

**RECREATION BOATING FACILITIES SCHEME**

*Statement by Minister Assisting the Minister for Transport*

**MR D.R. MICHAEL (Balcatta — Minister Assisting the Minister for Transport)** [9.15 am]: I am pleased to advise the house that several projects from Wyndham to Esperance were successful in securing funding through the latest round of the recreation boating facilities scheme. The RBFS was established in 1998 to assist the planning and development of public boating facilities, including upgrades to existing infrastructure. The latest round was announced in December and will see the majority of the \$2.73 million allocation spent on boat ramp upgrades. These include, member for Rockingham, a refurbishment at Palm Beach west within the City of Rockingham that will see the installation of a new boat ramp and jetty with improved vehicle turning, signage, lighting and universal access paths; replacement of the northern boat ramp at the Wyndham boat launching facility; improvements to the Denham boat ramp and jetty that will increase the overall length of the boat ramp; and replacement of the boat ramp fixed finger jetty with a floating pontoon at the Bandy Creek boat harbour in Esperance.

Funding has also been provided to three local government authorities for a range of studies to improve boat launching activities: the Shire of Ravensthorpe to assess the suitability of boat launching at Hopetoun main beach, Mason Bay and Starvation Bay; the Shire of Derby–West Kimberley, members of which were in the building yesterday, to resolve tidal and siltation issues at the Derby recreational and emergency sea rescue boat ramps; and the Shire of Murray for engineering drawings and a costing estimate for a future boat ramp upgrade at Batavia Quays. Boating is an increasingly popular recreational activity. This funding will have positive benefits for all users, improving safety and efficiency, which will ease ramp waiting times, particularly during peak periods.