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CONCERNS SALVAGE WILL BE DELAYED FOR MONTHS
Sunken eyesore in Port River

IT has already been lying in the Port River for nine months, but the New Endeavour may not surface until February next year.

Labelled an ``eyesore" and ``unsightly", the vessel's masts have been protruding from the water since it sank in February while moored at Port Adelaide.

It posed no ``serious" risk to the environment and Transport SA said it could be several more months before it was raised.

The boat - originally a tugboat called Tapir - sank while undergoing restorations.

``The owner is keen to salvage it himself and he's indicated he'll have it off the bottom by February, 2005," Transport SA senior media adviser Nicki Stewart said yesterday.

``Obviously there's a cost involved in retrieving the vessel so we've been working with him to ensure it happens. If it had been a safety hazard or damaging the environment, salvaging it would have been a priority."

The news has outraged local resident Paul Wightman.

``I can't believe it and I am amazed it has been allowed to sit there for so long," said Mr Wightman, 41, from Osborne.

``You always drive past and see it sitting there like an eyesore in the heart of the Port.

``There's no logic behind it. I'm sick of it being there and I want something done."

Port Adelaide Enfield Mayor Fiona Barr agreed ``it didn't look good" for the area.

She said no one seemed to be taking responsibility.

``The bottom line is it needs to be removed," she said. ``It doesn't look good when we're having a redevelopment down here and your boat can sink and you can just leave it there."

Environmental Protection Authority media manager Terry Clark said it looked ``unsightly" but was not causing any serious damage to the river.

``While it has got booms around it, the EPA would certainly like to see it refloated and removed from its present location," he said.

Flinders Ports marine operations general manager Carl Kavina said the boat was not an obstruction but there was a danger it could deteriorate to the extent parts broke loose.

The owner of the boat, understood to be living interstate, could not be contacted by The Advertiser. The New Endeavour has no connection with the Young Endeavour boat.

SHIP'S LOG

Originally called Tapir, the ship was built as a tugboat in the late 1950s.

In 1987, conversion of the New Endeavour into a brigantine began but was never completed.

Its displacement tonnage is 220 and it measures about 30m in length.