



Graeme Sturges, MP

Minister for Infrastructure

Tuesday, 14 July 2009

ST HELENS BARWAY WORK INSPECTED

The Minister for Infrastructure, Graeme Sturges, today inspected progress on work to improve access to the port of St Helens.

A total of \$2.4 million will be spent over the next four years on work to the barway at the entrance to Georges Bay.

Mr Sturges said that the removal of 215,000 cubic metres of sand behind the training wall at Blanche Beach should be completed by the end of August.

“The removal 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,” he said.

“Subject to further environmental evaluation, there is further work planned dredging sand from the navigation channel at Pelican Point within Georges Bay.”

Mr Sturges praised the contribution of local Member for Lyons, Heather Butler, in her strong support for the barway project.

Mr Sturges said that St Helens was a major fishing port, with over 30 commercial fishing vessels unloading their catch there.

“A further 11 commercial charter vessels are based in the port, which is also used by larger recreational boats that conduct game fishing offshore.

“In all these vessels contribute over \$5.3 million a year to the local St Helens economy.

“It is important that safe navigable water depth is provided over the barway, which is affected by shifting sand related to local prevailing weather patterns,” Mr Sturges said.

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

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