



Boon for Broome boaties

BEN JONES

BROOME'S boating facilities are set for a complete overhaul, with \$35 million committed by the State Government in last week's budget.

The new facility will be situated near the slipway area of Broome Port and is expected to include boat ramps, a breakwater and two floating jetties which will allow larger non-trailerred vessels safe access when the wharf is unavailable or unsuitable.

The facility will be designed to be used at any stage of the tide and provide a sheltered harbour in different weather conditions.

Regional Development minister Brendon Grylls told the *Broome Advertiser* there was still a lot of hard work ahead as far as planning for the facility.

"Building a boat ramp is quite simple but the facility is going to be much more complex than that

and the big tides up your way require extra planning," he said.

Mr Grylls said he had already begun meeting with traditional owners and the boating community and planned to address indigenous heritage issues as well as environmental issues during planning stages.

Broome Boating Alliance spokeswoman Karen Crosby said the funding would go a long way to making Broome safer for both commercial and recreational boat owners.

Ms Crosby said the Government had made a good start however it needed to follow through with the promise and get the ball rolling quickly.

She said the local boating community needed to be kept in the loop as far as planning for the facility to ensure their needs were met.

"Thanks for the funding, now show us something," she said.

"Keep us in the loop and listen to what we've got to say.

"Give us some ownership of the project."

Broome Port chief executive Vic Justice said the port would be meeting with Department of Transport, shire and Yawuru representatives to finalise the management and planning of the facility later this year.

He said the plan he has seen for the facility seems like an ideal solution for all the issues around recreational boating in Broome raised in the past.

Funding for the facility includes \$5 million in 2010-11 for planning and management and a further \$30 million in the following two years for development.



Pinctada number 2 Glen Gilmore leans down for a shot as Paspaley number 1 Matt Welsh follows. For a full run-down on all the polo action, see page 4.

Picture: Ben Jones