

Media Release

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



Friday, 19 June 2020

SAFEGUARDING APOLLO BAY'S FISHING FUTURE

Commercial and recreational boat owners will enjoy better access and improved safety at Apollo Bay Harbour thanks to the completion of dredging works at the popular site.

Minister for Ports and Freight Melissa Horne announced more than 72,000 cubic metres of sand has been removed from the harbour, providing a minimum depth of 3.5 metres.

In recent years sand had built up in the port, which reduced the depth of the harbour and affected the accessibility of vessels.

The dredging will provide long-term economic benefits to the Apollo Bay community by ensuring easy access for tourism operators and local fishers alike.

The sand removal paves the way for safe berthing and mooring for 40 vessels, including two berths for tourist charters.

The \$1.3 million investment from the Andrews Labor Government also included the repair of the slipway winch, which pulls boats out of the water, vital improvements to the breakwater and design work for further upgrades.

The Apollo Bay Harbour generates \$6.5 million annually for the local economy from industries such as the rock lobster export trade.

The improved infrastructure will also provide a significant boost for aquaculture operators and tourism businesses in the region.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Ports and Freight Melissa Horne

"Dredging Apollo Bay Harbour is a vital step to ensure it can continue to provide economic benefits to the local community."

"Tourism and fishing are major drivers of the Apollo Bay economy and this dredging will ensure people can continue to use the bay for years to come."

Quotes attributable to Member for Western Victoria Gayle Tierney

"We know the important role that local ports play in supporting commercial fishing and recreational activities."

"We're ensuring the harbour can be used by everyone from local fishers, to tourist charters and the Coastguard."