

Coffs Harbour Northern Breakwater and harbour projects update

13 March 2017

A storm on 4 and 5 June, 2016 severely damaged the breakwater that protects the marina area as well as the marina and the boardwalk that provided pedestrian access to Muttonbird Island.

At the end of 2016, the contractor – Haslin Constructions Pty Ltd was having difficulty sourcing rock that was suitable for the breakwater upgrade.

At the same time, work was undertaken to make the breakwater safe for the public in anticipation of work recommencing at the end of January or early February this year.

To complete the upgrade the project requires 30,000 tonne of five to eight tonne rock to complete the upgrade and until recently the contractor had been unable to source a reliable supplier.

Department of Industry - Lands and NSW Public Works Advisory have been working closely together with the contractor to identify possible sources of rock for the project.

Up to thirty quarries within 390 kilometres from Coffs Harbour have been investigated for rock supply and it is anticipated that the rock supply issues will soon be resolved.

Although there have been issues with rock supply, the potential risks of damage to the marina area from wave overtopping are essentially unchanged prior to the commencement of the works.

The existing armour units along the breakwater north of the marina have not been greatly altered or modified.

Containment rock along the crest of the breakwater towards Muttonbird Island has been

removed and replaced with 12 tonne concrete Hanbars.

The placement of the Hanbars is temporary until work recommences to raise and widen the whole of the breakwater.

Access to Muttonbird Island

Coffs Harbour Northern Breakwater provides pedestrian access to Muttonbird Island, the Coffs Harbour Marina and the Coffs Harbour South Eastern Moorings.

The breakwater has been closed during the construction phase of the upgrade and as a result of the June storm, the boardwalk was destroyed which severely restricted access to Muttonbird Island.

Repairs to the Boardwalk should be completed by the end of February, allowing an alternative access to the Northern Breakwater, when work recommences in mid-April, 2017.



Coffs Harbour Northern Breakwater near Muttonbird Island. Temporary placement of 12 t Hanbars to make safe the eastern end of the Marina.

About the Northern Breakwater

The structure was built in 1924 and now protects and provides safe moorings for vessels and the built assets in the harbour precinct including the marina, retail and food outlets and local businesses such as the fisherman's co-operative.

On average, several times a year wave overtopping occurs over the northern breakwater. Depending on the severity of the storm event, damage to boats and property can occur.

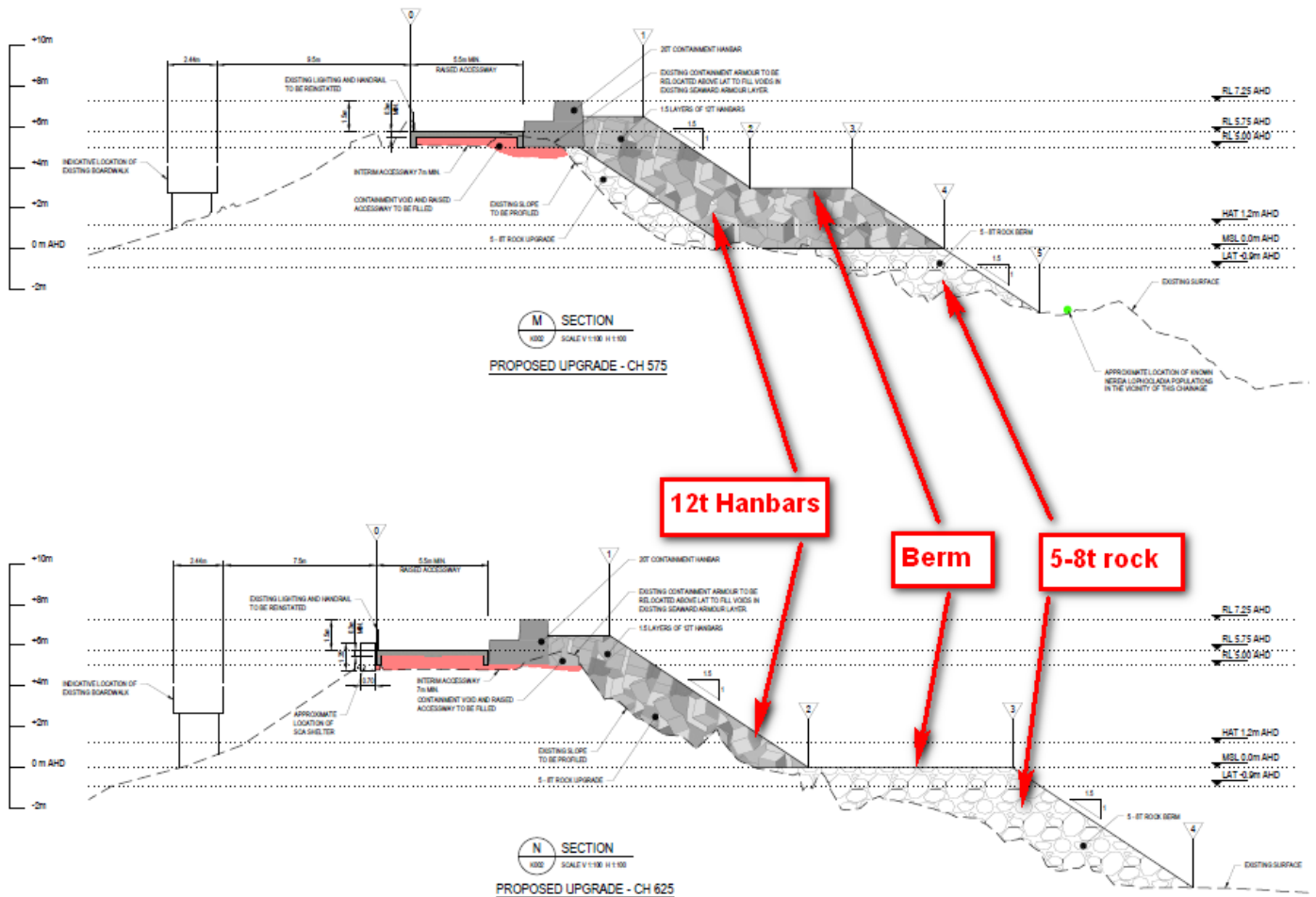
Work on the Northern Breakwater Upgrade commenced on 5 April, 2016, when a \$6.7 million contract was awarded to Haslin Constructions Pty Ltd by the Department of Industry - Lands, with Public Works Advisory providing contract supervision.

