

History of Catherine Hill Bay Jetty



The jetty was used for coal loading at Catherine Hill Bay from the 1870s until the early 2000s when mining operations ceased.

The third and current iteration of the jetty was built in 1974 from concrete and steel to replace an older timber jetty damaged in a cyclone.

The current jetty was used for loading coal until early 2000s, and the last remaining part of the timber jetty extension was destroyed in a fire in 2013.

Five decades of exposure to the elements, a lack of maintenance since 2009 and the 2013 fire have contributed to the disrepair and led to irreparable corrosion.

In 2019 the jetty was transferred to the government in a significantly deteriorated condition, having reached the end of its service life.



Image courtesy of Lake Macquarie Libraries Local History Collection



Public Safety

The NSW Government has assessed the condition of the jetty and is concerned about the significant public safety risk.

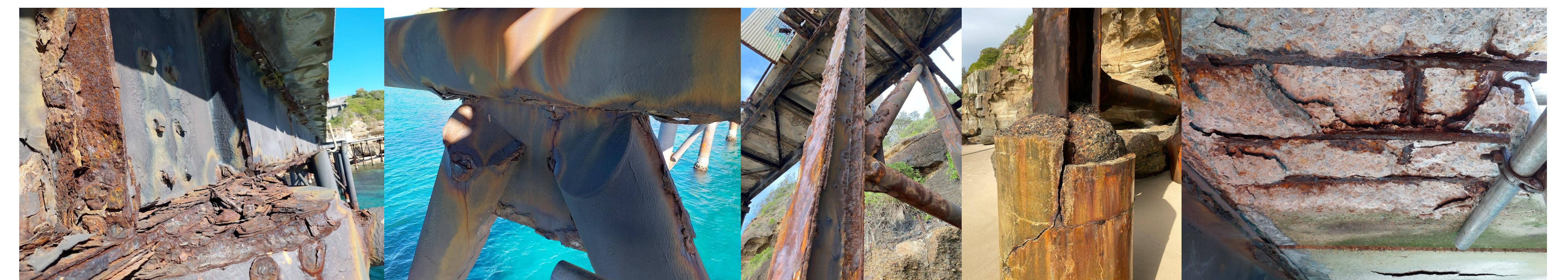
A structural condition assessment revealed significant deterioration posing serious public safety concerns.

The risk of falling debris from the jetty and its potential collapse is an unacceptable safety and environmental hazard.

The report identified three options to address this safety risk: partial demolition, full demolition or full rectification of the jetty.

The cost of building and maintaining a new jetty is prohibitive, and there is no viable future use that would support replacing it.

The NSW Government's preference is to remove the jetty to improve safety for all who use the beach.



Images from the structural condition assessment completed in 2023

The report highlighted large cracks and voids in the concrete, as well as corroded steel and bracing at risk of falling from the jetty.

