

Media Release

The Hon Melissa Horne MP

Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation

Minister for Ports and Freight

Minister for Local Government

Minister for Suburban Development



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UPGRADE WORKS COMPLETE AT SOUTH-WEST VICTORIAN PORTS

Boaters, fishers, locals and visitors will benefit from the completion of upgrade works at much-loved ports across south-west Victoria.

Minister for Ports and Freight Melissa Horne said the works have been carried out at the historic Port Fairy wharves, Warrnambool Breakwater and Portland Trawler Wharf pontoon – to improve safety and ensure they can continue to be enjoyed well into the future.

The \$1.2 million upgrade to the Portland Trawler Wharf included the extension of the purpose-built pontoon and walkway to increase space for vessels to berth at the important commercial fishing facility.

Day to day workflow is now more efficient for operators following the works and comes as part of the Andrews Labor Government's *Building Works* economic stimulus initiative.

Crucial works to repair the Warrnambool Breakwater have also taken place – with \$297,500 in funding for new handrails and render repairs to reopen the pedestrian walkway. Further repairs to the Breakwater have been funded under the *Local Ports Program* and more render repairs will be carried out by crews in coming months.

At Port Fairy, a \$192,000 investment saw timber piles repaired and replaced to ensure the safe berthing of commercial and larger vessels.

As one of Victoria's most historic fishing ports, the works will continue to support commercial charter operators and fishing vessels loading and unloading, as well as ensure that the wharves are safer and stronger for tourists and locals to explore the vibrant maritime history of the town.

Port Fairy was also recently crowned Victoria's Top Small Tourism Town by the Victorian Tourism Industry Council.

The Labor Government is continuing to invest in local ports across the state, with \$18 million in upgrades and critical maintenance included in the *Victorian State Budget 2022-23*.

Quote attributable to Minister for Ports and Freight Melissa Horne

"We know how much boaters, fishers, locals and tourists love spending time at these ports, which is why we've carried out these critical upgrade works to boost safety and ensure sure the vibrant maritime culture and heritage can continue to be enjoyed well into the future."

Quote attributable to Member for Western Victoria Gayle Tierney

"These works will provide a huge benefit for all – improving safety and ensuring the structures at these ports remain strong for years to come."