

THE WHITSUNDAY TIMES

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Member supports more marina berths

With its massive winds Cyclone Ului devastated boat owners dragging boats and smashing them against the rock walls that surround Airlie Beach.

Boats moored in the Abel Point Marina however suffered little to no damage.

Member for Whitsunday Jan Jarratt is a key supporter for a new marina in Airlie Beach and believes in fulfilling the demand for marina berths in the area in order to protect boat owners and their vessels during the north Queensland cyclone season.

"I for one am an absolute advocate for a new marina," she said.

"If these boat owners had a safe harbour to retreat to, they may not now be left with such a devastating outcome."

Abel Point Marina Manager Richard Barrett said the marina and its vessels remained unaffected by the cyclone.

"The marina facilities and services, as well as convenient access to check your boat 24 hours a day helped to ensure the safety of vessels and prevented any unnecessary damage," he said.

"The professional and helpful marina team here at Abel Point assisted many distressed boat owners throughout such unpredictable weather."

The new Port of Airlie development in Airlie Beach will incorporate a 280-berth marina which will assist in servicing the large Airlie Beach boating community.

The Port of Airlie Marina is due to be fully operational by the end of 2010, prior to the next cyclone season.

It is hoped that increased marina facilities in Airlie Beach will give boat owners the opportunity to moor their boat in a safe and secure location during storm season.