

Media Release

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YORKEYS KNOB CELEBRATES IMPROVED CRUISE SHIP INFRASTRUCTURE

Cruise ship facilities at Yorkeys Knob have had a major makeover this year and are set to welcome the larger cruise vessels heading to our region.

More than \$1 million has been spent on the upgrades, which include improving the cruise ship tender operation as well as the public mooring facilities for small craft.

The new facilities include an improved jetty, resurfacing and lengthening of the boat ramp, a new floating walkway, along with the replacement and reconfiguration of the existing pontoon.

Member for Barron River Michael Trout said the new facilities were a timely addition to the cruise shipping tourism industry, with the season's cruise ship arrivals in full swing.

"By consolidating Yorkeys Knob Marina, we add to the whole passenger onshore experience," he said.

"Until now, it has been a major operation to disembark and embark passengers from cruise ships mooring off Yorkeys. A great deal of time was spent waiting at the old small jetty to board the tenders ferrying them back to their ships," Mr Trout said.

Those passengers arriving at the new facilities will be welcomed by Yorkeys Knob Boating Club staff and local tour operators.

Ports North, which leases the land to the club, contributed 50 per cent of the costs for the upgrade by way of a reduced rental arrangement. It also worked with the club to fast-track where possible, the DA approvals for the project.

"Cruise shipping is an increasing and expanding opportunity for the region and it's important that all stakeholders continue to work together to promote the destination and deliver a quality passenger experience" Ports North Chairman Brett Moller said.

Andrew Tulloch, Commodore of Yorkeys Knob Boating Club said the new infrastructure to help secure the cruise ships visiting our region into the future could be attributed to the work put in by the YKBC Executive and Management and Member for Barron River, Michael Trout, along with Ports North's Brett Moller and Chris Boland.

"This new infrastructure has been designed not only to provide an exceptional facility and amenities for the recreational boating population, but will also deliver a truly world class facility for the burgeoning cruise industry" Mr Tulloch said.

“Ports North and YKBC have had a long standing relationship and we look forward to continuing to work in partnership with Ports North to give all stakeholders improved facilities for the tendering process and passenger transfers into Cairns and our surrounding tourist attractions.

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