



Boating facility plan revised

■ Glenn Cordingley

A watered-down version of the Broome boating facility has been released by the Department of Transport.

The project can now progress to the design and construction phase following last week's release of a revised footprint and concept for the development.

The Broome Advertiser revealed earlier this month the development would be scaled down dramatically in exchange for funding for a smaller version from Transport Minister Troy Buswell.

DoT project manager James Holder said the plan made best use of the deepest water at West Roebuck Bay, reducing the size and cost of the breakwater required, and minimises the need for ongoing dredging. Features of the new pro-

ject include:

- Sheltering breakwater;
- Wide launching ramp with floating jetties;
- Car parking for boat trailers.

While the facility is expected to be available for more than 80 per cent of the time each year, during large spring tides access to the may be affected for up to five daylight hours per day. Mr Holder said exhaustive site investigations, sediment sampling data and the \$50 million budget all had a major influence on the final concept.

"Proceeding with the original footprint and concept was not feasible as construction was estimated to cost more than three times the original \$35 million funding allocation, mainly due to the size of the breakwaters and suitable rock needing to be shipped to site," Mr Holder said. "Additionally, sediment sampling confirmed

significant costs and difficulties in establishing and maintaining a navigable channel."

Mr Holder said the Broome boating facility community reference group would continue to be consulted through the design and construction phase and there would be ongoing discussions with Yawuru representatives, given the implications of the revised footprint.

"It is pleasing and reassuring for the community to see the project going ahead and it is good to see a practical cost-effective design, particularly considering the challenging engineering constraints," reference group chairman Jeff Cooper said. It was envisaged the detailed design for the final footprint and concept would begin shortly with construction due to start from 2014/15.

Broome Boating Facility Revised footprint and concept

The revised footprint and concept for the new \$50 million Broome Boating Facility makes best use of the deepest water at west Roebuck Bay reducing the size and cost of the breakwater required and minimising the need for ongoing dredging.

Features of the new concept include:

- A Sealed access road from Port Drive to ramp
- B Parking for approximately 120 boat trailers
- C Wide launching ramp (five lanes) with floating jetties
- D Ramp expected to be available for more than 80 per cent of the time each year with toe depth between +1 to +2 metres relative to local tides. During large spring tides access to the facility may be restricted for up to five daylight hours per day
- E Sheltering breakwater and rock revetments.

For more information about the Broome Boating Facility project visit www.transport.wa.gov.au/broomeboatingfacility or contact DoT on 9435 7559. Email: BroomeBoatingFacility@transport.wa.gov.au

