

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated March 2022

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.

Sustainable solution to 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. This is being 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 in 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 here.

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 around 30 metres. This is still be confirmed and will be governed by Australian Standards, detailed design requirements and cost.

Where will the dredged material 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 is the preferred placement area 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 regularly undertaking hydrographic surveys of the Fascine entrance. Channel markers will be relocated, if appropriate, after the surveys for the navigable parts of the channel. The latest survey results are available to the public for vessels owners wishing to navigate the Fascine entrance.

Carnarvon Boat Harbour – new pens

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

Construction of the new pens is expected to be complete in April 2022.

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

There will be a temporary fee relief until a long-term Fascine solution 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 Carnarvon 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 will pay pen fees in line with those paid at other 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. Separate to the Fascine project, DoT is replacing the public amenity building in the Carnarvon Boat Harbour, which will include facilities for pen holders. Replacement of the amenity building is funded by DoT and does not impact funding of the Fascine Entryway project.

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.