

Media Release

The Hon Melissa Horne MP

Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation

Minister for Ports and Freight

Minister for Fishing and Boating



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MAJOR PIER UPGRADES TO CREATE JOBS AND BOOST ECONOMY

A construction blitz on piers and jetties around the state will create vital new jobs as the state rebuilds from the coronavirus pandemic and provide a long term boost to the fishing, aquaculture and tourism industries.

Minister for Ports and Freight Melissa Horne today announced a \$24 million investment from the Victorian Government's *Better Piers and Waterside Facilities* program.

Headlining the list of improvements is the \$10 million redevelopment of Altona Pier, which will revitalise the foreshore and upgrade facilities at the popular site.

Locals are being invited to help shape the new design, with three options currently being considered:

- A replacement of the pier with a similar layout and materials
- A new T-shaped pier, providing more space for recreational activities such as fishing
- A new angled pier head, maintaining proximity to the offshore artificial reefs while also providing shade and seating for water views towards the beach.

The package also includes a \$9.6 million upgrade to Portarlington Pier, which will benefit from a new covered walkway for ferry passengers, as well as a new pier head and an accessible low landing.

The deck will be widened between the shore and the low landing, while sections of the outer arm and berthing area will be reconstructed.

The new Portarlington Pier was completed in 2017 and has been a popular fishing, boating and diving spot. It's also home to 20 of the Port Phillip to Docklands ferries. The old Portarlington Pier, which closed in 2018, will be demolished.

Upgrades to the pier will support local aquaculture fishers, the ferry service and other harbour visitors, as well as creating jobs during construction.

The *Better Piers and Waterside Facilities* program also includes safety upgrades and repairs to Middle Brighton Pier, the Queenscliff South Pier lifeboat shed and the demolition of the inner section of the old Flinders Pier.

The loading area of Port Welshpool's Marginal Wharf will also be rebuilt in a boost for the local fishing industry, and there will be safety upgrades and repairs at Rye Pier, Tooradin Jetty and Portland Bay Trawler Wharf.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Ports and Freight Melissa Horne

"This work will create jobs for local workers, provide an economic injection to regional areas and see a long-term boost for the fishing, aquaculture and tourism industries as we rebuild from the coronavirus pandemic."

"This work will replace old infrastructure with newer and safer facilities so they can be enjoyed for generations to come."

"We understand how important these piers are to their local communities so it's vital for us to address the needs of residents and pier users."

Media contact: Kieran Jones 0421 031 900 | kieran.jones@minstaff.vic.gov.au