

Welcome boost for exporters

Burnie receives \$4m for port

A \$4 MILLION infrastructure upgrade for the Burnie port is part of a \$20 million, federally funded assistance package for Tasmanian exporters.

The funding, which was officially announced yesterday, is a welcome boost for local exporters to enable them to reach international markets.

Ideas for the package were first raised after Tasmania's sole shipping container operator AAA ceased its operations last year.

The package has three key aspects — immediate assistance to exporters via a one-off payment to assist them to stay competitive, the infrastructure



BOOST: The Burnie port will receive funding for an infrastructure upgrade. Picture: Kelly Slater.

upgrade at the Burnie port and the establishment of a freight logistics coordination team.

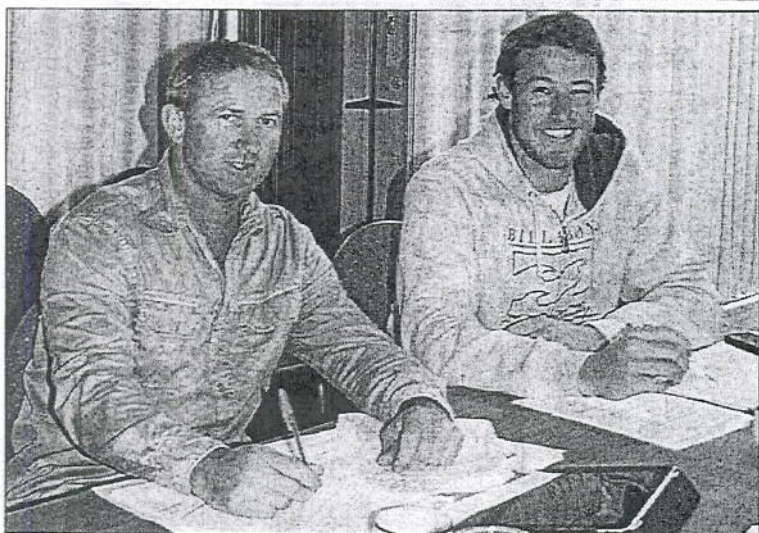
Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and Federal Member for Braddon Sid Sidebottom said the Burnie port upgrade was an important part of the package.

"These infrastructure im-

provements at the port of Burnie are crucial and recognise its importance as the major freight port in Tasmania," he said.

"This \$4 million in federal infrastructure funding will increase container handling capacity and improve the movement of goods within the port, boosting efficiency and helping lower costs for Tasmanian exporters."

Mr Sidebottom said the package, combined with the existing Tasmanian Freight Equalisation Scheme, would help further support local exporters and consequently Tasmania's economic growth.



LOOKING TO FUTURE: Commercial gummy shark fishermen Peter Smith (left) and Shane Rose at the industry's sustainability and marketing forum yesterday. Picture: Caitlin Heathcote.

Quality, not quantity key to fishing industry sustainability

By CAITLIN HEATHCOTE

COMMERCIAL fishermen are out to challenge a widely held stereotype.

Fishermen from across the state converged on Barclay Motor Inn in Devonport yesterday to learn about sustainable fishing and marketing practices.

Shane Rose, of Launceston, and Peter Smith, of Wynyard, said fishermen were stereotyped as "uneducated rough men who raped and pillaged the ocean of its fish".

However, this was far from the truth. Tighter quota regulations and sustainable

fishing practice are at the forefront of the industry.

Mr Rose and Mr Smith both fish commercially for gummy shark, while Mr Smith widens his net to include king crab and crayfish.

They said they were attending the two-day seminar to help learn more about marketing their product to a mass consumer audience and to promote quality over quantity.

Mr Smith said the culture of the fishing industry had changed from a culture of quantity, to quality.

Mr Rose agreed saying it was important to let the consumer

know that Australian-caught fish was better quality than imported fish, although the import might be cheaper.

"We are trying to learn how to market sustainability to the general public," Mr Rose said.

Both Mr Rose and Mr Smith lauded the program and said they would recommend all Coastal fishermen took the opportunity to further educate themselves.

Mr Smith said it was important to the industry that fishermen had as minimal impact as possible on the marine environment and sustained the industry for future generations.

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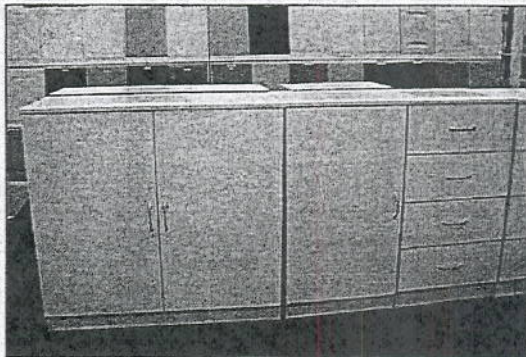
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