

JUNE/JULY 2024

PROJECT UPDATE



Transforming Bunbury's Waterfront



Major Contract Awarded for New Breakwater Construction

A milestone \$69.2 million contract has been awarded for the construction of a new northern breakwater at Bunbury's Casuarina Boat Harbour, clearing the way for work to start in August.

This is the largest coastal infrastructure contract ever awarded by the Department of Transport (DoT) in Western Australia. As the centrepiece of the Transforming Bunbury's Waterfront (TBW) project, the 460-metre-long breakwater will create sheltered harbour waters, underpinning the rejuvenation of the harbour as a regional hub for the marine industry and deliver a significant community asset.

The Minister Assisting the Minister for Transport, David Michael and the Minister for Regional Development, Don Punch, were both onsite with joint venture representatives Allen Zorotovic from Italia Stone Group and Wally Lukic and James Della Bona from WA Limestone Contracting, both WA based and owned companies.

The joint venture has been contracted to construct the new breakwater including a dredging campaign to prepare the foundation footprint and clear the entrance channel to the reconfigured harbour. The contract also

allows for the refurbishment of the existing beach groyne on the Koombana Bay foreshore, which could be extended as part of a possible future Koombana Bay marina.

The new breakwater will support new commercial and recreational boat pens and a service wharf and create a harbour capable of sustaining a future marine servicing precinct incorporating boat lifting, boat servicing and boat storage, plus opportunities for serviced lease sites for other marine commercial activities.

The works form part of the wider 3.1 Stage of Transforming Bunbury's Waterfront, which is supported with \$78.1 million from the State Government. Harbour manager and delivery agency DoT, is working closely with lead agency the South West Development Commission to build the new breakwater, with dredging to commence in August and construction to follow.



Minister David Michael and Minister Don Punch are pictured with Wally Lukic from WA Limestone Contracting

A State Government project



Government of Western Australia
Department of Transport



High-Level Environmental Assessment Approval Secured

The first phase of TBW Stage 3 (TBW 3.1) has been subject to environmental approvals at both State and Federal levels.

The Koombana Bay Marine Structures strategic proposal is for the construction and operation of small craft marine infrastructure in Bunbury. This strategic proposal identifies three future proposals:

- Casuarina Boat Harbour breakwater and associated marine facilities (Department of Transport - DoT)
- Koombana Bay Sailing Club (KBSC) marina
- Dolphin Discovery Centre (DDC) finger jetty.

A comprehensive environmental impact assessment was carried out to identify all potential impacts from the construction and operation of the marine-based structures proposed for the three future proposals under TBW 3.1. The detailed technical studies that have been undertaken include Benthic Communities and Habitat, Coastal Processes, Marine Environmental Quality and Marine Fauna.

A six-week public comment period was conducted as part of the environmental review from 15 May to 26 June 2023. Throughout this time the TBW project team conducted various information sessions, presentations, displays, webinars, and newsletters to provide information and be available for questions on the project.

The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) then commenced a formal detailed level of assessment set at the

level of Strategic Public Environmental Review (SPER) which included a public appeals process. A recommendation was finalised to the Minister for the Environment and approval was granted via a Ministerial Statement issued on 28 June 2024. This statement details required environmental management plans and monitoring, compliance and other mandatory conditions.

Each of the three future proposal proponents listed above (DoT, KBSC, DDC) must then seek approval from the EPA for their specific proposal, which draws from the June Ministerial Statement. The Casuarina Boat Harbour breakwater and associated marine facilities future proposal was submitted in July 2024 and achieved final approval in August 2024. Preparatory works have begun including water quality monitoring and debris clearance (where the foundation of the breakwater will be).

The EPA website details the full process undertaken for the SPER and has a comprehensive list of the studies undertaken and the conditions imposed in the Ministerial Statement.

To find out more visit:

epa.wa.gov.au/proposals/koombana-bay-marine-structures

Or the Transforming Bunbury Waterfront website for links to the EPA site

swdc.wa.gov.au/project/transforming-bunburys-waterfront



RISING TIDE

Meet the Young Engineer Steering Bunbury's Marine Breakwater Project.



