




Speech By
Brittany Lauga

MEMBER FOR KEPPEL

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Coorooman Creek Boat Ramp

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (2.48 pm): It is no secret that I love getting out on the water. There is nothing better than heading out in Keppel Bay, dropping a line in and, if you are lucky, hooking a big fresh Spanish mackerel or coral trout. One of the world's greatest natural wonders is just off the coastline, so it is easy to see why boating is such a popular pastime for many Keppel locals.

On Saturday, 27 February over 150 locals, representatives from Maritime Safety Queensland, the Department of Transport and Main Roads, the Queensland Water Police, Keppel Sands Coast Guard and Livingstone Shire Council joined me for the official opening of the additional two lanes at the Coorooman Creek boat ramp and for a boatie barbecue to celebrate our beautiful Coorooman Creek.

It was a great day, with many locals coming along to grab a sausage and a drink, learn about boating safety, local marine facilities and pollution reduction in our waterways. They say a bad day's fishing is better than a good day in the office, but I would have to argue that the boatie barbecue was a good day at the office, albeit a mobile one, talking about boating and fishing.

We celebrated the opening of the additional two lanes at the Coorooman Creek boat ramp, which has doubled the capacity at this very popular ramp. They say a 'reel' expert can tackle anything and the experts from Maritime Safety Queensland, Department of Transport and Main Roads, the Queensland Police Service and the Coast Guard answered questions from locals regarding boat registration, safety requirements, bag limits and much more.

With so many people getting out on the water, it is important to consult with the community about boating safety and facilities. Boating recreation is very popular in Rockhampton and Livingstone, with almost 10,000 people owning a boat, and I am one of them. No-one knows the area as well as they do. That is why it is important to get locals in the one place to discuss the community's boat infrastructure needs.

The forum follows on from the Palaszczuk government's commitment to boaties in this financial year's budget for a \$30 million Marine Infrastructure Fund over two years. The Palaszczuk government is committed to seeing boating communities have great facilities that the locals can enjoy, as well as providing a boost for local tourism. The \$551,000 upgrade to the Coorooman Creek boat ramp will allow for increased access during busy periods. During the boatie barbecue the other day the boats were lining up to get down the additional two ramps that had been opened. Many people were very excited to see those additional two lanes there.

Widening of the ramp will provide long-term benefits for the community by easing congestion and will help meet the projected demand at this popular ramp. The project has also complemented works undertaken to the boat ramp last year which included lengthening the ramp and installing a floating walkway.

Many thanks to local Central Queensland company QMC Group who carried out the works and delivered the project ahead of time. My sincere thanks goes to the Emu Park Men's Shed for running the barbecue on the day too. The Men's Shed is an outstanding local community group providing support to the men of Emu Park and the community.