

Under the Bridge

When you think “Under The Bridge” do the Red Hot Chili Peppers come to mind? Well now there’s another intriguing reason to turn your mind’s eye to under the bridge.

Between mid-November 2023 and October 2024, (excluding peak times during December and early January) Westernport Water will be undertaking maintenance work on pipeline infrastructure connected to the underside of the San Remo - Phillip Island Bridge.

The pipelines are a critical part of our region’s water infrastructure. Each year they supply approximately 802.15 ML of drinking water to the Island and transport 1.38 ML of sewage from San Remo to the Wastewater Treatment Plant located in the middle of the Island.

Being in place for 30 - 50 years now, the support brackets and fittings that connect the pipelines to the underside of the bridge are deteriorating and in need of repair. Refurbishing and replacing these items now will extend the life of the pipeline for approximately thirty years.

In late November for two weeks and then from approximately mid-January 2024, you can expect to see a temporary site compound at the San Remo Foreshore. As works progress across the bridge, the site compound will relocate to Newhaven.

Suspended scaffolding will be used under the bridge so construction workers can safely access the pipes while minimising impacts to traffic. It is expected that one lane of the bridge will only be closed

approximately five times throughout the project. This will be at night and only for a few hours each time.

As a proud long-term supporter of community events, Westernport Water has worked hard to ensure business and iconic events such as the San Remo Channel Challenge are not significantly impacted.

Likewise, significant consideration has been given to reduce impacts to community and visitors. A section of the workers compound area has been designed to be opened-up on weekends and at major events to allow for greater access to the San Remo Foreshore area.

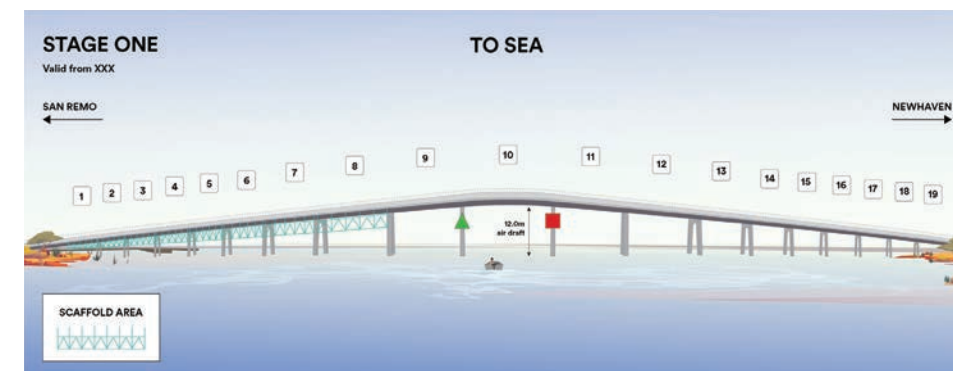
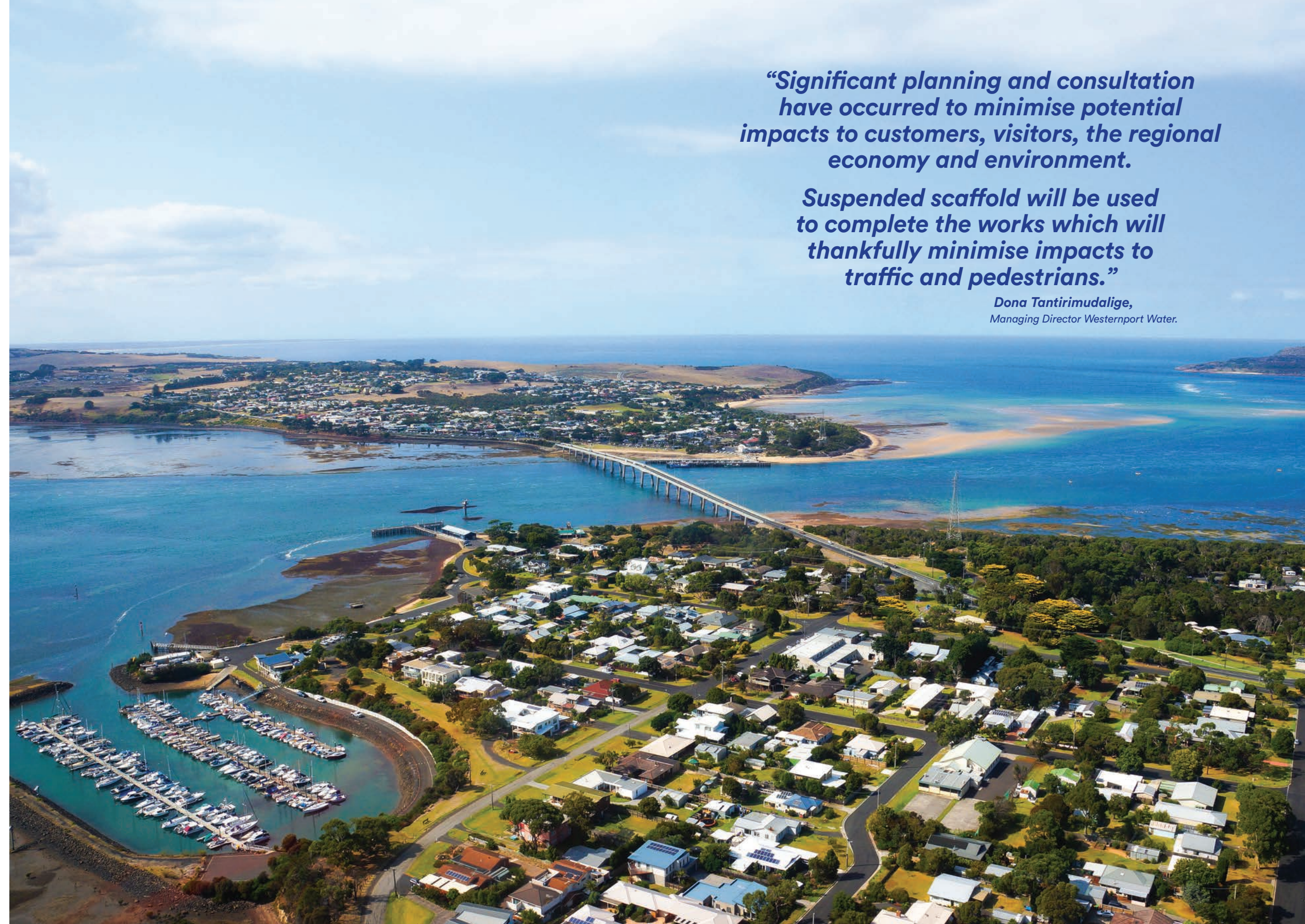
With works running over an extended period, the site of suspended scaffold under the bridge will become somewhat common place to locals and frequent visitors alike. However, in the interest of safety Westernport Water strongly urge marine, road, and pedestrian path users to observe all signage and remain alert to changing conditions in the San Remo and Newhaven areas.

