



No rocking the boat with this funding

RECREATIONAL boating enthusiasts in Lee-man and Geraldton will benefit from funding to improve boating facilities in 22 locations across the state.

The Shire of Coorow received \$60,000 for the Dee Street boat ramp and trailer parking planning.

An allocation of \$30,000 was made to the City of Geraldton-Greenough for their boat ramp study at St Georges and Town Beach.

Agricultural Region MLC Brian Ellis, who is a keen recreational boat owner, welcomed the \$1.87 million state-wide allocation.

“As a farmer who spent most of the year living inland, my family and I know how much the boat ramps mean to people who not only live in coastal communities but also depend on them for holidays,” Mr Ellis said.

“For many farm families boating provides a

new social dynamic for the children as well as a break from the heat and dust of the paddocks.

“For the coastal communities the ramps provide a tourism incentive and resulting boost to local income.”

The latest funding follows confirmation in the recent state budget of a significant boost to the scheme by at least \$25 million in the next four years.

The grants have been provided by the state gov-

ernment’s Recreational Boating Facilities Scheme (RBFS) which is managed by the Department of Transport.

The department received 31 submissions requesting \$4.4 million in grants from round 15.

Mr Ellis said this highlighted the demand for facilities and indicated the scheme’s merit.

Since its introduction in 1999, the RBFS has allocated \$11.1 million to 225 projects.