



Thursday, 12 June 2008

Heather Butler, MP

Labor Member for Lyons

Extra Funding For St Helens Barway

An extra \$2 million will be spent over the next four years to dredge the barway to improve access to St Helens.

The Labor Member for Lyons, Heather Butler, said the funding was in addition to the current \$100,000 annual allocation provided to Marine and Safety Tasmania to carry out work at the barway at the entrance to Georges Bay.

“This year a total of \$1.35 million will be spent on the removal of 250,000 cubic metres of sand behind the training wall at Blanche Beach, the dredging of sand in the shoal at Pelican Point near the eastern end of the training wall in Georges Bay and in securing the necessary environmental approvals,” Ms Butler said.

“Further expenditure of \$350,000 over each of the following three years will allow for further dredging at the barway and at Pelican Point as necessary.

“The Government and the Break O’Day Council have been working together to develop a long-term solution to the problems of access to St Helens through Georges Bay.

“The proposed work follows expert engineering advice combined with the considerable knowledge of both commercial and recreational boaters within the local community.

“The removal of 250,000 cubic metres of sand behind the training wall that has accumulated over the past 20 years, will help starve the barway of sand and restore the navigation channel through the barway.

“The program proposed has been endorsed by the Break O’Day Council as being the best option to secure long-term access to the Port of St Helens.”

Ms Butler said MAST was currently working with a wide range of Government agencies to secure the necessary environmental approvals for this work.