water vessels. The dredged material will be placed adjacent to the harbour beach, and along Portarlington Beach. While the dredged sand may look and smell mildly unpleasant when it first comes out of the water, after a few days' exposure to the air and sun, the sand will bleach to the normal colour and lose the odour.

Further information

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