



STUART GRIMLEY MP

Member for Western Victoria
State Leader of Derryn Hinch's Justice Party

MEDIA RELEASE



Continued Maintenance on our boat ramps needed

7 October 2021

Member for the Western Victoria Region, Stuart Grimley MP is calling on the Minister for Boating and Fishing to undertake maintenance on the Clifton Springs boat ramp. Members of the Bellarine Pirates and Leopold Angling and Aquatic Club have brought this issue to Mr Grimley's attention.

On-going siltation and uncontrolled weeds in the Clifton Springs boat ramp harbour is continuing to see boaters run aground. During low-tide, waterway users are finding it difficult to navigate the shallow entrance to the harbour. An owner of a 5.3 metre boat became the latest victim of shallow harbour just one day out of lockdown.

Fishing and boating are very popular in the Geelong and surrounding communities. People spend their hard-earned money on equipment and maintenance to enjoy the beautiful Corio and Port Philip Bays. It's imperative that government-owned facilities are maintained and kept in good condition to ensure there is no damage to boats and equipment.

The safety aspect of the shallow harbour is also very important. The weather on the bay can turn in a matter of minutes, this could mean a large volume of boats trying to navigate the shallow harbour at the same time. If one boat gets stuck near the entrance, other boaters could get stuck out in the bay during dangerous weather.

Quotes Attributable to Stuart Grimley MP:

"People in Geelong and surrounds love getting in their boats and touring around our beautiful waterways. The last thing they need is to get stuck in the harbour, damaging their vessel and needing assistance to be towed to safety.

The Clifton Springs boat ramp is extremely popular with anglers as well. During the summer months, the boat ramp car park is full more often than not. Given the volume of traffic at this particular boat ramp, I feel it is important that constant maintenance and observation of harbour is needed.

If a major highway had a large pothole in the middle of it, you wouldn't leave it there for months on end. A similar approach should be taken to our waterway infrastructure.

There is also confusion with locals as to who they contact to have their complaints heard. A number of government agencies have responsibilities in the area, such as Council, Parks Victoria, Better Boating Victoria and Maritime Safety to name a few. Hopefully the Minister will take leadership on this matter and direct the relevant body to commence works to fix the problem.

I'd like to thank the Bellarine Pirates for bringing this to our attention. I look forward to the response from the Minister."

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