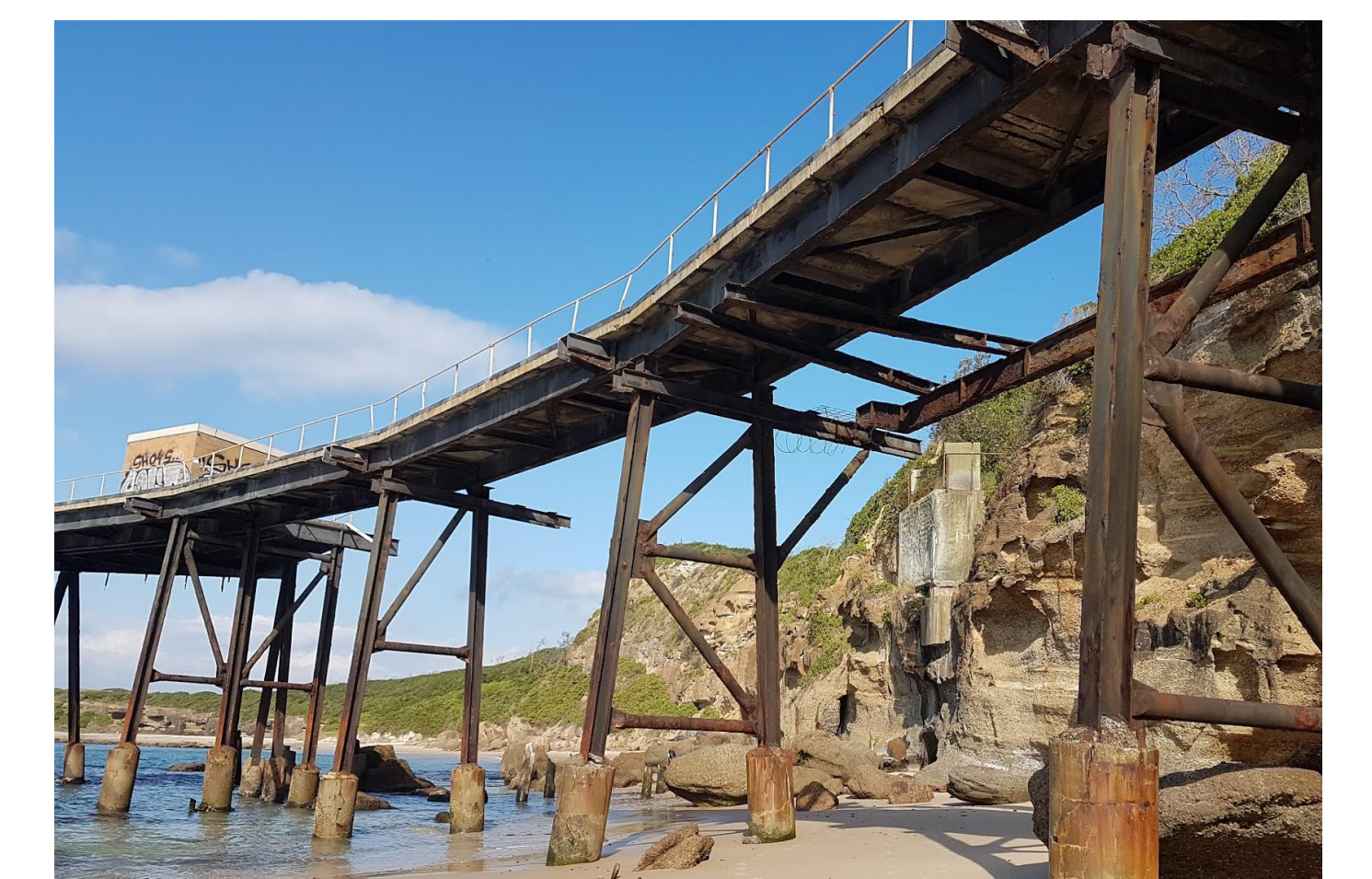
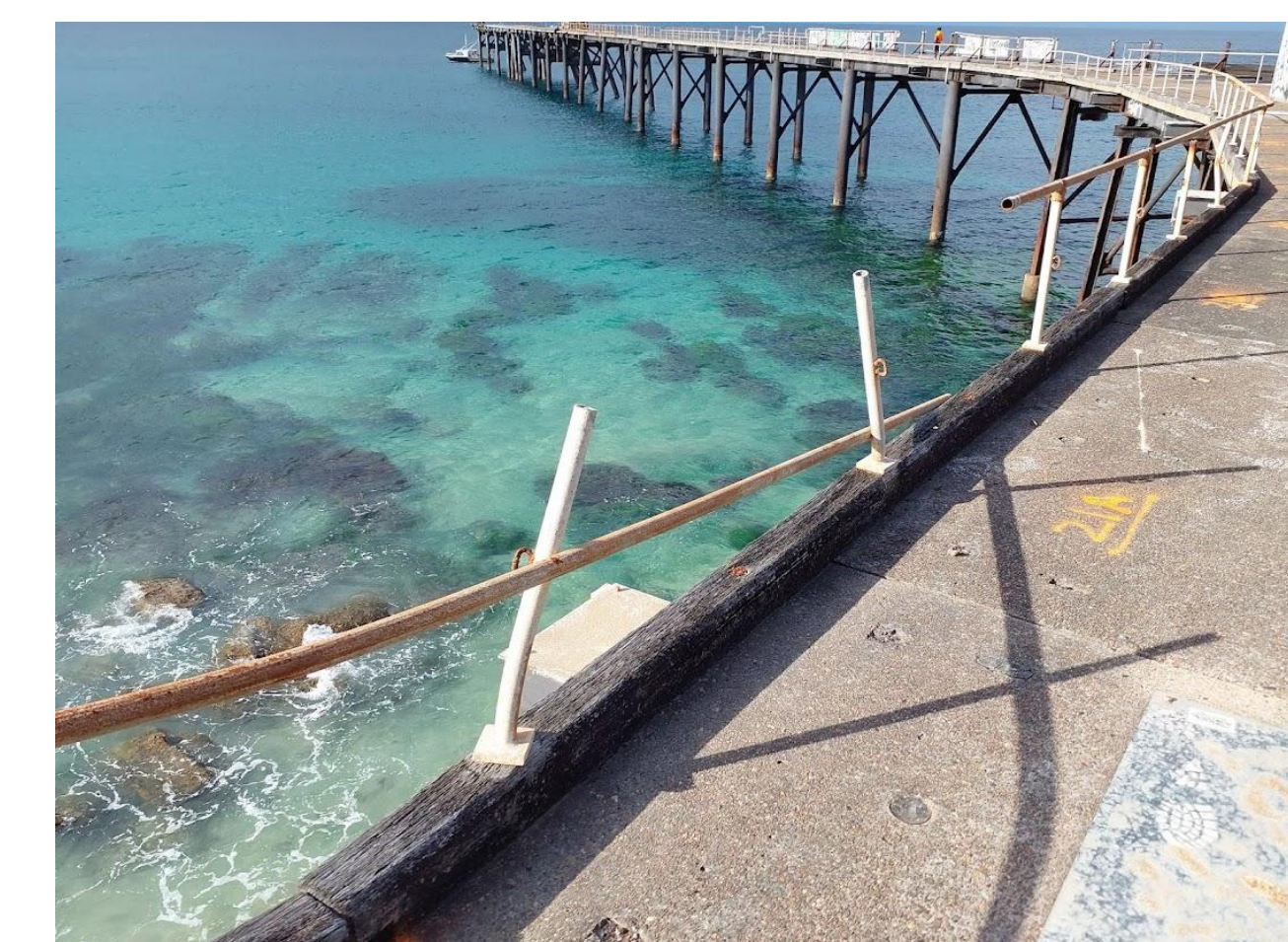
Safety

