1. **Who owns the Port Welshpool Long Jetty?**

The Port Welshpool Long Jetty is a Crown asset managed under delegation by the Gippsland Ports Committee of Management.

2. **Who is on the Long Jetty Project Control Group [PCG]?**

The Long Jetty Project Control Group was established early in 2011 and includes representatives from:
- Regional Development Victoria [PCG Chair]
- Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources
- Gippsland Ports Committee of Management
- South Gippsland Shire Council – Cr Jeanette Harding, CEO and delegates
- Community - Mr Paul McPhail, Mr Trevor Buck

3. **What works will be done to restore the Jetty?**

The Port Welshpool Long Jetty Restoration project aims to ensure the retention and redevelopment of the historic and regionally iconic Long Jetty through:
- Rehabilitation of the jetty approach to the section burnt in the 2010 fire to a standard which will allow promenading and recreational fishing
- The adopted rehabilitation proposal considering the recommendations of the Conservation Management Plan
- Habitat retention around existing underwater pylons and structures
- Decreasing safety risks caused by detached debris floating into the surrounding navigation channels
- Improving jetty safety from fire and providing all abilities access by replacing the current existing wooden surface with a concrete alternative

4. **A number of studies have previously been completed in the past on the Jetty. Why did the PCG complete additional studies on the Jetty?**

Whilst a number of studies had been completed on the structural condition of the Jetty in the past, these were of varying quality and scope, relying on differing assumptions and as a result, presenting widely divergent redevelopment options and costings.

As part of the PCG’s work, Gippsland Ports asked Hyder Consulting to complete a Detailed Condition Assessment Report to validate the condition of the structure and to inform the preparation of rehabilitation options.

To ensure that the rehabilitation options and costings are well informed, Gippsland Ports also commissioned the following supplementary reports:
- Pile Integrity Report (Kina Diving)
- Conservation Management Plan (Context Ltd)
- Geotechnical Report (AS James)
- Features and Survey Report (Gippsland Ports)
- Termite Management Assessment and Plan

5. **What is the cost of the Port Welshpool Long Jetty Restoration project?**

In July 2015, Gippsland Ports estimated the cost of the project at $10.6 million.
The rehabilitation costs estimated by Gippsland Ports are based on:

- Gippsland Ports’ experience and technical expertise in the design, construction and maintenance of coastal and marine infrastructure
- The information received from the various technical experts engaged to provide input to the options and costing process
- Use of an acknowledged industry standard for assessing the condition of structural elements of bridges and similar structures
- Direction from the PCG
- Independent and expert third party review of Gippsland Ports’ cost estimates

Gippsland Ports has identified in January 2016 that an updated Condition Assessment will need to be undertaken in the coming months due to the rapid deterioration of the jetty. This assessment, due to be undertaken prior to mid-March, is likely to result in an increase to the overall project cost.

**Confirmed Funding**

To date, the following funding commitments have been made:

- A grant of $5 million from the Victorian Government has been approved for Gippsland Ports to undertake the restoration, based on the current scope identified in the Port Welshpool Long Jetty Restoration Project application and subject to Federal funding being confirmed
- $1 million committed by South Gippsland Shire Council through the Corner Inlet Tourism Development Project

In 2015, a shortfall of $4.6 million was required to meet the estimated project cost. This amount is under review and will be updated in the coming months to reflect the results of the updated Condition Assessment and increased project costs.

In addition $300,000 has previously been provided from the Victorian Government to undertake development and costings work.

6. **What is the status of a funding submission to the Commonwealth Government?**

Council has applied for the balance of funding through the Commonwealth Government’s National Stronger Regions Fund (NSRF) or equivalent four times, without success.

The most recent application to the NSRF was considered among 514 applications requesting approximately $1.47 billion in grant funding, with only 111 applications approved to a total of $295 million.

Council is considering the prospect of lodging a fifth application to round three of the NSRF, with applications closing on 15 March. Should Council decide to proceed with an application, formal support from the project proponent (Gippsland Ports) will be conditional on immediate, additional funding being provided to undertake risk mitigation works and a detailed condition assessment, which is expected to cost approximately $310,000.

Council is also seeking updated information from Gippsland Ports as to the overall project cost and is expected to consider a report at the February meeting to determine the most appropriate way forward.


**Key contact information**

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