

# Media Release

**The Hon Melissa Horne MP**  
Minister for Ports and Freight  
Minister for Public Transport



Tuesday, 28 April 2020

## GEM PIER REPAIRS DURING QUIET TIMES

The Andrews Labor Government is protecting and preserving the iconic Gem Pier with repair works to ensure the pier can continue to be enjoyed for years to come.

The \$650,000 worth of works are scheduled to begin this week and will see piles beneath the pier repaired and replaced. The works are expected to take approximately eight weeks, subject to weather conditions.

Gem Pier stands as one of the most highly utilised piers in Port Phillip, with scenic views of the port and surrounding Melbourne cityscape.

Divers have already carried out the first stage of the project, repairing several piles by wrapping them with marine grade material to strengthen and protect them from the coastal environment. This second stage will see a barge remove and replace piles from the east side of the pier.

Contractors will follow advice from the Chief Health Officer to ensure they can safely continue important works during the coronavirus outbreak while protecting workers and the community.

Additional measures are being put in place on work sites across Victoria to protect staff, including increased hygiene requirements, physical distancing protocols and staggered workforce arrangements.

The pier will be closed to the public with fencing and signage in place, but the lower landing will continue to be open to service commercial ferries in operation between Williamstown, the city and St Kilda.

The funding for this project is being provided through the Better Recreational Facilities initiative and delivers on the Labor Government's promise to improve boating amenities around the Port Phillip.

### **Quotes attributable to Minister for Ports and Freight and Member for Williamstown Melissa Horne**

*"We're securing the long-term future of Gem Pier so boaters, commercial ferries and the community can continue to use it for years to come."*

*"This work is part of our plan to improve port assets and boating facilities across Port Phillip and Western Port."*