

Monday, 29 January 2007

Barway Funding Call

Labor Member For Lyons Heather Butler today urged the Howard Government to match the State Government's spending on the dredging of the St Helens Barway.

Since 2002 the State Government has spent almost \$400,000 dredging Georges Bay and will commit a further \$500,000 over the next five years to a long-term contract to maintain a navigable channel through the bay.

"This Government supports moves by Break O'Day Council to gain Federal assistance for a dredging program at Georges Bay," said Ms Butler.

"It is the view of the State Government that establishing a viable, long term strategy for managing access to Georges Bay requires commitment, cooperation and financial contribution from all tiers of government and the forum held on the Georges Bay issue in November 2006 supported this position.

"After this forum, MAST acted swiftly to address the most urgent factor, the shoaling at Pelican Point, and arranged for dredging which has now been completed.

"Significant Commonwealth funding has been provided for similar programs on the mainland, and I see no reason why the Australian Government should not show a commitment to the safety and economic wellbeing of the people of St Helens.

"The State Government has certainly shown its commitment to the people of St Helens, by funding past dredging programs, and by committing to dredging in the future.

"It is now up to the Australian Government to demonstrate its commitment as well, by providing long term funding for dredging at Georges Bay," said Ms Butler.