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Biggest Ever Barramundi at Palmerston Boat Ramp!

Territory anglers will have a new and state of the art boat ramp at Palmerston with its $4 million facelift on target to be complete in time for this year’s Barra Season, Fisheries Minister Kon Vatskalis said today.

Mr Vatskalis today went out to inspect work at the Palmerston Boat Ramp – witnessing the custom-built and Queensland-transported barge – the ‘Barramundi’ - drilling and hammering the vital jetty and pontoon piles into place.

“This is the sub-contractors largest barge in its fleet, and was transported to Darwin from Queensland on four semi-trailers specifically for this job,” Mr Vatskalis. “Each steel pile weighs up to two tonnes, and installation of the piles is expected to take around three weeks.”

Mr Vatskalis said construction of the $4 million Palmerston Boat Ramp is delivering on the NT Government’s election commitment to improve recreational fishing, with beginning in June and expected to be complete by the end of the year.

“This is a massive facelift, and has taken into account the comments from anglers, the Palmerston Game Fishing Club, AFANT and the Palmerston City Council on the concept plans released earlier this year by the NT Government,” Mr Vatskalis said.

The contract for the upgrade has been awarded to Macmahon Contractors, and upgrades will include a land based fishing component, security lighting, floating pontoon along the centre of the boat ramp, disability access and improved parking facilities, and a secure parking area.

“Recreational fishing is such an important and big part of living in the Territory, and of course the tourism market and the rest of our economy also benefits greatly.”

Mr Vatskalis said once the piles are installed, prefabricated sections of the fishing jetty will be laid on top, followed by the decking material – environmentally-friendly recycled jetty planks.

He added that so far the construction process had created more than 20 jobs for Territorians, and said that further works involving earthworks, concrete and paving laying, drainage work, and electrical works were being carried out over the next few weeks.

“Weather permitting we hope to have this ramp and ready in time for angler’s to catch that big one in time for barra season this Wet.”

Contact: Maria Billias 0401 119 746