Once the upgrade is completed the breakwater will reduce the impacts and frequency of wave overtopping and will improve the level of public safety to those using the maritime infrastructure behind it.

The upgrade consists of constructing a berm (or a level shelf) of 30,000 tonnes of 5-8 tonne rock placed on the sea bed up to mean sea level, designed to take energy out of the waves.

About 7,620 tonnes of rock has already been placed at the Muttonbird Island end of the breakwater. Hanbar units (concrete blocks) were temporarily placed before Christmas to make that end safe.

In addition to the rocks being placed along the breakwater, 1,460 concrete blocks (known as Hanbars) weighing 12 tonnes each are have been cast and stored in the quarry to the south and will be placed as the berm rock is placed.



Boat Maintenance Facility

The Department of Industry – Lands is committed to the establishment of a modern and compliant boat maintenance facility at Coffs Harbour.

The development of the boat maintenance facility is a three-step process:

- Remediation of the contaminated slipway site
- Building the short-term solution (until the long-term facility is built) - now complete.
- Building the long-term facility.

After many years of use, the old slipway site had accumulated contaminated material from the hardstand area and adjoining submerged land which needed to be removed before a new boat maintenance facility could be established.

Remediation to remove contamination at the site was completed in July 2016.

Now that the contaminants have been removed from the old slipway site, a new washdown slab is currently being built as a short-term measure to allow lifting of boats until the long-term facility is operating.

The washdown area was completed in December 2016 and a short-term licence issued.

On 19 January 2017 the Department accepted handover of the new Coffs Harbour interim boat maintenance facility.

Construction of the facility was funded by Transport for NSW for the benefit of all boat owners, both commercial and recreational, who visit the port.

This facility will allow vessels up to 35 tonne to be lifted by one crane. For vessels over 35 tonnes and up to 60 tonnes, removal will be possible by two cranes in tandem.

This interim facility consists of a gravel hardstand and revetment wall built by Soil Conservation Service.

In addition, a barrier was built around the concrete wash down pad, a waste water capture system, bollards and security lighting constructed by Haslin Constructions.

North Coast Cranes have been contracted to operate the interim facility through a competitive tender process and will provide a vessel launch and retrieval service using a mobile crane with special slings to protect the hulls of vessels.

The long-term facility is currently under negotiation with a private company and the NSW Government making a significant contribution to the capital works.

Establishing a new long-term boat maintenance facility takes time as it will need to be financially and environmentally sustainable.



Boat Wash Down Facility

Public Unloading Pontoon



The pontoon is a new structure, part of the moorings upgrade project located at the western end of the inner harbour.

The floating pontoon is easily accessible to the public and its gangway connects to a timber jetty, providing better access for recreational boats to load and unload their boats before going out to sea or to the outer harbour.

The severe storm in June 2016 devastated the marina, making public access to boats difficult.

The pontoon will allow the public to access their boats while the marina is repaired and may also be used to queue boats for the adjoining short-term boat maintenance facility.

The contractor, GPM Constructions, understood the importance of the project and revised their construction program to suit the urgent need for this facility to be operational as soon as possible.

The pontoon and moorings upgrade are being funded under the Coastal Infrastructure Program administered by Department of Industry - Lands.

Marina Boardwalk

A storm on 4 and 5 June, 2016 destroyed the boardwalk that provided pedestrian access to Muttonbird Island.

Rebuilding the Boardwalk is now almost complete and access should be completed before the end of February. This will mean access to Muttonbird Island will be available when construction of the Coffs Harbour Northern Breakwater recommences in mid-April, 2017.

Muttonbird Island has been accessible over the summer holiday period, as work on the Coffs Harbour Northern Breakwater Upgrade ceased during the summer holidays.



Marina Boardwalk extension to Muttonbird Island – Boardwalk will soon provide access

More information

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