



JETTY ISLAND DEMOLITION

Work to demolish the Jetty Island commenced on 25 May 2015.

The Jetty Island, which is managed by the Southern Ports Authority, 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.

Demolition contractors have completed underwater bracing of the existing piles to ensure they do not collapse. The remaining pile group will then remain part of the existing artificial dive trail that extends from the end of the main Tanker Jetty.

The next phase of the demolition is the removal of deck timbers and the remaining supporting pylons, which will be cut three metres below the low water mark.

Subject to weather conditions, the demolition will be completed in 2 to 3 weeks.

The Jetty Island is also home to approximately 30 black-faced cormorants. The demolition was planned for this time of the year as last season's nestlings were expected to have fledged and it preceded the new breeding season.

In planning for this project, the Southern Ports Authority, Port of Esperance has consulted with wildlife experts including Esperance Bird Observers' Group, BirdLife Australia, Department of Parks and Wildlife and researchers from Deakin University and Griffith University.

During the bracing process, the contractors identified that some Black-Faced Cormorants did in fact still have nestlings under and inside the jetty structure.

The Southern Ports Authority, Port of Esperance worked closely with officers from the Department of Parks and Wildlife to capture and remove the nestlings. Ten unfledged birds were placed with licenced carers within the community until the birds are mature enough to be released back into the wild.

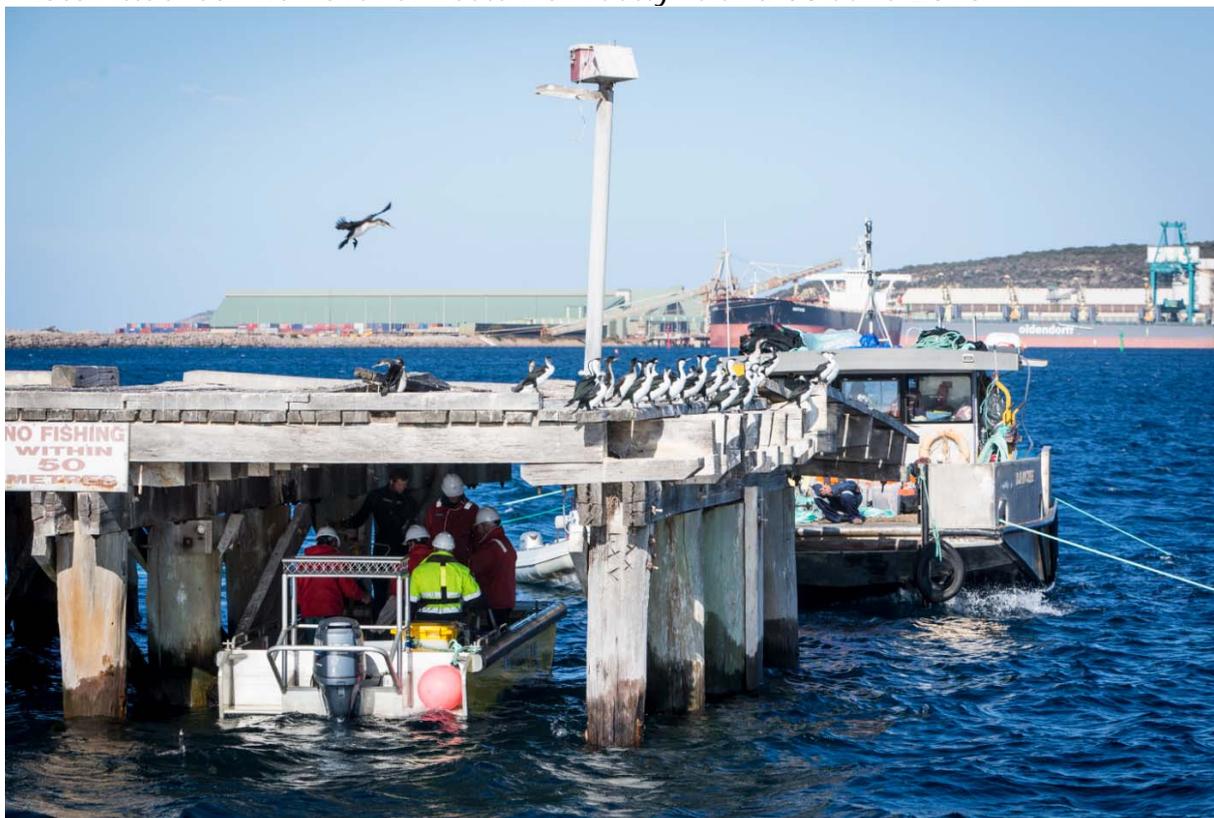
An artificial nesting platform has been installed at the end of the Port breakwater and some existing nests on the structure have been relocated to the breakwater. The new structure should accommodate up to 30 breeding pairs.

Sixteen nests were relocated from the Jetty Island to the artificial nesting platform.

Once the nestlings have fledged, they will be released to the new nesting site on the Port breakwater. This may occur in stages as the birds will not all be ready for release at the same time.

This new information about the breeding cycle of the Black-Faced Cormorants highlights the need for further research into the birds. The Southern Ports Authority, Port of Esperance will facilitate access to the new nesting site for local volunteers to conduct quarterly surveys and ongoing research into the Black-Faced Cormorants.

Photo Attached: Removal of nests from Jetty Island 03 June 2015



ENDS

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