

# SA Parliament Hansard

## Boating facilities levy

October 19, 2017|Category: [Government Motions](#)|

**Mr TRELOAR (Flinders) (12:55):** I rise today to support the very excellent motion brought to us by the member for Chaffey:

That this house—

- (a) acknowledges the importance of having safe and adequate boating facilities across South Australia for boat owners and fishers;
- (b) condemns the state government for leaving \$8.6 million of the Boating Facilities Levy unspent in 2015-16; and
- (c) calls on the state government to reduce the co-contribution to access funding from this collected levy to enable more money to be spent on improving boating facilities.

Each and every one of the contributors from this side of the house has talked about, amongst other things, the importance of boating in their particular electorates. There is no doubt that, on Eyre Peninsula and the West Coast, with that vast coastline—not too many inland waterways, member for Chaffey—it is a very popular pastime for local residents to go to the beach and fish. Often a family has a shack at whichever bay is closest, and there are also many thousands of visitors who come to Eyre Peninsula each and every year, often with their boats and, if not, then at the very least to do some fishing.

The facilities that we are able to provide for these visitors and regular fishers is so critical to their experience. It does not need to be too difficult. We are very conscious of making tourism the third spoke in a very important regional economy.

Primarily, we produce agricultural products and seafood products, but that tourism factor is one that we can really work on and build on. We need to make it a very attractive and user-friendly situation.

The state government collects boating facilities funds on top of every registration, inspection or survey of vessels for more than 55,000 recreational boating vessels across South Australia, which use approximately 300 boat launching facilities in South Australia. The facilities fund is used for establishing and improving boating facilities in South Australia's coastal and inland waters, including boat ramps, temporary mooring facilities or wharves, channel improvements, aids to navigation and 24/7 emergency VHF marine radio services.

The facilities funds also contribute to the 277,000 or thereabouts recreational fishers in this state, many of whom fish from jetties or boats.

That is a very large number of recreational fishers. It is always hard to put an exact number on it. I know there are at least three in this chamber at the moment.

It is a very important part of our leisure time in South Australia. I would just like to talk briefly in the remaining moments about another issue that is related, and that is in Port Lincoln where a group known as the Tacoma Preservation Society have been looking for a long time to secure a permanent mooring or berth for the *Tacoma*. The *Tacoma* is an iconic vessel in Port Lincoln and within the tuna fishing industry because it was really from that vessel that the tuna industry was founded out of Port Lincoln.

It was built in Port Fairy in Victoria and sailed by the Haldane family across to Port Lincoln because they heard that there were fish at Port Lincoln. The rest is history, as they say. They went fishing from the *Tacoma* for bluefin tuna and, amongst other things, went prawning and were involved with some other fishing along the way.

The industry we see today is very much a result of the initial efforts of the Haldane family and the vessel they fished from. I am a great supporter of local history and recognise that this is a very important vessel. I think it is a priority to find a permanent home for this wonderful wooden boat.

We have not managed to do that yet, but I suspect that we will eventually. Of course, there are a lot of parties involved in any discussion. It is not always easy to reach a resolution, but with so much money sitting in the boating levies fund—I think we are up to about \$8.6 million, and \$3 million is collected annually—there is absolutely no point in the government continuing to hoard this money just for the sake of having funding sit idle in a bank.

My suggestion is that it not just be used for jetties, boat ramps and all those things, which are very important, but also just occasionally there is another very important use for some of this money as well.