What has happened to the Martin Government's $600 000 Super boat ramp announced 18 months ago in August 2002 for Dinah Beach?

It's now been halved to a $300 000 ramp plan and re-announced by the Martin Government as something new and exciting for Dinah Beach.

CLP Leader Terry Mills said today's re-release of the Dinah Beach boat ramp plan was another attempt by Kon the Minister to con Territorians about a project that has sat around for 18 months and had it's funding slashed in half.

"No wonder Fisheries Minister Kon Vatskalis was unable to give details about the project - its been halved from what was originally planned," Mr Mills said.

"The NT News reported on Thursday 8 August 2002, page 2, the then Fisheries Minister Paul Henderson hailing the $600 000 plan.

"Now the Government has re-announced yet another project it has let sit idle and attempted to hide the fact it has actually halved funding to the project.

"This is not the first time Government has been caught out in a less than honest presentation of the facts.

"Only nine days ago the Chief Minister released an employment Bonus Scheme to encourage employers to take on new apprentices. Of course the scheme was announced eight months ago in May 2003."

*Attached transcript of NT News 8 August 2002

$600,000 upgrade on way for Dinah Beach boat ramp

The NT Government will spend $600,000 making the Dinah Beach boat ramp suitable for all tides. The upgrade was part of a three-year, $1.5 million program to improve the infrastructure for recreational fishing in the Territory, Fisheries Minister Paul Henderson said yesterday. The ramp would be widened to double lanes and lengthened, he said. "It would make access into and out of the harbour significantly more convenient for the fishing community." Mr Henderson used the announcement to reiterate that the NT Government did not believe the proposed LNG plant at Wickham Point would damage recreational fishing on the harbour. "It will help create an artificial reef that will be of net benefit to recreational fishing," he said. Blain MLA Terry Mills said the upgrading of the ramp would have the Palmerston and surrounding community seeking improvement to the Elizabeth River boat ramp. "Palmerston anglers are fighting a serious crime problem at the ramp and could desperately use some of the $900,000 remaining to improve Territory recreational fishing spots," Mr Mills said. He said fishermen returning to the boat ramp regularly found their cars gone or trashed.

Ends.