MEDIA RELEASE

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ACCESS IMPROVED WITH NEWLY UPGRADED OATLEY BAY BOAT RAMP

Boaters looking to use the Georges River can now enjoy improved access to the waterway with the upgrade of Oatley Bay boat ramp now completed.

Mr Coure said the NSW Government provided a $305,000 grant through the NSW Boating Now program toward the $435,000 upgrade to improve access for boaters in the Kogarah Local Government Area. The remaining $130,000 was provided by the Georges River Council.

“The previous three lane boat ramp was not being used to its capacity due to the condition of the ramp and lack of lane delineation and the pontoon and gangway provided limited access for disabled boaters,” Mr Coure said.

“While extremely popular, the boat ramp was in need of an upgrade to improve access and usability for the many boat users in the area.

“The upgrade included rebuilding the existing three lane boat ramp, installing a new pontoon and gangway (which includes a pontoon-to-boat wheelchair crane) providing disability access and the development of a plan to include a new toilet block and lighting.”

Work started in April and was completed earlier this month, in time for the boating season.

Georges River Council Administrator John Rayner said he was pleased the boat ramp and pontoon were now complete as they provided improved public access and boat launching facilities on the lower Georges River.

“The three lane ramp and pontoon are used extensively by boat owners across the region, due to the sheltered bay location and deep water access,” he said.

Mr Rayner said work had recently started on new amenities at the site, with completion due mid-December 2016.

“The upgrade of the ramp and pontoon design takes into consideration the surrounding bushland and foreshore setting and provides contemporary high quality facilities for community use,” Mr Rayner said.

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Mr Coure said the NSW Government provided $37.5 million from the NSW Boating Now program to help deliver the 192 Priority Regional Projects identified in the 11 Regional Boating Plans.

“A further $10 million has also been set aside for major projects, $5 million for boat trailer parking initiatives and another $10 million for the delivery of final round projects in the past two years of this program,” Mr Coure said.

“NSW Boating Now aims to further enhance the boating experience by improving the capacity and amenity of boating infrastructure on NSW waterways.

“Priority regional projects were identified following consultation with councils, local sports clubs and organisations as well as every day boaters. These projects include upgrades and new infrastructure such as boat ramps, jetties, pontoons, car parks and sewage pump out facilities.”
