

MEDIA RELEASE

Goolwa Wharf Precinct – July Project Update

21 July 2023

The Goolwa Wharf Precinct project is underway, bringing much-needed renewal to the iconic Goolwa Wharf in South Australia. We are excited about the progress made in stage one, with a focus on the iconic Signal Point building, which involves a complete roof replacement, structural remediation, installation of new heating and cooling systems, and external painting. The Signal Point Experience Centre's contemporary story-telling exhibition has been constructed off site and is ready for installation, adding to the allure of the Precinct.

At the January 2023 Council Meeting, the Council authorised negotiations and signing of the early works contract of up to \$2.75m, out of the \$14.55m revised budget, to allow the head contractor to commence stage one focusing on the Signal Point building works and to purchase the Wharf Deck timber. Council also noted that further discussions will occur on the methodology to reconstruct the Wharf Deck and Wharf shed.

Our commitment to preserving the history of the Goolwa Wharf Precinct is evident in our collaborative efforts with Heritage SA to develop a 'heritage preservation' approach for the rebuilding of the Wharf Shed, ensuring its authenticity is retained.

Council has worked with the stage one contractor to finalise the detailed design for the further stages, undertaking field investigations, and have developed a robust construction approach for what is a very complex engineering project.

While the early works contract allowed the stage one contractor to submit quotations for the further stages, after receiving the formalised pricing, it was determined to ensure value for money and the best outcome for the community, to release the project to competitive tender process. This process is well on the way and Council is expected to receive the competitive pricing in the next couple of weeks.

Once the tender responses are evaluated, they will be presented to the Council to consider the final scope of works for the further stages of the Goolwa Wharf Precinct. Upon appointing a contractor, we anticipate the construction of the subsequent stages to take approximately 12 months, accounting for any potential weather-related delays.

As we move forward with the Goolwa Wharf Precinct redevelopment, we are now calling for Registration of Interest (ROI) from businesses, community organisations, entrepreneurs, markets, sole traders, and entertainers to help activate the Wharf's spaces and buildings. The ROI presents an excellent opportunity to secure commercial spaces within the Wharf Shed and other attractive Wharf Precinct buildings.

Alexandrina Council's Chief Executive Officer, Nigel Morris said he is pleased with the progress being made on stage one. *"Stage one of the project is going well and I've personally seen the Signal Point Experience Centre exhibition and eagerly await its installation. The exhibition is incredible, exploring the history of the Goolwa Wharf Precinct, including Ngarrindjeri connection to place, riverboat history and trade and the importance of the river system and preservation for future generations".*



“We’re dedicated to getting this important project right, and though we may be behind our anticipated schedule for the further stages, we are committed to achieving value for money and the best outcome for our community”.

“I have been keeping the Council informed of the progress and we now await the competitive tender responses for Council’s consideration”.

“Investment in the Goolwa Wharf Precinct presents an extraordinary opportunity for visionary businesses to be part of a transformative journey”.

“I’d also like to emphasise that a decision has not been made regarding the future tenants of the Wharf Shed at this stage”

“All interested parties are encouraged to submit their ideas for tenancy at one of the various ‘Precinct buildings, regardless of their scale. No idea is too big or too small.”

“Council is seeking a diverse range of tenants and aims to create an engaging and lively space within the Precinct”, said Mr Morris.

Once completed, the Goolwa Wharf Precinct project will bring Council's vision to life, transforming the area into a vibrant riverfront township enriched with culture and history.

The renewed assets, including the Wharf, Signal Point building, and the heritage-listed Wharf Shed, will provide an exceptional experience for operators, the community, and visitors alike.

Throughout the construction, access to all Goolwa Wharf Precinct businesses will be maintained, and we urge locals and visitors to continue supporting these businesses during the redevelopment.

Read more about the Goolwa Wharf Precinct Project, visit www.alexandrina.sa.gov.au/goolwawharf

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