



Cape Jervis and Kangaroo Island Ports Upgrade

Project Update

We're upgrading the Penneshaw and Cape Jervis ports, making trips to and from Kangaroo Island quicker and safer

Work on the port upgrades is progressing well.

Thank you for your patience and understanding while we deliver this critical infrastructure work.

On completion, the upgraded ports will feature new fit-for-purpose facilities including improved berthing areas, additional navigational equipment and enhanced passenger amenities. The upgrade 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 project update provides an overview of upcoming work, as well as important information about key temporary changes required to safely accommodate this work.



Faster turnaround times for ferries



Supporting economic growth and tourism



Better connections between Kangaroo Island and the mainland



Modern infrastructure with a 100-year lifespan



Government South Australia

Department for Infrastructure and Transport



Works update

At Cape Jervis, 14 piles have been installed which will form a stable and secure foundation for the new berthing and mooring infrastructure.

Over at Penneshaw, we have been working closely with the Kangaroo Island Tourism Alliance and South Australian Tourism Commission to ensure cruise ship tenders will continue to berth safely at Penneshaw during the port upgrade.

Tuesday 1 October 2024 marked the arrival of the first cruise ship of the 2024-2025 season at Penneshaw. The cruise ship tenders successfully berthed at the new, temporary berthing pontoon, allowing hundreds of visitors to disembark and see what Kangaroo Island has to offer.

For the duration of the upgrade works, cruise ship tenders will continue to berth at the temporary berthing pontoon which can accommodate up to two standard tenders. An accessible concrete footpath and handrail has been installed along the breakwater to allow passengers to disembark and access the harbour precinct safely.

What's next

Fenders and headstocks are being delivered to site in preparation for installation in 2025 and piling works at both locations are continuing.

14 new fenders will be installed across both sites to protect the infrastructure and the new ferries. These fenders will help stabilise ferries as they berth, and absorb impacts during berthing and mooring, helping ensure a safer, smoother experience for passengers.

Headstocks are large beams that transfer loads from the berthing vessels through to the piles below and play a vital role in maintaining the stability and strength of the new infrastructure. Our headstocks are manufactured here in South Australia, supporting local business.



Headstock at manufacturers facility in Murray Bridge, SA (left) and the finished product on site awaiting installation (right)

Cape Jervis Harbour works and boat ramp

From early January 2025, a number of critical activities will be undertaken by SeaLink to facilitate their new ferries and the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) within the Cape Jervis Harbour.

SeaLink will be undertaking extensive dredging works, construction of a new layby berth, installation of a turning dolphin to allow the new ferries to manoeuvre within the harbour, and preliminary piling works to accommodate the new vehicle ramp that will be installed in May 2025.

DIT will also utilise the boat ramp closure time to install a mooring hook pile, which will increase safety and speed up turnaround times for the future vessels.

To ensure safety of harbour users and workers while these important works are undertaken, access to the Cape Jervis boat ramp will be temporarily restricted:

- From Friday 17 January 2025 to mid March 2025 the Cape Jervis boat ramp will be closed to all users between 7pm and 6am for night works to occur in the harbour.
- There will likely be a need for some daytime boat ramp closures in the first half of 2025 for SeaLink to undertake works in preparation for the new larger ferries, and for the Department to complete Cape Jervis Port upgrade works.

The Cape Jervis boat ramp will be reopened to all users over the Australia Day long weekend.

From Friday 17 January to mid March 2025 Cape Jervis boat ramp facility users will be able to launch and retrieve vessels from the Wirrina Cove Marina at no cost.

Construction break

Our construction teams will be taking a break from major construction at both Cape Jervis and Penneshaw ports from Friday 20 December 2024 to Monday 6 January 2025. There may be some minor activity during this time so you may notice some personnel around the sites.

There will continue to be no impacts to ferry services during this time. Major works, including night works, will resume at both locations from Tuesday 7 January 2025.

We look forward to sharing more information with you in early 2025.

Further information

For more information, and to register to receive future project updates, please call us on 1300 794 880, email us at DIT.KangarooIsland@sa.gov.au or visit www.dit.sa.gov.au/KIPorts

