



**Media Statement | 20 May 2022**

## **Railway Goods Shed Redevelopment - Update**

In 2020, the City of Victor Harbor made the decision to enhance the way it delivers visitor services by consolidating the Visitor Information Centre (VIC) and SA Whale Centre. This change will see both the VIC and SA Whale Centre operating from one location – the site of the historic Railway Goods Shed on Railway Terrace.

The change to visitor services will allow for a greater investment into marketing Victor Harbor as a desirable holiday destination online, while still facilitating exceptional face-to-face visitor services provided by our passionate community volunteers. It is expected that these changes will achieve cost savings, eliminate duplication of services, increase our focus on promoting local tourism businesses and enhance digital experiences.

As part of this consolidation, significant development has been required on the existing Railway Goods Shed on Railway Terrace to ensure it can offer a modern and interpretive experience that caters to the needs of Victor Harbor's 1.2 million annual visitors.

The re-purposing of the Railway Goods Shed building has been supported by a substantial investment from the Council as well as grant funding from the Federal Government.

While Council was expecting to have the redevelopment project completed in 2021, unforeseen complexities have meant the project has taken longer than initially anticipated.

Among the challenges presented by this historic building were the discovery of termite damage and a previously unknown perched water table below the building that required significant re-engineering to accommodate a new lift shaft. Other difficulties have included supply of building materials, sourcing of trades people and Covid-19 related absences across all stakeholders.

Despite this, a significant amount of work has already been completed, and the building works continue to progress. A final completion schedule will be announced as soon as determined. Current works are focused on creating a safe environment that is accessible for all.

Visitor Services volunteers have been provided ongoing updates throughout the project, with the next Visitor Services staff and volunteers briefing planned for next Wednesday. While the project is being completed, Visitor Services staff and volunteers will continue to serve locals and visitors from the Coral Street Art Space.

The Railway Goods Shed has significant historical value and is cherished by the Victor Harbor community. This exciting project will restore and celebrate this important asset. It also complements other projects to enhance Victor Harbor's central tourist hub, including the recent redevelopment of Railway Plaza and upcoming streetscape improvements to Ocean Street/Albert Place as part of the Mainstreet Stage 4 Upgrade.