MEDIA RELEASE

Ken Vowles
SHADOW MINISTER FOR GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

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CULLEN BAY PONTOON SHAMBLES

Shadow Minister for Government Accountability, Ken Vowles, today said CLP Government chaos is spreading to operators and users of Cullen Bay who are being kept in the dark about installation of a new pontoon and gangway.

Mr Vowles called on the CLP Government to meet with operators to settle concerns about increased costs incurred as the upgrade disrupts their businesses.

“In what is becoming a hallmark of this dysfunctional and chaotic CLP Government, Transport Minister Peter Styles arrogantly announced works to start without consulting operators and users,” Mr Vowles said.

“Had operators been consulted, the Minister would have known that starting work now would harm the small businesses reliant on the pontoon.

“Had operators been consulted, they would have suggested an alternative scheme which would ensure long-overdue repairs are completed while minimising disruption to operators, users, commuters and tourists.

“The lead up to Christmas is not the time to do works such as this, where fishing tours and harbour cruises take groups into our harbour.”

Mr Vowles said the Cullen Bay Commercial Operators Group estimate additional costs incurred to be about $70,000 due to the pontoon replacement with little prospect of recouping this expense.

“Work started on Monday but it is not too late for the CLP Government to consult users properly about arrangements and negotiate with businesses about the negative impacts on their operations,” Mr Vowles said.

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