




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Budget, Marine Infrastructure

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy and Water Supply) (2.37 pm): The Palaszczuk government is building better boat ramps at waterways from Weipa to the Whitsunday Coast and from Burdekin to Brisbane. Queensland has an abundance of rivers, creeks, inlets and estuaries and boaties, anglers, kayakers and canoeists are set to benefit from the government's commitment to extend the Marine Infrastructure Fund. Labor is committing \$30 million extra over three years, with \$2 million brought forward to this year for a breakwater to shelter the boat ramp at Whisper Bay, Cannonvale, funded from this month.

The government will also honour previously committed boating infrastructure projects, with construction funded through to June 2016. Revamped boat ramps are ready for use now from Karumba to Currumbin. A few weeks ago, I had the pleasure of opening the new Winders Park boat ramp at Currumbin Creek on the Gold Coast.

More and more Queenslanders are heading out to enjoy themselves on the water and the launching spots need to be safe and accessible. The Marine Infrastructure Fund has set aside money to upgrade, rebuild or widen boat ramps right across Queensland during this financial year. These include building a new boat ramp and pontoon in Weipa; upgrading a pontoon at Abel Point Marina on the Whitsunday Coast; building a new floating walkway at Saunders Beach, north of Townsville; widening a boat ramp in Cairns; and a new boat ramp at Macleay Island in Moreton Bay.

There are also new projects planned at Gladstone, Daintree, Burdekin and Mission Beach. In Brisbane we will soon see new and upgraded boat ramps at Colmslie, Barungwarra Reserve at Bald Hills and at the Kedron Brook floodway. Two additional boat ramps are being built at the Townsville Recreational Boating Park and on the Sunshine Coast boaties will benefit from a new two-lane boat ramp and floating walkway on the Maroochy River. Better boating infrastructure supports Queensland's tourism industry and that is good news for the state's economy.