

Media Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contract to build Torquay's new boat ramp signed, sealed and delivered

The new Torquay boat ramp moved another step closer to becoming a reality this week with the Great Ocean Road Coast Committee announcing it had awarded the construction contract to Fitzgerald Constructions Australia.

"This marks the achievement of a critical milestone in the project's five-year history, which sees it finally progressing from the drawing board into the construction phase," noted Chief Executive Officer Richard Davies.

State Member for South Barwon and Parliamentary Secretary for the Environment and Water, Michael Crutchfield welcomed the signing of the construction contract.

"The Brumby Labor Government is committed to ensuring that boating facilities are significantly improved at Torquay for the local community. That is why we are funding this vital project to the tune of \$1.2m," Mr Crutchfield said.

"It's great to see the contractor now on board and the project moving to the next stage. When complete, the new Torquay boat ramp will provide locals and visitors alike with a much improved and safer facility that will enhance their enjoyment of recreational boating and other marine-based activities.

"I, like the rest of the Torquay boating community, very much look forward to the completion of this community infrastructure project," said Mr Crutchfield.

Based in Melbourne's western suburbs, Fitzgerald Constructions Australia (FCA) has more than 25 years hands-on experience in civil engineering and concrete construction, initially specialising in bridge construction.

More recently, the company has developed a reputation for its expertise in marine construction, having successfully delivered a number of major marine projects, including high profile wharf upgrades and several related to Melbourne's Docklands development.

According to Mr Davies, the company's skills, experience and operating philosophy stamped it as the ideal candidate for the job. "We are looking forward to working with Fitzgerald Constructions Australia to ensure the new Torquay boat ramp is delivered safely, on time and within budget," he said.

"We anticipate construction work starting on 3 August with our current project schedule seeing the new ramp commissioned by late October," explained Mr Davies.

FCA General Manager Romeo D'Amato shared Mr Davies's excitement, saying his company was delighted to be involved in such an important local project. "We take great pride in delivering innovative and quality solutions to challenging projects, and are literally chomping at the bit to start work on this one," Mr D'Amato said.

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Caring for the coast and community

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Once built, the new Torquay boat ramp will replace the existing ramp, which is more than 50 years old and nearing the end of its useful life. It will be built on concrete piles and continue to primarily function as a beach access ramp with most launches occurring off hard sand.

The State Government has provided the majority of funding for the new boat ramp through its Boating Safety and Facilities Program with the Great Ocean Road Coast Committee and the Torquay Angling Club also contributing some funding.

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