

Port Macquarie: new fishing wharf, moorings, unloading jetty and boardwalk

The NSW Government's Coastal Infrastructure Program, Recreational Fishing Trusts and Regional Communities Development Fund have allocated \$2.8 million to build a new maritime facility at Port Macquarie.

The Hastings River Fishermen's Co-operative at Port Macquarie was demolished in October 2016. As part of the Port Macquarie Hastings Council's foreshore master plan, a new fishing wharf, moorings, unloading jetty and boardwalk will be built.

The proposed project will improve access along the foreshore and to the water, particularly for mobility-impaired people and children. The new unloading jetty will enable vehicles to drive onto it. This will include ambulances and emergency services that need to deal with incidents.

The boardwalk portion of the project will effectively form an extension to the 9 km Port Macquarie coastal walk and result in a major improvement to the section of the walk that connects the CBD retail, tourism and hospitality businesses to hotels and businesses next to the Hastings River in the Settlement City area. Figure 1 shows what the new fishing wharf, unloading jetty, moorings and boardwalk structure will look like.



Figure 1. Design drawing of the jetty and boardwalk structure

Key reasons for the works

The project is part of the council's foreshore masterplan and will enable commercial operators, in particular commercial fishers, to return to Port Macquarie to moor their vessels and unload their fishing catch directly for local markets.

It will also give better access for emergency and other services to carry out their operations in a more efficient and safe manner. At the moment, no unloading jetty or moorings exist.

Objectives

The objectives of the proposed works are to provide:

- a new public wharf for fishing and recreation activities
- a new unloading jetty to be used for commercial purposes and for emergency and other services—these include Marine Rescue, Roads and Maritime Services, Water Police, the customs service and Department of Primary Industries Fisheries
- new moorings for large commercial vessels.

Description of the works

The project will be carried out in two stages.

Stage 1 works are funded under the Coastal Infrastructure Program and the Recreational Fishing Trusts. These works will consist of realigning the existing rock revetment wall, building part of the boardwalk and completing the fishing wharf.

Stage 2 works will be funded under the Regional Communities Development Fund. These works will consist of completing the remaining unbuilt section of the boardwalk, new mooring area and unloading jetty, as well as dredging.

Figure 2 is an aerial image showing the proposed Port Macquarie marine facility. It shows the planned locations for the new fishing wharf, mooring area, unloading jetty and boardwalk.

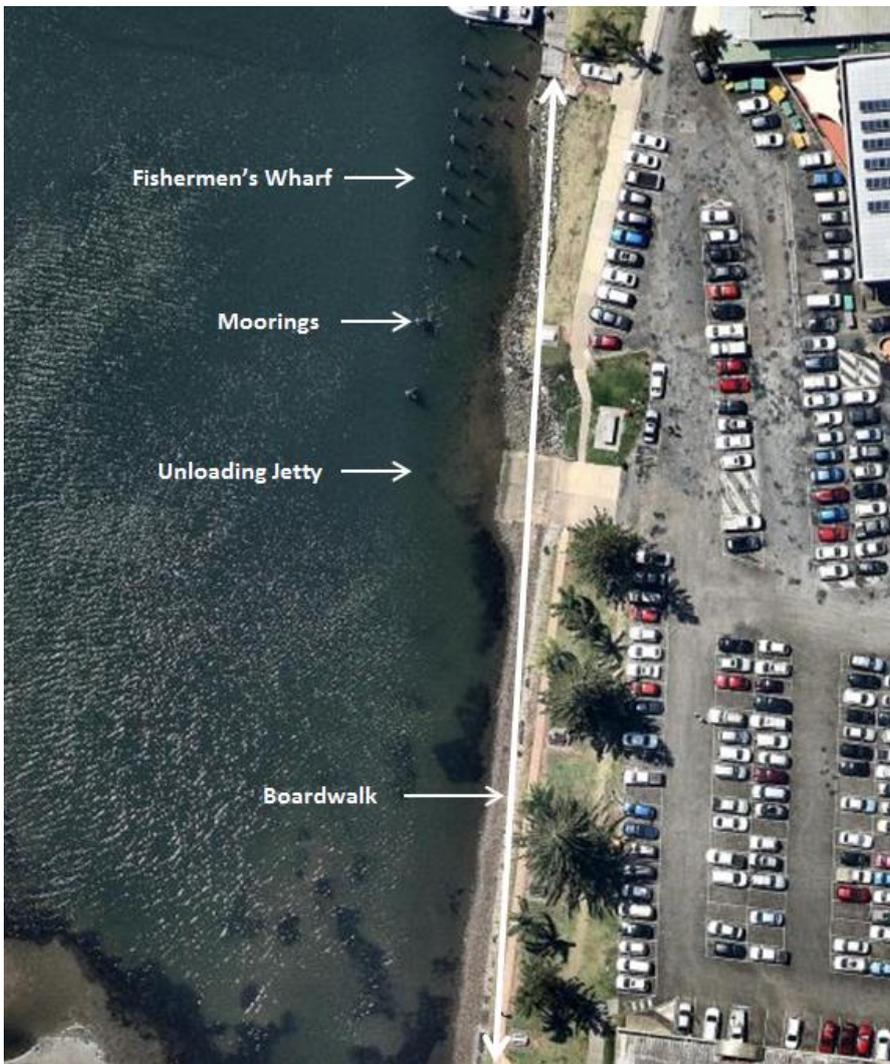


Figure 2. Aerial image of Port Macquarie marine facility area

Timing of the works

The project will go out to tender shortly, with the works expected to start in 2019.

Planned hours for the works will be:

- Monday to Friday 7 am to 6 pm
- Saturday 8 am to 1 pm.

Review of environmental factors

A review of environmental factors has been prepared for the work, looking at the following key considerations:

- Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage
- marine and terrestrial plants and animals
- sediment and water quality
- construction impacts and waste
- stakeholder consultation and social aspects

The proposed works are not considered to result in significant environmental impacts. Therefore, it is concluded that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required. The proposal is unlikely to substantially affect threatened species, populations or ecological communities or their habitats, therefore a Species Impact Statement is not required..

Coastal Infrastructure Program Funding

The NSW Government's Coastal Infrastructure Program supports commercial fishing and recreational boating through repairs to maritime assets on Crown land, such as river training walls, breakwaters and berthing and mooring facilities, as well as dredging for safe navigation.

The program aims to deliver essential maintenance and capital works, including renovations, repairs and life extension for a broad range of key coastal assets.

NSW Recreational Fishing Trusts

All money raised by the NSW Recreational Fishing Fee is placed into the Recreational Fishing Trusts and spent on improving recreational fishing in NSW.

To view previous projects funded under these programs you can visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/recreational-fishing-fee/licence-fees-at-work.

NSW Regional Communities Development Fund

The NSW Regional Communities Development Fund aims to support growing regional centres, activate local economies and improve services.

It identifies and funds projects that are highly valuable to their communities. These are projects that demonstrate high levels of local support and deliver social, economic, environmental or cultural benefits to people in regional NSW.

This fund is part of the NSW Government's \$1.6 billion Regional Growth Fund.

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