




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

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ADJOURNMENT

Boyne Tannum HookUp

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (9.23 pm): I rise to speak about the recent completion of the long-awaited Boyne River mouth dredging project, which will attract more anglers to the Gladstone region. The eight-month \$1 million project was funded by the Queensland Labor government, with work undertaken by the Gladstone Ports Corporation and local contractor East Coast Maritime. It was hoped that the project would be completed in time for the 3 to 5 May Boyne Tannum HookUp, but during the opening months of the project adverse weather conditions caused significant delays. The channel is approximately one kilometre long at the mouth, 15 to 30 metres wide and one metre deep on the lowest astronomical tide.

I am pleased to tell the people of the Boyne/Tannum area that dredging work at the mouth of the Boyne River is now complete. The project started in late February and finished in early September. Ease of access, both in and out of the river mouth, will attract more visiting anglers to wet a line in our wonderful region. In the electorate of Gladstone, the southern Great Barrier Reef is right on our doorstep and for many years people had to wait until the tide was at the right height to get their boats in or out, or try sneak through on the lower tides. The clearing of the existing channel now gives boaties free access to come and go through the Boyne River, which is such a popular river system, especially for fishing registrations in the Boyne/Tannum area.

This is great news for the local area and, in particular, it is great news for the annual Boyne Tannum HookUp team. The fishing competition has now become the biggest and most popular family fishing festival in Australia and, as the local member, I am very proud to support the wonderful event. The Boyne Tannum HookUp was initially launched on 7 June 1996. For the past 23 years it has run annually, and coordinators hope it will continue as an event so that families can enjoy all that the Gladstone region has to offer as a premier fishing location.

There are some amazing statistics from this year's HookUp. There were 3,055 participants, with 734 of those being junior fishers. There were 916 participants who came from outside Gladstone, 43 from outside Queensland and four from overseas. There were 678 dead fish weighed in and 526 live fish weighed in. This year there was \$250,000 worth of prizes. Over 200 volunteers helped out over the long weekend. Ninety-nine per cent said, yes, the event was better than they expected and 95 per cent of Boyne/Tannum accommodation was booked out. Forty-three teams entered the event, with a 15 per cent increase in people attending from outside the 4680 postcode. People stayed in the electorate for an average of four nights. That is fantastic news for the Boyne/Tannum area, which is a slice of paradise that now has safe access to the southern Great Barrier Reef.