

MAY 2008

New plaza now officially open

The Albany community celebrated an exciting milestone in March with the official opening of The Waterfront at Albany pedestrian bridge and plaza.



Signifying the completion of Stage 1 civil works, Planning and Infrastructure Minister Alannah MacTiernan officially opened the bridge, allowing the Albany community to walk its full length for the first time.

The 2,300sqm landscaped plaza was also opened, providing the Albany community with a beautified recreation area right in the centre of the Waterfront development, where they can relax after a show or meet with friends.

The bridge allows direct pedestrian access from the Albany CBD to the waterfront, ANZAC Peace Park, the Albany Visitor Centre and the start of the Bibbulmun Track.

It also offers elevated views of one of the world's most stunning natural harbours, Princess Royal Harbour.

The bridge opening on March 4 coincided with the visit by the QEII, allowing its 1,900 passengers safe access between the waterfront and the city centre.

An information marquee was open to the public following the official launch by the Minister, with many local residents and QEII visitors passing

through to view a [3D depiction of the project](#) and to ask LandCorp's project team any queries.

The \$2.6 million footbridge was previously only open between York Street and the Albany Visitor Centre while Stage 1 construction works were completed. It spans 250 metres and is nine metres in height.



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Flythrough reveals first look at project

A complete 3D vision of The Waterfront at Albany project is now available online.

The flythrough – launched at the official bridge opening in March - reveals for the first time a clear 3D depiction of what the completed development could look like.

The vision will be used to give residents, tourists and prospective developers an idea of the potential of the waterfront development, including clear vision of the possible hotel site, Albany Entertainment Centre, retail and commercial outlets and harbour precincts.

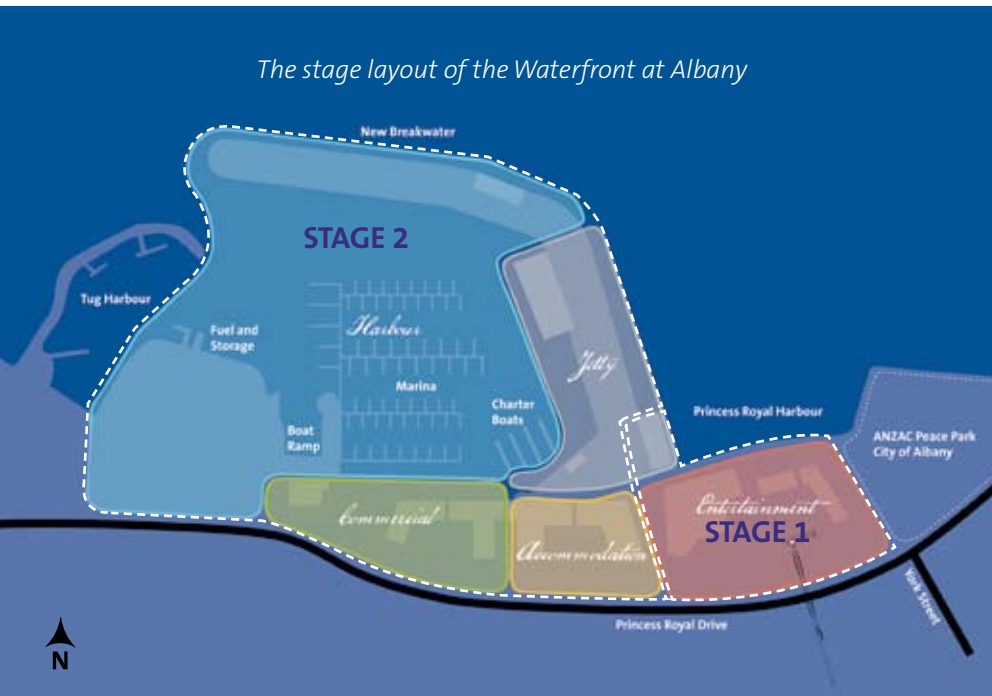
LandCorp believes the renewal of the waterfront will see Albany become a destination of choice for many travellers and deliver significant social and economic benefits to the region.



