



MEDIA RELEASE

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Plaque unveiled at Gatakers Bay boat ramp

A plaque acknowledging the contributions of everyone involved in the building of the Gatakers Bay boat ramp and car park has been unveiled at the site.

The plaque was unveiled by the Fraser Coast Regional Council Mayor Mick Kruger, Manager Maryborough Customer Service Delivery Queensland Transport Jeremy Runnalls and President of Sunfish Fraser Coast Ray Ozich.

The majority of the \$850,000 project has been finished. All that remains is signage and lighting to be installed.

The project is a joint venture involving the Fraser Coast Regional Council, Queensland Transport, and recreational lobby group Sunfish Fraser Coast.

The Fraser Coast Regional Council budgeted \$400,000 for the project; Queensland Transport allocated \$350,000 towards the ramp while Sunfish gained a \$100,000 Commonwealth Recreational Fishing Community Grant for the two fish cleaning tables and turtle-friendly lighting.

The facility includes a two-lane all weather all tide boat ramp, 45 car and boat trailer parks, eight car parks, a rigging and de-rigging area, two fish cleaning stations and lighting.

In a bid to soften the visual impact of the large car park sections were made from grass pavers.

"It's green and it looks great," the Fraser Coast Regional Council Mayor Mick Kruger said.

The specially designed pavers allow the grass to grow but support vehicles to stop the car park turning into a sandy expanse of potholes.

"I compliment the different groups involved in the project on their level of co-operation with each other," Councillor Kruger said.

"I also thank fishermen for their patience as the project was undertaken. We did all we could to keep the ramp open as the car park and other facilities were installed."

There are almost 7000 registered boats in the 4650-4659 postcode area with more than 700 in the Pialba, Point Vernon and Eli Waters areas.

The recreational fishing industry is worth nearly \$100 million to the Hervey Bay and Great Sandy Region.

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