

Upgrading the northern breakwater Coffs Harbour

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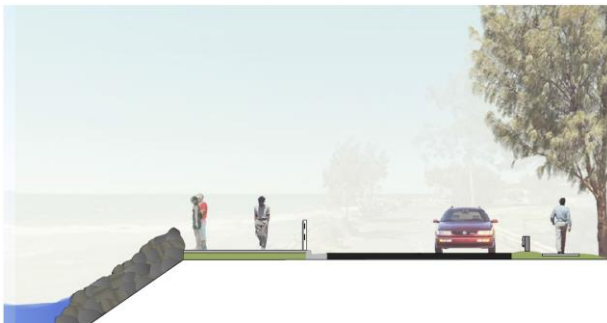
The northern breakwater at Coffs Harbour is currently subject to overtopping by large waves that can come from any direction.

When overtopping does occur, vessels and infrastructure can be impacted, lives can be put at risk and the existing breakwater damaged which requires ongoing maintenance.

The upgrade to the northern breakwater will increase the level of protection to people, property and boats at the Coffs Harbour marina by preventing waves overtopping the breakwater.

NSW Department of Primary Industries – Lands recognises that the breakwater is also an important tourism asset with more than 100,000 people using the northern breakwater to access Muttonbird Island every year.

The works to upgrade the northern breakwater are part of the NSW Government's significant investment in regional coastal infrastructure which benefits local and regional economies.



Artist impression of the north wall opposite the yacht club



Storm waves attacking the northern breakwater and marina (May 1999)

Preserving the view

A key objective of the design is not to impact on existing views.

The area adjacent to the Marina between the Fishermen's Co-operative and Muttonbird Island is subject to large waves.

The proposed use of a toe berm at the base of the existing wall along with re-armouring the batter with concrete Hanbar blocks will raise the height of the existing crest by around 0.75 metres.

The height of the Hanbars will be 0.5 - 1.5 metres above the new height of the walkway which will not impact on the views to the north from the cafes and restaurants located along Marine Drive.

This is much lower in height than the Hanbars at the eastern breakwater where overtopping from the predominant south/south-east swells coming from deeper water requires a higher wall to reduce wave impact.

The crest in the section of the breakwater from the beach to the Fishermen's Co-operative will be widened but not raised to provide additional protection and safer access.

The increased width of the breakwater wall will allow a footpath to be installed along the water's edge opposite the yacht club and along the breakwater towards the Fishermen's Co-Operative.

The increased width of the breakwater will improve public access for all users.

Walkers, surfers and fishermen as well as National Parks, customs, emergency staff and boat owners will all benefit from improved access to the marina and/or Muttonbird Island.

The Work Plan

A contract has been awarded to local company FM Glenn to manufacture 1,200 concrete blocks as part of the upgrade to the Coffs Harbour northern breakwater.

The concrete blocks that weigh 12 tonnes each are known as Hanbars and will eventually be placed along the Northern Breakwater as part of the wall upgrade.

The manufacture of the Hanbars is nearing completion at a cost \$2.5 million.

The design is being finalised with works on the breakwater scheduled to commence in early 2016.

The work proposed for the northern breakwater will be carried out in three key construction stages.

Stage 1 will extend the Marina Boardwalk along the inner face of the Coffs Harbour northern breakwater from the most eastern Marina Pontoon to Muttonbird Island to allow safe access for people during the construction stage.

Stage 2 will include provision of a new 120m long pedestrian pathway along the edge of the breakwater from Veterans Park and North Wall Beach.

The first 475m of the breakwater will be widened so that larger construction equipment can access the breakwater for Stage 3 works.

Stage 3 consists of raising the crest level over 300m, placement of a rock toe berm and concrete Hanbars on the face to reduce the frequency of wave overtopping and damage to infrastructure at the more exposed eastern end of the breakwater opposite the Marina.



Artist impression of the upgraded breakwater looking north toward Little Muttonbird Island

More information

A Community Liaison Group will be formed for this project. Expressions of Interest to join the group will be available in early October. For further information please email: Ron Main – ron.main@crowland.nsw.gov.au

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