Meet Megan, the Department of Transport's (DoT) Superintendent's Representative for the dredging and construction of the Northern Breakwater, who has moved to Bunbury to take on the new role.

Q: What is your job?

I work in DoT's Maritime branch. DoT has a huge role in planning, building and operating all the public small craft harbours along the WA coast from Esperance to Onslow. As part of the Project Delivery team, I am an engineer overseeing the delivery phase of our projects, from detailed design to final construction. Engineers from my team work all over WA, bringing to life coastal infrastructure that benefits the community in lots of ways.

Q: You're a coastal engineer, what is that?

Coastal engineering is a mix between civil and environmental engineering, marine science, oceanography and geomorphology. We study the interaction between the land and the ocean to understand how the coastal environment changes over time. This can include natural change, like changes in beach shape between seasons, or change resulting from man-made structures. We design solutions to issues like erosion as well as coastal infrastructure like breakwaters and boat harbours.

Q: What is your role in the Transforming Bunbury's Waterfront project?

I have been involved with TBW since 2016 when we were in the early stages of planning, design and environmental approvals.

My first involvement was managing the modelling studies to assess flushing and make sure the planned breakwater would provide enough shelter for the harbour. I managed the business case and preliminary design, and I'm now part of the project management team for the delivery phase, having relocated to Bunbury to work onsite as the Superintendent's Representative for the dredging and construction of the

breakwater. Another engineer from our team will be the Superintendent, Michael who has worked in the region previously on the Casuarina Boat Harbour (CBH) Boat Ramp upgrade and the Augusta Boat Harbour construction.

Q: Why are you relocating to Bunbury for the construction?

At DoT Maritime we plan, design and build infrastructure that we then manage, maintain and operate into the future. We want to build high quality infrastructure that is durable and meets the needs of WA's boating public for many years.

To do that well, it is really important that the knowledge of what happens during construction remains in-house. Construction in the marine environment is challenging, conditions can change quickly and a lot of what we build is underwater. We want to work with the contractor to make good, quick decisions and to do that we need to be on site and up to speed with what is happening that day.

It is also an exciting work opportunity for me personally because it is a big project with a really tangible, meaningful outcome. To be involved in the full life span of a project is really special for an engineer.

Q: What are you looking forward to about the move?

I'm really looking forward to living regional for a while and having great access to weekend camping, hiking and beach adventures in the South West. I have young children so I'm sure we'll be doing a tour of Bunbury's playgrounds, and catching up with friends that live locally.



Megan the Department of Transport Superintendent's Representative for the dredging and construction of the Northern Breakwater, at an earlier project in Bandy Creek Esperance.



Photo by Mark Locker



It's that time of the year again...

The Banded Lapwings who return each year to the Casuarina Boat Harbour are back preparing to nest, although by the time this newsletter is published we are hoping chicks are added to the family.

Multiple agencies including contractors on site are working with guidance from Birdlife Bunbury to protect the birds as they find ground and prepare to nest.

Last year three chicks were hatched on site and the birds are known to come back for multiple nestlings in one season. When birds find ground to nest, they incubate the eggs for 28 days until the chicks hatch. The chicks will then wander close to the nest, joining the two adult birds, foraging for the next two months, until they develop their flight feathers. During this time, the parents are very protective of their chicks.

We thank the public for respecting the bunting, fencing and signage in place to protect the birds. If you see

the banded lapwings or any nesting birds at this time of year, please ensure you view from a safe distance. Please do not approach the birds.

Thanks to the City of Bunbury, DevelopmentWA and the Department of Transport for working with us and the passionate Birdlife Bunbury team.

The banded lapwing (Noongar name Nidool-yorong) has a distinctive white ear stripe, a yellow eye-ring, a black cap and a small red wattle over the bill. Its upper breast is black with a white bib, the wings are grey-brown and its underbelly white. A member of the plover family, they fly with quick, clipped wing-beats - giving them the name 'lapwing'.



TBW Stage 2B Casuarina Drive Redevelopment continues with the construction of retaining walls which will comprise over 15,000 limestone blocks and will take approximately three months to build.

Sign up for our e-newsletter

www.swdc.wa.gov.au/waterfront
or email: tbw@swdc.wa.gov.au



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