



More pens come on line



There are a greater number of boat pens now available in Perth, with more being considered following environmental approval for the Port Rockingham marina.

Significant expansion of Mindarie Keys Marina has seen the number of pens increase from 67 in 1990 to more 250 with the completion of the latest jetty this month.

Another 63 pens have been installed at Ascot Water Marina following approval last year by the Swan River Trust.

The additional pens will go some way to easing the critical shortage that existed two years ago, but still more are needed.

The latest jetty to come on line this month at Mindarie will see 78 pens available for vessels 12m to 20m in length. When fully developed the marina will have more than 320 boat pens. The development follows the return of management last year to the original owners — Mindarie Keys Joint Venture — and the recognition of the shortfall of pens along the northern beaches.

The Boating Industry Association of WA has welcomed news that the proposed \$50 million Port Rockingham Marina has been given the go-ahead by Environment Minister Donna Faragher.

The proponents, Rosewood Grove, will need to follow a strict environmental-management protocol to minimise the impact on

the local area of Cockburn Sound.

Company spokesman and former Rockingham councillor Paul Ogilvie said the environmental approvals process had been exhaustive and would guarantee Port Rockingham was developed to the world's best practice.

"Building applications can now be lodged with the Rockingham City Council and it's possible pile-driving for the open-jetty structure could start before the end of this year," he said.

The marina will provide sheltered accommodation for about 475 public boat pens, a retail precinct comprising restaurants and shops, and a breakwater which will be open to the public for fishing.

The open-pier jetty will allow natural flushing of water through the marina and uninterrupted beach access for the public.

At the end of the jetty a curved limestone breakwater will provide protection from north-westerly storms that hit Rockingham and the Mangles Bay mooring area.

Every winter north-west storms sweep down Cockburn Sound to Mangles Bay, often breaking boat moorings and sending vessels crashing on to the shore. The acute shortage of moorings and pens in Perth has seen an increase in moorings at Mangles Bay, some of them placed illegally.

The Department of Transport has

conducted a survey of moorings to make sure all are registered and their owners carry out regular maintenance checks.

BIAWA general manager Sherry Donaldson said a record funding allocation from the Recreational Boating Facilities Scheme demonstrated Transport Minister Simon O'Brien's commitment to meeting the ever-increasing demand for new boating facilities and the improvement of existing ones.

"Any development such as the Port Rockingham Marina will always be supported by the BIAWA," Ms Donaldson said.

"The Rockingham scheme is a great start and I am looking forward to providing support for many more of the same nature in the near future, including further development along the coast around Fremantle."

Funded by the private sector, construction of the Port Rockingham Marina off Wanliss Street is likely to take two years to complete and will result in jobs in the tourism and retail sectors.

The State Government will receive revenue from the seabed lease and the local council will receive rates from commercial and retail outlets.

The marina will include refuelling, sullage and water supply facilities, plus berths for visiting superyachts.



Proposed: Port Rockingham will have 475 boat pens and a retail precinct.



Accommodated: Another 78 pens come on line this month at Mindarie Keys.