The NSW Government has spent more than \$350,000 addressing safety risks.

These measures include :

- Removing damaged beams, bracing and large pieces of steel at risk of falling from the underside of the jetty
- Removing handrails and fixings at risk of falling from the deck
- Removing the corroded support posts from the front of the retaining wall
- Ongoing upgrades to restrict access
- Condition assessments and ongoing monitoring and inspections

The NSW Government now plan to remove the jetty as a long-term solution to address the ongoing risk to public safety.



Celebrating the Catherine Hill Bay Jetty



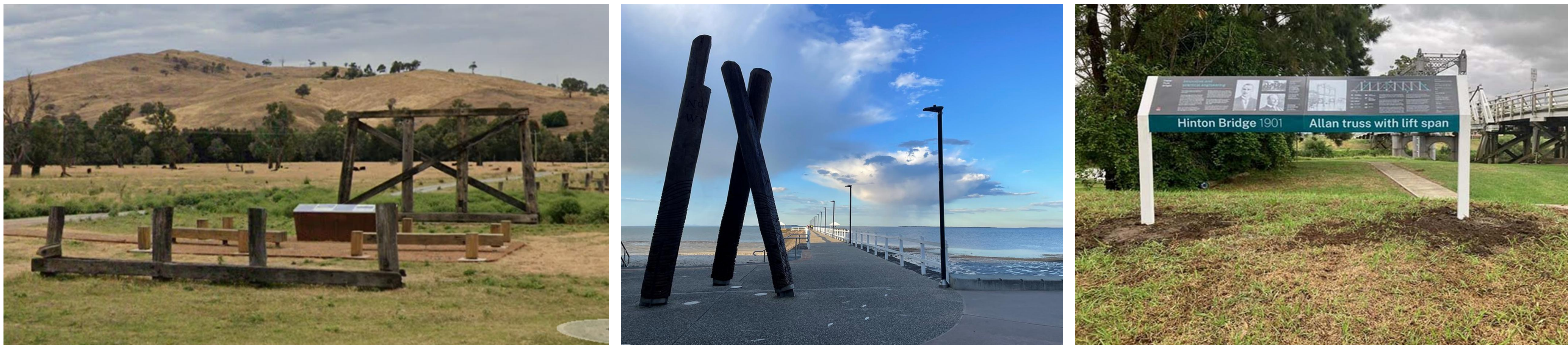
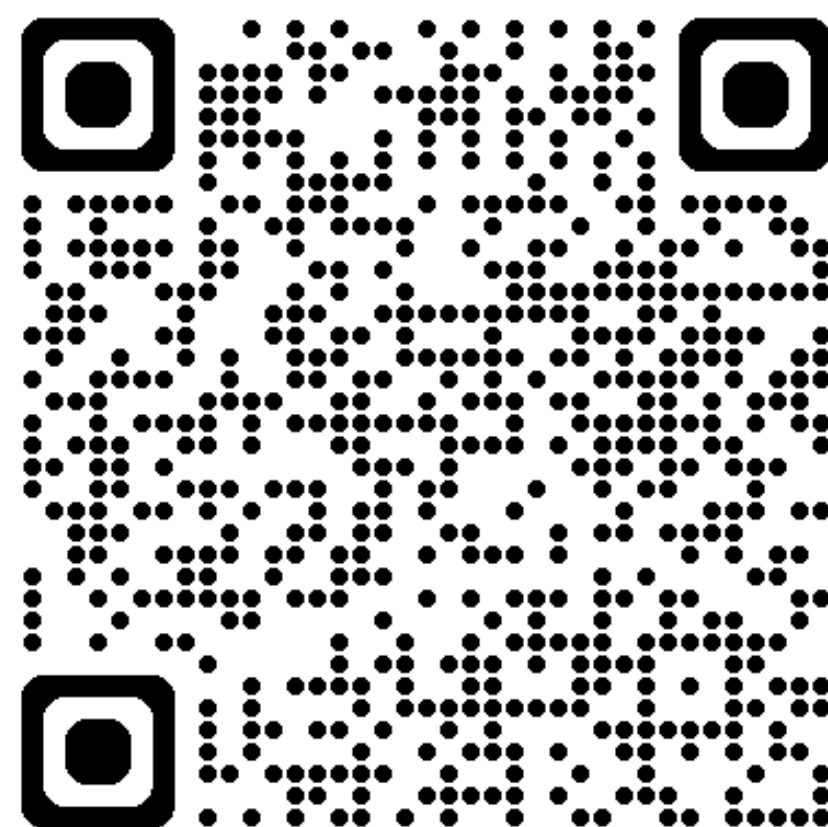
We want your feedback

