

Historical Fact Opossum Bay Jetty

- ❖ GBP200 provided in 1889 (52Vict.66) followed by GBP100 in 1890 (54Vict.18).
- ❖ The jetty was completed on 20 March 1890 and was 157' 6" long with an angled head 20' x 40' wide (PWD18,237,3077).
- ❖ Provision of GBP100 was made for an extension to deep water consisting of an addition of two bays to the head, Ward Brothers being the contractors. This work was completed in January 1892 (PWD18,335,4347)
- ❖ Further extension was made in 1895, length 102' x 12'. This protruded at one side of the 1890 jetty (PWD18,237,3077).
- ❖ The jetty must have been very busy to justify these frequent extension so soon after its erection.
- ❖ The jetty suffered damage in a gal in March 1896 when two piers were stressed and the piles had to be strengthened to bring 20' of the jetty back into line.
- ❖ Stays were recommended as extra supports. The surging of steamers also caused damage to the structure (Butler to Sec. PWD 24September, 1897).
- ❖ The South Arm RT could not afford these repairs (Chairman to PWD) and money was allocated (PWD18,237,2551).
- ❖ Yet another extension was made in 1899 when GBP200 was allocated (63Vict.41). The work was carried out by Wards in 1901 for GBP135-6-3 (HG12Nov.)
- ❖ This extension was not sufficiently large and the jetty was extended to 200' by Oates in September 1901(PWD18235,4366). There is no information available as to freights which necessitated these extensions.
- ❖ A landing ramp was added in July 1905 costing GBP2-11-0 (PWD161).
- ❖ Work on the approach was completed by Slattery in August 1906 at a cost of GBP48-17-6. The depth off her end at LW was 12' (Australia pilot).
- ❖ A trolley and two sets of rails were provided in 1907. One set of rails was 3'6" and the other 2'. This was a most unusual provision, other jetties having this feature being associated with mining. This may suggest that sand was exported from this jetty. The trolley and rail cost GBP80 (PWD161,18,361.4740).
- ❖ Minor repairs were made in May 1908 (PWD161).
- ❖ There are no further file references until 1920. Some repairs were carried out early in 1920 but details are missing (PWD162.2).
- ❖ A shed was built by Dean & Knop in 1935 for GBP39 (TG15Oct). The jetty was transferred to the TC in 1941(w.p.5223).
- ❖ No further repairs were recorded until June 1954 when GBP840 was spent (PWD37.8:11/12-6) but work must have been done before then. The same comment applies to the 1970 repairs, the cost and details of which are unknown (J.P.P. 19Eliz.II96).
- ❖ The files are too incomplete to calculate cost/maintenance for this jetty.
- ❖ 1-The structure was considerably modified prior to 1986 when it was shown as having a narrow neck with a large broad head facing South (PWD1986,2069).
- ❖ 2-Considerable sums were spent on the jetty in what amounted to a complete rebuild. In 1987 \$11,929 was expended, 1988 \$7,232, 1992 \$7,997 (36Eliz. II67,41 ElizII41).
- ❖ The resultant jetty had a bluestone abutment forming an approach 90' x 16' which was sealed. The jetty was 105' x 16' and of 4 bays. Extant.
- ❖ 3- Government jetty. Located immediately North of 2- beside a launching ramp. The jetty was 12 piers long x 16' wide. Extant October 1993.
- ❖ In May 2003 the jetty was declared unsafe and instructions were given for its removal. A campaign was mounted by local residents to either repair or replace the structure.
- ❖ In October 2003 the first round of government funding application had closed and \$35,000 was provided by MAST towards a replacement.
- ❖ The old jetty was removed in August 2005.
- ❖ A 52-page business proposal was presented to TCF the secure additional funding. In December 2004 a further \$250,000 was provided by the Labor Government.
- ❖ In March 2006 the jetty became an election issue. The re-elected government provided another \$250,000 to secure a maritime mile-stone; an all-new Opossum Bay Jetty.
- ❖ Work on the new jetty commenced on 26 June 2006. The first poles were driven into the ground on 26 July 2006.
- ❖ November 2006: Clarence Council widened the turning circle by 9M – MAST replaced the boat ramp.
- ❖ Lin Thorp MLC – member for Rumney, officially opened the jetty on Sunday 17 December 2006.