

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated July 2021

The Department of Transport is working collaboratively with the Shire of Carnarvon, the Gascoyne Development Commission and the Carnarvon Yacht Club to deliver the Fascine Entryway and Carnarvon Boat Harbour Pen Project.

Long term strategy for Fascine access

Where will the new channel be located?

Studies so far indicate that a new channel from Pickles Point towards the entrance of the Carnarvon Boat Harbour is preferable, but needs to be confirmed with more detailed studies



When will work start on the new entrance channel?

Studies to determine the layout and finalise design of the best option are expected to finish early 2022. How soon construction can start will depend on a number of factors, including the level of environmental assessment and availability of contractors. A project timeline is available on the project website.

What will be the depth of the new entrance channel?

Target dredge depths is still to be finalised but will likely be 1.5 to 2 metres below the lowest tides (LAT).

How wide will the new channel be?

The likely width will be in the range of 20 to 30 metres. This is still to be confirmed and will be governed by Australian Standards, detailed design requirements and cost.

Where will the spoil from the new channel go?

This is still to be confirmed and depends partly on the quality of the dredged material. The area north east of Pickles Point will be considered as this has the benefit of creating new waterfront land near the boat harbour and is close to the anticipated dredging works.

Will there be future dredging requirements for the new channel?

Given the sediment dynamics of the Fascine entrance, any new channel is likely to experience some level of sedimentation and maintenance dredging is likely to be required. The design and sedimentation studies aim to limit siltation of the channel and gain an understanding of the costs associated with ongoing maintenance.

What about trailer boats that can't reliably get in and out of the Fascine entrance?

DoT will be keeping open the old boat ramp in the Carnarvon Boat Harbour. DoT is also undertaking hydrographic surveys of the Fascine entrance every three months. Channel markers will be relocated, if appropriate, after the surveys for the navigable parts of the channel. These survey results will be made available to the public on this website for vessels owners wishing to navigate the Fascine entrance. (survey downloadable on the project webpage)

Carnarvon Boat Harbour – new pens

When will the new boat pens in the Boat Harbour be available?

The aim is to have new boat pens in place by the end of 2021. However, this will in part depend on availability of contractors to complete the construction.

Will there be enough money left to open up the Fascine once the boat pens are built?

The State Government is committed to achieving a sustainable solution to the Fascine access issues.

How many boats will be able to be relocated to the new pens in the Boat Harbour?

There will be 16 new boat pens constructed.

If there is high demand for the pens how will the new pens be allocated?

Vessels will be prioritised as follows:

- Yacht Club members that pay their membership and Yacht Club pen fees.
- Vessels currently stuck within the Fascine, such as vessels on moorings.
- Any new vessels that would like a pen, including vessels currently on the DoT waiting list for a pen in the boat harbour.

If I move to the new pens, what fees will I have to pay?

There will be a temporary fee relief until a long-term strategy for Fascine access is implemented. Vessels that are currently in the boat harbour and are relocated to the new pens will keep paying their current fees. Vessels coming from the yacht club will have to maintain their yacht club membership and keep paying pen fees at the yacht club, but will have no additional fees to pay at the new pens. Other vessels would have to pay the full pen fees, in line with what vessels pay in facilities such as Exmouth.

Once a long-term solution for the Fascine is implemented, all fees will be aligned with other DoT facilities.

What conditions will be associated with having my boat in the new pens?

Penholders will be required to meet the regular conditions:

- Vessel owners need to adhere to DoT Vessel Accommodation Terms and Conditions (such as electrical, gas, insurance requirements)
- Vessel registration with DoT should be current
- The vessel owner cannot owe a pen fee debt to DoT at Carnarvon Boat Harbour or any other DoT maritime facility.

What size boat will be able to be moved to the boat harbour pens?

The pen sizes vary from 10 metres to 15 metres.

Will the new pens cause congestion for commercial operations?

The pen layout will be built according to Australian Standards. The new pens should not impede operations in the harbour.

What will I have to pay to have my boat relocated to the boat harbour?

DoT will pay for a one-off relocation of vessels within the Fascine to the Carnarvon Boat Harbour when the new pens have been completed

What services will be available for penholders? Will power and water be available?

There will be power, water, CCTV and security gates to the boat pens. No new amenity building is currently planned, to maximise the budget available for the sustainable access solution to the Fascine entrance. Yacht club members who relocate will be able to continue to use the yacht club facilities.

Can I live on board as a pen holder?

All penholders will need to follow DoT's living on board policy.

Will the new pens take money away from the Carnarvon Yacht Club?

No. Any members who relocate their vessel to the Carnarvon Boat Harbour will continue to pay their fees to the Carnarvon Yacht Club until a sustainable solution for Fascine access is implemented.

Who will use the new pens at the Carnarvon Boat Harbour after the channel is restored?

Anyone who needs a pen and adheres to the DoT Vessel Accommodation Terms and Conditions, if there are pens available. There will be a waiting list as required.