

LAKES ENTRANCE BUSINESS TOURISM ASSOCIATION INC

Media Release

PORTS PROJECTS GOOD FOR REGION

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Gippsland Ports has been commended for a series of infrastructure projects that will deliver long-term economic benefits to the region.

Lakes Entrance Business Tourism Association (LEBTA) President Anthony Wood said dredging works and improved mooring facilities at Flagstaff Jetty had been well supported by commercial and recreational port users.

“LEBTA has received positive feedback about the improved mooring facilities at Flagstaff Jetty which will increase the capacity for recreational vessels to visit Lakes Entrance this summer,” Mr Wood said.

“We need to be continually upgrading and developing appropriate facilities to allow recreational vessel owners to stay and enjoy everything that Lakes Entrance has to offer.”

Mr Wood said the recent commissioning of the ‘Kalimna’ dredger and the plans to trial a hopper dredge in the first quarter of 2008 had also been warmly received by the boating and fishing sector.

“The one piece of good news to come out of this year’s floods was the amount of sand that was removed from the internal channels,” Mr Wood said.

“Since then, the dredging and sand transfer system have made big inroads and the reports from commercial vessel operators are very promising. The channels are deeper than they have been for many years which will improve boating access and safety this year.

“From all reports, the entrance itself is in better condition and more commercial fishing vessels can reliably access our port which has a direct economic benefit.”

LEBTA board member Darren Chester said the association had played a significant role in lobbying for State Government funding for the improvements to the port and would continue to monitor the situation.

“We have worked closely with representatives from the business, fishing and tourism community over many years to help secure the \$31.5 million funding for the sand management program,” Mr Chester said.

“There’s no doubt that maintaining a safe and navigable entrance and internal system of channels is vital to the social and economic life of Lakes Entrance. LEBTA would like to congratulate Gippsland Ports management and staff for the improvements that have been achieved in recent months and we look forward to their ongoing success in a very difficult task.”

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