INNER HARBOUR | March 2026

What's happening and what comes next

FULLY CLOSED - Nelson Quay Wharf

Closed to all land and sea access since 11 February 2026. Everyone, including vessel owners and berth holders, are prohibited from accessing the wharf by land or sea.

One boat ramp and nearby parking spaces remain open.

ACCESS - Meeanee Quay – Piers One & Two

Temporary access restrictions were in place from 19 February to 6 March 2026 to enable urgent remediation works to take place. Those access restrictions have now been lifted - vessels may resume normal berthing and land access is restored.

Walkways must be kept clear at all times, with no additional load or equipment added to the piers and all electrical cables tagged and tested.

What happened and why

Structural investigations completed in 2025 identified that Nelson Quay Wharf is unstable and at risk of failure. At that time, access was restricted to authorised users only. Updated health and safety advice received on 11 February 2026 required Council to fully close the wharf to everyone with immediate effect.

On 19 February 2026, updated advice also required Council to impose temporary access restrictions at Piers One and Two at Meeanee Quay while urgent remediation works are carried out. These works have now been completed and vessels can continue berthing at Meeanee Quay while Council continues to look at medium - and longer-term solutions.

There has been no change to the previously identified structural issues themselves. What has changed is the health and safety advice Council has received and our obligation to act on it. **Engineering assessments confirm there is a real risk of structural failure and, in the event of collapse, there is potential risk to life and property. Council is legally and morally obliged to act, even when it is difficult or inconvenient.**

What we've done

Since restrictions were imposed at Meeanee Quay, Council moved quickly to carry out urgent remediation works at Piers One and Two to enable vessels to continue berthing safely while longer-term solutions were progressed.

The most degraded 15-metre section of Pier One was removed, along with add-on structures that were contributing to the overall structural load. Excess weight, material and debris were cleared from both piers to further reduce loading and remove additional safety hazards.

Remedial work was completed on both the electrical and water services at the piers, with a full electrical condition assessment also carried out to establish the scope of any further work required.

In parallel, Council has been working vessel-by-vessel with the Harbour Master to develop individual relocation plans for those whose vessels remained at Nelson Quay Wharf.

We have also commissioned a qualified and experienced professional to carry out a detailed visual inspection programme covering all vessels remaining within the Nelson Quay exclusion zone.

Our commitments to you

Safety First

All closures are driven by updated health and safety advice we are legally and morally obliged to act on – even when it is difficult.

We hear you

We understand the frustration. There are no easy options, but we are moving as fast as we can to find workable solutions.

Transparency

There are some things we simply don't know yet. If we don't have an answer, we'll say so – and we'll come back as soon as we do.

Your voice matters

Boat owners, berth holders, businesses, mana whenua, and the wider community can help shape the long-term decisions we make.

Public safety is our priority

If you berth at Meeanee Quay Piers One and Two:

- **Keep walkways clear at all times**
- **Ensure piers are free from additional load or equipment**
- **Ensure all electrical cables are tagged and tested**
- **Always observe water safety practices**
- **Follow directions from the Harbour Master**

Nelson Quay Wharf remains fully closed to all land and sea access.

Please continue to share any on-the-ground safety concerns with us as they arise. This information is valuable and will be passed on to the Harbour Master and the relevant team, as appropriate.

View Inner Harbour updates at
connect.napier.govt.nz

NAPIER
CITY COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera o Ahuriri