The jetty played an important role in Catherine Hill Bay’s history.

The NSW Government is consulting with the local stakeholders and community members to explore ways to commemorate the jetty and its significance to the town.

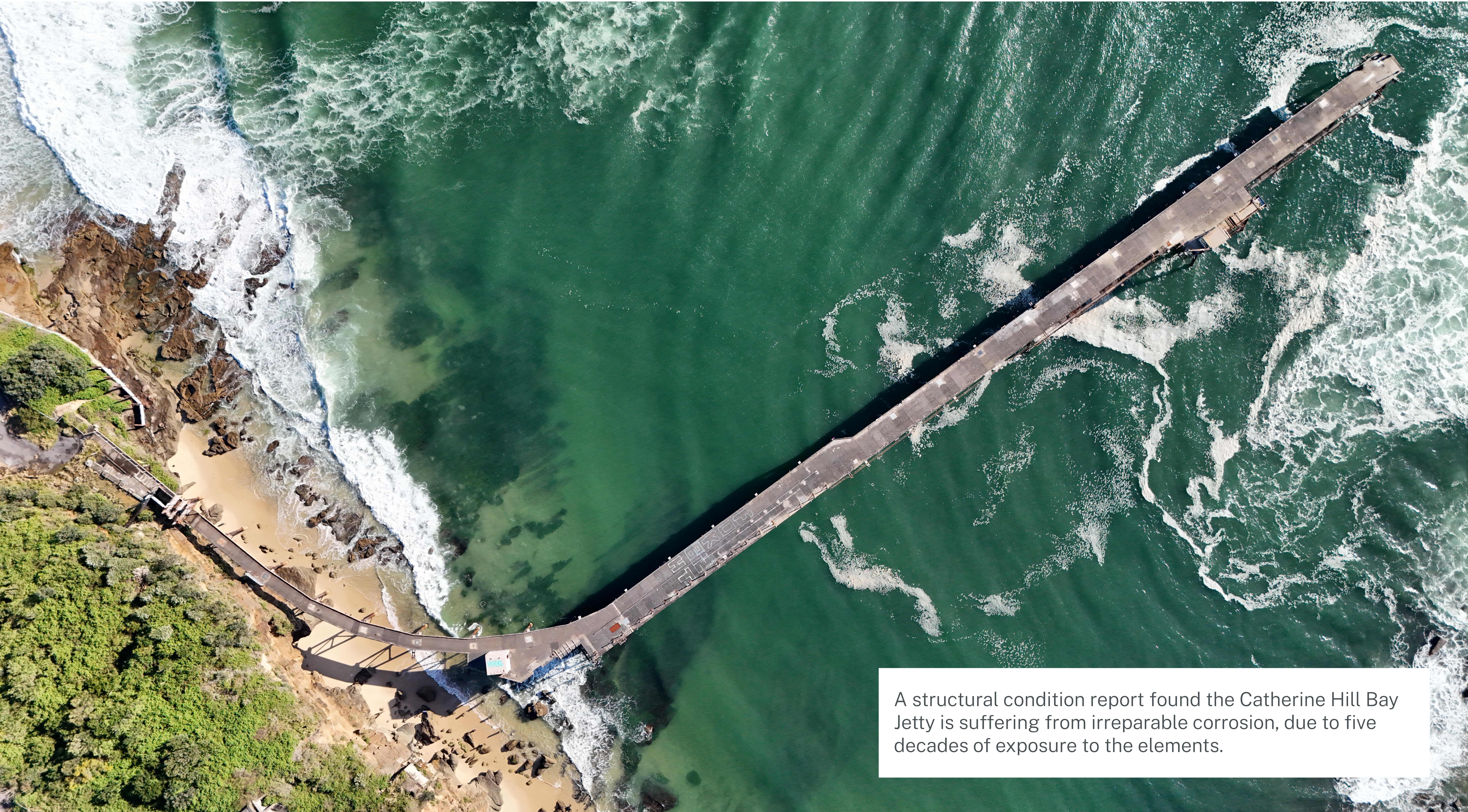
How would you like to commemorate the jetty and its role in the town’s history?

