



Flinders Chase National Park

# Kangaroo Island and Cape Jervis

Community Update - September 2023

Kangaroo Island (KI) and the Fleurieu Peninsula are key destinations for visitors and tourism. They are also important freight routes for South Australian produce including dairy, livestock, and wine.

To support economic growth in these regions, and deliver improved essential transport services, the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (the Department) is undertaking a number of key infrastructure upgrades and planning activities across the Cape Jervis area and on KI. The infrastructure upgrade projects will deliver key safety, bush fire resilience and efficiency improvements through upgrades to the ports at both Cape Jervis and Penneshaw and the KI road network.

## Ports Upgrade

The Department is upgrading the Penneshaw and Cape Jervis ports, increasing the facilities lifespan and supporting continued ferry services operating between KI and the mainland. This project is funded by the South Australian Government.

Effective, safe, and reliable port infrastructure at Cape Jervis and Penneshaw is critical to the economic success of KI. The berthing and mooring structures at Cape Jervis and Penneshaw ports form part of the essential link between KI and the mainland for cars, freight and passengers and will be upgraded as part of the project.

### Why are the upgrades needed?

The current berthing and mooring structures will no longer be fit-for-purpose having originally been designed for smaller ferries. They are also nearing the end of their service life. Currently, they present costly maintenance challenges due to corroded steelwork, worn out components as well as decreased reliability.

On completion, the upgraded ports will feature new fit-for-purpose facilities including improved berthing areas, additional navigational equipment and enhanced passenger amenities. It will facilitate an increased number of ferry services with faster turnaround times and improve safety for the new vessels and passengers, particularly during adverse weather and storms.

**This upgrade will improve safety and access for pedestrians, vehicles and the freight sector. It will support sustainable economic growth for the region.**

In delivering this upgrade, we will:

- enable continued access to the ferries throughout the construction;
- construct temporary facilities so services to and from KI can be maintained throughout construction; and
- demolish and remove the old berthing and mooring facilities and redundant infrastructure (following commissioning of new facilities).

**Major works at both Cape Jervis and Penneshaw are expected to commence in early 2024. Works are expected to be complete in early 2025.**

**We understand the vital importance of the ferry service to and from KI for residents, tourists and freight. Access to ferry services during construction will be maintained.**

dit.sa.gov.au



Government of South Australia  
Department for Infrastructure  
and Transport

# Cape Jervis Port

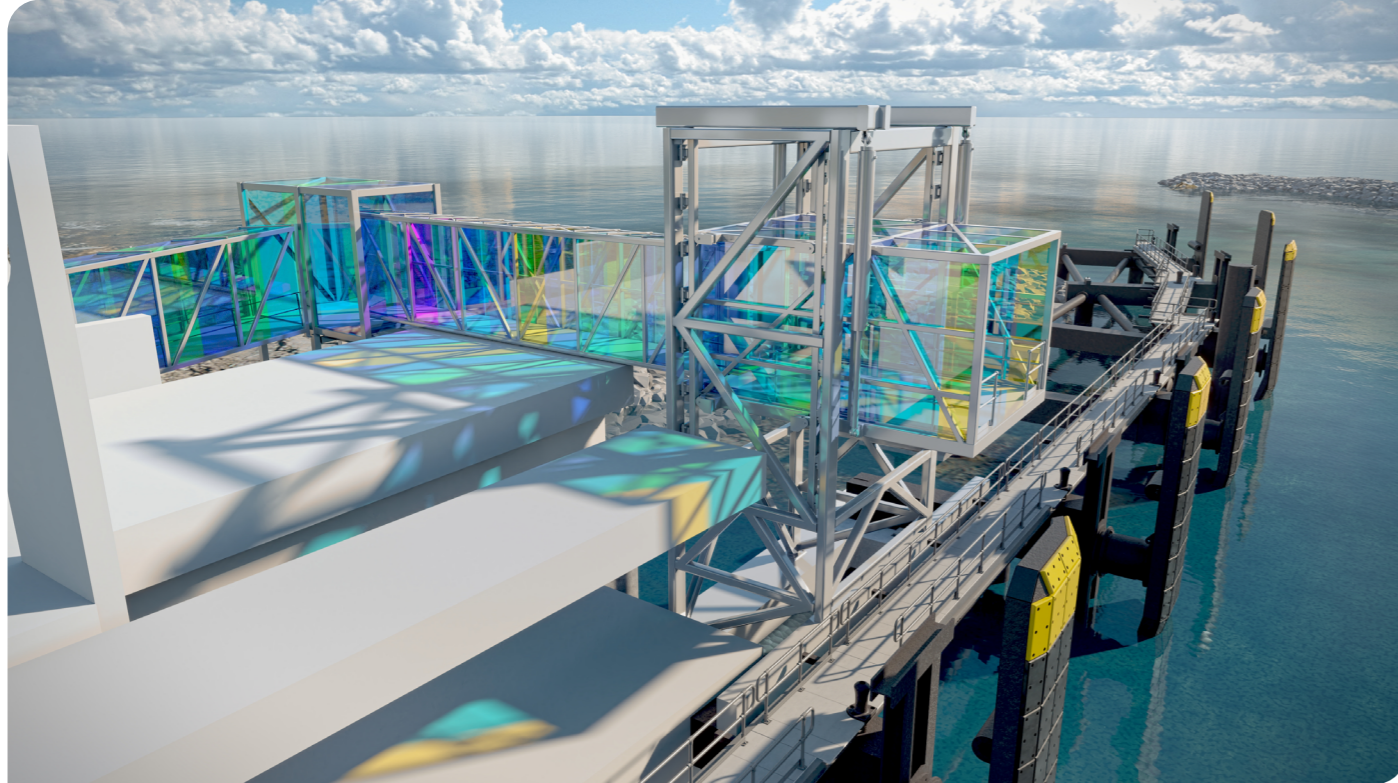


Image: Artist impression of the Cape Jervis ferry infrastructure at project completion

