

Question on Notice

No. 537

Asked on Wednesday 3 April 2019

MR N DAMETTO ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the State Government's announcement that it has committed \$5m from the Marine Infrastructure fund to a dredging project that will deliver all-tide access to Molongle Creek—

Will the Minister advise why this project has been able to secure funding while One Mile Creek in Cardwell has been forgotten?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Hinchinbrook for the question, although I do not accept its premise.

The Marine Infrastructure Fund is a Palaszczuk Government initiative to provide new and upgraded recreational boating facilities across Queensland.

Through the Marine Infrastructure Fund and boating facility ownership by the Department of Transport and Main Roads, Queensland's large and ever-growing recreational boatie population has safer, upgraded facilities such as boat ramps, floating walkways, pontoons and dredged channels to access some of the best waterways and destinations in the country. The Palaszczuk Government funded a new floating walkway for the popular Dungeness, Lucinda boat ramp in the Member's electorate of Hinchinbrook. The facility was formally opened to popular acclaim on 26 March 2019.

The Palaszczuk Government's investment in deepening the entrance channel at Molongle Creek and taking over ownership of boat-launching facilities from the Molongle Creek Boat Club, will provide yet another public boating facility to serve the needs of Whitsunday and Burdekin boaties. I was able to hear from the locals about their concerns when I visited the area in 2017 and 2018, and am pleased that the project will improve access for residents with homes at Cape Upstart, where there is no road access owing to the steep terrain.

In relation to One Mile Creek at Cardwell (known as Port Hinchinbrook), the channels and boating facilities are not owned by the Queensland Government and, therefore, fall outside my portfolio responsibilities.

I can assure the Member that the Palaszczuk Government is committed to delivering for local residents. I visited the flood-affected areas to inspect the flood-damaged roads in February 2019.