

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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ENHANCING SAFETY AT PORT FAIRY WHARF

The Andrews Labor Government is improving safety at the historic timber wharves in Port Fairy for boaters, fishers, and pedestrians to enjoy with critical repair works now underway.

Supporting local jobs and economic growth in the south west fishing town, the \$192,000 investment will see more than 80 timber piles repaired to ensure the safe berthing of commercial and larger vessels.

Originally built in the 1850s, the timber wharves support one of the busiest fishing ports in Victoria, with commercial fishermen using the facilities to unload their catch. The wharves also provide a place for charter operators to tie-up and board passengers, and for tourists and locals to catch the sunset.

This project has been funded through the Labor Government's *Local Ports Program*, with local ports manager the Moyne Shire Council overseeing the project with the works expected to be complete in May 2022.

Other projects funded under the Local Ports Program in the south west include the recently repaired Warrnambool Breakwater. The Labor Government invested \$250,000 in emergency funds to repair the structure after a storm caused significant damage in April 2021.

The works have restored pedestrian access to the breakwater and parapet walkway, with safety handrailing and concrete capping reinstated.

The Government is also continuing to invest in local ports across the state with further upgrades and maintenance programs such as the \$24 million *Piers and Jetties Economic Stimulus Package* to improve facilities for commercial fishers, boaters, anglers, tourists, and local communities.

Projects funded under the package include upgrades to the Portland Trawler Wharf. Works included a new \$1.2 million purpose-built pontoon and walkway, increasing space for 10 more vessels to berth, and improving safety at the important commercial fishing spot.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Ports and Freight Melissa Horne

"Port Fairy is one of Victoria's most historic port and fishing villages and these safety upgrades will ensure the vibrant maritime culture and heritage can be enjoyed by many for years to come."

"We're working to ensure a safer future for commercial and recreational vessel operators in this beloved area of the Shipwreck Coast."

Quotes attributable to Member for Western Victoria Gayle Tierney

"The wharf at Port Fairy is a hive of activity in the town and these works will ensure the structure's longevity in the decades ahead."

"With countless commercial businesses operating from the wharf, piling upgrades are vital to protecting worker safety."

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