Next steps: Stage 2 works and hotel release

With Stage 1 of the Waterfront at Albany now complete, the way is now paved for Stage 2 civil works to commence shortly.

The stage layout of the Waterfront at Albany



The Waterfront hotel site and short stay facilities is scheduled for release to developers by the end of this year – which will ultimately deliver a hotel with restaurant, bar and conference facilities, along with short stay serviced apartments.

The hotel is expected to be complete by 2010/11, to coincide with the completion of the entertainment centre.

LandCorp chief executive Ross Holt said The Waterfront at Albany would transform the way the town interacts with the sea, introducing a wealth of entertainment, recreational and commercial features to the water's edge.

“We believe this will be one of the most significant development projects in Albany’s history, bringing new life to one of the world’s most stunning natural harbours”, he said.

Mr Holt said the realignment and reconstruction of Princess Royal Drive was already underway and the tender for civil works to the eastern side of the jetty (Stage 2) was expected to be advertised by the end of May.

Waterfront gains recognition from industry

The Waterfront at Albany is fast being recognised as a significant development for the State, gaining support from leading industry experts.



Real Estate Institute of WA president Rob Druitt said the Waterfront at Albany would boost tourism and the amount of people looking for a “sea change”, as well as stimulate development in the area.

“Any major infrastructure project, particularly in a premium waterfront location, will have a positive impact on the city because it adds important facilities to Albany,” Mr Druitt said.

“It’s something that has been missing in Albany - a development that really maximises that waterfront area.

“It will bring new buyers into the area that perhaps haven’t thought about Albany as a destination before, including retiring baby boomers, and that in turn will further stimulate development and have a positive impact on the overall market.”

Albany Chamber of Commerce and Industry chief executive Graham Harvey said the development would also go some way to addressing the chronic shortage of conference facilities and high-end accommodation in the city.

“The Waterfront will provide a number of facilities that are long overdue, such as the Albany Entertainment Centre, the hotel and the marina,” Mr Harvey said.

“Albany has a chronic shortage of conference facilities and upmarket accommodation, meaning Albany businesses and tourism operators are losing out on millions of dollars of revenue.”

In a study by Ray Bird and Associates, the most comprehensive study to date on the economic benefits of the Waterfront, the development is estimated to generate a cumulative total of 1,035,024 extra visitors to Albany between 2009 and 2020, bringing an estimated \$543 million to the city.

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International spotlight thrust on Albany



The Waterfront at Albany was thrust into the international spotlight recently with the seaside city now home to the inaugural Antarctica Cup Ocean Race.

The 'Antarctica Cup 2008 Challenge' is a solo non-stop sailing time trial to establish the first track record of circumnavigating the continent.

The first challenger is 56 year-old Russian adventurer Fedor Phillippovich Konyukhov, who set off from Princess Royal Harbour on Australia Day this year and returned on May 7, setting an inaugural 102 day record for the 16,400 mile circuit of Antarctica.

Fedor braved a succession of storms, freezing temperatures, the ever present threat of icebergs and

collisions with whales to be the first holder of the Antarctica Cup. Cup organiser and prominent WA builder Bob Williams said that the decision to choose Albany as the destination for the event was partly due to the new Waterfront development.

"The race is still in its early stages, however over the next 10 years I see it becoming an enormous event, with a huge influx of international visitors," Mr Williams said.

"The waterfront development, with the top level accommodation, entertainment and harbour facilities planned, will be perfectly placed to cater for tourists as the Antarctica Cup continues to grow in popularity."

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More information

For more information on the Waterfront at Albany project please visit the project's dedicated website www.albanywaterfront.com.au.

Here you'll be able to view the 3D depiction of what the waterfront could look like, investigate the development through an interactive precinct map, register your interest in development opportunities as they arise or simply just learn what each precinct could deliver.

Alternatively if you have any questions you can email albanywaterfront@landcorp.com.au or call LandCorp's Great Southern Information Line on 1300 730 245.