



Speech by

Dr Mark Robinson

MEMBER FOR CLEVELAND

Hansard Thursday, 6 August 2009

ONE MILE JETTY PONTOON, DUNWICH

Dr ROBINSON (Cleveland—LNP) (5.48 pm): I rise to speak about the One Mile Jetty pontoon project at Dunwich, North Stradbroke Island. The project has been on the government's agenda for a very long time. It has been promised many times over. It has been announced, reannounced, revisited and recycled over and over and still has not been delivered. These delays in delivering the pontoon have caused anger and frustration amongst the people of North Stradbroke Island. Island residents have every reason to feel aggrieved, because their safety and the safety of visitors to the island is being compromised by the lack of an appropriate facility.

Up until recently, an alternate pontoon was made available through the generosity of the Little Ship Club. However, this facility cannot always be used due to workplace, health and safety reasons. The need for the government funded project to come to fruition is now more critical and urgent than ever before.

The government needs to deliver on its promise, despite yet another rumoured budgetary blowout and interdepartmental dithering. The costs have blown out in recent times from \$416,000 to \$1.5 million, but it does not stop there. It is now rumoured to have blown out to \$3 million. What atrocious management. No wonder we are broke. The government could have done it when there were rivers of gold, when the cost to the public purse was modest and without debt. Instead, it will cost the public significantly more, and locals are starting to wonder yet again if this government can deliver.

The one mile pontoon also demonstrates the inability of government departments to work together for the good of the community. The ministers for transport, emergency services and disability services need to quit their interdepartmental squabble and take action, instead of procrastinating. Medical professionals and emergency services personnel fear lives are at risk. During low tides, neither the Little Ship Club pontoon nor the old inadequate jetty can be used. While a helicopter can be called on, it is not always available and, when it is, the cost is significantly higher than the cost of a boat. Island residents should not be disadvantaged when it comes to the ability to access medical services.

An imminent influx of tourists and visitors will boost the island's population during the upcoming September and Christmas school holiday periods. The construction of the new pontoon is an extremely urgent matter. It is now critical for medical evacuations, general public safety and improved disabled access to the island. I call on the government to give assurances to the people of Dunwich and North Stradbroke Island that it will start construction of the pontoon in the early part of 2010.