

The Port of Warrnambool provides a launching place for commercial and recreational fishing vessels. Warrnambool City Council manages the port on behalf of the owner, the Victorian Government.

A key component of the port includes the 19th century breakwater which is deteriorating and requires significant work to avoid excessive movement or collapse that would impact on access by commercial and recreational fishers, visitors and residents. Constructed from large concrete blocks, the breakwater provides protection for loading and unloading of commercial fishing vessels, launching and retrieving at the adjacent boat ramp and for 12 swing moorings for a number of watercraft including the Warrnambool Coastguard vessel.

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Water is being forced through gaps that have emerged between the concrete blocks and this is causing some shifting and instability of the breakwater.

Council is proposing to add rock armoury to the edge of the breakwater which will better withstand the powerful impact of the Southern Ocean. An extension or small spur at the eastern end of the breakwater will also serve to deflect some of the wave impact that can hamper boat launching and retrieval.

Council, is committed to providing safer boating facilities and in 2018 the Council adopted its Warrnambool Harbour Master Plan, which set out priorities for the upgrade of boating facilities. Repairing the breakwater will complement the recent upgrade of the boat ramp under the Better Boating Fund in 2021-22 along with a dredging program undertaken in late 2022.



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