This project is being delivered as part of Westernport Water’s Capital Works Program, addressing customer priorities for water quality improvements, environmentally responsible operations, and sustainable services between now and 2028.

“Significant planning and consultation have occurred to minimise potential impacts to customers, visitors, the regional economy and environment.

Suspended scaffold will be used to complete the works which will thankfully minimise impacts to traffic and pedestrians.”

Dona Tantirimudalige,
Managing Director Westernport Water.



Work will start underneath the San Remo side of the bridge and will progress to the Newhaven side of the bridge using suspended scaffolding. Project updates can be found on Westernport Water’s website westernportwater.com.au.

Q&A

Will services be impacted?

We do not anticipate any impact to water and wastewater services during the works.

How will work affect traffic?

Traffic impacts will be minimal. Vehicles can cross the bridge as usual during construction. Occasionally,

one lane may close at night for relocating marine navigational markers.

Can I still walk or ride over the bridge?

Yes. Pedestrian access will always remain open, as will the access tracks under the bridge.

Can I still drive a heavy vehicle over the bridge?

Heavy vehicle operators will

be subject to General Mass Limits (GML) whilst the scaffold is in place. A GML of 43 tonne applies to semi-trailers and a GML of 63 tonne applies to B-Doubles. Further information will be available on the Department of Transport and Planning website closer to the time that scaffold is due for installation as well as Variable Messaging Signage.

Can I still drive my boat under the bridge?

Yes, most boat users won’t be impacted by the works however, in the interest of safety please navigate through the bridge spans where there are navigational markers and no suspended scaffold overhead. One of the three centre spans will always maintain full clearance height for safe passage.