



DAVID MORRIS MP

**Member for Mornington
Shadow Minister for Finance**

Repair Mornington Pier Now!

Legislative Assembly 2016

Mr MORRIS (Mornington) - I raise a matter this evening for the Minister for Ports. It relates to Mornington pier.

The action I am seeking from the minister is that, in his capacity as the minister responsible for local ports—although in practice Mornington harbour is managed by Parks Victoria—he ensure that immediate action is taken to carry out the necessary repairs to the wave screens which have recently been dislodged from the pier and their reinstallation as a matter of urgency.

As many Members will know, Mornington Pier is located on what is probably one of the most difficult locations in Port Phillip Bay. The combination of deep water close to shore, and the highly exposed position means that the impact of any adverse weather conditions is often felt harder at Mornington than in any other location around the bay.

There has been a pier on this site for more than 160 years, and the wooden piers have needed almost constant repair.

Indeed the Brumby government reconstructed the inner section of the pier. Unfortunately there was a gross underestimation of the cost, and the project ran out of money.

That left the harbour more exposed than it had been since World War II. The wave screens that were part of the original design were not fitted, and in fact the rock that had been dumped by the US marines during World War II to protect the harbour had been removed.

In 2012 the coalition announced funding to replace the balance of the pier, and to install wave screens on both sections. The pier reopened last year and quickly regained its place as the second busiest pier in the state.

Yes, the conditions at Mornington are extreme, but the fact that they are extreme is very well known. Indeed both the port authority and Parks Victoria, which oversaw the design of the new pier and managed the works, are aware of the challenges.

There is a problem with the wave screens.

During a storm in July a number of them failed. It is not yet clear to me what caused the failure, but I understand Parks Victoria has some idea.

Whatever the cause of the failure it has taken way too long to fix. The wave screens should well and truly have been fixed by now.

Unfortunately the wild weather we had on Sunday just a little over two weeks ago did further significant damage, apparently because of the absence of the wave screens that were damaged in July.

That should not have happened. The wave screens should have been back in place, but they were not.

I understand Parks Victoria is working on the issue, but pier and harbour users simply cannot afford to wait for months and months and months. The pier is a considerable tourism asset, and of course local businesses rely on it, but more importantly the failure of the wave screens means that the harbour is now compromised. Safety is compromised under certain weather conditions.

We need the Minister for Ports to make sure the problem is fixed, and fixed as a matter of urgency.
