

AUGUSTA — BOAT HARBOUR PROPOSAL — MINISTER'S ANSWER

5006. Hon Adele Farina to the Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Transport

I refer to the Minister's answer to my question on notice No. 4014, and ask —

- (1) Does the Minister understand the concept of Ministerial responsibility?
- (2) Does the Minister agree that under our parliamentary system, it is the role of the Parliament to scrutinise and review the Executive?
- (3) Does the Minister agree that one way of doing this is by Members of Parliament asking Ministers questions?
- (4) In view of the foregoing, does the Minister agree that it is not appropriate for a Minister to refer a member to a media statement rather than provide the information sought by the Member in answer to the Member's parliamentary question?
- (5) What portion of the funding allocated to the project is —
  - (a) Royalties for Regions funding; and
  - (b) Department of Transport funding?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

The Minister for Transport advises:

(1)–(3) Yes

(4) Question on Notice 4014 referred the Member to the following media statement from the Premier on the 2nd of August 2011:

The State Government today unveiled plans for a new \$25million boat harbour at Augusta, with construction due to start later this year.

Premier Colin Barnett said the harbour, to be built at Flat Rock in Flinders Bay, would provide much-needed, safe direct ocean access for recreational and commercial craft between Busselton and Albany.

“The harbour will service the region's commercial and tourism fleets while providing a regional and State destination point for the ever increasing recreational boating sector,” Mr Barnett said.

“There is an urgent need for a sheltered harbour at Augusta as navigation of the shallow ocean entrance to the commercial boating facility in the Blackwood River is increasingly difficult and prevailing winds and strong ocean currents make launching from the coast unsafe.”

The project, funded through the Royalties for Regions program, includes the construction of two breakwaters to create a protected harbour basin featuring four boat launching ramps, boat holding jetties, a fixed 40-metre service jetty and associated facilities including at least 160 car/trailer parking bays and 90 car-only parking bays.

Further stages of development may include the provision of up to 50 boat pens and commercial development opportunities.

The Premier said the project would provide flow-on benefits to local community.

“This is great news for local business operators and the general Augusta community, Mr Barnett said.

“The new harbour is of particular importance to the existing whale watching and fishing industries, which are currently limited by lack of access to safe landing jetties.

“The project delivers on the State Government's commitment to provide improved boating infrastructure throughout Western Australia.”

In the 2011–12 State Budget, \$68million was allocated to enhance recreational boating facilities across regional WA.

“I'd also like to commend the Shire of Augusta–Margaret River for its work in ensuring the success of this project,” the Premier said.

(5) (a)–(b) 100 per cent funded by the State Governments Royalties for Regions program..