## Key features of the Cape Jervis port upgrade include:

- new fit for purpose berthing and mooring infrastructure to service ferry operations over a 100-year design life and minimise costly ongoing maintenance;
- construction of a new passenger bridge connecting direct to the ferry entry door, streamlining the boarding and disembarking processes. This will improve accessibility, safety as well as provide weather protected access to the ferries and facilitate quicker turnaround times;
- new navigational equipment improving safety and efficiency for navigating access into and out of the port during berthing; and
- upgraded barriers and handrails throughout the port area to increase safety for passengers and staff.

## Cape Jervis jetty removal

To safely upgrade and operate the new port facility at Cape Jervis, which will accommodate the new, larger ferry vessels and achieve faster turnaround times, unfortunately the existing public jetty at Cape Jervis cannot be retained. We appreciate some people are disappointed by this outcome.

The jetty must be demolished to accommodate the new berthing infrastructure that is required to facilitate the new ferry's operations at the port and to improve navigational safety.

The position of this jetty is very close to the navigational channel, particularly with the new ferry vessels and the increased number of ferry services with faster turnaround times. Without a suitable distance between people and an operating commercial port, there is a risk to both ferry operations and public safety. Therefore, to ensure public safety, it is not possible to construct a replacement jetty at this same location / alignment.

**We appreciate the importance of recreational fishing to the local and visiting community. Separately to this project, the Department is exploring alternative options for recreational fishing in the area. Community insights are important to help inform this planning work.**

# Penneshaw Port



Image: Artist impression of the Penneshaw ferry infrastructure at project completion

## Key features of the Penneshaw port upgrade include:

- new fit for purpose berthing and mooring infrastructure to service ferry operations over a 100-year design life and minimise ongoing maintenance;
- refurbishment and realignment of the public jetty improving safety and access for all harbour users; and
- upgraded safety barriers and handrails throughout the port area to improve safety and access for all harbour users, ferry passengers and staff, particularly through adverse weather events.

## Cruise ships and Kangaroo Island tourism

Construction activities will be carefully staged to ensure that any potential inconvenience to cruise ships and tourism activities are minimised. We will continue to work closely with key tourism stakeholders such as the South Australian Tourism Commission and the Kangaroo Island Tourism Alliance to ensure the work is delivered smoothly. We will be able to share more detail about construction staging in the coming months once the construction contractor has been selected.

Community and stakeholder engagement will be critical to the successful delivery of the Ports Upgrade project. The Department is committed to ensuring open and continuous communication throughout the construction process.

We understand the importance of staying connected with our community to answer any questions and provide regular updates. Stay up to date on the project, and register for ongoing project updates by visiting: [www.dit.sa.gov.au/KIPorts](http://www.dit.sa.gov.au/KIPorts)

# MITIGATING MARINE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The Department acknowledges the paramount importance of marine life and the environment on Kangaroo Island. Recognising the delicate balance that exists between development and environmental preservation, suitable measures will be implemented to ensure responsible construction and operation.

We are committed to safeguarding marine life and the environment by adopting sustainable practices, conducting thorough environmental assessments, selecting the most suitable construction methodologies and working closely with relevant stakeholders to mitigate any adverse effects.

We understand the significance of the Little Penguin colony at Penneshaw and how important it is that we protect this species. Mitigation measures specifically for the penguins have been identified including targeted preconstruction surveys by a qualified ecologist to determine the presence of active penguin burrows in the project area.

## Kangaroo Island Road Safety and Bushfire Resilience Package

**The Australian and South Australian governments have jointly committed \$40 million (80:20) to upgrade key arterial roads on Kangaroo Island to improve road safety and bushfire resilience.**

This project involves upgrading Hog Bay Road and the Playford Highway to establish a main arterial route along the 'backbone' of Kangaroo Island. These works will improve access from most of the western points of the island to the mainland (via Kingscote Airport and Penneshaw Ferry Terminal).

The upgrade is improving road safety and freight productivity, with works to include road widening, road rehabilitation, shoulder sealing, minor intersection improvements and installation of audio tactile line markings. The works will also improve north-south connections to the main arterial route, enhancing bushfire resilience.

Shoulder sealing works on the Playford Highway were undertaken in 2022 with works to upgrade Hog Bay Road recently commenced. All works are expected to be complete mid-to-late 2024 (weather permitting). More information about these works is available at [www.dit.sa.gov.au/KIRoads](http://www.dit.sa.gov.au/KIRoads)



## More information

For further information on works on or around Kangaroo Island and Cape Jervis, or to register for future email updates please contact us by:

- calling 1300 794 880
- emailing [DIT.Kangarooland@sa.gov.au](mailto:DIT.Kangarooland@sa.gov.au)
- visiting the project website



**Project website**  
[dit.sa.gov.au/  
Kangarooland](http://dit.sa.gov.au/Kangarooland)