Scan the QR code to complete the survey.



Examples of memorials for old structures (from left): a landscape feature made with parts of the Gundagai Bridge in NSW, a sculpture at Wynnum Jetty in Queensland, heritage signage at Hinton Bridge in NSW

An Aerial View



A structural condition report found the Catherine Hill Bay Jetty is suffering from irreparable corrosion, due to five decades of exposure to the elements.

Next Steps



Assessments, approval and project planning

Before any work is undertaken on the jetty, we need to complete the planning approval process, confirm the best way to do the work and engage contractors.

Once we have finalised plans for the jetty, we expect to complete the planning process over the next 12–18 months, before beginning work in 2027.

We will provide regular updates to the community as the project progresses.



September 2025 to November 2025

- Engage with local stakeholders and residents to finalise plans for the jetty and explore meaningful ways to commemorate the jetty.



October 2025 to June 2026

- Specialist studies to assess potential heritage, environment and social impacts of jetty works, and ways to manage these impacts
- Prepare and submit planning application



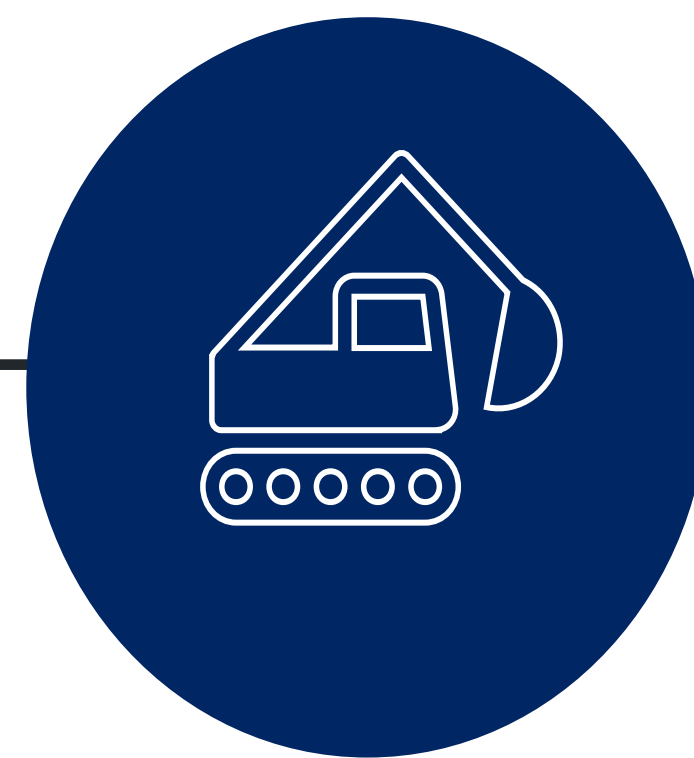
June 2026 to December 2026

- Planning application assessed



December 2026 to May 2027

- Confirm contractor and plan the work



May 2027 to October 2027

- Carry out the work

*These dates are indicative and subject to change