

RESPONSE TO PETITION

Petition Number: 561, 593
Petition Sponsored by: Ms Melina Bath MP
Directed to: Minister for Ports and Freight
Tabled on: 17/10/2024

Petition Grievance:

The petition of certain citizens of the State of Victoria draws to the attention of the Legislative Council that on 1 May 2024, the Newhaven Jetty was closed to public access indefinitely and without warning. A sign was erected on the gate citing structural failures that pose a significant hazard to visitors. The jetty is an iconic, historic and well used community asset and the closure is having a detrimental social and economic impact.

Petition Action:

The petitioners therefore request that the Legislative Council call on the Government to commit to providing full funding to upgrade and fix the Newhaven Jetty and communicate a timeline for its reopening to public access.

Reply:

I thank the Member for Eastern Victoria Region and her constituents for raising this matter.

Since 2018, the Allan Labor Government has made significant investments in piers and jetties across Victoria, including over \$150 million for rebuilds and critical repairs of local port assets.

The Government is committed to implementing a long-term strategy for the future management and maintenance of our piers and jetties and is implementing the *Sustainable Local Ports Framework* to improve asset management. Given the large portfolio of maritime assets, the Government must consider competing priorities when assessing their repair and renewal. The Framework is helping us to manage, maintain, and prioritise funding for Victoria's local ports and is continuing to be further refined.

Parks Victoria, the local port manager and manager of Newhaven Jetty, acknowledges the importance of Newhaven Jetty to visitors, businesses and the local community.

As you will appreciate, when a public structure such as a jetty is found to be no longer safe for access, a swift and decisive action is required to protect public safety. Following an engineering inspection, the Government took such an action and closed the Newhaven Jetty.

The Jetty will continue to be assessed under the *Sustainable Local Ports Framework* for future investment. Decisions regarding asset investment are made through the annual budget process.

Alternate public access is available at Cowes Jetty, Rhyll Jetty and San Remo Pier.



Hon Melissa Horne MP

Minister for Casino, Gaming and Liquor Regulation
Minister for Local Government
Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Minister for Ports and Freight

