



Hon Ken Baston MLC

Member for Mining and Pastoral Region

VOLUNTEER SEA RESCUE RECEIVES \$55,000 BOOST IN BROOME 9 December 2009

Representing the Western Australian Government, Hon Ken Baston MLC today presented the Broome Volunteer Sea Rescue Group Inc (BVSRG Inc) with a \$55,000 cheque from Lotterywest.

Mr Baston said that the money will be used to replace the current towing vehicle and will also go toward much-needed improvements to the vessel itself, *Red Bill II*.

"I am extremely pleased to present these funds to a very worthy community organisation," Mr Baston said.

"With 34 local volunteers and covering 300 kilometres of coastline from 80 Mile Beach to Cape Leveque, this is an incredible service to the community," Mr Baston said.

During the formal cheque presentation today at Entrance Point, Mr Baston took the opportunity to speak with Deputy Commander Colin Kenworthy and 2 crew members regarding further funding opportunities and the potential for better launching facilities.

Deputy Commander Colin Kenworthy said that proximity to the launching site and improvements to boating facilities in Broome were two key issues for Sea Rescue in Broome.

Mr Baston agreed that for many boat users and particularly for the Broome Volunteer Sea Rescue, launching a boat on the beach at low tide was almost impossible.

"This poses a huge problem for the Broome Sea Rescue who need to get into the water as quickly as possible in response to an emergency," Mr Baston said.

In recent discussion with the Minister for Transport, Mr Baston has reviewed a number of site plans and options for boating facilities on the Broome peninsular.

"The Department is currently working on a comprehensive Boat Harbour Site Options Paper which will draw on existing knowledge and critical work undertaken to identify the most appropriate site," Mr Baston said.

"In the mean time I will be supporting the Broome Volunteer Sea Rescue Group Inc in locating a viable location for a purpose-built vessel holding shed and headquarters at the Port of Broome," Mr Baston said.

For further comment - Media contact: Hon Ken Baston MLC 0417 926 552

Attached: Photographs taken 09.12.09 at Entrance Point, Broome

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