

Port Augusta Wharf Upgrade

Project Update December 2025



The Port Augusta Wharf is a key historic landmark, providing a gateway to the Flinders Ranges and the Spencer Gulf. The wharf upgrade is expected to enhance safety, accessibility and economic growth in the region as well as preserve the historic waterfront for future generations to enjoy.

Project Background

The wharf was constructed in 1886 and is approximately 355 metres long. The grand size of the wharf reflects the early economic importance of Port Augusta as a crucial hub for transporting supplies including wool, copper ore and grain to various destinations around Australia and overseas.

The wharf was closed and fenced off in 2019 due to safety concerns and structural issues. Since then, there has been a high level of community and stakeholder interest in restoring and preserving the wharf.

Current Status

Investigations during 2025 have helped develop a clearer picture of the wharf's structural condition.

Historical documents, including the Conservation Management Plan and original construction drawings, were reviewed to confirm baseline information.

A geotechnical investigation completed in September 2025 identified a substantial revetment structure under the wharf (below the water line), this combined with the probability of debris from older structures likely being present, creates challenges that require further investigation.

Site observations have also found areas where the heritage wall (above the water line) has degraded, previous repairs are not performing as intended and localised bulging of the wall all need to be considered in future investigations.



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Required Additional Investigations

To develop a more detailed understanding and support design planning, further investigations are being undertaken, these include;

- Hydrographic survey – to map revetment footprint and identify underwater features affecting piling structures;
- Photogrammetry – detailed visual capture of the wall condition;
- Additional landside geotechnical work to determine the cause of wall bulging and inform design.

The photogrammetry and hydrographic survey will be completed in **December 2025**, with geotechnical drilling on the landside of the wharf taking place throughout **January and February 2026**, weather permitting.

A contractor will be engaged to perform further investigations including test piling to prove design feasibility. This work is expected to occur through to the middle of next year.

Share your stories

If you have any stories to share or historical photographs of the wharf that you would like to share, please send them to us at

DIT.Engagement@sa.gov.au.

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