



The Hon Andrew Stoner MP
Deputy Premier of NSW
Minister for Trade and Investment
Minister for Regional Infrastructure and Services

MEDIA RELEASE

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COFFS HARBOUR BREAKWATER WORKS UNDERWAY

Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional Infrastructure & Services Andrew Stoner has announced work has begun on major repairs to the Coffs Harbour Eastern Breakwater.

Mr Stoner said the works are the first part of a \$15 million, three-year plan to restore Coffs Harbour's main defence against storms and severe weather.

"Coffs Harbour boat harbour is the only deepwater, all-weather port entrance between Port Stephens and Brisbane," Mr Stoner said.

"The eastern breakwater, referred to locally as the southern breakwater, is one of the largest in NSW and provides the main defence for the Coffs Harbour maritime industry against major storms.

"The breakwater is a key contributor to the regional economy, and it ensures land-based marina operations, commercial fishing and government services on this section of the coast are not significantly affected during major ocean storms."

The first stage in the project is the casting of additional concrete blocks to replace existing blocks that are aging or, in some cases, have been lost. A contract has been awarded to local contractor F M Glenn Pty Ltd to cast up to 740 blocks at a cost of \$2.23 million.

"The breakwater is exposed to severe weather conditions and overtopping by large waves which results in damage or loss of the concrete units and rock that form its primary armour," Mr Stoner said.

Member for Coffs Harbour Andrew Fraser welcomed news that work on the Coffs Harbour Eastern Breakwater had begun.

"It is great to see the NSW Government funding this important upgrade to our breakwater," Mr Fraser said.

The work will be restricted to the southern side of the boat harbour between the council boat ramp and the eastern breakwater, with most activity concentrated in or near the two former quarry sites. The casting contract is expected to be completed in July 2012. Next year a major contract will be let for the rebuilding of the breakwater. Public access to the eastern breakwater area may be possible during normal working hours subject to where the contractor will be casting on that day and access to the breakwater will be possible on weekends. Any enquiries relating to the project may be directed to NSW Public Works on (02) 6648 5911.