



A Sea of Discovery

MEDIA RELEASE

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AUSTRALIAN UNDERWATER DISCOVERY CENTRE BUILD

BUSSELTON Jetty's new Australian Underwater Discovery Centre (AUDC) and Food and Beverage Village construction has come in over budget.

Another victim of the pandemic construction storm, the estimated \$32m project has come in over 50% above budget this week.

Busselton Jetty Inc Chairman Barry House said it was extremely disappointing that the market had seen such a large increase in construction costs, resulting in the new forecast cost of \$49m.

"It seems like we have been hit twice, once by the impact of international and interstate borders closing for COVID and now again with massive price increases for steel, freight and labour costs."

"The AUDC was our plan to kickstart tourism again post COVID at the Busselton Jetty, to ensure that we continued to have enough money from tour ticket sales to fund ongoing Jetty maintenance," he said.

In presenting the AUDC build price, contractors Subcon have reported a 63% increase in steel, concrete and materials, a 280% increase in shipping costs and nearly 40% increase in labour costs.

Mr House said the BJI Board and senior staff would be investigating all options to see if the project could still go ahead.

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