

CARNARVON BOAT RAMP — COMMENTS OF SHIRE PRESIDENT

866. Hon JOCK FERGUSON to the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the public comments made by the Carnarvon shire president that the Carnarvon boat ramp is woefully inadequate.

- (1) Does the minister agree with those comments?
- (2) If yes to (1), what does the minister intend to do about it?
- (3) If no to (1), why not?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question. Before I give my formal answer it would have been helpful if the member had identified the occasion in the context in which the comment was purportedly made. That might have assisted in understanding the question. In any event, I can provide the member with an answer to his three questions.

- (1)-(3) As the member might be aware there are two public boat ramps in the town of Carnarvon. One is located in the boat harbour and the other at Pickles Point. Both provide valuable access points for recreational boating in the region. Indeed, Hon Ken Baston and I inspected them very recently.

The ramp at Pickles Point is managed by the Shire of Carnarvon, which is planning to upgrade it. It is essentially a shallow water ramp, although a boat holding jetty is now planned to assist access. Funding assistance is being provided to the shire for the upgrade, via the state's recreational boating facilities scheme.

The ramp in the harbour is managed by the Department of Transport and it provides deeper water access. The ramp is currently incorporated in an expression of interest process for the greater development of the fascine waterfront land. The EOI submissions have been received and are being assessed. In the meantime, I can advise the honourable member that the Department of Transport will continue to maintain access at the existing ramp in the boat harbour.