

27th September 2010

Ulladulla Harbour Floating Pontoon

Shoalhaven City Mayor, Councillor Paul Green has announced that a request for tenders will shortly be advertised for the construction of a floating pontoon for the Ulladulla Harbour Southern Boat Launching Ramp.

Extensive consultation has been held with community and user groups including a meeting with boat ramp users held on site on the 1st July 2010. Community consultation has revealed that there is strong support from both the recreational and commercial boating sectors for the provision of a floating pontoon as it will make boating access more user-friendly for the elderly and disabled.

Much discussion and debate has been undertaken on whether the pontoon should be located on the west or the east or down the middle of the existing ramp. As a result of the community consultation process, Council applied to the NSW Lands and Property Management Authority who own the land requesting that the pontoon be constructed on the east adjacent to the Council Slipway. Unfortunately the Authority would not approve of the eastern side and stated that their preference was for the western side.

Safety and conflict between pedestrians and reversing trailers was raised by a number of stakeholders including the Lands and Property Management Authority. As convenient access to the sand beach was raised as important by ramp users, Council made further representations to the Authority, and as a result, the Authority has compromised by waiving objection to the pontoon being erected down the centre of the ramp providing that the issue of public safety can be addressed by Council.

Council advises that a pontoon down the middle of the ramp is preferable as it will separate reversing lane traffic and provide improved reversing guidance compared to the existing ramp. The configuration of the ramp with reversing lanes being separated by the pontoon will be similar to the recently constructed Greenwell Point ramp and pontoon that has received much praise from boating users.

Timing of construction is yet to be determined by the tender process but Cllr Green said that "it is important that work be undertaken outside the holiday period to minimise inconvenience to users."

The pontoon will be approximately 40 metres long and 3 metres wide (max) with a 10 tonne vessel load limit. Construction is funded by NSW Maritimes Better Boating Program and the Commonwealth Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program.

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