

HAMELIN BAY BOAT RAMP, COST OF IMPROVEMENTS

93. Hon Barry House to the Minister for Housing representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage
- (1) What was the cost of recent work done on the boat ramp at Hamelin Bay?
 - (2) Is the Minister aware that the boat ramp is still very unsafe due to water rushing over the concrete section and falling away rapidly with the swell from the edge onto rocks, rendering it virtually unusable?
 - (3) What further work will be done to remedy this dangerous and unsatisfactory situation?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

1. The cost of the work done in November 2000 was \$20 000.
2. The problems caused by the seawater rushing over the concrete section of the boat ramp are the same as when the section was a timber ramp. The improvements to the boat ramp enable it to be used more often throughout the year. The design and method of installation of the replacement boat ramp section was done to specifications provided by the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River.

The improvement works were not designed to facilitate use of the boat ramp during rough sea or large swell conditions, ie conditions that cause seawater to rush over the boat ramp. Large swells make it unsafe to launch or retrieve a boat at the boat ramp during these periods. Boating in the bay is dangerous as well during these conditions.
3. A walkway situated adjacent to and abutting the boat ramp would improve pedestrian access and safety in launching and retrieving boats. A breakwater or artificial reef would be required to reduce the impact of swells and rough sea conditions on the boat ramp and depositing seaweed debris.

If these works were approved, it would be very costly and require technical expertise to implement.