

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/timaru-herald/news/120961799/vandalism-of-navigation-lights-at-timaru-port-put-lives-at-risk>

## Vandalism of navigation lights at Timaru port put lives at risk

Esther Ashby-Coventry 16:08, Apr 10 2020

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JOHN BISSET/STUFF

Extensive damage to navigation lights on the breakwater at the entrance to Timaru's port was estimated to cost up to \$30,000 to repair.

The vandalism of vital navigation lights on the breakwater at the entrance to Timaru's port during lockdown was "despicable" and put lives at risk, the port's boss says.

PrimePort chief executive Phil Melhopt said the solar panels and batteries were destroyed in an act of vandalism which would cost between \$20,000 and \$30,000 to repair.

Melhopt said the vandalism was discovered on Thursday evening by the port pilot as he undertook a shipping movement.

The lights were used as reference points and helped guide vessels through the channel safely.

"The low-life scum who did this are despicable interfering with safety equipment," Melhopt said.



JOHN BISSET/STUFF

Vandalism of the vital navigation lights at the entrance to Timaru's port has been described as a despicable act which put lives at risk.