

Wardang Island/Waraldi Infrastructure Revitalisation Project

Project Update

Wardang Island/Waraldi is an island located 10 kilometres west of Port Victoria on the mid-west coast of Yorke Peninsula. The island itself is under the guardianship, as land holders, of the Aboriginal Lands Trust, who represent the traditional owners of the area, the Narungga people.

In February 2018 the Buthera Agreement between the South Australian Government and the Narungga people was established to assist the Narungga community in securing cultural, social and economic wellbeing.

The agreement led to the Wardang Island/Waraldi Infrastructure Revitalisation Project which included development of a boat landing facility. The opportunity then arose to collaborate with the Australian Government to address the presence of dilapidated asbestos buildings that have been on the island since the early 1900's.

This \$4.5 million project was delivered by the South Australian Government, funded in partnership with the Australian Government, and in close consultation with local Aboriginal people and communities.

The project included:

- design and construction of a new boat landing facility on Wardang Island/Waraldi.
- design and construction of an unsealed approximately 20 metre x 20 metre hard stand area.
- the removal of asbestos and demolition of 19 abandoned buildings, which were used for the mining of lime sand on the island which had been used as a flux in the smelting operations at Port Pirie during the early 1900's; and
- the construction of new building facilities to accommodate Indigenous Rangers and the local Narrunga community.

The project is envisaged to open up new economic, recreational and cultural opportunities for the local Narrunga communities.

Latest News

In May 2023, Aboriginal artworks that acknowledge significant Narungga totems, developed by local Aboriginal Artist Kevin Kropinyeri with Narungga youth from local schools (Point Pearce Aboriginal School, Maitland Area School and Maitland Lutheran School), were installed on the piles of the new boat landing facility.

Major works for the Wardang Island/Waraldi Infrastructure Revitalisation Project were completed in June 2023.



Image: Narungga interpretive artwork recently installed on the boat landing piers. Further interpretive artwork will be installed at the site in the coming months.



Multiple dilapidated buildings were situated on Wardang Island/Waraldi which were used for sand mining on the island during the 1940s and 1950s. Substantial asbestos contamination was identified in a number of these buildings which were in very poor condition and were subsequently fenced off as a precautionary measure. The removal of asbestos and demolition of the 19 abandoned buildings was completed in July 2020.

This upgrade will ensure the Narungga community can be appropriately accommodated into the future. **Construction of the new accommodation facilities commenced in May 2021, and was completed in December 2021.**



In 2007, the State Government demolished the old jetty on Wardang Island/Waraldi due to its deteriorated and unsafe condition. Since then, the only way to access the island was by beach landing which presents both a safety and practical challenge for all boat users, however were temporarily essential to get people and goods on and off the island.

The new landing facility will support the future development of the island and provide safe access to all those coming and going from the island. It is expected that the new landing facility will encourage greater access to the island, to enable sharing of knowledge and culture for all Narungga people. **Major works for the boat landing facility was completed in June 2023.**



Next Steps

Further works to install CCTV cameras and Narrunga interpretive signage works at the boat landing facility will be undertaken in the coming months. Management of the boat landing facility is intended to be handed over to the Aboriginal Lands Trust, who will be responsible for the ongoing maintenance and management of the facility.

Further Information

If you have any further enquiries, please contact DIT.Engagement@sa.gov.au or call the project team on 1300 794 880.



Image: The old Wardang Island boat landing facility, demolished in 2007 due to its deteriorating condition.



Image: A new type of composite fibre reinforced plastic grating decking was used for the jetty. The decking has an anti-slip coated surface, is yellow in colour to ensure its visibility and is designed to be low maintenance, durable and last a long life span.

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